

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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22nd November 2023

Members of Kingston Parish Council are summoned to the Parish Council meeting to be held on **Wednesday 29th November 2023** commencing at 1900 hours in Kingston Community Pavilion.

The meeting is open to the press and public unless the council do otherwise resolve to enter private session where members of the press and public are excluded.

Signed: *Julie O'Donnell* (Clerk to Kingston Parish Council).

AGENDA

1. Apologies and reasons for absence
2. The Chairman will invite Councillors to declare any interest they may have in the following agenda items.
3. Minutes of 13th September 2023 Parish Council Meeting to be agreed and signed as a true record.
4. Council vote – motion to conduct Agenda item 19 and 20 as a closed session and exclude the public from attendance as confidential employment matters and confidential legal matters are to be discussed.
5. **Public Forum:** A period not exceeding 30 minutes is available for the public to express a view or ask a question on relevant matters on the following agenda.
6. Clerk and Councillor reports arising from the minutes of 13th September 2023 not covered elsewhere in the agenda:
For noting -
The Local Government Services Pay Agreement for 2023-24 has now been agreed. The Local Government Association has confirmed that the National Joint Council for Local Government Services has reached agreement on rates of pay applicable from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. The new pay rates for local councils have been published and have been agreed with SLCC and ALCC.

Employers are encouraged to implement this pay award as swiftly as possible. For all spinal points to 43 the agreed award was a flat rate payment of £1,925. For scale points above that the award was 3.88%

7. Reports from other bodies: Written reports to be taken as read. The council can raise questions.

7.1. District Councillor Stella Spiteri

7.2. County Councillor Sarah Osborne

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

- Kingston Action Group
- Nature Recovery Group
- Pavilion Committee.

9. Tennis courts

9.1. The two tennis courts need resurfacing, this was last done over 12 years ago. The parish council holds a reserve amount saved equally by the parish council and Kingston Tennis Club. The courts are not in good condition and need resurfacing as soon as possible. The tennis club has asked that the council contribute an extra £5000 to ensure that both courts can be done this year. The tennis club will contribute the other £5000. It has been confirmed that CIL funds could be used.

The tennis club has asked the council to consider the quotation for the work and agree the resurfacing work.

9.2. Hedgerow – The Laurel hedgerow surrounding the bottom court is large and contributing to the moss growth on the court. It has now grown very large and needs to be cut back, the tennis club would like to cut it back to more than half its current size.

The clerk has received a quote for £1500. The contractor has confirmed this is a large job and will require at least three workers.

9.3. To consider the request to increase the parish council contribution and tennis club contribution to £2000 each per year. This will ensure the resurfacing work can be done when required in 10 years' time.

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

10.1. To note the report from Cllr Bewick updating on the outdoor sports equipment for St Pancras Green.

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

11.1. To note the report from Cllr Bewick regarding the Traffic Steering Group meeting and to approve and accept the Traffic Steering Groups recommendation.

12. Village green play area

12.1. To acknowledge receipt of the Play Park Inspection report for October and agree any actions.

13. Civility & Respect Pledge

The Civility and Respect Pledge is part of a project created and overseen by the National Association

of Local Councils (NALC), One Voice Wales (OVW), the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) and county associations, to put civility and respect at the top of the agenda and start a positive cultural change for the local council sector.

The Civility and Respect Pledge is being introduced to enable councils to demonstrate that they are committed to stand up to poor behaviour, bullying, harassment and intimidation across the sector and to drive through positive changes which support civil and respectful conduct.

Further information can be found here Civility and Respect Project (nalc.gov.uk) on the NALC website.

Council to consider signing up to this pledge.

14. Rights of Way – to receive any updates from Cllr Adams/Cllr Hoare

15. Parish Owned Trees

15.1. Apple Trees, The Avenue.

To ratify the decision to purchase 12 staking kits for the apple trees on The Avenue which are leaning over. Cllr Hoare and KAG will complete the work required. The kits are £5.75 plus VAT and 12 are required.

15.2. Tree Survey – following the tree survey Cllr Hoare looked at the trees in question and feels a second opinion should be obtained. Council to discuss the findings and agree the next steps.

16. Urban Grass Cutting Options – The parish council sly receives two cuts from ESCC for verge cutting. Council to consider this and agree the cutting regime from ESCC for 2024-2025 (previously circulated)

17. Planning:

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

17.2. PPS – to agree the next steps for forming the Parish Priority Statement.

18. Financial Matters

18.1. To approve the Bank reconciliations for October 2023.

18.2. To approve and authorise accounts payable for November 2023 (as detailed on the payment list).

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

18.4. To consider and approve the draft budget subject to any agreed amendments and/or additions.

18.5. To approve the precept request if the draft budget is accepted.

19. Council vote – Confidential employment matters items to be acknowledged and approved (P&C report previously circulated)

20. Council vote – Confidential legal matters to be acknowledged and agreed (P&C report previously circulated)

- *The next parish council meeting is 10th January 2023 at 7.00pm Kingston Community Pavilion*