



Minutes of Kingsclere Parish Council Ordinary Meeting OM 10/22
Held at 7.30pm on Monday 28th November 2022 in the Village Club

OM 10/22 – Present:

Cllrs: Adams; Bowes; Conquest; Farey; Mussett; Peach R; Sawyer.
BCllrs: Frost; Morrow; Rhatigan. Clerk – Ackrill; RFO – Porton.

10/22.1 – Apologies:

Cllr N.Peach.

10/22.2 – Declarations of Interest:

IB & RP Allotment Tenants – Item 10/22.13.

10/22.3 – Minutes:

3.1 Minutes of Ordinary Meeting 31-Oct-2022 were accepted and signed.

10/22.4 – Questions from the Public:

No questions raised. Kingsclere RBL reported that the Poppy Appeal maintained the same level of donations as last year.

10/22.5 – Chairman's Remarks:

Thanks for the work of PCSO Josh Revett who will be leaving in the New Year.

Thanks to the Christmas Lights Team for their fantastic work.

Last year we put the budget on a new footing for a sustainable future with a large increase to the precept.

Staff costs were reviewed at the last meeting and whilst that is important we are aware that this is not actually addressing development issues. A substantial increase is likely in the precept this year but moving forward the council will be in a good position to develop projects in the future providing good value to parishioners.

10/22.6 – Co-option of New Councillor

DC proposed Steven Gaines, SA seconded - All in favour. No other nominations proposed.

Resolved: Steven Gaines co-opted onto the council.

10/22.7 – New Councillor to sign Declaration of Office

SG signed Declaration of Office and took his seat.

10/22.8 – Review of Allotment Allocation Policy

Comment made that the policy states "Apply for an Allotment online" and it was suggested this is changed to contact the Parish Clerk. It was proposed by JS and seconded by IB to accept the policy with the suggested change. SG abstained as he had not had the opportunity to review the document, all other members in favour.

Resolved: Allotment Allocation Policy adopted.

10/22.9 – Review of Complaints Procedure

It was proposed by JS and seconded by IB to accept the policy. SG abstained as he had not had the opportunity to review the document, all other members in favour.

Resolved: Complaints Procedure adopted.

10/22.10 – Review of Grievance Policy

It was proposed by JS and seconded by IB to accept the policy. SG abstained as he had not had the opportunity to review the document, all other members in favour.

Resolved: Complaints Procedure adopted.

10/22.11 – Review of Equality and Diversity Policy

It was proposed by JS and seconded by IB to accept the policy. SG abstained as he had not had the opportunity to review the document, all other members in favour.

Resolved: Complaints Procedure adopted.

10/22.12 – Review of Financial Regulations

It was proposed by JS and seconded by IB to accept the policy. SG abstained as he had not had the opportunity to review the document, all other members in favour.

Resolved: Complaints Procedure adopted.

It was resolved to take item 25.9 next

10/22.25.9. Neighbourhood Plan / Other Planning Matters - Update SA

The group met on 7th November. The site selection group decided to appoint Aecom to review all sites put forward to the north of the A339 plus 2 other sites, the group have not heard from the 3 sites that were unsuccessful last time (Porch Farm, Gailey Mill and Yew Tree Farm). The group also want to include 24 Swan Street. The Parish Council would like to develop 24 as a Community Asset and not convert it to a residential site. The Parish Council will be consulted and will have a chance to respond to the report. Residents are being asked to complete a questionnaire with one question being do they want a big or several small sites. A draft of the Housing needs assessment has been received and circulated to

Councillors and the NP Group – comments to be received ASAP. Evidence suggests a need for an estimated 90 affordable homes in the period up to 2039. Kingsclere has been identified as having an ageing population, both the school and pre-school numbers dropped. In the 'Provision for elderly' no specialist facilities have been identified as a need. The final report can go online. The questionnaire is available on the Council website and social media – hard copies to be supplied to the office. Regarding two of the sites identified in the existing plan, Vivid plan to develop the Strokens Road site with 100% affordable housing. Beaulieu Homes plan to develop the Coppice Road site and promise 40% affordable housing.

10/22.13 – Review of Rents and Fees for Allotments and Cemetery – recommendation from FE Committee to leave fees unchanged for 2023. Allotment Rent £8.50 per pole, £10 agreement renewal and £25 new agreement. It was unanimously approved to not increase the rates.

Resolved: Allotment and Cemetery fees to remain on 2022 rates for 2023

10/22.10 – Review of Internal Audit Report

Report circulated prior to the meeting - no actions were highlighted. Thanks were expressed to the RFO.

10/22.10 – Mowing and Maintenance Contract 2023/4 – to approve increase of 5% on current financial year. Proposed by JS, seconded by IB and unanimously approved.

Resolved: Current contract to be renewed for 1 year with a 5% increase on this year.

10/22.16 – Un Authorised Memorial Ecchinswell Road Cemetery – to discuss next steps Masons Safety Report is falsified, police informed and the report forwarded, payment received.

It was agreed at GP for a safety report to be supplied and the fee. Relatives to be written to again asking for a BRAMM certificate to be provide within 6 weeks or the stone will be laid down. If the certificate is not supplied a refund will be provided.

10/22.10 – Budget 2023/4

17.1 Update on 2022-23 Budget

Staff costs reviewed and budget updated accordingly and circulated prior to the meeting. No concerns raised.

17.2 Review of Draft Budget 2023-24

Paper circulated prior to the meeting, currently the precept will need to be increased 15-20%. A concern was raised about the salary costs and the difference between salary costs of this and next year. It was explained that the increase proposed at the last meeting was less on this years budget because it was only for the remaining 5 months of the financial year.

10/22.18 – Bowls Club Lease

Contact has been made with the Bowls Club but a meeting has not yet been booked. The Bowls Club is keen to renew the lease. £200 has been requested to cover the legal fees for a hold over lease.

NP will circulate proposed dates and requests a couple of representatives from the Council to attend.

Resolved: £200 approved for legal fees for holdover lease.

10/22.19 – Annual Report 2023

It was discussed whether the Council wanted to consider a different approach to the Annual Report following concerns raised at the last production over the printing and distributing to all households. It was decided that there was merit in distributing to all households but the format of the content should be updated. A budget of £500 was agreed for printing costs and it is hoped the delivery will be managed FOC again next year.

Resolved: Budget of £500 to be set for printing the annual report

10/22.20 – County Councillor:

Apologies received. Report circulated and attached ([Appendix 1](#)).

10/22.21 – Borough Councillor:

The Council plan is in process and is now in scrutiny. BDBC is going against the national trend by freezing council tax, their rates are the lowest in the county. BDBC is working on improving bin collections and strengthening street maintenance. Car parking charges have been frozen as has garden waste collections and many other services. The Council is dealing with some extremely serious anti-social behaviour. The police force is investigating one racial hate crime, which has a maximum prison sentence of two years and one sexual hate crime, which could lead to the offender(s) being placed on the sex offenders register. If ASB is witnessed, please report it and if you feel able, please move the offenders on. Patrols have been stepped up. A good economic housing meeting was held, Basingstoke has several high rise housing buildings with external wall cladding of which six buildings require attention since the Grenfell tragedy. The leaseholders are signed up to the government funding scheme but it may take years due to the scale of countrywide problem. Transport infrastructure is being reviewed, particularly in hot spot areas which includes the A339 and the Manydown development. Strategy of the master plan of the leisure park is under review following the collapse of the proposed factory outlet, the redevelopment continues to be under discussion. Basingstoke Town Football Club is currently playing at Winklebury but where they are playing will not be suitable if they get promoted. A new stadium needs to be considered. Community, Environment and Partnerships Committee – The was a climate change presentation of what the borough is doing, what they have done so far is impressive but there is a lot more work to be done. The Borough Council's carbon footprint has been reduced by 2/3's and it has started to look at offsetting (it is noted that offsetting is not a long term solution). All 3 ward members have grant pots for capital funding. It was recommend that the

Parish Council put pictures in the annual report to help attract attention and engage the audience. The borough is in a dangerous position for parishes with regards to travellers pitches because there are not currently enough pitches to meet the criteria set. Therefore, if someone applies for a traveller pitch they are likely to get it. Brown field sites will be better looked at and would be favoured. Kingsclere could be looking at 220 houses needed for the Neighbourhood plan. Ward members are pressing the administration to get a Local Plan approved.

10/22.22 – Meeting Schedules

Members discussed whether it would be possible to reduce the number of meetings per year, the main concern being the decisions to be made on planning applications but extra meetings can be added to the schedule if a planning application submission deadline falls before the next meeting. IB will write a proposal with three options to be considered at the January meeting.

Action – IB to write meeting schedule proposals for January meeting

10/22.23 – Health and Safety:

None

10/21.24 – Action List:

Clerk will recirculate the link to members to update.

10/22.25 – Planning Applications:

25.1 [22/02942/LDPO](#) - 1 South Road - no objections

25.2 [22/02984/HSE](#) - Canon Heath Cottage – no objections

25.3 [T/00487/22/TCA](#) - Street Record Elm Grove – no issues

25.4 [22/03000/LBC](#) - 1A Swan Street – no objections provided the conservation officer is happy

25.5 [22/02983/FUL](#) - Star Farm, Caravan - Application falls foul of ss6 – it is not on previously developed land, it is not a permanent building, it is isolated, it is visually intrusive and there is no locally agreed need. It was agreed to oppose. The council will ask the BCllrs to request this application to be considered at Development Control Committee (DCC).

Resolved: Objection to be submitted with reference to SS6

25.6 [T/00506/22/TCA](#) - 7 North Street – it was agreed for the Clerk to seek advice from BDBC tree department on applying for a TPO's as the removal is unnecessary if the tree can be crown reduced.

Resolved: TPO's to be applied for – Clerk to seek advice on this from BDBC Tree Officers.

25.7 [22/03127/HSE](#) - 3 North Street - providing conservation is happy no objections effect of parking provision for managing contractors.

Resolved: Comments on parking provision during the works to be submitted.

25.8 [22/03128/LBC](#) - 3 North Street

25.10 **Porch Farm** – current position is unchanged – policies updated by developers but it is not up on DCC yet. Council should consider what it wants to respond in preparation for DCC.

10/22.26 – Clerk's Report:

26.1. Thanks for the Grant from the Village Club – the Village Club has expressed it thanks to the Council for last month's grant award of £250 towards their energy efficiency project.

The new grave digger has topped up 3 very sunken graves at no charge to us – the families are very happy with the work. A quote for electrical work in the parish office for additional sockets and a centre light has been received and circulated. A dangerous tree has been identified on Love Lane and HCC will be dealing with this.

10/22.27 – Approval of Income and Expenditure:

The accounts for 27th October 2022 to 28th November 2022 were agreed and signed off.

10/22.28 – Matters for Future Consideration:

None raised.

10/22.29 – Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 30th January 2022 7:30pm in the Village Club.

Meeting closed 21:30

Signed:.....Chairman

Date:.....

Signed:.....Clerk

Date:.....

Distribution: Cllrs: S Adams; I Bowes; D Conquest; M Farey; S Gaines; C Mussett; N Peach; R Peach; and J Sawyer.
Website: www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk.

Appendix 1

County Councillor Tom Thacker update – December 2022

Letter to the Prime Minister

Earlier in November, As Leaders of Hampshire and Kent County Councils, sent a joint letter to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to highlight, in the strongest terms, the financial crisis facing upper tier local government over the next few years.

Hampshire and Kent County Councils are facing budget deficits over the next few years that the Leadership believe are of a scale that has never been seen before. While there are some options for generating savings, most of these will be very unpalatable and impact on the most vulnerable residents in our areas.

However, even with such drastic cuts to services, HCC's current forecasts show that they would not be enough to close its future budget gaps. Without immediate help and a clear plan for long-term financial sustainability, HCC believes that it is likely to be considering Section 114 notices within the next year or so. Section 114 notices would mean that no new expenditure be permitted, with the exception of that funding statutory services, including safeguarding vulnerable people, however existing commitments and contracts would continue to be honoured. Hampshire and Kent are by no means the only Local Authorities in the country to be contemplating this measure.

County Councils carry out many important functions on behalf of Government, including in the Covid and the Ukraine crises. Hampshire and Kent leaders have asked Ministers for: funding that matches rising demand for services and the requirements of new burdens; legislative changes to reduce demand on services; and freedoms and flexibilities around council tax setting and charging for services.

This letter was sent before the Autumn Statement.

Autumn Statement

The Chancellor's Autumn Statement contained the following that will have a bearing on the County Council's funding and Council Tax. The Chancellor announced:

- The potential to raise council tax up to 5% each year up to 2027/28. If we were to set a 4.99% council tax next year that would be around an additional £14m over and above our current forecasts.
- A freeze on Business Rates, but we will be compensated for the lost income, this could be a substantial amount as inflation is at such high levels, but we do not yet have the full detail on this.
- Additional funding for social care and continuation of the Hospital Discharge Programme. The overall position on social care funding is quite complex, so we will need to await further clarification on this and the distribution methodology. We also need to understand what has happened to Services Grant as part of the overall funding position before we know what the overall impact on our budget looks like.

Next steps

HCC officers hope to provide further information to members in December, but some of the detail may not be available until the provisional local government settlement is known, for which no date is yet set.

In the meantime, if you do have any questions, please raise them with me and I shall send them through to HCC's CFO.

Otherwise, I wish all Parish Councillors and their Clerks a Merry Christmas.