



Minutes of Kingsclere Parish Council Ordinary Meeting OM 01/20 Held at 7.30pm on Monday 27th January 2020 in the Village Club

Before the meeting commenced the Chairman informed all in attendance about the sad passing of former Kingsclere Parish Council Councillor and Chairman Elizabeth Kay. A minute's silence was observed to remember her and the great contribution she made to the Parish Council and village.

The Clerk has written to her family expressing the Parish Council's condolences.

OM 01/20 – Present:

Cllrs: Adams; Bowes; Farey; Mussett; Peach N; Price; Sawyer F; Sawyer J. BCllrs: Kinnear; Rhatigan.

Clerk – Porton; Admin Assistant - Read

01/20.1 – Apologies:

None.

01/20.2 – Declarations of Interest:

01/20.13.2 – Kingsclere Brownies Grant Application – SA.

01/20.3 – Minutes:

3.1 Minutes of Ordinary Meeting 25th November 2019 were accepted and signed.

3.2 Minutes of General Purposes Meeting 13th January 2020 were accepted and signed.

3.3 Minutes of Finance and Establishment Meeting 20th January 2020 were accepted and signed.

01/20.4 – Matters Arising:

None.

01/20.5 – Chairman's Remarks:

- i) Former Kingsclere Parish Council Chairman and Councillor Elizabeth Kay sadly passed away on 2nd January 2020 aged 96. Her memorial service is at 2.30pm on 31st January at St Mary's Church.
- ii) Thank you to the team which installed the Christmas lights. They gave the square a wonderful festive atmosphere over Christmas.
- iii) Thank you to the various organisations and groups which made Christmas in the village so special. Throughout the season there were shows and performances by the Kingsclere Singers, Kingsclere Players, and Nathan Lubbock Smith's students to name a few, and events at the Village Club and the Fieldgate Centre.
- iv) Thank you to the resident who removed approximately 50 bottles and cans from the pond in the MHOS.
- v) Thank you to the resident who reported the vandalism of the play area fence on the Recreation Ground to the Parish Council.
- vi) Thank you to William Huntingdon for his work cleaning signs and tidying hedges around the parish.
- vii) The works at the Bear Hill Water Works are now reportedly due to finish by the end of February.
- viii) The PC is concerned about the state of the roads in the village. The Chairman said that he has reported numerous problems to Hampshire Highways and urges residents to do the same on their website.
- ix) The PC has still yet to receive a reply from the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding the petition that was sent to them last year despite the Chairman sending three follow-up letters. The PC has now asked CCllr Tom Thacker to chase on its behalf.
- x) The PC has responded to the BDBC Council Plan 2020 to 2024 and budget 2020 to 2021 consultation regarding the public toilets in the square.
- xi) Thank you to the Cllrs and members of the public who came out to mark Holocaust Memorial Day and attended the short ceremony at the War Memorial at 1pm this afternoon.
- xii) The PC is hosting another Spring Clean Event on 28th March from 10am to 1pm with a gazebo station in St Mary's Churchyard. The PC hope it will again be successful with resident's support.
- xiii) The Dog Fouling Poster Competition has now closed and judging arrangements are underway. The PC is pleased to say that Lord Huntingdon has agreed to help judge entries and will also present prizes to the winners at the awards presentation which is to be at 11am on 28th March at the PC's Spring Clean event in the Churchyard.

01/20.6 – Hampshire Library Service Public Consultation:

HCC is facing a budget shortfall of £80million by April 2021 and needs to save approximately £1.76million through its library services. The Chairman reported that he has looked through the questionnaire and supporting documents and feels this consultation isn't relevant to Kingsclere library. There are four tiers of library in the county and HCC's proposals on how to achieve the required savings targets are based on all four of the tier four libraries closing or becoming independent. Kingsclere is a tier four library; meaning it is run by volunteers however does get some support from HCC in the form of circulation of stock, wifi and computer services, use of an RFID machine, a once weekly visit from a HCC librarian and that it forms part of HCC library services. If tier four libraries become independent HCC would gift them the stock currently in the library, however all other services would be removed. Withdrawing council support from tier four libraries would save approximately £49,000, however this is an average cost across all four community libraries and does not provide specific figures for how much it costs HCC to run each tier four library. KPC is not against the idea of providing funding for Kingsclere library in HCC's place, however without library specific figures this option cannot be investigated. HCC state in the information document that an acceptable time to travel to an alternative library, if a local library closed, is 20 minutes by car or 30 minutes by public transport. KPC dispute the inferred claim that it is possible for Kingsclere residents to travel to an alternative library on the transportation mentioned within these timescales and believe the journey would be impractical for most, especially for the elderly and disabled. The council raised concerns over the possible knock on affect that the closure of Kingsclere library would have on other organisations and clubs in the Village. Kingsclere library is a major tenant for the Village Club and the loss of revenue could cause unforeseen repercussions for the VC. The dissolution of the library volunteers' group would also be a major social and community deficit for the village. There are several public drop-in sessions based at numerous libraries for members of the public to discuss the consultation with HCC staff. KPC expressed concern that HCC exceeded its library services budget by £1.3 million in 2019/2020 and are concerned that these cuts may be due to poor budget management. It was noted that HCC cannot increase their precept due to central government legislation without holding referendum. BCllr Rhatigan commented that if HCC withdraw funding from Kingsclere library KPC should contact BDBC to enquire about financial support they could provide. It was agreed that KPC should discuss possible options after HCC has made decisions in the summer. Clerk to draft response and circulate to Cllrs.

