

**MINUTES OF THE KINGSDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 9th MARCH 2017 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 G. Osborne, Mrs S. Mackay and Mr P. Waters, (Parish Councillors); Mr D Ruddle (County Councillor) Mrs L. Moore (RFO) and Mrs. K Hatt (Parish Clerk) plus 8 parishioners.

1. Apologies: Mr. D. Norris (District Councillor), Mr. I. Dibben.

2. Declarations of Interest:

As already declared, no changes.

3. Minutes:

The minutes of the monthly parish council meeting held on the 9th February 2017, which had been previously circulated, were proposed by B.Paine and seconded by W.Elliott, were approved and signed, all in favour.

4. Matters arising not covered by agenda items

K.Hatt – Has contacted Neil Waddleton re 106 money but has received no reply yet. The tree sponsors have been updated, the plaques now need to be ordered with B.Paine assisting, the tree planning application for felling the Mowbarton Road poplars has been submitted, the new trees for replacement have been ordered.

D.Beswick shared that we have received approval for felling the Poplar trees on Mowbarton Road but he wanted extra assurance that this was fine in a conservation area. This has been approved in a conservation area so we can now go ahead and fell the three trees on Mowbarton Road.

The small branches could be burnt and we still chip up about 4 tonne.

We also need to clarify if the contractor is killing the roots.

We will be told when the trees are going to be taken down and when the smaller branches will be burnt.

B.Paine advised we have been notified of the written permission from the Department for Education that we can take ownership of the school field. However they have specified we need to retain it as a playing field for 10 years, as a condition of the sale. Our solicitor now needs to finalize, with SCC, some minor wording alterations to clauses in the contract document to reflect the DfE requirements.

D.Beswick contacted the conservation officer about the delay in building on Top Street, they confirmed that there is nothing they can do about it in the short term as the builder is doing everything in his power to do something about it, and he has already visited to see that it is safe.

W.Elliott – we have only had the cricket club say they are interested in the asset fund, so they are going ahead independently to apply.

5. Chairman's Report

Nothing extra to report.

D.Beswick has received some complaints saying that he appears too authoritative in meetings. He wanted to reassure that it is his natural manner and he is very happy for other Councillors to disagree and debate other points of view.

6. Correspondence

Tim Russell the PCSO has sent the latest crime figures which has been emailed to councillors. D.Beswick has received a letter from the public space protection officer, he needs to look at it in more detail and discuss with environmental warden before it is discussed in council. He has also received an advert for insurance, do we ask for a quotation? It was agreed for D.Beswick to see if they could give us a better deal.

Action – D.Beswick to look into insurance quotation.

7.1 and 7.2 Finance- report and cheque signing.

Lynn Moore reported that she has not received a bank statement as yet so the figures have not been reconciled yet. She will chase this with the bank.

She has received a letter from Greenslade Taylor Hunt saying they want to increase the rent on the allotments from £430 to £480. It last went up in 2012. It seems we have no choice.

B.Paine is proposing that we accept the proposed increase, seconded by W.Elliott, all in favour.

Lynn Moore asked that if you get an invoice for the council, have name on it but also on behalf of the Kingsdon Parish Council, so that we can claim the VAT back.

We have overspent on the budget by 5%, £780. The main area was general expenses, website maintenance and village hall rental.

It will be balanced out once we receive the VAT return refund.

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| KPC Account | 01.02.2017 | £13,057.45 |
| | Net Cheque Balance | £0.00 |
| | Transfer In | £0.00 |
| | Transfer Out | £0.00 |
| | 28.02.2017 | £13,057.45 |

Bank Statement not received by time of doing accounts

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Savings Account | 01.02.2017 | £33,304.18 |
| | Net Cheque Balance | £0.00 |
| | Interest | £0.00 |
| | Transfer In | £0.00 |
| | Transfer Out | £0.00 |
| | 28.02.2017 | £33,304.18 |

| | |
|---------------------------|---------|
| Clerk Services - February | £75.00 |
| Account Angels | £180.00 |
| Chew Valley Trees | £382.70 |
| Parish On Line | £57.60 |
| Marquee Deposit | £529.61 |

TOTAL CHEQUE AMOUNT - MARCH 2017

£1,224.91

These payments were proposed by G.Osborne, seconded by W.Elliott, all in favour.

8.Village Field

B.Paine handed out diagrams to demonstrate the drainage from Estate yard across the village recreational field. There are now trees directly in this path which will cause a blockage and likely to cause costly repairs.

We would be unable to carry out the works immediately due to nesting birds. This would involve felling one tree and pruning several on the others.

This drain connects to the main sewerage system in Frog Lane

D.Beswick asked if Wessex Water have been involved looking at the drains. Any drains that fall outside the boundaries of the properties are owned by them. So any damage to the drains would have to be repaired by them and not ourselves.

Also we lease the use of the field, we don't own it and are not responsible for what goes on underneath.

D.Beswick said that the first step would be for the concerned parishioner to contact Wessex Water for their advice.

Parishioner – it has been brought to the council attention, the trees were planted by the parish council, and liability will lie with them.

D.Beswick says he would be reluctant to deal with it until Wessex water have looked at it.

P.Waters went on to say that he has had a look at the tree and agrees it will eventually cause problems to the drain. Putting aside liability, he would be happy to take down the tree free of charge and replant a new tree in a slightly different position.

D.Beswick said he is reluctant to chop trees down for no real good reason.

Action – parishioner to contact Wessex Water to confirm ownership of drain and if they would be responsible for repairing any tree damage to the drain.

9.Spring litter pick

P.Waters said that last year was a success; he is proposing another litter pick date for the 8th April. There will be a note in the chronicle.

It would be great to see more people this year though.

Action – P.Waters to put note in chronicle and organise the litter pick.

10.Kingsdon Automatic Defibrillator

W.Elliott explained that he has recently looked in detail at the defibrillator regarding cost, location and cabinet that it is situated in. He found that the ambulance service and British heart foundation are against them being in locked cabinets. This extra time to get the code takes away vital minutes. They now recommend cabinets which are unlocked and have an alarm if opened. The other problem is that where it is currently located it sometimes gets switched off accidentally.

The ideal location would be the shop. W.Elliott put it to the shop committee, and they would be happy to have it located there, provided the parish council apply for the planning permission, and all costs involved, as well as having a say about where it would be located.

Do we wish to purchase a new defibrillator?

David Beswick asked where is the alarm? In the box.

Why can't we keep the existing cabinet and print the code on the outside, and buy an alarm?

If it's still locked, we still have time lost.

D.Beswick asked if it has yet to save a life?

D.Beswick pointed out we would have more costs, such as installation at a new location. Rather than buying a new cabinet for £450, he wants to be sure we cannot use the old one and leave it unlocked, either without an alarm, or an alarm bought by ourselves.

B.Paine asked the chairman what price he put on the life of a parishioner, presumably not £450 if he was not prepared to invest in a new latest version of a defibrillator cabinet.

P.Waters – is the alarm the only thing stopping it from being stolen? Because if it is, it could still be easily stolen with an alarm.

Would we be covered in the insurance from costs? Would we have to inform the insurance company it was now unlocked?

Can we just move the existing box and put it on the wall of the shop?

Is it worth checking if we need an alarm with the insurance? If we are covered with the insurance regardless of an alarm, it is a possibility to use the existing cabinet and leave it open.

B.Paine considered the arguments for not purchasing a new defibrillator unit were entirely spurious, so proposed the Parish Council purchase a new unit to be sited at the village shop, seconded by W.Elliott, three voted against, the motion was declined.

D.Ruddle suggested we talk to David Norris as there may be some funds available should we need to purchase a new cabinet.

Action – W.Elliott to gather more information on cabinets. D.Beswick to contact the insurance company and David Norris.

A note was put in the chronicle about training for defibrillator and CPR, only had two volunteers. More people would need to be encouraged if we were to arrange this.

Action – K.Hatt to contact clerk at Somerton to see if joint training would be a possibility.

11. Kingsdon Festival Marquee

We need to approve that the council are initially paying for the marquee. To claim the VAT back it has to go through the parish council funds. So the parish council are not actually funding it as the jubilee fund will be paying it back.

B.Paine proposed that we pay for the marquee, seconded by S.Mackay, all in favour.

12.Highways

B.Paine handed out documents about the consultation on the A303 dualling scheme. They do have feedback forms which can be returned by individuals.

He attended the consultation and believes that option 2 would affect Kingsdon. This option would mean that it would be visible, the noise level would increase, pollution would increase, it would cut through farm land and possibly increase flooding. Our local MP is not in agreement with option 2.

He wanted to highlight that it could impact us quite considerably, it has relevance to our village and therefore he would encourage individuals to respond.

But should the Parish Council also send a response?

There was no strategic analysis as to why this section as opposed to the other areas of the A303.

D.Beswick thought they had made this decision as it was a traffic hold up area.

It was agreed that B.Paine would produce a draft response from the Parish Council and circulate to Councillors. **Action.**

13.Donated tree placement

P.Waters handed out a drawing of a proposed plan of where to put donated trees on the village field. He talked us through it.

He will show the plans to Mr Biffin first.

G.Osborne checked if the area of the field was getting smaller as we don't want to restrict the field area. P.Waters confirmed that he was filling gaps and not decreasing the field area.

P.Waters proposed the viewed plan of planting the donated trees, G.Osborne seconded, all in favour.

14.Date of next meeting

Thursday 13th April 2017.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm