

MINUTES OF THE KINGSDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12th JANUARY 2017 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm

Parishioner comment time:

The chairman of the village hall committee had received an enquiry from a scout group about booking the village hall and would like some green space i.e. sport field to use as well, B.Paine has the matter in hand.

A parishioner is concerned about the state of the muddy road around by the building works in Manor Road. The builders have been advised of this issue.

Present:

Mr. D.Beswick (chairman), Mr B. Paine (vice-chairman), Mr. Wally Elliott, Mr. I. Dibben, Mr G. Osborne, Mrs S. Mackay and Mr P. Waters, (Parish Councillors); Mr D Ruddle (County Councillor), Mr. D. Norris (district councilor) Mrs L. Moore (RFO) and Mrs. K Hatt (Parish Clerk) plus 4 parishioners.

1. Apologies: None

2. Declarations of Interest:

As already declared, no changes.

3. Minutes:

The minutes of the monthly parish council meeting held on the 8th December 2017, which had been previously circulated were proposed by B. Paine and seconded by W. Elliott, were approved and signed as all in favour.

4. Matters arising not covered by agenda items

K.Hatt – sent the donation to citizen advice

P.Waters -nothing extra to report on the tree plan but it is in hand and he is meeting with a couple of parishioners about gaining trees from the woodland trust. Phil Poulten SSDC is looking at the permission to take the poplars down.

A parishioner has an ornamental pear tree that she would like to donate, possibly plant up towards the allotments. The location was discussed. She will be talking to planning and to the local neighbours first.

B.Paine proposed we accept this donation, seconded by I.Dibben, all in favour.

I.Dibben will be having a meeting about planting trees on the boundaries of Kingsdon.

Trees on Pitts lane – are we moving these? As they are too close together and too near the hedge, they will get damaged when the hedge is trimmed. P.Waters to look into further.

D.Beswick – Jenny does not want to put her sheep in the field.

5. Chairman's Report

The poplars on Mowbarton Road – we have received a final quotation to take all three down in the road for £1150, not felling into the field. If councillors content, we will go ahead. He will log them, leave on side of the road and along with the chippings for the residents to take away.

B. Paine reminded us that we must remember the re-planting and wants this planned before we go ahead.

The residents in Mowbarton are donating £600, so cost will be £550. We may need to buy some more substantial trees for the replanting.

Dean Ruddle said that Oak tree avenue in Somerton was sponsored by people in the town. It could be possible that people in our village would like to sponsor a tree for replanting. **Action – K.Hatt to write a note about donating trees for the chronicle.**

A parishioner said they would be happy to donate £100 for a tree.

B.Paine is proposing we wait until the replanting arrangements were in hand, seconded by S.Mackay, all in favour.

Action – P.Waters/B.Paine to source new trees for replanting.

The money for this may also be able to come from the VAT rebate due.
D.Beswick emphasised that we must have this plan by the next meeting.

I.Dibben said that we must make sure we see the contractor’s public liability insurance and risk assessment

D.Beswick asked about the gate and where did the first idea come from? It came from Austin Attwell if he was cutting the grass. So do we need a new gate? The only problem is cutting the hedge by the allotments, we could employ someone to hand trim the hedge.
It was decided to leave the idea of changing the gate until the field was in the ownership of the Parish Council.

6. Correspondence

Letter received from Citizen Advice thanking us for our contribution.
Playground risk assessment letter received. Councillors decided that we must book this. **Action – K.Hatt to book.**

7.1 and 7.2 Finance- report and cheque signing.

Interest paid into our savings account -£4.50.

KPC Account	01.12.2016	£15,489.11
	Net Cheque Balance	£600.00
	Transfer In	£0.00
	Transfer Out	£0.00
	31.12.2016	£14,889.11

Savings Account	01.12.2016	£33,300.03
	Net Cheque Balance	£0.00
	Interest	£4.15
	Transfer In	£0.00
	Transfer Out	£0.00
	31.12.2016	£33,304.18

Clerk Services - DECEMBER	£75.00
Domain Name Renewal 1 year	£14.39
Kingsdon Village hall hire	£62.18

These payments were proposed by B.Paine, seconded by W.Elliott, all in favour.

D.Beswick wonders if we have about £300 left? He has taken account of rent for allotments and fields, clerk services and field loan repayment. This was discussed.

There is some money left in reserves to buy trees should we need to before the end of the financial year.

VAT refund documentation still needs to be processed. **Action – L.Moore/B.Paine**

Quarterly report was looked at by the councillors. Any questions? None.

7.3 Budget

B.Paine had circulated a spreadsheet which took into consideration the comments from parishioners and councillors at the last meeting. There was a version D which showed increasing the precept to £17,725, effectively an increase of 48p per week on a band D property. D.Beswick suggested a few variations that would bring it down, the key one was reduce figure of trees from £2000 to £550, as we now have the final quotation and can use VAT refund for new trees. Also maintenance of the village field could be put at £700 to cover notice board.

Various amendments were made and agreed upon, this resulted in a 19% increase, equivalent to an increase per week of 32p a week for a band D house.

We need money to get things done. We are catching up for lack of diligence and activity in previous years.

B.Paine proposed that the precept figure be accepted, W.Elliott seconded, majority were 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 has regularly spoken to the County Council but reductions in staffing levels and sickness absence have stretched their resources to the limit, constraining their ability to be constantly chasing the DFE. Having sent off the Section 77 documentation to the DFE in the first week in September 2016, which was acknowledged, we are still waiting for their response.

13. Date of next meeting

Thursday 9th February 2017, 7.30pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.17pm