

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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9th March 2023

Minutes of the Kingston Parish Council meeting held on 8th March 2023 at 1900 hours in Kingston Community Pavilion.

Present: Cllr Barney, Cllr Moulder, Cllr Halanen, Cllr Hoare, Cllr Leith, and Cllr Clayton

3 members of the public were present.

Minutes

1. Apologies and reasons for absence
Apologies received and accepted from Cllr John Bewick
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 9th November 2022 and 11th January 2023 Parish Council Meeting to be agreed and signed as a true record.
The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.
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.
One member of public wished to mention a potential planning application. Cllr Barney explained that the parish council can only consider actual live applications and would have to wait until plans were submitted to SDNPA before commenting.

Name

Signed

Date

5. Representatives from Safer C7 will give a brief overview of the project and answer any questions the parish council may have.

Sue Carroll and Joe Attwood presented to the council. The project has a different approach now to when it was previously presented at a parish council meeting. Safer C7 are asking that Kingston be part of the project and that the parish council pledge a donation toward the £30-£40k cost of the **whole** road assessment from Ashcombe Lane to Newhaven. This will be undertaken by an independent consultant and based on the SDNPA rural road policies. The project group are asking the parish councils of all the villages and the two towns the C7 passes through to pledge a donation to raise funds for the assessment. Once all councils have responded a crowd-funding initiative will be organised to raise further money.

If enough money is raised for the report and a costed design plan is agreed the project group will then be able to ask SDNPA for CIL money to help implement the agreed measures. East Sussex Highways have confirmed they would support this by allocating an officer to the project.

At this stage the group just want a pledge from the parish council. They confirmed that until the full amount has been pledged, they will not request the money. The money eventually paid will be held in a fully constituted bank account.

Sue and Joe stressed how important it is to have the parish support for this project and confirmed that the assessment would include Ashcombe Hollow/Lane. The full perimeters and scope of the assessment are still to be finalised and an independent consultant will be selected following a tender process. At this stage Safer C7 just need the parish buy-in and a monetary pledge to support the project.

Cllr Barney asked that agenda item 17 be bought forward for discussion following item 5. The parish council unanimously agreed. The minutes of the meeting remain in the order of the original agenda.

6. Clerk and Councillor reports arising from the minutes 11th January 2023 not covered elsewhere in the agenda:

Iford & Kingston Primary School

The clerk has received a letter from Iford and Kingston Primary School launching an official consultation by the school to join Skylark Federation. They wish to invite the Parish Council to attend a meeting on Thursday 9th March 2023 to discuss the proposal to federate the school.

Cllr Hoare confirmed he would attend the meeting on behalf of the parish council.

Saxondown Farm development

The clerk has received confirmation that work will take place to repair and resurfacing the easement strip of Church Lane. The plan is to remove and reseat damaged kerbs on Friday March 17th, and plane and tarmac on the following Monday March 20th into Tuesday 21st. The contractor is notifying affected residents in Church Lane and St Pancras Green this week with a note through letterboxes.

Clerk to check when the damage to the green will be repaired.

7. Reports from other bodies: Written reports to be taken as read. The council can raise questions.
- 7.1. District Councillor William Meyer
No report received this month.
 - 7.2. County Councillor Sarah Osborne
Report acknowledged and no questions raised.
 - 7.3. Kingston Action Group

Name

Signed

Date

Report acknowledged and no questions raised. KPC would like to thank KAG for their report this month and their all their hard work and efforts.

7.4. Pavilion Committee report

Report acknowledged and no questions raised.

The parish council would like to arrange a meeting with the pavilion committee which the clerk, Cllr Clayton and Cllr Leith can attend. This will enable communications between the pavilion committee and parish council to improve. It was suggested that quarterly meetings are booked in to ensure attendance. Clerk to contact the pavilion committee chair to arrange.

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

- Kingston Action Group
Nothing to add to KAGs written report.
- LDALC
This was not attended by KPC.

9. To agree to change the date of the Annual Parish Council meeting to the 17th May 2023. This is due to the Coronation bank holiday.