Action: Clerk.

01/20.7 – Trees:

7.1. To Ratify GP Proposal to Accept the Quote for Pollarding the Churchyard Lime Trees:

Resolved: Agreed to accept quote of £1620 + VAT to pollard the Lime trees.

7.2. To Ratify GP Proposal to Accept the Quote for Works to Trees in the Churchyard, MHOS and Holding Field:

Two further quotes were obtained for the works on the Holding Field hedge. It was agreed to go with the quote of £1500 + VAT. The other quotes agreed at GP and proposed to full council were also agreed.

Resolved: Quote of £1500 + VAT for the Holding Field hedge and the other quotes referred from GP agreed by full council.

01/20.8 – Ratification of Proposal from F&E Meeting:

8.1. Review and Ratify Budget Figures as Recommended by Committee:

Documents circulated prior to meeting. Budget figures were unanimously agreed by full council.

Resolved: Budget figures for 2020/2021 were unanimously agreed.

8.2. Review and Ratify Parish Precept:

Documents circulated prior to meeting. The PC will receive an income of £47,606 in the next financial year, an increase of 3%. The Band D charge for council tax is equivalent to a £1.53 increase, making council tax £36.42 for the next financial year. Precept agreed by full council.

Resolved: Parish precept agreed. Signed by Clerk, Chairman and two Cllrs.

01/20.9 – County Councillor:

No report.

01/20.10 – Borough Councillor:

It was reported that the LIF funding the Village Club has applied for looks like it will be granted. The works on the Fieldgate Centre roof are due to be completed by the middle/end of February. Once completed the Head of Environmental Services will organise for the recycling centre to be cleaned. KPC to provide suggestions on what recycling facilities it wishes to be installed. CEP has sent details to the Clerk on a BDBC Cllr who can help villages with Climate Emergency measures. BDBC support HCC's Library service consultation and will support Kingsclere Library in any way it can. Early-bird tickets for BLOVE are now on sale. BDBC has asked KPC to provide them with a costing of how much it'd cost to run the public toilets in the square. If KPC take over the running of the toilets CK and KR would try and assist in sourcing funding. Volunteers who wish

to be involved in the Basingstoke Music and Arts Festival please contact Cllr Kinnear. Newbury recycling centre permits have been renewed for another year. The Manydown Development planning permission will be submitted in March and includes five pitches for travellers. Tadley Police Station will open in February. BDBC is uncertain what will happen to the old council offices on Swan Street once the lease runs out, would like KPC's input on what the site could be used for. BDBC now has a new legal head who will work on the legal issues associated with the selling of the old Gas Works site. A Cllr asked what would happen to JLD School of Dancing if BDBC sold the old council offices – not sure at the moment.

Recess:

Standing orders were suspended at 20:39:

A resident asked about the basal growth around the trees in the churchyard. – The contractors were meant to deal with it in November. Clerk to contact them again.

A resident read out a statement on their suggestion and ideas of how the various clubs and organisations that meet in the Village Club could work together to access funding. The PC is not involved with the Library or the Village Club so cannot comment on these suggestions.

A resident spoke on behalf of their mother raising concerns that wood chips, possibly left by a PC contractor, has most likely been the cause of flooding on his mother's property which is now threatening a mature tree. – Thank you for bringing this to the PC's attention. We will investigate the possible cause and try to rectify it.

Back to standing orders 20:48.

Action: Clerk.

01/20.11 – Rolling List:

This item was mistakenly added to the agenda.

01/20.12 – Planning Applications:

12.1. 20/00055/HSE – 1 Sandford Farm Cottages, Kingsclere Road, Wolverton: No objections.

12.2. 20/00057/FUL & 20/00058/LBC – 10-12 George Street: No objections provided the parking allocation is met and the conservation officer is content that the velux windows will not be detrimental to the roofline in the conservation area.

01/20.13 – Clerk's Report:

13.1. Grant Application from Kingsclere Beavers - £250:

Resolved: Grant of £250 approved.

13.2. Grant Application from Kingsclere Brownies - £250:

Resolved: Grant of £250 approved.

13.3. CPRE Membership Renewal - £50:

Resolved: £50 for membership renewal approved.

01/20.14 – Approval of Income and Expenditure:

The accounts for December 2019 and January 2020 were agreed and signed off.

01/20.15 – Approval of Quarterly Bank Reconciliation:

The bank accounts for 31st December 2019 were reconciled at £66,859.35 - agreed and signed off.

01/20.16 – Date of next meeting:

Monday 24th February 2020 7:30pm in the Village Club.

Meeting closed 20:57

Signed:.....Chairman

Date:.....

Signed:.....Clerk

Date:.....

Distribution: Cllrs: S Adams; I Bowes; M Farey; C Mussett; N Peach; R Peach; A Price; F Sawyer and J Sawyer.
Noticeboard; Website: www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk.