

**MINUTES OF THE KINGSDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
THURSDAY 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm**

**Parishioner comment time:**

None

**Present:**

Mr. D.Beswick (chairman), Mr B. Paine (vice-chairman), Mr. Wally Elliott, Mr. I. Dibben, Mr G. Osborne and Mr. P. Waters (Parish Councillors); Mrs L. Moore (RFO) and Mrs. K Hatt (Parish Clerk) plus 7 parishioners.

1. **Apologies:** Mrs S. Mackay, Dean Ruddle and David Norris.

**2. Declarations of Interest:**

As already declared, no changes.

**3. Minutes:**

The minutes of the monthly parish council meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2016, which had been previously circulated and were approved and signed, with the following amendment to item 6 – it is SCC not SSDC as written; proposed by B. Paine and seconded by W. Elliott, all in favour.

**4. Matters arising not covered by agenda items**

I.Dibben – notice board quotations, still awaiting a final quotation, will be ready for the next meeting.

With 3 quotations we may be able to get 50% help from community grants.

D.Beswick – tree on track, he has looked at it. B.Carlisle has talked to a tree specialist and are in discussions about doing something about it.

**5. Chairman's Report**

Neighbourhood watch scheme: someone thought we didn't have a representative anymore. This is all incorrect. Martin is still the coordinator and vacant spaces on different roads have been filled.

**6. Correspondence**

Somerset Community Justice Partnership – requesting donations. Anybody wish to support? No-body wished to.

Huish pool - - requesting donations for improvements. Anybody wish to support? No-body wished to.

SSDC – have sent a leaflet on printing if anyone is interested. These will be placed in the shop.

**7.1 and 7.2 Finance- report and cheque signing.**

The RFO talked through the quarterly report which councillors have all already received a copy of. The 2015/2016 external audit report has been returned and approved. This is displayed on the website. **Action – K.Hatt – display on the notice board.**

We can now claim back VAT from last year which is just over £500.

We have made a loan repayment, next due in April.

We have currently overspent in two areas: general expenses of £1.8. which is a slight concern and the website by £100 which is of small concern.

D.Beswick – a couple of expenses have not come out yet. These normally come out at the end of the year. Could it be halfway through the year instead? Invoices were asked to be put in.

We need to give the church its donation.

D.Beswick proposed the church be paid, B.Paine seconded, all in favour.

The village shop – the final outcome was discussed and agreed with Eric – they would request money and then the parish council would consider granting it. D.Beswick will encourage the shop to put in a request.

If we want to have a grant from community fund, we are not allowed to have more money in our savings than our precept, unless it is for a set purpose. Ours is, as it is set aside for the field.

G.Osborne - £1500 in savings for the field? Is this correct. Do we need this much?

It is in the budget for this year.

**a) Report on Bank Accounts**

KPC Account	KPC Account	KPC Account
	Net Cheque Balance	£1,832.00
	Transfer In	£0.00
	Transfer Out	£0.00
	31.08.2016	<b>#VALUE!</b>

Savings Account		
	Opening Balance 01.07.2016	£33,295.88
	Net Cheque Balance	£0.00
	Interest	£4.15
	Transfer In	£0.00
	Transfer Out	£0.00
	Closing Balance 30.09.2016	<b>£33,300.03</b>

**b) Cheques Tables for Approval**

Clerk Services - September	£75.00
Grant Thornton - audit fees	£200.00
Greenslade Taylor Hunt - Allotment Fees	£215.00
Playground safety inspection	£94.20
Website hosting	£71.86

**TOTAL CHEQUE AMOUNT -  
OCTOBER 2016**

**£656.06**

These payments were proposed by W.Elliott, seconded by I.Dibben, all in favour.

**8. Former Primary School sports field - sited at the (North West) junction of MowBarton Road and Lower Road, and diagonally opposite the Village Hall.**

B.Paine reported:

We have not yet heard about S77. They have received the paperwork.

The next step is to have the grass and hedge cut, and install a new gate.

In the course of the last month it was decided that it would be better organised as two contracts.

One for installing the gate and sorting out proper access to get through the gate.

Two, cutting hedges, grass and hedges of the allotments.

The estimated cost is high and as we are waiting for S77 it would be prudent to wait to actually spend the money.

We are now going for 3 quotations.

Now it is a defined project we may be able to get some district council support.

## **9. Trees**

**9.1** We have talked to the Arboriculturalist from County Council, Mr Scriven, about the Poplars on Mowbarton Road; he visited and has written a report. Here is a summary:

The trees are Hybrid Poplars and appear to be in good condition for their age.

They are fast growing trees and reach a large height in a short space of time.

The fast growth rate forms brittle timber that leads to shedding of twigs in winds. Therefore they would not normally be planted close to residential properties.

The possibility of pruning to maintain them was discussed but the pruning would need to be substantial and lead to an undignified appearance. There would be rapid re-growth from the cut surfaces and these new branches are prone to falling. This would need to be repeated every few years.

The trees are not dead, dying or dangerous and as very little money is available no work is planned by SCC.

An available option would be to remove the Poplars and replant trees of a more suitable species.

D. Beswick explained topping and pruning trees is bad for trees like the poplar.

We are getting some quotations for what it would cost to get them down; it could be in excess of £3000.

Parishioner statement – there may not be a danger of the tree from it falling but the report does talk about the debris which falls. We are not talking about twigs here; we are talking about significant size branches of around 3metres long.

There are children in the houses in the vicinity – what would happen if one of these large branches hit the children.

The trees are damaging the road, an elderly villager was recently hospitalised, likely to do with tripping on the road damage and debris from the trees.

Another resident has commented that they fell over on the debris.

If we do nothing and just let the trees go they will continue to grow and the problems will get worse. There needs to be more appropriate trees for the long term.

We are keen to plant new trees, we are not anti trees.

This could work very well with taking over the field and possible orchard creation.

We did live here after the trees but were assured that they were going to be maintained by the Parish Council so that they did not cause dangerous problems.

D.Beswick responded with: The road distortion is not of the highest point needed to say it is causing significant damage.

The responsibility of damage/harm to others would lie with SCC.

The best solution is to the remove the trees but this needs careful consideration.

B.Paine – we need to consider carefully as we will be setting a precedent.

P.Water – they have not finished growing, there is possibly another 30yrs growth. Action needs to be taken sooner rather than later.

We would need planning permission but Mr Scriven has not indicated that this would be a problem.

P.Waters suggested we get 3 quotations on emergency pruning and/or removal, so we are in a position to make a decision.

Parishioner – suggested talking to woodland trust as well, about replanting.

Virador – could they support the removal of the trees so a partnership between the two groups with removal and re-planting could be established.

Parishioner – there is a certain inevitability about this. Whenever they are dealt with it will have to be funded by the Parish as the SCC are not going to gain more money and eventually will be gone.

**Actions – P.Waters to gather quotations, article to go in the chronicle, and the subject to be placed on the next agenda to make a decision.**

Lower road Poplars – a branch has come down, looks like someone has attempted to cut a lower one. Those trees as well represent the same type of risk but don't have the same level of traffic so are not as much of a problem. However we do need to clear a way for tall vehicles to pass under.

**Action – D.Beswick will take some branches down initially.**

## 9.2

P. Waters explained that the tree planting plan is still a work in progress. Some ideas have been suggested and one is about creating an avenue from the top of the village into it. A lime tree has been recommended for the soil type we have. We could have a dozen or so trees creating a gateway into the village – creating a nice atmosphere but not ruining the view. They would be north of the house built there. These are all ideas at the moment.

Sections of the hedge would be removed, to enable a cage to be created to protect it from the animals and to make it a feature. We would need permission from the owners of the land. Mole Valley could be approached for funding.

The woodland trust maybe able to support us. We may not have to purchase trees.

Limes are in the village but it doesn't have to be them. Limes are at the top of North Street and are also good for bees. This particular variety can be trimmed lightly or planted further enough back in to stop the branches protruding into the road.

B.Paine thinks that this is a brilliant idea and would enhance the appearance.

If people are happy P.Waters will now proceed onto looking into types of trees we can get and getting the land owner's permission.

D.Beswick – it needs to wrap into the village plan.

Could we also have a written plan?

**Action – P.Waters to look at funding, types of trees and produce a written plan.**

I.Dibben – parish plan – mapping trees on it. Could do a sample and see if we want it in the future.

Some limbs on trees in the village field are bowing down- Ash trees and others. Telephone wires are also growing through some. P.Waters is happy with himself and his brother who is a qualified tree surgeon, to deal with it.

The chestnuts, one in the field is looking more poorly. It is dying and will need to be taken down.

Also the one on the corner of the old school field is dying and will need to be removed. Need a plan for replacement before we remove it. P.Waters will also need to check with the estate at Greenslade Taylor Hunt. He will also check with BT if they remove trees from their wires.

## 10. Playground Report

W.Elliott reported that on 25<sup>th</sup> August Kingsdon Recreation field and the play equipment was inspected by Steve Barnes from SSDC Play and Youth Facilities Team.

A report of the inspection has been received which covers all the equipment and the field.

The report states that the facilities are in good condition with a few faults to rectify and other issues to monitor.

- Faults:
1. Wire hanging off main gate
  2. Access poor for wheel chairs and pushchairs
  3. The five-a-side football posts are unsecured to the ground.
  4. Zip wire Slack
  5. Caps missing off Nuts & Bolts on the tunnel slide
  6. Damage to rope cover at base of pull up rope
  7. Wood cracking on chain steps
  8. Chains worn on two flat swings
  9. Uneven surface under cradle and buddy swings

Monitor: Cracks in wood on equipment  
Gaps in tiles

Following a site meeting of members of the Parish Council on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October the following actions will take place:

- Fault 1 - W.Elliott to rectify
- 2 - G.Osborne and I.Dibben. Main gate to be locked and a new pedestrian access made to the side with improvement to surface for pushchairs / wheelchairs.
  - 3 - I.Dibben and W.Elliott. Goal posts to be secured into ground
  - 4 - I.Dibben to tighten Zip wire.
  - 5 - W.Elliott to replace missing caps.
  - 6 - W.Elliott to rectify.
  - 7, 8 & 9 - W. Elliott to monitor.

## 11. Kingsdon Festival

### 2016 Festival & Fete Income & Expenditure

<b>Income</b>		<b>Expenditure</b>	
Donations / Miscellaneous	£380.00	Licences & Certificates	£142.67
Grand Draw	£791.00	Printing & Tickets	£140.50
3 Night Wristband Tickets	£1,630.00	Miscellaneous	£36.48
Fete	£583.08	Fete expenses	£74.79
Weekend Bar	£2,940.00	Bar stock & bar items	£1,733.49
Weekend BBQ	£760.00	BBQ Food, Gas, napkins etc.	£467.71
BBQ Post event sale of foods	£12.50	Big Band & Entertainment	£1,525.00
KPC for Marquee Incl. VAT	£2,194.02	Full marquee cost Incl. Vat	£2,194.02
Marquee deposit refund	£658.21	Marquee Deposit	£658.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>£9,948.81</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£6,972.87</b>

**Excess Income / expenditure** **£2,975.94**

**Jubilee Fund Total as at 1st October 2016**

**£5,696.64**

The jubilee fund will be meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> November where full accounts can be viewed and decisions will be made about the future.

D.Beswick – does the jubilee fund plan to hold anymore fundraising events in the future?

This cannot be answered until the meeting, but is a possibility.

D.Beswick was hoping for the parish council to get some money back. But it depends on decisions after the meeting.

I.Dibben – the fund was set up to support village events. The viewpoint of the parish council may now have changed in the last few years.

This is going to be discussed fully in the meeting.

Parishioner – If the parish council had not made the contribution of the marquee there would have been a profit of around £700. The event was fantastic but profit limited. It relies on contributions from people.

### 12. Firework Display

D.Beswick we had an offer of a firework display previously but time became very short for this time. We need to think more carefully about this and whether we have a bigger event. It will need to be addressed as part of the precept.

### 13. Date of next meeting

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016, 7.30pm.

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.50pm**