

MINUTES OF THE KINGSDON BI-MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 11th JULY 2014 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm

Parishioner comment time:

A.Saunders reminded us how parishioners comment time should work.

No comments were taken on agenda items.

Present: Mrs. A Saunders (Chairman); Mr. T Masters (Vice-Chairman); D. Morris, P. Waters, M. Clode; A.Colton (Parish Councillors); Mr D. Ruddle (County Councillor); Mr. J. Calvert (District Councillor).Mrs. K Hatt (Parish Clerk) plus 5 parishioners.

1. Apologies: None received.

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

3. Co-option of Antony Colton as councillor

Antony Colton confirmed Fridays are not a problem for his attendance.

It was proposed by Mel Clode to co-opt Anthony Colton as a councillor, seconded Dave Morris. All were in favour.

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

Proposed by Mel Clode and seconded by Tony Masters.

Phil Waters apologized but the bus seat has not been done yet due to work commitments. He has bought the materials and will do it in the next two weeks. A.Saunders said this is now up for sale. We have permissions from current owners, so would prefer to go ahead and do it. Decided to go ahead in the next two weeks. **Action – Phil Waters to fit bus seat.**

5. Introduction of new PCSO

Tim Russell is our new PCSO. Hayley Barber the second one. There has been a reconstruction in this area of the PCSO. We are covered by Wincanton Police. There is a 6 month trial to see how it goes.

Tim Russell would like to know about problems early to be here to help.

There will be a police report at meetings in person or through the clerk.

There have been 6 recorded crimes in total last month.

PACs priorities (police and community priorities.) – We have two PAC priorities at the moment - rural crime and parking. These can be discussed in parish council meetings.

Mel Clode explained that parking warnings were put on a number of cars previously but it wasn't enforced. E.g. parking on junctions.

Regular police patrolling through area – the two new pcso's should be doing this regularly.

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

David Morris updated us.

It is on-going. We are still discussing and in communication with the authorities.

7. Highways

Austin Attwell is in the process of work – ditch down Mowbarton Road has been dug out. Still needs to do levelling for car parking. Phil Waters will then be doing the grass verges. Austin Attwell is planning on doing it on Tuesday.

Phil Waters is happy to walk round with Austin Attwell to mark out correctly where the cars should go.

Dean Ruddle thinks the spaces need to be 4.8m long.

Anthony Colton will be taking back the responsibility of highways and will liaise with Phil Waters.

8. Website

Mel Clode – the website is almost ready for completion. The best option is to have an input from each group who has a page on the website, who will allocate a person. Hannah will do a live training session with two people and written instructions to other people. She can do live training to more at £18.50 per person per hour. We will see if we need this after seeing the written input.

Do we want social media on the website? The shop wants this on their page. Mel Clode sees no benefits to it. Angie Saunders views the website as information only.

A lot of damage can be done to people through twitter. It can be added on at a later stage.

It was felt that social media would not be beneficial on rest of website. But facebook could be beneficial to the shop. We don't have enough information/knowledge of how this works. We need to find out more,

we particularly do not want negative comments coming through. Mel Clode to liaise to Hannah to gain more information.

This is a Parish council website so things do need to go through the council.

Dean Ruddle advised that the shop may want to look at getting their own website, and have a link on the Parish Council site. John Calvert and Dean Ruddle both recommended that this could be the best option. Mel Clode has been delegated powers in conjunction with chairman to make the final decision after discussion with Hannah.

Action – Mel Clode to liaise with Hannah and make final decision on social media.

9. Children's new playground (requested by A. Saunders)

Angie Saunders read out information from Mike Brown:

It is with much regret that I am unable to make the PC meeting. I am on leave and we are away on our summer holiday which is frustrating, as I would like to have been there. I am sure that there will be comment about the new equipment from some villagers and it would have been useful for me to be able to provide instant answers. I'm a bit frustrated that Pat Toole is still unhappy, especially since we altered the aspect of the ship completely (turned it through 180 degrees) to ensure that the zip wire and highest tower elements were not directly in the field of view from their house. Actually now, all the highest elements, from his aspect, are hidden by the tree which would appear to be the perfect solution, plus the zip wire end station is now much further away. Incidentally, Lynn Davis, who lives next door thinks it's great!

Things Pat Toole asked me to consider, which I said I would pass on to the PC - Colour of the wood. I said this would weather in 6-12 months to be similar to the existing and that we had no plan to paint it a more 'natural' colour.

He requested a small hedge screen from the gate, to the tree (i.e. behind where the bench has now been located). The premise for this was to provide screening for everyone who approaches from Frog Lane.

Planting a small hedge would be very easy, it would just cost the PC a bit to buy the shrubs/trees.

I have also been questioned whether we are 'allowed' to call it HMS Kingsdon. I have to say I find this pretty petty, but I am going to get in touch with the head of the Navy, Admiral Sir George Zambellas (he lives locally near Sherborne) as I am sure he would have no issue in us liberally taking the HMS title in vain - it's just a bit of fun.

To end on a positive note, since the opening I have been overwhelmed by the amount of people who have used the equipment. There are always people there when I drive past after work, and my eldest (Monty, almost 4) has met and made friends with probably a dozen other children in the village, who we had never even seen before. Lots of people have used the area for picnics and I have had so much positive feedback.

I know there are still those who think its huge and an eyesore ad I'll never please everyone!

Pat Toole clarified he is not unhappy with the name problem – it was someone else.

A letter from Pat Toole was then read out and the Parish Council answered his questions.

Does the new equipment feature in the financial records as property of the parish council and could you give details of the insurance cover? – *It does feature as full public liability in the insurance and all the financial details have been published in previous minutes and chronicle.*

For whose use intended – is it young children up until their teens? *As currently adults and all ages are using it? The parish council will check this with Mike.*

Have all health and safety requirements been complied with? *It has all been passed by the inspectors.*

The gate is often left wide open? *This is parents responsibility but we will look into different safety gates and the cost of them.*

Can you confirm the tenancy has a 25 yr lease – *we can confirm this in writing and was in a chronicle about 18 months ago. However it can be taken back at anytime but they would have to compensate any expenditure.*

My understanding from developers is the height had to be less than 4m, 200 cubic m - *Mike went to planners who agreed on the size, and he has all the relevant planning information. He also had all the correct permissions from owners and has met all the requirements.*

What provision has been made for maintenance and insurance – *comes under parish council, this has been recorded in previous minutes/chronicle. Angie Saunders also read out and clarified how the insurance covers us.*

Pat Toole then requested he would like to see the old minutes in the chronicle – he was advised the easiest way to do this would be to look on the chronicle website or wait and see the file from Mike Brown. If he still wants copies of the minutes there is a small charge.
Pat Toole confirmed that he was happy with the answers received.

The Parish Council would like to thank Mike Brown for all his tremendous work. Lot of hours have been spent on this and it is very much appreciated.

Phil Waters is looking into tree planting around the field and will have discussions with people about screening the equipment as well.

Tree officer may supply some trees free of charge to help soften areas, where people having now seen it and think – ‘I didn’t know it was going to look like that.’

**Actions for Parish Council – check with Mike Brown the age limits for the equipment.
Look into safety gates and costs.**

10. Cheque signing and financial report

10.1 Financial report by A.Saunders

The accounts and annual return have been sent to the external auditors and had been advertised that they were available (late May to late June) for inspection, as we are legally required to do.
Mr Masters reported that no one had asked to see them.

Balances as at 11 July 2014 –

General £7692.77; Savings a/c £9433.10 including £1.18 interest;

Children’s fund £2999.05

10.2 Cheques for signing

Kate Hatt, Clerk July and August payments £50 per month

F. E.Attwell - £744, on satisfactory completion of ditching and verge work in conjunction with County Council works.

On receipt of the invoices for the playground equipment cheques will need to be raised.
Final invoices are yet to be received.

All these payments were proposed by Mel Clode and seconded by Philip Waters. All were in favour.

Philip Waters explained that the verges around the field are looking rough as we have nesting birds there. He is waiting until the 15th of July before cutting these to protect the nesting birds.

Action - Angie Saunders needs to check insurance about the bus seat. (To be included on the next agenda)

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35pm

Since the meeting it was confirmed, by the inspector’s report, the present gate has passed the safety inspection. It has also transpired the adults who had been seen on the zip wire were the inspectors and it can be used by anyone.

The bus seat/perch – provided that the Parish Council are happy that the installer has sufficient experience and cover whilst doing the job, the insurance company have no problem with the perch and the Council would be covered by public liability providing the installation is sound.

