

Kingston Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held at 8.00pm on 10 January 2017

Present:

Tim Fitzjohn, Chairman (TF)
Julie Conder (JCo)
James Clear (JCI)
Peter Stokes, Clerk
Tumi Hawkins (SCDC)

1. Apologies

1.1. Trish Dunlop, Keith Tan

2. Minutes of last meeting

2.1. Accepted

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1. **3.1 Dog waste/litter bin at playground:** JCI and the Clerk have reinstated. It was reported that it is again loose, presumably from another impact.
- 3.2. **3.5 LHI bid 2016:** work is expected to start shortly. The total cost is £5,562.50 so the KPC contribution will be £556.25.
- 3.3. **4.1.1 'Parking' sign for VH car park:** agreed to site on the telegraph pole north of the car park. VH committee to be consulted to obtain their agreement, sign to be procured by Clerk. **Action: Clerk.**
- 3.4. **4.1.2 Stones for triangle outside 'Southcote':** the Reids do not have any spare stones available. Theirs were obtained from Bannolds. The Clerk has been to Bannolds but they do not have this type of stone in stock at present. More stock expected in the next few months. Clerk to try again in a couple of months. **Action: Clerk.**
- 3.5. 4.1.3 Car parking map: not yet actioned. Action: Clerk.

4. Correspondence

- 4.1. Email from SCDC re Local Green Spaces: no further action, await outcome.
- 4.2. Email re Rebate from Kingston Oil Club: £60 this year.
- 4.3. **Letter from VHMC requesting grant:** agreed to grant up to £3,500 as requested. Clerk to draft suitable letter to KVHMC to be signed by TF. **Action: Clerk.**
- 4.4. **Email from Kingston PCC requesting grants:** agreed to make grants as per budget i.e. £475 for the magazine and £667 for churchyard maintenance. **Action: Clerk.**
- 4.5. Letter and emails from Toft PC re damaged kissing gate: Clerk to contact the landowner. Action: Clerk.
- 4.6. Email from Toft PC re coalition of parish councils: Clerk to respond expressing interest. Action Clerk.
- 4.7. Email from Irene Heyman re proposed siting of speed cushions: Clerk has responded.
- 4.8. **Email from CCC re gritting routes:** after several changes gritting routes now are the same as last year. All Kingston through routes are on the gritting programme.
- 4.9. Emails from Lina Joseph: noted.

- 4.10. **Email from CCC re heavy goods vehicles in villages:** a 'covenant' has been drafted by CCC for use by villages which have a problem of HGVs driving through. Agreed not relevant for Kingston at this time.
- 4.11. **Letter from SCDC proposing a tree survey service for parishes:** agreed to respond expressing interest. **Action: Clerk.**
- 4.12. **Email from TF about demolished signpost on permissive path:** agreed to replace using volunteers. Clerk to obtain suitable wooden post, Clerk and JCI to plant it at the Kingston end of the permissive path and affix the signs. TF has the signs and will pass to the Clerk. **Action: TF, JCI, Clerk.**

5. County Councillor's report

- 5.1. No report.

6. District Councillor's report

- 6.1. See Appendix A.

7. Open Spaces report

- 7.1. No report.

8. Faster Broadband report

- 8.1. Tree cutting permission problems now resolved. Kingston go-live now delayed to February 2017.

