

Kingston Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held at 8.00pm on 13 March 2014

Present:

Simon Draper, Chairman (SD)
Tim Fitzjohn (TF)
Julie Conder (JCo)
Katherine Stalham (KS)
Peter Stokes, Clerk
Tumi Hawkins, SCDC
Stephen Frost, CCC

1. Apologies

James Clear

2. Minutes of last two meetings

Agreed

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1. **3.3 Cycleway to Toft:** Cllr Frost advised that he had not been able to confirm funding for a cycle path. He was able to confirm however that if a path was provided, it is likely that the concessionary free school bus to CVC would be withdrawn since officially Kingston does not qualify. The bus is currently provided because there is no safe footpath or cycle path. Agreed that an article would be put in the magazine seeking the views of all residents – whether or not they currently have CVC students – on their preferences regarding free bus versus footpath. **Action: Clerk.**

(Cllr Frost left the meeting at this point.)

- 3.2. **3.1 First Responder scheme:** Mark Taylor has reported that he has answered several calls, but none for Kingston. He has also said he is having difficulty recruiting volunteers in Kingston. Agreed that the previous recruitment advert in the magazine would be re-inserted into the next issue.
- 3.3. **3.2 Speeding through village:** no readings received from PCSO Alex Giltinane. Agreed no further action.

4. Correspondence

- 4.1. **Letter of thanks from Kingston PCC** for the churchyard maintenance grant.
- 4.2. **Email from Sara Hicks** re mud in Crane's Lane: Clerk has responded, and is attempting to arrange for Crane's Lane and Rectory Lane to be swept by SCDC street cleansing dept.
- 4.3. **Letter from Bourn Parish Council** re fields owned by Kingston Poor Land Charity: Clerk has forwarded to the trustees of the charity, who have responded.
- 4.4. **Email from Melanie Owers** re blocked drain and pothole: Clerk has responded.

5. County Councillor's report

See Appendix A.

6. District Councillor's report

See Appendix B.

7. Community Plan report

The finished plan has been sent to Linda Browne at SCDC who will review it for any conflicts with SCDC policy, and give any comments she feels appropriate. It was agreed that when

fully approved and printed a copy will be given to each household. It was also agreed we should aim to have it ready for distribution for the Annual Parish Meeting. **Action: TF.**

8. Village Hall upgrade project

- 8.1. JCI has (previously) agreed to cut down the tree near the oil tank (see Minute 11.3). **Action: JCI.**
- 8.2. Tenders are awaited from builders for Phase 1 of the project.
- 8.3. The small fridge has ceased to work. It was agreed to get the fridge freezer repaired (if economic) and dispose of the small fridge. **Action: Clerk.**

9. Open Spaces report

- 9.1. No report

10. Clerk's report

- 10.1. **Bi-monthly report** – previously circulated. See appendix C.
- 10.2. **Invoices for payment:**
 - 10.2.1. Clerk's February salary £71.15 – agreed for payment
 - 10.2.2. Clerk's March salary £72.55 – agreed for payment
 - 10.2.3. PAYE payment for February £18.20 (already paid) – agreed for payment
 - 10.2.4. PAYE payment for March £19.60 – agreed for payment
 - 10.2.5. Clerk's expenses £17.40 – agreed for payment
- 10.3. **Local highways Improvement bid:** we have been unsuccessful. To be re-submitted next year.
- 10.4. **Application for loan from PWLB:** various questions have been sent by the officer considering our application. The Clerk has responded. It was noted that the precept was increased in 2012/13 specifically to fund repayments to the loan but no objections were received. No further increases will be necessary for this purpose.
- 10.5. **Grass cutting contract 2014 season:** Agreed to accept Stuart Buchan's offer to renew the contract at an increase in price of 1.9% (RPI increase for the 12 months ending Nov 2013), with a further reduction because the cutting of the protected verge is no longer required. Agreed price is £2173.47. **Action: Clerk.**
- 10.6. **Parish Council banking:** agreed to open a business account with Lloyds, subject to reviewing what charges there would be, if any. The Clerk will initiate all transactions and (if this is required as part of the initiating process) will partially authorise. Two further authorisers will be specified taken from a list comprising all five parish councillors thus complying with the requirement that two councillors will authorise all transactions (see Minute 10.8). This arrangement will be reviewed in the light of experience. **Action: Clerk.**
- 10.7. **Effect on Financial Regulations:** these changes will require changes to KPC's Financial Regulations. Clerk to amend and circulate for approval. **Action: Clerk.**
- 10.8. **Repeal of rule requiring two cheque signatures:** this is now law, but parish councils are reminded in government guidance of the need to ensure that in all cases safe and efficient arrangements are in place to control finances. It was agreed that for the time being KPC would continue with the two-signature/authoriser rule.

