

Kingston Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held at 8.00pm on 8 September 2011

Present:

Simon Draper, Chairman
Tim Fitzjohn
Julie Conder
Katherine Stalham
James Clear
Fiona Whelan CCC
Peter Stokes, Clerk
Member of the public: Alison Greenwood

1. Apologies

Tumi Hawkins

2. Minutes of last meetings

Council meeting 14 July 2011: accepted

Extraordinary meeting 4 August 2011: accepted

3. County Councillor's report

- 3.1. **Rights of Way meeting:** there is a meeting at County Hall regarding rights of way on 27 September – Tim Fitzjohn to attend. **Action: TF.**
- 3.2. **Visit by Chief Executive:** Jean Hunter, Chief Executive of South Cambs District Council paid a visit to Kingston on 5 September. Unfortunately there was no official reception from KPC to meet her as the arrangements for the visit had not been made clear beforehand, but she did briefly meet with Katherine Stalham and Julie Conder.
- 3.3. **Review of bus service changes:** There is to be a review of the changes to the no. 18/18a bus service. Views of residents on the reduction in service are needed to inform this process. Fiona Whelan will forward a questionnaire. **Action: Fiona Whelan, Clerk.**
- 3.4. **Sixth form college:** the sixth form college at CVC is now open. We are asked to report any traffic problems. Clerk to put item in magazine. **Action: Clerk.**
- 3.5. **Library closures:** the Comberton library (which is threatened by closure) has annual running costs of £24500. Rent and rates cost £8500. A group has been formed to explore ways of keeping it open: Friends Of Comberton Area Library (FOCAL). A meeting was held at Comberton on 8 September. The chairman of FOCAL, Jean Griffith, is to be invited to attend the next meeting of KPC and will suggest that parish councils could make a financial contribution, funded by their precept, to help to keep the library open. **Action: FW or Clerk? TBC.**
- 3.6. **30mph stickers:** on behalf of Tumi Hawkins, Fiona handed over a small quantity of 30mph stickers for wheelie bins. It was noted that the quantity supplied was considerably less than the 90 requested.

Fiona Whelan left the meeting at this point.

4. Matters Arising from meeting on 14 July 2011

- 4.1. **2.4 SCDC Quarterly Planning Meetings:** Simon has not yet attended. Dates of meetings not known. Fiona to ask Tumi to find out dates and advise. **Action: FW.**
- 4.2. **4.1 Emergency plan:** There has been no response to the appeal for names of people willing to be listed as first responders. Agreed that we would pass to Lawrence Green of SCDC a list of relevant contact names. **Action: Clerk.**

- 4.3. **4.2 Community Plan (TF):** There has been no response to the appeal for volunteers to form a working group. Agreed that a public meeting would be arranged to which all residents would be invited to try and raise awareness and generate interest in this project. Tim Fitzjohn will design a suitable flyer for distribution to all households in the parish. Tim has received an email from Cambridgeshire ACRE offering someone who could attend a meeting to give a presentation. Tumi Hawkins will be asked to give a presentation on the new planning legislation at the meeting. Alison Greenwood agreed to be on the working group. Agreed to set up a meeting on a date that best suits parish councillors, Tumi Hawkins, Alison Greenwood and Cambridgeshire ACRE. **Action: Clerk.**
- 4.4. **4.3 Ownership of land bordering bridle path beyond Field Road:** as Fiona Whelan had left the meeting no update from her was available. Tim Fitzjohn may be able to find out more at the meeting on 27 September. James Clear has a map dated 1989 which shows that the highway on Field Road extends along the bridle path right down to the T-junction at the ditch at the end. Tim will try to get confirmation of this. **Action: TF.**
- 4.5. **4.7 Weekly playground reports:** these are rather sporadic. Katherine Stalham brought a report to the meeting dated 6 August 2011. It was agreed that a weekly frequency is unrealistic and an aim would be made for monthly reports in future. Katherine Stalham to liaise with Cranes Lane residents who are willing to take it turns to do these inspections. **Action: KS.**
- 4.6. **4.8 Allotments:** the Clerk reported that there are now tenants for all four plots, two of which have yet to sign their agreements and pay the fee. One of these is the existing 'good gardener' who is a Caldecote resident, the other three are Kingston residents. One Kingston resident is on the waiting list.
- 4.7. **5.1 Horse riders using footpath alongside Crane's Lane:** Tim Fitzjohn reported that he had walked the footpath a number of times and had seen no sign of horse-riders or hoof prints. The footpath people do not have funds for further signing, and consider the gap in the hedge to be the landowner's responsibility. Agreed no further action apart from informing Mrs Heyman. **Action: TF.**
- 4.8. **6.4 Moving of 30 mph speed limit sign on Bourn Road:** the Clerk reported that he had been advised by CCC that the stretch of road from Bill Lovell's house to the crossroads does not meet the criteria for a 'settlement', qualifying for a 30mph limit. It does however meet the criteria for a 'buffer zone', qualifying for a 40mph speed limit. If KPC wishes to proceed with this, it will have to pay £1572 which includes 40mph signs at either end of the limit, repeater signs half-way along, and the required contribution to implementing the speed limit order. Agreed that CCC would be asked to advise the cost if the signs are provided 'loose' for KPC to arrange installation 'in the spirit of the Localism Bill'. **Action: Clerk.**
- 4.9. **Reports of actions completed or ongoing (no discussion):**
- 4.9.1. **6.5 Sign on pump** – now in place.
- 4.9.2. **9.3 Annual audit:** complete, no qualifications or concerns, notice has been posted as required by law.
- 4.9.3. **11.1 Stolen road signs on Bourn Road:** now replaced.

5. Correspondence

- 5.1. **Letter from CCC** advising that they will no longer maintain protected road verges.
- 5.2. **Letter from SCDC** asking if KPC would like to take over, for an annual payment, grounds maintenance of District Council owned land in the village. The only SCDC owned land to which this applies is the approach to the Cranes Lane allotments.

The Clerk has already responded to say that KPC would be willing to take over the grounds maintenance of this land.

- 5.3. **Email from Alison Greenwood** regarding changes to planning legislation: Alison amplified her remarks by saying that her concern, and that of other bodies such as CPRE, was that these changes would entail too much relaxation of planning control resulting in indiscriminate or inappropriate development in unsuitable places brought about by developers with powerful backing. It was agreed that the most effective way to prevent this unwelcome outcome was the existing pressure being brought to bear on central government by lobbying groups such as NT and CPRE. At a local level KPC should to ascertain the views of residents on further development in Kingston and enshrine these in a Community Plan (see item 4.2 of these minutes). Furthermore the Chief Executive of SCDC should be asked to explain the new legislation at a meeting with KPC. It was agreed that a meeting would be requested through Tumi Hawkins to replace the missed meeting on 5 September (see item 3.2 of these minutes).

6. District Councillor's report

See appendix A.

7. Clerk's report

- 7.1. **Bi-monthly report** – see Appendix B

7.2. **Invoices for payment:**

- 7.2.1. Moore Stephens audit fee £360.00 (already paid)
- 7.2.2. Cambridgeshire ACRE quarterly inspection of playground £107.86
- 7.2.3. Buchans grasscutting July £411.13

All agreed.

- 7.2.4. Village Hall Management Committee hire fees etc £121.19. It was noted that this contained some errors. Clerk to discuss with the Treasurer of the VHMC. **Action: Clerk.**

- 7.3. **Playground:** the quarterly inspection by Cambridgeshire ACRE has recently been completed. Items requiring action:

- 7.3.1. Rake over wood chips around climbing frame: **Action: Clerk.**
- 7.3.2. Mound needs more soil at approach to slide and on top of tunnel. James Clear agreed to look at this. **Action: J Clear.**
- 7.3.3. Some retaining boards surrounding climber are loose. **Action: Clerk.**
- 7.3.4. Willow tunnel needs attention. Clerk has asked Peter Reynolds to advise. **Action: Clerk.**
- 7.3.5. Area under swing needs more grass seed. **Action: Clerk.**

- 7.4. **SCDC training and information sessions on Planning Service:** places have been booked for Simon Draper and the Clerk.

- 7.5. **Big tree plant:** too late to apply this year. Agreed this item could be included in the Community Plan.

8. Planning

- 8.1. **S/0816/10/F and S/0817/10 The Old Rectory:** permission has been granted for the rear extension and alterations.
- 8.2. **S/1125/11 The Old Rectory:** permission has been granted to change existing cement render to lime render and change colour.

- 8.3. **S0084/11 The Old Rectory:** noted that the proposal to build a garage has been amended to include a basement. No planning permission required for this change.
- 8.4. **S/1345/11 and S/1377/11 Moat house Farm:** permission has been granted for the alterations to the first floor.
- 8.5. **S/1578/11 Throckenholt:** agreed that KPC had no comment regarding this application (confirmation – form already returned to SCDC with KPC comments).
- 8.6. **S/1442/10 Church Cottage:** permission has been refused for modified proposals for alterations and extensions.
- 8.7. **S1732/11 The Old Rectory:** agreed that KPC approved of the application to re-route the drive over part of the adjoining paddock to keep it clear of vulnerable tree roots.

