

**MINUTES OF THE KINGSDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
THURSDAY 8th DECEMBER 2016 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm**

Parishioner comment time:

A parishioner thanked the Parish Council for the contribution towards the church. Every year they do struggle to make even. Take art events have helped this year. Any extra funds would be appreciated. D.Beswick said contributions can be discussed at the budget agenda item.

Present:

Mr. D.Beswick (chairman), Mr B. Paine (vice-chairman), Mr. Wally Elliott, Mr. I. Dibben, Mr G. Osborne, Mrs S. Mackay, (Parish Councillors); Mr D Ruddle (County Councillor), Mrs L. Moore (RFO) and Mrs. K Hatt (Parish Clerk) plus 6 parishioners.

1. Apologies: Mr P.Waters and Mr D. Norris (District Councillor)

2. Declarations of Interest:

As already declared, no changes.

3. Minutes:

The minutes of the monthly parish council meeting held on the 10th November 2016, which had been previously circulated, were approved and signed; proposed by B. Paine and seconded by W. Elliott, all in favour.

4. Matters arising not covered by agenda items

P.Waters was not present so will be put on the following agenda.

5. Chairman's Report

D.Beswick has nothing to add.

6. Correspondence

D.Beswick:

Chris Cooper, street scene manager, is offering a Christmas tree shredding system. Councillors were in favour. Location – village hall car park was thought appropriate. **Action - W. Elliott will advertise in the chronicle. K. Hatt to contact Chris Cooper to organise.**

They also have a clean-up campaign in March (3-5); councillors would be keen for us to participate. **Action - P. Waters to organise (D. Beswick if P. Waters is unable to). K. Hatt to make contact to say we are interested.**

SSDC have sent a street trading policy, but it applies to trading to anywhere e.g. field. Fete is exempt as long as they are non-profit making charities/organisations. Outside groups/people that trade have to get their own licence – we need to make sure they do have this.

A parishioner sent an email about tree felling. He lives in the village and has suggested villagers could use chainsaws to cut and reduce costs.

One quotation has been received where two of the trees could be felled into the field. There have been a number of offers of help to remove the wood. Chainsaw users would be doing so at their own risk. Brian Paine pointed out that the chainsaw users need a letter to say that it is at their own risk. I. Dibben pointed out that it would still be the council's responsibility. It may-be that we have to reconsider parishioners cutting them. B. Paine also said that we need to remember the re-planting cost and put this as part of the plan.

Another parishioner wrote to say the people living on Mowbarton road should pay the whole cost. Letter from citizens advice bureau – do we want to make a contribution? L. Moore said we decided to not put anything in the budget for it this year. D. Beswick is not in favour of contributing as we have a tight budget. B. Paine is suggesting we make a modest contribution.

B. Paine proposed that we make a modest donation of £25, W. Elliott seconded, and 4 councillors were in favour so a contribution will be made. **Action: K.Hatt to send the contribution.**

SSDC have taken out a dog protection order. We don't need to look at it but it could put it in the shop for people to see. **Action – K.Hatt to put this policy in the shop for people to view if they wish.**

We received a letter of thanks for the contribution to Kingsdon Community Centre.

David Warburton is campaigning to get a Somerton/Langport train station. He is looking for money.

The councillors are not keen to support currently as there is not enough information.

7.1 and 7.2 Finance- report and cheque signing.

L. Moore currently does not have this month's figures as she hadn't received the statement before she was away on holiday but she will send them to be displayed in the minutes.

No significant changes since last time.

D.Beswick said we need to look at if we are spending money out of savings to meet our commitments for this year. So far we have money allocated for the following but not spent it yet: cutting of hedges in allotments, £500 for maintenance in recreational field.

We have overspent on village hall rent, general expenses and website maintenance. There is the next loan repayment coming up in January/February.

We may need to dip into savings currently by £1000-£2000.

