



**Draft MINUTES OF THE KINGSDON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022, Kingsdon Village hall, 7.30pm**

**Parishioner comment time:**

None

**District and County councillor time:**

C.Hull – Sent a report in his absence - May I take this opportunity to state that I am 100% behind the Chair's attempt to see sense prevail with respect to the mobility/transport needs of vulnerable residents Kingsdon, ref recent road closure. More than happy to do whatever I can to make sure the appropriate authorities resolve the situation as soon as possible. Nothing major to report from SSDC that affects Kingsdon directly. Phosphates issue still unresolved, although Full Council on Thursday will be considering a motion to try and enact some sort of credible way forward. Also, due to be discussed are further flood mitigation measures for the district, an issue gravely affecting us all.

**Present:**

Mr David Beswick (Chairman), Mr B. Paine (Vice-Chairman), Mr G. Osborne, Mrs S. Mackay, Mr I.Dibben (slightly late) , Mr P. Waters, Mr D Ruddle (County Councillor), Mrs Kate Hatt (Parish Clerk); Mr K. Tridgell (RFO) plus 15 parishioners.

**1. Apologies:**

Mr A. Anderson (Parish Councillors), Mr T. Capozzoli and Mr C.Hull (District councillors).

**2. Declarations of Interest:**

None other than those already declared.

**3. Head of Flying Operations – Yeovilton:**

Last minute cancellation again. It may-be rescheduled.

**4. Minutes:**

The minutes the monthly Parish Council meeting, held on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022, which had been previously circulated, were proposed by B.Paine and seconded by P.Waters, and unanimously approved and signed.

**5. Matters arising not covered by agenda items:**

D.Beswick – there are no weight restrictions on the bridge at Lytes Cary. It has been raised with Highways. Highways have been invited to put a new sign up or take it down.

**6. Chairman's Report**

None.

## 7. Correspondence

K.Tridgell – letter from gth, wishing to raise the rent of field and allotments, to £574 with effect from 25<sup>th</sup> March. This is paid in two stages. The allotment prices will raise slightly to help with the increase.

**Action - K.Tridgell will contact gth with acknowledgement.**

## 8.1 and 8.2 Finance- report and cheque signing.

<b>KPC Current Account</b>	Opening balance as at 01.02.2022	£6,505.77
40	Net Cheque /Standing Order Cleared Balance	£3,611.00
	Payments/Transfer In - Bank Transfer of £1,692.80 from Earmarged resereve for balance of difibrilator (£1,000 grant from SSDC)	£1,692.80
	Transfer Out -	£0.00
	Closing Balance as at 28.02.2022	<b>£4,587.57</b>
	Unpresented Cheques ..677 HMRC PAYE £26.00	£26.00
	True Balance as at 28.02.2022	£4,561.57

<b>KPC General Reserve A/C</b>	Opening balance as at 01.02.2022	£5,000.38
51	Net Cheque Balance	£0.00
	Interest -	£0.00
	Transfer In	£0.00
	Transfer Out - nil	£0.00
	Closing Balance as at 28.02.2022	<b>£5,000.38</b>

<b>KPC Earmarked Reserve A/C</b>	Opening balance as at 01.02.2022	£48,860.15
43	Transfer In -	£0.00
	Interest -	£0.00
	Transfer Out- To current account to cover part of difibrilator payment	£1,692.80
	Closing Balance as at 28.02.2022	<b>£47,167.35</b>

Clerk Services Payroll as from April 2021 until further notice and RFO Services Payroll as from April 2021 until further notice		
Kate Hatt - Clerk services	£104.00	Standing order
K Tridgell - RFO Services	£130.00	Standing order
Purple Hire Solutions - Kingsdon Jubilee Festival Portaloo payment	£430.20	OLT23022276
Geosphere Ltd - Parish online	£60.00	OLT09032282
Ian Dibben expenses - reimbursement of !"£-Reg website invoices	£134.25	OLT09032283

**TOTAL ACTUAL EXPENDITURE - Up to 09/03/2022**

£858.45

Amount approval (less S.O. pre approved clerk & RFO)

£624.45

K.Tridgell talked through the accounts.

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

**9. Section 106 money and play equipment**

B.Paine circulated some details of some extra play equipment we could purchase for the field. The South Somerset District Council are absolutely adamant we can only use the circa £8000 we have left of 106 money, on play equipment for the community field and nothing else. We can either spend it on more play equipment and some picnic benches, or we lose it completely. It cannot be used for maintenance. We also tried to use the money for a new mower but this is also not allowed. We are close to the deadline to spend the money. The different amounts of 106 money we have, have been lumped into play equipment. The money will only cover small pieces of equipment.

P.Waters – is there any of our existing play equipment that needs re-placement?

G.Osborne - is concerned that if we have more equipment it will need more maintenance and therefore more money.

A parishioner said that one of the swings looks like it is rotting through.

Another parishioner asked if we could ask parents for ideas of what they would like in the field, some representation of what would work best for the children we have in the village?

D.Ruddle – suggested metal sleeves to protect the bottom of the wooden play equipment posts.