9. Items for next meeting

- 9.1. Julie Conder advised that she had details of a free ‘web workshop’ for parish council webmasters in September which she would attend.

Meeting ended at 10.45
 Next meeting: 10 November 2011

Signed.....

Date.....

South Cambridgeshire District Councillor's Monthly Report

1. Council Open Day

Council open day is taking place at South Cambridgeshire Hall on Friday 7th October 2011 from 9.30am to 4.30pm and all residents are invited. It is a free event and all residents are invited to come and find out a bit more about how the Council works! Refreshments are available.

2. Tenant Participation Group (TPG) elections

The TPG is the group of tenants that represent all Council tenants in the district, and participate in the management of the housing services in the District. To date, the group has comprised of volunteers. However, as part of its commitment to involving tenants more fully, the Council would like to see the members of the TPG being elected. Ballot papers will be sent out in October, together with the Annual Report for Tenants. Watch out and return your ballot papers in good time. There are 20 places available and those who want to stand for election should send in their completed nomination forms by 22 September 2011. The Nomination form can be downloaded from the SCDC website.

3. Statement of Accounts 2010/11

The SCDC statement of accounts for the 2010/11 municipal year has now been published and can be viewed on the SCDC website.

4. Community Transport

The Council has produced a booklet detailing all the community transport schemes in the area and how you can access them. Traditionally they were used to take older people to hospital and so on but residents may now be able to use them for all types of journeys, a very welcome alternative in view of the reduction in bus transport. Copies of the booklet are available on the South Cambs website, and from all other parish councils in the area.

5. Renewable Heat Grant

The Government has launched the Renewable Heat Premium Payment scheme to help householders across the country with funding towards the cost of installing renewable heating systems. The new £15 million initiative, now open, will support up to 25,000 installations.

The following technologies will be available through the scheme:

- Ground Source Heat Pump - £1,250 grant (for homes without mains gas heating).
- Biomass boiler - £950 grant (for homes without mains gas heating).
- Air source heat pump - £850 grant (for homes without mains gas heating).

· Solar thermal hot water panels - £300 grant (available to all households regardless of the type of heating system used). Householders will need to ensure they have basic energy efficiency measures in place before applying. Management of the scheme will be undertaken by the Energy Saving Trust and from today an information line and website will go live to provide people with more information. Householders can call 0800 512 012 or visit www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/RHPP.

Grants will be available on a first come, first served basis and the scheme will close on 31 March 2012.

6. Broadband

The County Council has announced that it intends to pursue superfast broadband provision in rural Cambridgeshire. The Central Government is providing a grant of £6.7 million (one of the smallest awards in the country), and approval has been given by the County's Cabinet for up to £20M prudential borrowing to add to the pot.

It is expected that BT will be working with the County to maximise the use of the grants, especially as two South Cambs exchanges (Madingley and Caxton) won upgrades in the Race to Infinity competition. Hopefully Kingston will have much improved broadband by 2015.

7. 30mph Speed Limit stickers

The Council has now made available 30mph stickers which residents can stick on their wheelie bins. If you want one, please contact your Parish Council.

8. 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!

9. Dates for your diary

22 September 2011: TPG Nomination Deadline

7 October 2011: 9.30am – 4.30pm SCDC Open Day

31 March 2012: Deadline for applications for Renewable Heat Grants

Appendix B

Financial report: 8 July 2011

N.B. All figures exclude VAT

Item	Budget 2011-12 £	Expenditure YTD £	Budget minus expenditure YTD £	
Grass and Hedge cutting	1768.00	1027.83	740.17	July invoice not paid
Insurance	744.00	744.39	-0.39	
Clerk's salary	1005.00	0.00	1005.00	
Grants (section 137)	614.00	0.00	614.00	
Audit fees	165.00	347.00	-182.00	External audit fee higher than usual due to high expenditure on playground
Village asset maintenance	1351.00	203.23	1147.77	
Subscriptions	160.00	32.30	127.70	
Parish Magazine	601.00	762.00	-161.00	2009 and 2010 payments
Footpath lighting	214.00	0.00	214.00	
Miscellaneous and expenses	150.00	81.05	68.95	
Income other than precept	-8.00	-41.67	33.67	Allotment fees, interest
To reserves	284.00			
Total	7048.00	3156.13		

Bank balances	Current account:	2908.20
	Deposit account:	6631.98