9. Clerk's report

- 9.1. **Bi-monthly report** – previously circulated. See Appendix B.
- 9.2. **Invoices for payment:**
 - 9.2.1. Subscription to SLCC £55.00 – agreed for payment.
 - 9.2.2. Subscription to Cambridgeshire ACRE £54.00 – agreed for payment.
 - 9.2.3. Village hall rent and bus shelter cleaning 2016 £118.00 – agreed for payment.
- 9.3. **Budget and precept for 2017/18:** See Appendix C for agreed budget. Precept set at £9098 which is calculated to give each household a 2.2% increase compared to last year, which is the latest RPI figure available (Nov 2016, source: Office for National Statistics). It was also agreed to show separately on the bi-monthly financial report the amounts of S106 money held in the KPC accounts, as this has restrictions on what it can be spent on.
- 9.4. **Insurance Act 2015:** places a stricter obligation on buyers of insurance to research accurately all material information relevant to the risk being insured and disclose this in an appropriate format to their insurer. No significant implications for KPC.
- 9.5. **Changes to SLCC:** the Society for Local Council clerks has now split into two organisations. The SLCC performs the functions of providing information for parish clerks, and the newly-formed ALCC (Association of Local Councils) provides individual support to parish clerks who are experiencing discrimination, harassment or employment issues, and similar trade union-type activities. The Clerk does not feel the need for this type of support so it was agreed that KPC would continue to pay the subscription to the SLCC but would not pay the subscription to the ALCC.
- 9.6. **Telephone box in village:** the telephone is still non-functional. The Clerk has established that BT are delaying repairs until the current consultation exercise regarding the removal of some phone boxes is complete.

10. Planning

- 10.1. **S/3011/16/FL Change of use from agricultural to residential for buildings** at Kingston Pastures Farm, Old Wimpole Road: Clerk has responded 'support' after consulting with TF.
- 10.2. **S/3154/16/TC Fell one Maple tree** at Thatches, Rectory Lane. Clerk has responded 'no comment' after consulting with TF.
- 10.3. **S/3343/16/TC fell line of Hawthorn trees** at Kingston Barns, Bourn Road. Clerk has responded 'no comment' after consulting with TF.

11. **Items for next meeting: none**

12. **Date of next meeting: 14 March 2017**

Meeting ended at 21:50

Signed.....

Date.....

South Cambridgeshire District Council – Caldecote Ward Councillor's Monthly Report – January 2017

Caldecote Ward comprises the Parishes of Caldecote, Childerley, Kingston and Toft

1. Devolution

All the seven (7) Cambridgeshire authorities have now agreed to accept the Government's Devolution deal. I and my LibDem colleagues were solidly against this as it is not devolving power from Government to you and me, but from Government and the County Council to a single person - an elected Mayor who will take their place in a new layer of expensive bureaucracy in May 2017.

The election will be on 4th May 2017 and every 4 years after that.

What do we get for handing over control to this mayor? (1) new £20m annual fund for the next 30 years (£600million) to support economic growth, development of local infrastructure and jobs. (2) £100 million for affordable housing, including for rent and shared ownership and additional £70million specifically for Cambridge City (this made the City council support the devo deal) (3) Transport infrastructure improvements – to include upgrades to the A10, A47, Ely North Junction, (4) investment in Peterborough University and (5) delivery of Wisbech Garden Town to include a Wisbech-Cambridge rail connection.

That's the good bit. The flip side is that (1) the Mayor will have General Power of Competence and can pretty much do what s/he wants unless its prevented by legislation (2) the annual cost of the new authority will be circa £1.09m for the first year (including Mayoral annual allowance of £80K). All to be met from a grant in the first year, then from additional levy on your council tax in subsequent years. We will all be paying for this going forward. Let's hope for all our sakes this is all worth it.

The new Combined authority held its first meeting on 14th December and Cllr Steve Count is the Chair of the "Shadow" authority till the Mayor takes over in May. The meeting agreed to advertise for the first Chief Executive for the new authority. Here we go!!

2. South Cambridgeshire Local Development Plan Update

On 17th November 2016, the Council voted to extend the eastern boundary of the proposed new village at Bourn Airfield 50m closer to our Parish Boundary. I put forward an amendment to reject the proposal, but lost the vote. It was initially tied at 23 for and 23 against the amendment, but the Council Chair then had a casting vote – and voted against. So there you have it. I have written extensively about this in my blog.

I am grateful to the Senior Tories that spoke in favour of my amendment. Needless to say, the Conservatives have shown once again that they will do anything to get the Local Plan approved by the Inspector. Compounding the major error with more and more errors – like the Burkitt Busway.

The new wording for the policy was subsequently presented to the Planning Portfolio Holder at his December meeting, which unfortunately I could not attend. It is so woolly, one could be forgiven for thinking that the Council was handing the developer loopholes to use in the future. This is not the end of the matter yet - I will be taking this up – and the Inspector still has to pass it.

No dates have yet been fixed for the public examination of the Policy for the proposed new village at Bourn Airfield, or West Cambourne. So we wait!

3. Speculative Planning Applications

In the meantime, we are still open to speculative planning applications. There are no new ones that I am aware of, but we still have the ongoing three by Gladmans for 140 houses. The appeal is in March. CALA Homes for 71 houses at 18-28 Highfields Road, and Welbeck Land for 58 off Grafton Drive.

4. Open for Business

Do you have or run a business located in South Cambridgeshire? Then you may be interested in the bi-monthly newsletter from the Council which brings latest news, information, funding sources, ideas and guidance.

Latest edition is at <http://bit.ly/OfBNov16>. If you want to find out more, or go on the business register to receive the newsletter, email the council at openforbusiness@scams.gov.uk.

5. Cold Weather and Draught Busting

Thermal imaging cameras are once again available for residents to borrow free of charge for locating where heat is leaking out of the home, so you can take action to insulate and draught proof. The cameras come with an operating manual, but a brief training session is advised. Book a place by emailing spep@scams.gov.uk with your name, address and a phone number in case we need to contact you. A camera loan can be booked by calling 03450 450 063 or emailing reception@scams.gov.uk.

6. South Cambs Community Award Scheme

Don't forget that nominations are still open but close on 20th January 2017 at 5pm. The six award categories are: Village Hero, Parish Councillor of the Year, • Outstanding Youth Initiative. • Outstanding Local Service/Amenity. Environment Award and Wellbeing Award. Nominations can be made at <https://www.scams.gov.uk/community-awards> , by contacting Siobhan Mellon on siobhan.mellon@scams.gov.uk or 01954 713395.

7. A14 Upgrade Bulletin

Construction of the A14 upgrade has officially started. Highways England will provide monthly newsletter update on key site activities, summarise the progress of previous month, and explain the plans for the next month. The 24hr public helpline is 0800 270 0114, and you can follow their twitter account @A14C2H and find them on facebook at www.facebook.com/A14C2H
The new construction compound at Swavesey should be ready later this month.

8. Highways and Gritting

The County Council voted in December to reverse several budget cuts including the cuts to winter gritting. However, even before this cut the County was only gritting 40% of the Cambridgeshire roads network. All ten of the additional gritters will have been delivered to depots across the county by now, fitted up and in action. BUT please bear in mind that if a road was not gritted at all last year it will not be in the 40% that the County intends to grit from now on.

Many communities have installed salt bins – anyone can stop and spread the grit – you don't need permission nor special training – just be sensible! There have been reports of some gritting angels already in Caldecote- thank you.

Please continue to report any highways issues, road repairs needed etc. directly to the County Highways via the website. Budgets are tight, but the roads still need to be safe. The website address for reporting is <https://highwaysreporting.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>

9. Cambridgeshire Handyperson Scheme

South Cambs Council part funds the Cambridgeshire Handyperson Scheme, which aims to prevent falls and accidents at home by offering a free personal assessment, home safety check and arranging small jobs to be carried out. The service is run by Age UK Cambridgeshire and is for people aged over 65 years, or those with a disability.

More information can be found on the Age UK Cambridgeshire website or on 01480 700205 or 0300 666 9860

10. Fibre Broadband

Highfields Caldecote is already well served, but I get reports from time to time that some residents still have challenges placing their orders. BT should be able to resolve these directly for you if you persevere. I am looking into trying to re-instate the escalation process that I had in place 2 years ago, but it is challenging.

Caldecote and Kingston fibre broadband is being provided through the Connecting Cambridgeshire program is ongoing. The service for Kingston should have come live in December 2016 but the project encountered some challenges with trees in Harlton (long story and long route). But happy to report that I was able to call on assistance from a number of contacts to overcome the challenge and the project is moving again. I am told the expected delivery date is now February 2017.

For Caldecote, the expected delivery date is March 2017, but I am liaising with the Connecting Cambs project team for more details on exact timescales and the works being done.

11. International Women's Day

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is working with Cambridgeshire Constabulary to create an event for International Women's Day on the 8th March 2017. The theme of the event will be around bringing communities together with a particular focus on keeping women and our community safe.

The event will be designed around what women say are the issues of greatest concern to them and that they would like to learn more about. So please get in touch and let organisers know what issues affect you and your local community. What information would empower you to make a change and what areas would you like more information about to increase your understanding of these issues and what you could help do to resolve them?

Themes could include domestic abuse, cyber security, safeguarding children and adults, inequality and community cohesion. Organisers want as many communities as possible from all walks of life to get involved in not only helping plan the event but to encourage as many women as possible to attend.

If you have any suggestions or would like to be a part of the event, please contact the Engagement Officer, Sarah Morgan - sarah.morgan@cambs.pnn.police.uk

12. Casework/Councillor Drop-in surgery

Please do feel free to contact me with comments, questions, problems, reports, suggestions or complaints to do with SCDC services (housing, housing repairs, planning, benefits, council tax, bin collection, environmental health etc).

Drop-in surgery normally takes place on the first Thursday of every month, 7pm – 8pm at the Caldecote Village Hall and first Monday of every month, 6pm – 7pm at the Toft People’s Hall. If you need my assistance at any time in the interim, I am always available to you, so please contact me in one of the usual ways.

Tumi

Tumi Hawkins
09-January-2017

Email me @:	tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk
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Appendix B

Financial report 05 Jan 2017

N.B. All figures exclude VAT

Item	Budget 2016-17 £	Expenditure YTD £	Budget minus expenditure YTD £	
Grass and Hedge cutting	2032	1904	129	
Insurance	399	412	-13	
Clerk's salary	1141	779	362	
Grants (section 137)	667	100	567	
Village Hall upgrade	1288	1288	0	
Audit fees	40	144	-104	
Village asset maintenance	450	835	-385	
Subscriptions	226	182	44	
Parish Magazine	475	0	475	
Footpath lighting	161	0	161	
Miscellaneous and expenses	720	65	655	
Income other than precept	-125	-878	753	
Total	7475	4831		

Bank balances	Current account:	6507
	Deposit account:	18408
S106 money (included in above)	'Open space'	5721
	'Community facility'	945

Appendix C

Budget and Precept for 2017/18

N.B. All figures exclude VAT

Item	Budget 2016/17 £	Expenditure YTD 2016/17 £	Budget minus expenditure YTD (negative = overspend) £	Expected spend for whole year 2016/17	Budget for 2017/18	
Grass and Hedge cutting	2032	1628	404	2009	2053	incr by RPI
Insurance	399	412	-13	412	421	incr by RPI
Clerk's salary	1141	875	267	1141	1166	incr by RPI
Grants (section 137)	667	100	567	667	682	incr by RPI
Village Hall upgrade	1288	1288	0	1288	4788	Fixed repayment of loan + VH grant
Audit fees	40	144	-104	144	144	
Village asset maintenance	450	835	-385	1055	600	
Subscriptions	226	182	44	291	297	incr by RPI
Parish Magazine	475	0	475	475	485	incr by RPI
Footpath lighting	161	0	161	161	165	incr by RPI
Miscellaneous and expenses	720	83	637	720	1292	incr by RPI + £556 for LHI contr.
Income other than precept	-125	-105	-20	-130	-130	Assume unchanged
Total	7475	5442		8233	11963	
Agreed precept					9098	
Surplus precept over budget					-2865	

RPI for 12 months ending Nov 2016 (lates 2.20%

Precept 2016/17 £8,605

Council tax base 2015/16 116.60

Council tax base 2016/17 118.60

Council tax base 2017/18 122.70

% incr in tax base this year/last year 3.46%

Precept for no incr per household (option / £8,902

Precept for RPI incr per household (option £9,098

Council tax per band D house 2016/17 £72.55

Council tax per Band D house 2017/18 (of £72.55

Council tax per Band D house 2017/18 (of £74.15