KPC Account	01.11.2016	£18,662.20
	Net Cheque Balance	£3,173.09
	Transfer In	£0.00
	Transfer Out	£0.00
	30.11.2016	£15,489.11

Savings Account	01.10.2016	£33,300.03
	Net Cheque Balance	£0.00
	Interest	£0.00
	Transfer In	£0.00
	Transfer Out	£0.00
	30.11.2016	£33,300.03

Clerk Services - November	£75.00
Kingsdon Chronicle	£100.00
Town & County Garden Services - Verge Maintenance	£400.00
Village Hall Donation	£550.00
Citizen's Advice Donation	£25.00

These payments were proposed by B.Paine, seconded by S.Mackay, all in favour.

7.3 Budget

D.Beswick explained that B.Paine has worked hard on a number of options for the budget. We need to discuss the options. We need to look at the interests of the village.

B.Paine has looked at a range of projections and then analysed how that would affect a band D property in terms of percentage increase, annual increase and weekly increase. Last year we adopted a different approach from previous years. Historically a minimal approach to the precept was adopted. The current council took a different approach and looked at the current needs which resulted in an increase in the precept. We used to get a substantial grant from SSDC which has slowly been disappearing; we are increasingly on our own. B.Paine has put a range of options to the council.

If we went for doing everything and upping all, it would be an increase of 30%, last year we increased it 25%. We cannot get away with no increase at all. Just adding tree felling at £1000 and increasing amounts to church, shop etc gives us a 15% increase.

D.Beswick asked parishioners what they thought?

One parishioner asked what 15% was like in real terms. It is around 20p a week. To which he replied as we are talking so little in real money terms we could have the best option.

One parishioner said that a modest increase is the way ahead. D. Beswick questioned what is a modest increase? Is this single figures?

The biggest house on a 25% increase would be just over £1 a month, £15 a year more.

Another parishioner said that they would be happy to pay £15 a year more when it means all the great things for our village – sports field, possible firework display, the shop, keeping a safe environment.

D. Ruddle said that some councils have been sitting on precepts for several years, which means we need to increase the precept more at the moment. He said that our precept of £14,400 is small money to run a village. For too long it has been left ticking over.

Another parishioner would endorse an increase, probably more than modest, between 10 and 20%.

A parishioner asked had we been looking at projected spend? Which D.Beswick confirmed we have.

B.Paine having listened to what everyone has said is happy to make some alterations and resend to councillors. **Action – B.Paine to look again at budget ideas and circulate to councillors for final decision at the next meeting.**

7.4 Village Plan Funding

S. Mackay explained that the last village plan was produced in 2012/13, so it is time for it to be re-done. G. Osborne and S. Mackay met with James from the council and discussed the way forward and grants. They are looking at funding for consultation with the village about what needs to go in the parish plan. S. Mackay has asked for ideas of ballpark figures. It's the cost of the materials rather than the cost of the team provided to help. It is therefore looking like it may not be that expensive.

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

Report by B.Paine – we have yet to hear anything back from education about S77. People making quotations about the gates have not gotten back to us yet. We don't want heavy traffic in the field at this time of year. We have permission to go in there. Can we put sheep in there? D.Beswick will ask Jenny. **Action – D.Beswick talk to Jenny about sheep.**

9. Flooding

G.Osborne received a letter about the flooding on Middle Street. Car parking has been created on middle street. In the very heavy rain lately there has been flooding in the garage. G.Osborne has been waiting for it to rain heavily again to look at what is happening. Some rain is coming down North Street, Mowbarton Road and some into the parking.

D.Beswick pointed out that the garage is below the bank.

However the ground has been disturbed. There was a bank dug out which could be the cause of the problems.

I.Dibben said that the water does pool there. He is thinking that a ditch dug out and a couple of tonnes of scalping would resolve the situation.

B.Paine proposed that we fund scalping, G.Osborne seconded, majority agreed.

10. Emails

I.Dibben receives emails about what is happening around the village. He tends to reply with 'thank-you very much if you would like to come along to a meeting to discuss.' He feels if you have an issue it is better to come to a meeting rather than sending several emails. This is to help stop councillors receiving many emails on small items that councillors have little power to do something about.

D.Beswick's view is that the parishioner should come to the meeting to present it to the parish as a whole.

I.Dibben proposed that a parishioner should bring issues to the meeting, seconded by G.Osborne, all in favour.

13. Date of next meeting

Thursday 12th January 2017, 7.30pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm