

Kingston Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held at 8.00pm on 13 January 2011

Present:

Simon Draper, Chairman
Julie Conder
Katherine Stalham
James Clear
Tumi Hawkins, SCDC
Peter Stokes, Clerk

1. Apologies

Tim Fitzjohn, Fiona Whelan

2. Minutes of last meeting

Accepted

3. County Councillor's and District Councillor's reports

As Cllr Whelan was not present, and Cllr Hawkins did not want to stay for the whole meeting, Cllr Hawkins presented the two reports at this point. See appendices A and B.

4. Matters Arising

- 4.1. **4.1 Community Plan:** deferred to next meeting as Tim Fitzjohn absent. Katherine Stalham reported that a survey can be conducted on-line, with automatic collation of results. **Action: TF.**
- 4.2. **4.2 Proposals for tree planting at the playground:** Julie Conder reported that the tree types and quantities had been decided. Tim Fitzjohn is to order them, and a working party will be organised to plant them. **Action: TF.**
- 4.3. **4.3 Clearing of drain outside playground:** James Clear reported that he had cleared the drain, but vehicles parking further up Cranes Lane brought mud back into the drain as they returned, so he feared it would quickly become blocked again. Agreed to take no further action for the present.
- 4.4. **4.6 Ownership of land bordering bridle path beyond Field Road:** deferred to next meeting as Fiona Whelan absent. **Action: FW.**
- 4.5. **4.7 Cranes Lane allotments:** the signed licence has been returned to SCDC. Jenny Clark will return it to us before the date it is due to commence. She will also request permission of the current tenants for their details to be passed to us and (at the request of the Clerk) send us a plan showing the present plot arrangement.
- 4.6. **4.9.1.4 Re-securing goal posts at playground:** to be included in programme for work day planned for March or April 2011. **Action: Clerk.**
- 4.7. **4.9.2.2 New swing seat:** agreed that the Clerk will check if there is any objection from a safety viewpoint to mounting a normal (flat) swing seat and a toddler cradle seat side-by-side on the same frame. Providing there is no objection a normal seat will be ordered to replace the tyre seat at the playground. **Action: Clerk.**
- 4.8. **4.10 Parish magazine survey:** agreed that Simon Draper will copy the results of the survey to the PCC, and also to the editor Jill Coleman. Clerk to publish a summary of the results in the magazine. **Action: SD, Clerk.**

Cllr Hawkins left at this point.

- 4.9. **4.11 Missing street sign, condition of street signs:** The missing 'The Green' sign near Southcote has been replaced. There was some discussion about the poor

condition and mixture of styles of the other street signs, but it was agreed no action would be taken at this time.

4.10. **4.12 New sign for playground:** agreed to proceed with the wording proposed (see Appendix C).

4.11. **Reports of actions completed or ongoing (not discussed)**

4.11.1. 3.15 Grasscutting at Church Lane/B1046 junction (complete)

4.11.2. 4.10 Invoicing advertisers in Parish Magazine (complete)

4.11.3. 4.14.3 New standing orders (ongoing)

4.11.4. 4.14.5 Clearing of debris from hedge opposite Louise Darrington's house (ongoing)

5. **Mural in village hall:** several councillors expressed their discomfort regarding the shabby mural on the north wall of the main room of the village hall, which depicts in a somewhat stereotypical manner an African village and could be regarded as offensive in nature. It was agreed that Simon Draper would contact the village hall committee to ask if it could be painted over or otherwise obscured. The significance of the originator of the painting in educational circles could be captured by displaying a photograph and text panel somewhere in the Hall. **Action: SD.**

6. **Correspondence**

6.1. **Emails re slippery step on footbridge:** the footbridge in the Swards crossing Bourn Brook is half in Kingston parish and half in Toft parish. The footbridge is the responsibility of CCC. A member of the public has slipped and injured himself on the steps when wet, and complained to Toft PC. They have been in touch with the footpaths officer at CCC who has inspected the bridge and feels no action is necessary. The injured person has been informed.

6.2. **Email from CCC re Older People's newsletter:** on the assumption that this is going to be a regular feature, it was agreed that a notice would be put in the magazine inviting those interested in receiving it by email or paper to contact the Clerk. **Action: Clerk.**

6.3. **Letter from Santander:** following the takeover of Alliance and Leicester by Santander, the Alliance and Leicester branding on correspondence and the internet banking website will gradually be replaced by the Santander branding.

6.4. **Letter from NHS re dispensing regulations:** letter passed to Julie Conder for perusal. **Action: JC.**

6.5. **Letter from CCC re street lighting maintenance and energy:** CCC plans to outsource street lighting maintenance from April 2011, following which it will no longer offer a service to parish councils to maintain footway lighting which is parish council responsibility. However the service provider is willing to offer this service direct to parish councils. Parish councils will be free to follow this route or go to other organisations. Supply of power to footway lighting not affected. More information to follow.

6.6. **Letter from MHB Services offering maintenance on street lighting.** Agreed no action at present – await further advice from CCC.

6.7. **Letter from CCC re winter service and localism agenda:** Clerk has replied.

7. **Clerk's report**

7.1. Bi-monthly report: see appendix D.

7.2. Invoices for payment:

7.2.1. Cambridgeshire ACRE subscription: £25.00

7.2.2. SLCC subscription: £44.00

7.2.3. Buchan's Landscapes for grasscutting etc: £406.83

7.2.4. P J Reynolds for willow tunnel: £346.00 (already paid)

All approved for payment. **Action: Clerk.**

7.3. **Grass and hedgecutting contract 2011:** agreed that Buchan's will be approached to quote for this. Their quote will be accepted providing the increase over 2010 does not exceed 4.7% (latest available RPI increase). **Action: Clerk.**

7.4. **Playground inspection contract from Cambridgeshire ACRE:** agreed to accept the offer of 3 quarterly inspections at £107.87 each. Inspection regime to be reviewed in January 2012. **Action: Clerk.**

8. **2011/2012 budget and precept**

A discussion paper had been previously circulated showing expenditure to date against budget in the current year (Appendix E). With some nervousness that the CCC and SCDC might pass on budgetary cuts it was agreed to increase the precept for 2011/2012 to £7048. Taking into account the increase in the estimated equivalent number of Band D houses in Kingston (3.33%) this will result in each household having an RPI-based inflationary increase of 4.7%.

9. **Planning**

S/1569/10 application for a wind turbine at Bourn Golf Club has been withdrawn.

10. **Items for next meeting**

None

11. **Date of next meeting**

10 March 2011

Meeting ended at 9.50 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

County Councillor Fiona Whelan
County Councillor's Report – January 13th 2011
Kingston Parish Council

• **CGB**

I can finally report a small update and some progress here. Until recently none of the completion certificates for the northern section had been handed over. This has now commenced which will hopefully speed things up a little. The Southern section is predicted for completion later this month, at

which point the County Council has 28 days to notify any defects (of which the northern section potentially has 6). If they are not rectified the County can then employ their own contractor to carry out remedial work.

A contractor has been identified so work may begin as early as February. There remains no scheduled opening date!

• **CVC**

No update since last month

• **2011 / 12 Budget**

The County Council will present the final figures to members at a seminar on Friday 14th, and will release full details to the public by Tuesday 18th. I am still intending to let you have a breakdown, as I see it, of how the Village will be affected and what we then need to campaign to keep. Obvious targets for cuts that have been mentioned by the County over the last 12 months include library services but there will be many others.

• **Madingley Rise**

Last month I was able to report that this accident black spot was due to have remedial work carried out in Summer 2011. With proposed cuts to the Highways maintenance and road safety budget there are no guarantees at the moment as to what will actually be completed now. I've asked for confirmation that the work will still go ahead but I'm still waiting to hear back on this.

• **A428 "Crash Barriers"**

No update on this.

• **Barton A603 Speed Review**

We have had a tremendous response from Barton Villagers to the proposed change in the speed limit to 50MPH – local residents are almost unanimous in their desire to see it reduce to 40 MPH and in some places 30 MPH (particular where children have to cross the road to get to the primary school). I will be at SCDC on Monday with the Barton District Councillor, Francis Burkitt, to present residents views in the hope that County will reconsider the proposed new limits.

My apologies that I can not be with you this evening, but I hope to see you all next meeting.

Fiona

Councillor's Report – South Cambridgeshire District Council

Month: January 2011

1. Impact of Comprehensive Spending Review

1. SCDC is still considering whether to freeze council tax, and receive a grant which would be equivalent to what it would have had if it had increased the tax by 2.5%, or whether to increase the tax anyway. Finance PH was going to meet with the Ministers in December to find out what level of increase would be acceptable to avoid capping. We should know out come of that meeting on 3rd February 2011, prior to the budget going to the Cabinet for approval in February.

2. We are also still awaiting a decision from Westminster, of the final form that the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) reform will take. Also on how much of the national debt SCDC will have to take on and finance, if it were allowed to keep all its council rents and capital income from sales.

3. The full financial settlement is still not known, but is hoped will be released soon.

2. SCDC Planning

The reorganisation of the Planning & New Communities Department is complete, and it is expected that service should stabilise and improve from now on.

Work is ongoing to iron out the kinks in the new planning software system. Parish Councils IT forum that took place on 5-Jan-2011 was very useful for the council as those who attended were able to let the council officers know the specific difficulties they were experiencing as users.

In addition, there is a Scrutiny Task and Finish Group set up to look at Planning as a whole, how the department operates and where improvements can be made, and suggest ways in which it can improve its services to customers. Parish Councils are being consulted, and if you have any suggestions for improvements, then please let me know and I can feed it through to the committee.

3. Young Peoples Plan

This was formerly called the Youth Participation Strategy. It has been renamed and redrafted, with the help and assistance of young people throughout the district. The plan sets out how the council can make sure that children and young people have opportunities to have a say about the things we do at the Council and the decisions that we take, that affect them. It is a way of ensuring that their needs are properly identified and met in such a way that they feel included and not marginalised.

Communications is a key part of this, and there is a realisation that to reach this section of the community, the use of social media will have to be high on the agenda for the council.

There will be further consultation with Parish Councils and other stake holders, particularly, as it is at these levels that the activities, facilities etc. might have to be funded.

Look out for the consultation paper, and please respond.

4. BT Race To Infinity

On 3rd January 2010, BT announced that Madingley Exchange was one of the 6 exchanges awarded the superfast fibre broadband upgrade. We came in third behind Whitchurch and Caxton respectively. We expect the upgrade to happen in the latter part of 2011, but at least by early 2012.

The progress of the upgrade will be provided on the Madingley website <http://RaceToInfinity.org.uk>

5. Casework

Your Councillor is here to help you. Please do feel free to contact me with comments, questions, problems, reports, suggestions or complaints. I can be contacted by phone, email or via my website. I hope I can help but even if I can't, then it's highly likely that I know someone who can!

Prepared by:

Tumi

Tumi Hawkins
13-Jan-2011

KINGSTON PLAY AREA

This play area is CLOSED between dusk and dawn

1. No horses or motorcycles
2. Soft ball games only – please have consideration for boundary residents
3. Children using the equipment should be supervised by an adult
4. Dogs must be on a lead
5. Please clear up after your dog

In case of emergency or for wheelchair access, please contact:

P Stokes, The Old Post Office, Rectory Lane

S Draper, Rose Hide house, Church Lane

A Bedford, Willow Cottage, Cranes Lane

Address of this play area: Cranes Lane, Kingston, CB23 2NJ

Appendix D

Financial report: 13 January 2011

N.B. All figures exclude VAT

Item	Budget 2010-11 £	Expenditure YTD £	Budget minus expenditure YTD £	Comments
Grass and Hedge cutting	1715.00	1356.29	358.71	1 further invoice expected for £346.24. The total expenditure is the total of 5 invoices received from Stuart Buchan, - £25.00 received from Fasnacloch Estates in Apr 2010, - £349.91 received from CCC 22/10/2010
Insurance	541.00	722.68	-181.68	No further invoices expected
Clerk's salary	959.87	0.00	959.87	
Grants (section 137)	587.00	686.00	-99.00	Additional grant for Village Hall licence
Audit fee	175.00	343.00	-168.00	No further invoices expected
Village asset maintenance	250.00	853.84	-603.84	Maintenance of slide, additional work on grass field
Subscriptions	150.00	84.17	65.83	Excludes subscriptions for Cambridgeshire ACRE (£25.00) and SLCC (£44.00)
Parish Magazine	212.00	0.00	212.00	
Footpath lighting	247.00	120.00	127.00	Costs for 2011-12 have been advised: £203.30
Play Pathfinder payments	25055.00	25044.88	10.12	Excludes invoice for willow tunnel: £346.00
Miscellaneous and expenses	163.00	378.00	-215.00	Includes election expenses (£75.00) and playground inspection (£203.00)
Income other than precept	-9.00	-12.13	3.13	Interest
To reserves	1524.00			
Total	31569.87	29576.73	1993.14	

Bank balances	Current account:	388.37	
	Deposit account:	10000.33	Reserves
		10.12	Play Pathfinder grant
		10010.45	Total

Draft budget 2011-12

N.B. All figures exclude VAT

Item	Budget 2010-11 £	Estimated Expenditure 2010-11 £	Proposed budget 2011- 12 £	Comments
Grass and Hedge cutting	1715	1702	1800	2010-11 contract price + 4.7% - est £350 CCC contribution - est £25 Fasnacloich Estates contribution
Insurance	541	723	757	Additional play equipt. 4.7% inc assumed.
Clerk's salary	960	960	1005	4.7% incr assumed.
Grants (section 137)	587	686	614	£586 grant to PCC, £100 grant to VHMC. 4.7% incr assumed for PCC grant only.
Audit fee	175	343	165	2010-11 external audit fee was higher than usual (£303) due to Play Pathfinder transactions. Internal audit fee was £40. External audit fee remains fixed at £120 for normal year. Increase in internal fee to £45 assumed.
Village asset maintenance	250	854	750	Total for 2010-10 included repair to slide (£472) and other playground maintenance. Some maintenance tasks already planned for early 2011.
Subscriptions	150	153	160	4.7% incr assumed.
Parish Magazine	212	212	222	No invoice yet recd in 2010-11. 4.7% increase for 2011-12
Footpath lighting	247	203	213	Amount for 2010-11 advised but not yet invoiced. 4.7% increase assumed for 2011-12.
Miscellaneous and expenses	163	586	751	Amount for 2010-11 includes 2 playground inspoctions. Proposed amount for 2011-12 = 4 inspections + current year's misc (less election fees) inflated by 4.7%.
Income other than precept	-9	-12	-8	Interest fees will be less due to end of Play Pathfinder scheme.
Total est expenditure less non-precept income	4991	6410	6428	
To reserves	1524			
Total/precept	6515			