

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Julie O'Donnell
Clerk to Kingston Parish Council
Kingston Community Pavilion
St Pancras Green
Church Lane
Kingston
BN7 3LN
e-mail: clerk@kingston-pc.gov.uk

11th November 2022

Minutes of the Kingston Parish Council meeting held on 9th November 2022 at 1900 hours in Kingston Community Pavilion.

Present: Cllr Barney, Cllr Bewick, Cllr Hoare, Cllr Leith, Cllr Clayton, Julie O'Donnell (Clerk)

8 members of the public were present

Minutes

1. Apologies and reasons for absence
Apologies received from Cllr Moulder and Cllr Halanen
2. The Chairman will invite Councillors to declare any interest they may have in the following agenda items.
No interests were declared
3. Minutes of 28th September 2022 Parish Council Meeting to be agreed and signed as a true record.

It was agreed by council that two amendments would be made to the minutes of the 28th September 2022 as follows.

Public forum comments amended to

One member of the public who was attending at the request of Kingston Table Tennis Club wished to express a point regarding the proposed sports equipment at St Pancras Green. He advised that a concrete table tennis does not allow good game play and thought that it would not be used very much and be a waste of money. The council noted his comment.

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Item 11 changed to

Resolved: *The council unanimously agreed in principle to grant the easement providing the developer agrees to meet the council's legal costs and that of the District Surveyor. The parish council will also expect a premium to be paid. The clerk to contact the solicitor to advise.*

- 4. Public Forum:** A period not exceeding 20 minutes is available for the public to express a view or ask a question on relevant matters on the following agenda.

Saxondown Farm development was raised by several members of the public. There are concerns regarding the removal of a hedgerow and the creation of a new access point to the development. A member of the public wanted to ensure that both the parish council and the council solicitor were fully aware that the hedge is owned by residents of Church Lane and is not part of the development.

Parking in and around the development site is very problematic. In the past a resident's vehicle has been damaged whilst parked in the lane. The verges at the top of the green are damaged from inconsiderate parking. The clerk advised that she had been in contact with the developer who had confirmed that repairs would be made to the verge as per the conditions of the easement.

The proposed sports equipment on St Pancras Green was raised. Some residents of St Pancras Green feel that the proposed positioning of the equipment at the top of the Green is too imposing and feel it would be better placed at the bottom near the trees.

Cllr Barney explained that the proposal is not finalised, and consideration would be taken when a final project plan is agreed.

The agreed extension at Cedar Cottage, Church Lane was raised. The submitted construction management plan to SDNPA is not fit for purpose and should be opposed. Residents are concerned that the lane is not suitable for heavy goods vehicles, increased traffic movements and parked contractor vehicles. They feel it is dangerous and will further damage the lane. The residents will be affected greatly whilst this build work takes place.

A member of the public raised the issue of the silver birches on the green. They feel that they have grown too big and need some work to reduce the size. There are concerns regarding overgrowth at the sub-station on the corner of Cordons. The clerk confirmed she has been in contact with the neighbouring property and is trying to resolve the issue.

- 5.** Clerk and Councillor reports arising from the minutes 28th September 2022 not covered elsewhere in the agenda:
- 5.1.** Clerk report (Appendix 1)
No report was written as all items are on the agenda.
- 6.** Reports from other bodies: Written reports to be taken as read. The council can raise questions.
- 6.1.** District Councillor William Meyer
No report was provided this month.
 - 6.2.** County Councillor Sarah Osborne (Appendix 2)
Appendix 2 was taken as read and no questions were raised.
 - 6.3.** Kingston Action Group (Appendix 3)

Name

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Appendix 3 was taken as read. The clerk was asked to contact KAG and ask whether they would be willing to share their plans for next year's spend.

6.4. Pavilion Committee report

No report was provided this month.