10.9. **Parish Council elections, dates for May meetings:** following directions from the government relating to the parish council and European parliamentary elections, it was agreed that the May meeting would be held on 8 May, and the Annual Parish Meeting moved to 5 June. *[NB: it was agreed after the meeting that the meetings cannot be held on these dates as the Parish Council meeting cannot take place until after the elections, and the Clerk will be on holiday on 5 June. It was therefore agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 29 May and the Parish Council meeting will be held on 27 May.]*

10.10. **Financial Briefings:** the Clerk has received a briefing from NALC stating that payments can only be sent to HMRC electronically. However JC gave an assurance that this is not the case and payments can continue to be made by cheque until the new banking arrangements are in place.

10.11. **Playground work day:** agreed to arrange this for 17 May. **Action: Clerk.**

11. Planning

11.1. **S/2666/13/FL single storey extension at Walkers Field, Church Lane:** permission has been granted.

11.2. **S/2708/13/FL first floor side extension and single storey extension at 4, Crane's Lane:** permission has been granted.

11.3. **C/11/40/058 removal of tree next to village hall:** permission has been granted.

12. Items for next meeting

12.1. KS has been advised that £5.7m is available in the form of grants to upgrade private houses which do not have cavity walls, by applying insulation to the outside or inside walls. Further information available from KS. Agreed to publicise via the emailing circulation list. **Action: Clerk.**

12.2. SD has planted about 100 willow whips in the willow tunnel at the playground.

13. **Date of next meeting:** 27 May (see minute 10.9)

Meeting ended at 22:25

Signed.....

Date.....

Report from County Councillor Stephen Frost

BUSINESS PLANNING

Last Month I reported about the impending budget decisions to be made at the Council's February meeting. Amendments to the Cabinet's proposals developed by the three other political groups were considered by Resources and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee in early February. The Cabinet proposals and amendments were debated at Council on 18 February and after a long meeting the Cabinet proposals were approved.

LIBRARY SERVICES

eMagazines and eNewspapers Services Launched

Did you know? Library members can now enjoy digital magazines and newspapers free of charge. These new services launched on 15 January and allow Library members to read and download 40 top magazine titles and a number of daily national newspapers straight to their computer, smartphone or tablet. The eMagazines and eNewspapers services sit alongside the popular eBook and eAudio book provision.

Improvement in Children's Section

Youngsters across Cambridgeshire are benefiting from exciting new additions to their library services. The service has invested in new stocks of board and picture books, updating the junior information collections and increasing the selection of children's books in e-format.

"Read it Again!" The Cambridgeshire Children's Picture Book Award

The 9th 'Read it Again!' Cambridgeshire Children's Picture Book Award launches this month. Run by Cambridgeshire Libraries, the 'Read it Again!' award is for a picture book where the words and pictures are the first published work of one individual. Children will read, discuss and then vote for their favourite book from a shortlist of eight outstanding titles, all published during 2013. The book receiving the most votes will be declared the "Read it Again!" winner at a special ceremony to be held in early summer 2014.

TRANSPORT MATTERS

Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire

The final draft of the Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire goes to Cabinet on 4 March for final approval. The strategy represents 18 months of close work with Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council to develop a transport strategy that supports the development aspirations set out in their respective Local Plans. Over 76% of respondents agreed with the strategy's overall approach of increasing the use of sustainable transport while maintaining traffic levels at a similar level to now when the draft strategy was consulted on in summer 2013.

South Cambridgeshire District Councillor's Monthly Report March 2014

1. SCDC Local Development Plan Consultation update

This afternoon at the Extraordinary Full Council meeting, councillors voted by a slim majority to accept the proposed draft local plan and send it to the planning inspector for examination. Votes were 27 for, 21 against and 5 abstentions.

There was no debate allowed, but councillors were able to speak for 3 minutes on each of the 3 parts into which the discussion had been structured.

The closeness of the vote shows that 26 of the 53 councillors present were not happy with the plan in its entirety, and is an indictment of the Authority. There was overwhelming lack of support for the proposed plans for the A428 corridor, but the vote seemed to have been carried by the threat, real or imagined, of a raft of speculative planning applications from developers should the plan not be voted through today.

The plan will be submitted, along with that of Cambridge City, to the inspector in the summer. Both plans are being examined by the same inspector.

2. Finance - Budget for 2014/15 and Council Tax

South Cambridgeshire District Council budget for the municipal year 2014/15 was ratified at the Budget council meeting on 27 February. The grant from central government has once again been reduced and the council has a shortfall of £300,000 this year and will need to find £790,000 in 2015-16. It needs to find "efficiency savings" and additional income to plug the funding gap.

To plug the gap, the Council has approved a 1.99% increase in Council Tax. This will raise £7,155,680.

It is also investing £7million in SCDC Ltd a company which will buy properties on the open market, and then rent them to the private sector at market rents.

Some savings will be made by reducing the green bin collection to monthly service in winter, and redesigning the blue bin collections. Other savings are to be identified.

3. SCDC Ltd

SCDC Ltd is now set to go. The has set up a company which will buy properties and then rent them to the private sector at market rates. But they will not rent to anyone who claims housing benefit. These are not the same as Council houses – the Council is in effect becoming a Landlord competing with all the other property management companies locally. It does have two significant advantages. Firstly it can borrow at a discounted loan rate and secondly it already has an in-house housing management team. So it will borrow £7million (they'll be lucky to get 20 houses around here for that) and lend this money at an increased rate to the new company as well as a management charge for running these homes. This we are told will lead to Profit for the council, and the taxpayer should be pleased.

We have asked to be involved as part of an advisory group planning this project to which there was agreement.

4. SCDC Business Workshops

The business workshops from the South Cambridgeshire Business Support Service will be starting up again in March 2014. These are half-day workshops are run by Exemplas on behalf of the council, to help those running or thinking of starting a business in the district and cover subjects focusing on the specific needs of local businesses, including business planning, recruitment and websites and social media.

Each workshop costs £10 +VAT, and anyone interested in attending can reserve a place by telephone 0844 346 0755 (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm) and pay by credit or debit card. Full details can be found by visiting www.exemplas.com/southcambs

5. A14 Improvement Scheme by Highways Agency

The Highways Agency has reported to SCDC on the revision of its proposals following the consultation process in Sep-October 2013. The new section will no longer be a toll road. Some sections have been modified to provide local/pedestrian access (e.g Swavesy).

Unfortunately, there will not be a A428-M11 a movement to relieve congestion on the A1301 Madingley Road. Some proposals were considered, but what was shown was complicated and would be expensive. The HA expect to consult further on these modifications shortly.

6. Broadband – Connecting Cambridgeshire

Updates are available on www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/parish/kingston but nothing has changed. It still shows that Kingston is expected to get superfast broadband sometime between September 2014 and September 2015, and it is likely to happen in stages.

7. SCDC Community Awards Celebration

The Community awards celebration for 2013/14 is 20 March 2014. The winners of the various awards will be announced at the event. Good luck to all those who have been nominated from Toft and Caldecote.

8. Casework

Your Councillor is here to help you. Please do feel free to contact me with comments, questions, problems, reports, suggestions or complaints to do with SCDC services (housing, planning, benefits, council tax, bin collection etc). 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. Councillor Drop-in surgery

This normally takes on the first Monday of every month 6pm – 7pm at Toft People's Hall, and first Thursday of every month, 7pm – 8pm at the Caldecote Village Hall, small meeting room. Next surgery dates are Monday 7th April and 5th May in Toft, and Thursday 3rd April and 1st May in Caldecote. In the meantime, if you need my assistance please contact me in the usual ways.

10. Dates for your diary

13 March 2014	10.00 am	Special Full Council Meeting to discuss Local Development Plan
20 March 2014	7.00pm	Annual Awards Celebration
27 March 2014	6.30 – 8.00pm	Cabinet and Parish Councils Liaison Meeting
2 April 2014	10.00am	Planning Committee Meeting
24 April 2014	2.00pm	Full Council Meeting

Tumi

Tumi Hawkins
13 March 2014

Email me @:	tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk
Follow on twitter:	http://twitter.com/CouncillorTumi
Facebook share:	http://www.facebook.com/itsCouncillorTumi
Link on LinkedIn	http://www.linkedin.com/in/tumihawkins
Read my blog at:	http://www.TumiHawkins.org.uk
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Appendix C

Financial report 03 May 2013

N.B. All figures exclude VAT

Item	Budget 2013-14 £	Expenditure YTD £	Budget minus expenditure YTD £	
Grass and Hedge cutting	2017	0.00	2017.00	
Insurance	744	0.00	744.00	
Clerk's salary	1089	0.00	1088.71	
Grants (section 137)	649	0.00	648.90	
Village Hall upgrade	800	0.00	800.00	
Audit fees	45	0.00	45.00	
Village asset maintenance	1000	0.00	1000.00	
Subscriptions	304	0.00	304.00	
Parish Magazine	400	0.00	400.00	
Footpath lighting	112	0.00	112.27	
Miscellaneous and expenses	165	0.00	165.00	
Income other than precept	-115	0.00	-115.00	
Total	7210	0.00		

Bank balances	Current account:	£1,113.72	
	Deposit account:	£9,684.77	