Resolved: The council unanimously agreed to the change of date. The Annual Parish Council meeting will now be held on the 17th May 2023.

10. To agree to the date and format of the Parish Assembly.

Resolved: The parish council unanimously agreed to organise the Parish Assembly for Friday 16th June at 7pm. This will be held at the Parish Hall. KPC will ask Ellie Rotheray who is part of the Kingston Mapping Project to attend to give an overview and update of this exciting project. Drinks and nibbles will also be available. Cllr Clayton and Cllr Leith to organise this event.

11. For 2023 East Sussex County Council (ESCC) is offering all Parish and Town Councils the option of reduced rural cuts to aid biodiversity. This is being done as an extension to an ongoing trial that took place in 2021 and 2022. Due to the timing of the parish council meeting and the deadline to participate KPC agreed via email to trial the initiative for 2023. Council to ratify the decision to participate.

Resolved: The parish council ratified this decision and confirmed participation in the initiative.

12. Pavilion energy contract – review and agree any change of energy provider to reduce energy costs.

Resolved: The parish council acknowledged the clerk report and resolved to change the provider to SSE on a one-year fixed contract. This should see a saving of approximately £1500.

13. Saxondown Easement – clerk to update.

Resolved: The clerk was hoping for an update from the surveyor regarding the recent assessment of the easement (for the sixth dwelling) but has not heard back yet.

Name

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Date

14. Tennis court – root barrier work.

The tennis club has been in discussion with the owners of the neighbouring property to the courts regarding tree root damage to the tennis courts. A work plan has been agreed and a contractor has been asked to quote for the work. The tennis club and neighbouring property are happy with the work proposed and the cost to be incurred. The neighbour has generously agreed to fund most of the cost with the tennis club and parish council paying the balance.

Council to agree to the work and the balance of £852 to be paid from the Tennis Club fund. A fee of £235 is also due to ESCC Rights of Way to close the bridleway for one week.

Resolved: The parish council agreed to the work as detailed on the quote. KPC would like to thank the neighbour for such a generous contribution. The work will start w/c 13th March 2023 and the bridleway will be closed for 5 days. Rights of Way will put signage up advising of this.

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

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

Resolved: The new equipment has now been installed and has been in use for two weeks. This is being enjoyed by young and old alike.

The installer has sent the tools to adjust the equipment to the pavilion, but these have not been received. The clerk will contact Wicksteed and ask that they are sent to her home address.

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

In the absence of Cllr Bewick Shelaine Siepel presented the report and explained that the previously agreed budget was not enough to cover the items that the parish had requested. Shelaine explained that the project would require a further £10,000 to enable the equipment to be purchased and installed as required.

Resolved: The parish council unanimously agreed to fund the extra money for the sports equipment project.

It was agreed that the extra money would be moved from the following reserves.

£5000 to be used from the CIL fund as part of improving the infrastructure of the village.

£3800 from the remaining Village Green play equipment which came in under budget.

£1200 to be used from the Childrens Play Park repair fund. This will be returned once payment has been received from the new easement at Saxondown.

Total reserve movement £10,000

15.3. Cllr Moulder to update on the Parish Hall

Cllr Moulder explained that the required solar battery had increased in cost from the original quote. The parish hall would like to purchase a slightly more expensive battery which includes a 10 year warranty and is much more efficient. The quote is yet to be received with the final amount but the parish hall has been advised that the battery has now likely increased to circa £9000 plus VAT. The original quote for phase 2 of this project was £7650 plus VAT.

Resolved: The parish council unanimously agreed to fund the extra cost of the battery. The council discussed how this would be covered and agreed that the money would be taken from the Highways fund and the Website fund and then be replenished when the new easement money is paid.

16. Village green play area

16.1. To acknowledge receipt of the Play Park Inspection report for January and February and agree any actions.

Resolved: The Play Park Inspection reports were acknowledged, and no action required.

16.2. Cllr Halanen to brief the council regarding the repairs required at the play park and the council to consider his recommendations and agree work where required.

Resolved: Cllr Halanen advised that the seats on the baby swings need replacing and he had received a quote of £440 plus VAT. Cllr Halanen to organise the repairs. The repairs will be paid from the play park account.

17. Traffic and Highways: To receive updates from Cllr Bewick and Cllr Hoare

17.1. Report from Cllr Bewick updating the position of traffic calming measures to include -

- Summary of KPC objectives,
- identifying those parts of Ashcombe Lane/ Wellgreen Lane (C234) identified by KPC as likely to benefit from traffic calming measures,
- the findings from the feasibility study carried out on the Ridge and a suggestion for the use of camera technology as a means of controlling average speeds and traffic volumes.
- Cllr Bewick would like to propose forming a Traffic Steering Group of council and co-opted members to ensure continuity of efforts.
- To discuss whether there is likely to be any benefit in a remote meeting with Maria Caulfield and if there is, to identify what we would hope to achieve from such a meeting.

Resolved: The parish council acknowledged the contents of the report.

The parish council resolved to form a Traffic Steering Group which will be headed by Cllr Bewick. Cllr Moulder advised that she wants to be involved as a co-opted member (after May when she retires from the parish council) and one other member of the public has expressed an interest. Cllr Leith will advertise the steering group in The Kingston News and ask for volunteers to join. The parish council unanimously agreed that they would not take Maria Caulfield up on her offer for a remote meeting to discuss the traffic issues.

17.2. Safer C7 project – Council to consider whether to contribute to this project and how much funding should be made available.

Resolved: The parish council unanimously agreed to pledge £3000 towards the project following confirmation from Safer C7 that Ashcombe Hollow/Lane will be included in the assessment. This has already been allocated in next year's budget.

18. Kingston Mapping Project – update from Cllr Moulder

Cllr Moulder advised she has a meeting with the project leads on Monday 13th March to discuss the proposal in more detail. She proposed that the mapping project has its own page on the KPC website which will detail the project and can be updated as the project develops.

Resolved: The parish council agreed to adding the mapping project to the website. The clerk will arrange this.

19. Rights of Way – update from Cllr Hoare

Cllr Hoare advised that Rights of Way have offered to fill the deeper ruts between Settlands and Rangers Yard on FP KIN 2/1 (Wellgreen Lane to Swanborough) then blind off with Type 1 MOT and Limestone scalping before being compacted down.

Cllr Hoare reported there is a broken gate at KIN/6 bridleway which Rights of Way have confirmed is the responsibility of the landowner. RoW will write to the landowner and request the repair.

Name

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Date

Resolved: The parish council unanimously agreed to the repairs suggested on KIN 2/1. Cllr Hoare to advise Rights of Way.

20. Planning: To receive a planning update report on ongoing planning applications from Cllr Hoare and to note applications received.

20.1. South Downs Local Plan Review – to review Kingston Parish Council submissions and agree a way forward.

Resolved: The parish council agreed with the completed forms and asked Cllr Hoare to submit these to SDNPA. The clerk confirmed that the land at Snednore is owned by Lewes District Council.

The parish council discussed the formation of a Parish Priority Statement (PPS) to inform the Local Plan Review and agreed that the parish council would not create one. The parish council felt that the PPS would have even less weight than a Neighbourhood Plan and would not be a benefit to the parish as it would not stop speculative development.

Resolved: The council unanimously agreed not to write a PPS.

21. Financial Matters

21.1. To approve and authorise accounts payable for February 2023 and March 2023 (as detailed on the payment list).

Resolved: The parish council unanimously approved the payment list for February 2023 totalling £2244.63 and approved the payment list for March 2023 totalling £22,450.07 which includes the cost for the new play park equipment at the village green.

21.2. To acknowledge the RBS reports circulated by the Clerk – Summary Receipts and Payments and Cash and Investment Reconciliation.

Resolved: The parish council acknowledged the reports circulated by the clerk and no questions were raised.

21.3. Small Grants Scheme – consider the application from Kingston Action Group.

Resolved: The parish council unanimously agreed to award the full £330 requested from KAG for the new noticeboard.

- *The Annual Parish Council meeting is 17th May 2023 at 7.00pm Kingston Pavilion, St Pancras Green.*

Name

Signed

Date