

MINUTES OF THE KINGSDON BI-MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 8th May 2014 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00pm

Parishioner comment time:

A.Saunders explained that we are now reverting to 20mins at start of meeting for parishioner comments, once councilors have started the meeting it will be for councilors only to debate. Regretfully we have had to revert to this instead of comments throughout the meeting.

No comments were expressed on agenda items.

Present: Mrs. A Saunders (Chairman); Mr. T Masters (Vice-Chairman); D. Morris, P. Waters, M. Clode (Parish Councillors); Mr D. Ruddle (County Councillor); Mrs. K Hatt (Parish Clerk) plus 11 parishioners.

1. Apologies: Mr. J. Calvert (District Councillor).

Chairman

Thanks were given to Tony for his 40 years' service on the Kingsdon Parish Council.

2. Declarations of Interest: T. Masters declared an interest in item 4, the former primary school sport field.

3. Minutes: The minutes having been previously circulated were approved and agreed.

4. Former Primary School sports field - sited at the (north west) junction of MowBarton Road and Lower Road , and diagonally opposite the Village Hall.

4.1 D.Morris updated us on the progress so far and the current situation.

There is not a significant update at the moment. John Calvert has been the most recent contact. Mel Clode has been tracking down funding and grants now it is clear that we have a right to buy it.

John was going to make his own enquiries as to where best to target enquiries.

Contact will now be made to John again as of his absence at tonight's meeting.

Dean Ruddle said that he and John will be meeting David Huxtable to ask county council if they will give slightly longer to raise the money to buy the field. We officially have 6 months, Dean is trying to give us 12 or 18 months grace on this. Dave Morris was under the impression that Charlie Fields had granted this.

Meeting is on the 13th May.

Dean asked what figure we were working to? They are working towards £50,000. But the valuation has come in at £20,000/£25,000. We are still awaiting an official figure.

School has no bearing on field what so ever. They have been granted a long term lease.

The field has been locked up because of travellers, by the estate manager.

5. Highways:

5.1 Grass verges and parking

Mel Clode had a meeting with John Nicholson. Tarmac has been put down on corner of lotment hill.

Parking spaces will be created in middle road and underwood road, and entrance to village will be tarmacked.

Once ditch is dug out on mowbarton road, we can then create the car park space which will then mean verges can be done. He is providing the top soil. Trees can be planted on them to prevent people from parking on them and ruining them. Entrance to Lytes Cary will be made a passing place. Signs will also be put in place so people know what is a passing place and what it not.

6. Children's Play Area/Equipment

The following update from Mike Brown was read out:

As you may have seen, the initial groundworks for the swings area has started. The turf has been removed, Austin Attwell has excavated the area to provide a flat surface and the turf will be going back on imminently. I will then use grass seed around the area where required and I will also cordon off this corner to hopefully keep children off, reduce footfall and allow it to recover as soon as possible.

Unfortunately the bench had to be removed to allow the correct size level area, with the gradual slope around. It has been removed whole and the equipment installers are happy to re-site it for us. I propose that it is re-sited next to the new ship, i.e. to the left of the gate. This then has one bench on each side of the gate, next to the major items of equipment.

The main installation is due to commence Tue 27th May, with it taking 7-10 days to complete. I will arrange the commissioning inspection by South Somerset District Council at the end, to ensure it complies with the relevant regulations. This inspection will also include the existing equipment to cover the annual inspection requirement for our insurance.

I would like to request payment for the following:

£57.59 - The Hire Shed, Castle Cary. For hire of turf cutter.

£8,610 - Home Front Limited. 25% deposit for equipment supplier. Balance payable upon satisfactory receipt of commissioning report and grant monies from Viridor and SSDC (only payable to us once equipment is installed)

£420 - Austin Attwell. For ground works and removal of soil/rocks.

£22.80 - Mike Brown. For hazard tape and grass seed.

Any questions - please do give me a call!

Angie Saunders explained that the grant providers have agreed to allow some money to be used for the above, and a slightly smaller ship.

It was asked if a seat was needed by ship if older children use? It was commented that it is for young and old. It was decided that the seat to be repositioned by the ship is fine. It may be in the future that we need another seat by swings as well.

7. Joining Rural England:

Do we want to spend this money at the time? What are we getting out of it?

To be a member it is £29.

Perhaps we should join it should a problem arrive and if other villages see it as worthwhile.

Dean Ruddle commented that Somerton are not in it and SALC is definitely worth having.

8. Seat at bus stop:

Mel Clode met with first bus. Last time it was raised there was problem with depth of curve and wheelchair access. The same was said again. Mel suggested what if the seat was where the grit bin is. We can have a seat there if we move the grit bin.

They won't install it but we need their permissions. There is no room for a shelter.

Phil Waters said that a piece of wood can be put into the wall rather than move the grit bin. The owners have said to Phil that this would be fine with them.

It has been accepted that there cannot be a full sized seat or shelter.

Phil does not mind doing the work to take the top of the wall off and put the bench on. Will only cost £5/£10 for bolts.

Mel proposed that Phil put a piece of wood into the wall, seconded by Phil Waters, all were in favour.

9. Cheque signing and financial report

9.1 Financial report by A.Saunders

Letters of thanks had been received from Victim Support and from Somerset Levels flood relief for the Council's recent donations

Tony Masters was thanked for collecting all the allotment rents totaling £217 which have been paid in to the Council's account

Precept of £8,000 plus council grant of £305 have been received direct into the Council's account

The submitted VAT claim for 2013-2014 of £184.95 has been paid direct into the Council's account

All these figures are reflected in the following balances.

Balances as at 8th May 2014 - General £8375.11; Savings £9431.92; Children's fund £12102.44

Insurance premium is due on 1 June. Proposed by A. Saunders the Council take the three year long term agreement option at £584.35 per year. This includes cover and public liability for the new play equipment, seconded by Mel Clode and all approved. Council noted that the premium benefits from a 'large sums' discount.

The 3 year term would give the Council a more stable view of its future expenditure

9.2 Cheque signing- paid out of Council

Kate Hatt April payment £50

Westbury Primary School £10.00 – copying of Field submissions

M. Major repair to pound wall £475.00

Cheques for signing

Kate Hatt, Clerk May and June payments £50 per month

Zurich for insurance £584.35

Salc £87.99

Accounts for children's equipment:- FE Attwell £420.00 ground works

M.Brown safety equipment £22.80

The Hire Shed £57.59 –turf cutter

Home Front £8,610.00 deposit for play equipment

All these payments were proposed by Mel Clode and seconded by Phillip Waters, all were in favour.

Clerk was requested to ask Wally about Mics being switched on.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05pm