**Action - B.Paine to email to gain the views of parents in the village.**

## **10. Speed monitoring in Kingsdon**

G.Osborne reported that we have the data on speeding monitoring. The average speed was less than 15mph on Top Street. There was one spike of one vehicle going at 40mph. The average speed was a little faster on Lower Road. The lower Road camera was also monitoring Lotment hill. In total the cameras recorded 600 cars one way and 400 another way.

Therefore, out of 1000 vehicles we had only 1 vehicle speeding.

There seems to be therefore no justification to put in signs or put in a 30mph speed limit, as people are doing less than this and there would be concern that people would then go this fast.

We have already been told that Highways will not put in speed limits of 20mph.

We will therefore not take this issue any further.

S.Mackay - we need to make sure we are doing something to discourage any speeding at all.

We will still be getting the 20 is plenty stickers for wheelie bins.

**Actions - K.Hatt to write to Phil Flowers to thanks for all his assistance with this.**

**G.Osborne to get some '20 plenty' signs.**

## **11. Grass cutting**

The field is only going to be cut by A.Anderson until March.

We need a plan to cover this.

**Action – A.Anderson to look into this.**

## **12. Village Plan/Neighbourhood plan**

I.Dibben - We for some time have put aside the village plan because of the phosphate issues. A neighbourhood plan carries more weight – should we start a project to look into a possible Neighbourhood plan? We may need to get experts in to help us. We also have a conservation area and village boundaries. It may put us in a better position to protect our village.

We would need to be clear on the benefits, that it would carry some weight.

D.Ruddle suggested that we would need to get a planning consultant to help us with this. It would have to be agreed by the unitary council. The village plan carries no weight at all. The neighbourhood plan will once the Somerset building plan in place.

**Action – K.Hatt to contact E.Owen (Queen camel clerk) for a contact about a planning consultant to possible help us for advice.**

## **13. Defibrillator**

The new one is being installed next Tuesday, in the same spot it currently is. We are advised not to make the number widely known as the correct procedure is to dial 999 and quote the reference number for the box, who will then tell you where the machine is and what the number is. Anyone would have access to it once they dial 999. There will also be training on how to use it. It has to be installed by a certified electrical engineer.

There was some concern from parishioners about the code not being given out.

I.Dibben pointed out that we are not medically qualified to make this decision. This is the recommendation we have been given but we can ask the man coming to do the training to clarify and seek further advice. The village will be invited along for training and to ask any questions. We will get all this information and then decide.

Insurance may not cover us for mis-use or for it being stolen if it is left unlocked.

The old one is still functioning at the moment. We need to decide what to do with it, please have a think about this.

#### **14. Lodge Road closure**

D.Beswick reported that this is an ongoing saga with very little progress being made at the moment. Guy contacted Highways at Taunton and received a less than useful reply from the Traffic Manager who replied that the closure had been granted on operative and public safety grounds. He provided a link to the South Somerset Area Office who are apparently responsible for the administration of the closure.

I then tried to contact the area office with suggestions about how the traffic might be managed but the link provided was not a proper email address and the email was not delivered. I then sent it on to the Taunton Traffic Manager and asked him to forward it to the correct address.

I then talked to Mathew Burnell of JB Developments who are building the Manor School development and his basic response was that the significant disruption caused by the closure was not his responsibility. It was highways regulations that required the road to be closed because the speed limit on that stretch of Lodge Road was 60 mph. The fact that it was virtually impossible to achieve that speed on the road was apparently irrelevant. I did ask him to consider paying for a taxi for those few people who relied totally on the bus for doctors, dentists, chemists, shopping and visits to relatives in the care home. He was initial unwilling but eventually agreed to talk to his partner Ian Jeans. I have yet to hear from him. He also stated that the fact that the buses chose not to come in to the village was down to the bus company and was not his problem.

Having had no reply from the highways area office, I again contacted Taunton and suggested that if the speed limit was indeed the major restriction, they should consider putting in place a temporary speed limit as is frequently done on major arterial road and motorways. I even suggested a 20 mph limit would be acceptable. I have not yet had a reply.

I have also attempted to contact First Bus and after several failed attempts, spoke to a someone who advised that routing was the responsibility of the local depot and if I sent an email, they would forward it to the right person. My suggestion was that the 77 service came into the village via Kingsdon Hill, reversed from Top Street into North Town where there could be a temporary bus stop and then left via Kingsdon Hill. I heard nothing and so sent another email pointing out that the school bus service were doing just that. I have not had a reply.

That is how things stand at the moment and I am prepared to share contact details of the Taunton Traffic Manager to anyone who would wish to add their voice to the issue. I also have the phone number for Mathew Burnell for those of you who have had difficulty accessing the temporary bus stop at the bottom of Lodge Road because the road has been completely closed with fencing, despite no work being done.

B.Paine has had a meeting and discussed further the difficulty in accessing the temporary bus stop. There will be a space made wider to walk past the manor, so people have access to walk down Lodge Road, past the manor, to the temporary bus stop at the end of Lodge Road. He will also walk the route to check that this has been done.

This of course does not help the people who cannot walk this far. It is also very dangerous to cross the B road to the new temporary bus stop.

D.Ruddle said that first bus were consulted, but they did not reply, so therefore the council do a road closure, as they assume that the closure is acceptable. D.Ruddle will try to get a number for a contact at first bus and pass to D.Beswick to pursue further.

**9. Date of next meeting**

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2022

**The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.39 pm**