7. Report back from meetings attended by councillors on behalf of KPC:

- Parish Hall Committee (Appendix 4)

Appendix 4 was taken as read. Cllr Hoare explained that the figure shown on the report for the deposit was incorrect. The parish hall requires a partial implementation for just the solar panels and not for the whole project.

Clarification is sought regarding the hire charges for the pavilion for village groups. There is a query whether this is a historical agreement or something implemented by the National Lottery terms for the original funding. Clerk to investigate.

- Kingston Action Group

The report received covers the update.

8. Saxondown project funds: To receive updates from the project leads

8.1. Cllr Halanen to update on the new play park equipment at the village green

Cllr Barney update on behalf of Cllr Halanen who was absent from the meeting. The order for the equipment has been submitted and is still within the 6-8 week delivery period. Cllr Halanen has confirmed that no deposit is required. He is happy to talk to parishioners regarding the installation and answer any questions or queries.

8.2. Cllr Bewick to update on the proposed outdoor sports equipment for St Pancras Green.

Cllr Bewick advised that the quotes received back for the outdoor sports equipment were over double the expected budget. New quotes will need to be obtained and then a review including the positioning of the equipment will be done. The proposals will be put together and presented to the council.

8.3. Cllr Moulder to update regarding the parish hall project and the council to consider the costings. (Appendix 5)

Resolved: Appendix 5 was read and noted. The council unanimously agreed to the increase in cost as detailed in the report. This is to allow for the VAT which was not previously quoted for.

9. Kingston Mapping Project – Cllr Moulder

9.1. To resolve to commission Wild Business to undertake the project as outlined in Appendix 6&7 using allocated SDNP grant funding. (Appendix 6 & 7)

Resolved: Appendix 6&7 were read and noted. The council unanimously agreed to commission Wild Business to undertake the project as outlined in the brief. This will be funded by the SDNPA grant.

10. Village green play area: To acknowledge receipt of the Play Park Inspection report for October and agree any actions (Appendix 8)

Action: Appendix 8 was read and noted. The council agreed that a review of the equipment should be undertaken by Cllr Halanen. He would be asked to put a report together with the costings of the repairs for consideration at the January meeting.

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11. Traffic and Highways: To receive updates from Cllr Bewick and Cllr Barney

11.1. Update following remote meeting held with Cllr Sarah Osborne regarding traffic calming through Kingston.

Action: Following the remote meeting Cllr Osborne emailed ESCC and requested they meet with the parish council as soon as possible. Cllr Bewick confirmed a meeting has now been arranged with Ian Tingley from ESCC regarding the traffic calming measures. Cllr Bewick will explain to Ian Tingley exactly what the parish council require and will report back to council after the meeting.

A Speed Sensor update was also given by Cllr Bewick as follows –

The speed sensor is currently located on Ashcombe Lane, near to the junction with the avenue. It will soon be relocated to it's site on Wellgreen Lane to monitor traffic entering the village from the C7 for week commencing 14th November.

A summary of the information recorded for the period 29th September to 6th November inclusive is as follows:

Around 2000 vehicles per day enter the village, the number drops slightly (around 10%) at weekends.

The morning peak for this direction lies between 7.30am and 9.30 am with a maximum flow around 8.30am of some 150 vehicles per hour.

The evening peak flow lies between 3.30pm and 6.30pm with a peak flow of some 300 vehicles per hour

Between the peak times the number of vehicles entering the village is around 125 vehicles per hour.

As we have reported previously the majority (85%) of the vehicles entering the village observe the current speed limit of 30mph. However, this means that 15% of vehicles exceed this speed limit. During this period the vehicle count was 71,000 vehicles. This means 10,650 vehicles were speeding by the time they reached the bottom of Kingston Hill.

11.2. 20s Plenty initiative. Update following remote meeting held with 20s Plenty representatives and to consider whether to contribute funding to the cause.

Cllr Bewick advised it was an interesting and useful meeting.

From the data already obtained by the speed sensor the problem isn't really speeding vehicles but more the volume of traffic through Kingston. The representatives advised that is unusual for ESCC Highways to reduce the speed limit to what the traffic is travelling at.

However, there are some options available to the parish that may discourage commuters from using the village, but these may not be helpful to residents. For example, Wellgreen Lane could be used as a School Street which means the road is closed to motorized vehicles during specific times.

Another suggestion was that the parish could sign up along with other parishes in the local area to lobby ESCC Highways to make the speed limit changes. Cllr Bewick will investigate this.

Funding is not for the 20s plenty initiative but for the Safer C7 project.

Safer C7 project funding

This will be an agenda item for the January meeting. Iford, Rodmell and Piddinghoe have all signed up and contributed to the project. The council need to consider whether this is something they wish to do.

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Date

12. Parish Noticeboards

Cllr Halanen to update the council following his review of the noticeboards

Resolved: Cllr Barney updated the council on behalf of Cllr Halanen. The noticeboards have all been oiled and the hinges will need replacing in the next couple of years.

Cllr Bewick will liaise with Cllr Halanen regarding the step on Kingston Ridge to the noticeboard.

13. ESCC Urban Grass Cutting option 2023 – Council to resolve which option they would like for 2023.

To discuss the options available for the Urban Grass Cutting. (Appendix 9)

Resolved: The council unanimously agreed to option 1 as detailed in Appendix 9 which is the standard option for two cuts over the course of a year to be carried out by ESCC at no cost to the Parish Council. Urban grass will be managed for safety purposes only.

14. Planning:

14.1. To receive a planning update report on ongoing planning applications from Cllr Clayton and to note applications received (Appendix 10)

SDNP/22/04841/DCOND – The issue of the construction management plan at Cedar Cottage was raised. The parish council feel that the proposed plan submitted to SDNPA is inadequate and dangerous and would cause disturbance to neighbouring properties.

Action: The council agreed for Cllr Hoare to draft a response on behalf of the council. This would be circulated and agreed by council and sent directly to the planning officer.

14.2. Cllr Clayton has advised he wishes to step down from his role as Planning Lead. Council to appoint new councillor for the Planning Lead role.

Resolved: The council unanimously agreed for Cllr Hoare to become Planning Lead for the parish council.

15. Tree work quotation.

To consider the quotation to reduce two Sycamore trees in Monckton Way. (Appendix 11)

Action: The clerk to obtain two further quotes for the required work.

16. Financial Matters

16.1. To approve and authorise accounts payable for October 2022 and November 2022 (as detailed on the payment list).

Resolved: the parish council unanimously agreed to approve the accounts payable for November totalling £2567.82.

16.2. To consider and approve the draft budget subject to any agreed amendments and/or additions for presentation at the January 2023 meeting for adoption (Appendix 12).

Action: Following a lengthy discussion regarding the clerk's initial proposed budget of £61,640 the parish council agreed to reduce the estimated budget to £58,730. The council felt that this amount was still too high but understood that the running costs of the council have increased. This, coupled with other expected expenditure, including an election, in 2023-2024 have increased the budget spend for next year. The council unanimously agreed to a budget of £58,730.

Clerk to make the necessary amendments to the budget and present to the council in January 2023 for adoption.

16.3. To agree the creation of new Earmarked Reserves as recommended by the clerk (Appendix 13)

Resolved: The council unanimously agreed to the creation of Ear Marked Reserves as detailed in Appendix 13.

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16.4. To decide upon the precept request for 2023-2024 (Appendix 14)

Resolved: The council agreed that an increase in line with current inflation (10.1%) would be acceptable and a request of £55,050 would be made to Lewes District Council. The council unanimously agreed that for this year only, the deficit of £3320 (difference between the budget and the precept request) would be funded by the councils' general reserves.

- *The next parish council meeting is 10th January 2023 at 7.00pm Kingston Pavilion, St Pancras Green.*

Name

Signed

Date