

Kingston Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held at 8.00pm on 18 September 2008

Present:

Simon Draper, Chairman
Helen Underwood
Julie Conder
Peter Stokes, Clerk
9 members of the public

1. Apologies

Tim Fitzjohn, Mike Warren

2. Presentation on wind farms

David Stone gave a presentation on wind farms, which was followed by a discussion. Following this the members of the public left the meeting.

3. Minutes of last meeting

Accepted.

4. Matters Arising

- 4.1. **Footpaths map:** Helen reported difficulties with scanning the OS map and also a possible problem with permission to publish on the website. The use of hand-drawn sketch maps was discussed. Simon agreed to try to produce a sketch map for one walk. **Action: Simon Draper.**
- 4.2. **Parish Paths Partnership:** deferred to next meeting.
- 4.3. **Anti-speeding measures:** our local community police constable has advised that speeding checks were carried out both at the south end of the village, and on the approach to the crossroads from the Bourn direction, but no offenders were detected. It was agreed that speeding is now not so much of a problem – no further action.
- 4.4. **Tree report:** Peter Reynolds will provide this for the November meeting.
- 4.5. **Registering land:** the Clerk has had a meeting with Tim Lawson, who has provided information on land owned by Mrs Heyman, adjacent to the green south of Field Road. In order to register the PC as owner of this green, and in the absence of any documentary proof, we have been advised to submit statutory declarations from long-established residents of the village with the application to the Land Registry. The most suitable persons would be Mrs Heyman, Tony Smart and Charlie Richmond (all long-time residents and owners of adjoining land). It will be necessary for them to have the signing of their declarations witnessed by a solicitor. **Action: Clerk.**
- 4.6. **Kingston Poor Land Charity:** Tony Hewish (former trustee) has passed on his file to Donal O'Donnell (new trustee-designate). The Clerk has borrowed this file and has started to review the contents. Agreed that the Clerk will produce a briefing document containing a summary of the charity's origins, aims and objects, assets etc (so far as this information is available from the file), and then pass the file back to Donal O'Donnell. **Action: Clerk.**

It was also agreed that Donal O'Donnell would be formally appointed as trustee of the charity. The Clerk would write to him to inform him of this decision, and also to Joan Reynolds to formally confirm her appointment as trustee in case there was no previous written evidence of this, both appointments to be reviewed in 4 years as

provided in the rules of the charity. In both letters the Clerk will also reiterate to the trustees their duties as trustees. **Action: Clerk.**

- 4.7. **Hedges in Cranes Lane:** these have now been cut.
- 4.8. **Missing PC assets:** the loppers and strimmer have now been found and are in the Clerk's possession. Since these are no longer required the Clerk will sell them through the parish magazine. **Action: Clerk.**
- 4.9. **Re-launch of Neighbourhood Watch:** the Clerk has ordered window stickers but so far has not located a supplier of metal signs for affixing to lampposts to replace the existing ones. When the stickers are received he will liaise with Bill Lovell about publicising the re-launch. **Action: Clerk.**
- 4.10. **Mulberry tree on Smithy:** Clerk to clarify with Eastern Landscape Service Ltd the meaning of 'crown lift'. If this means 'remove timber', bringing the quotation in line with that from Acacia Tree Surgery, then accept ELS quote. Otherwise accept ATS quote. Clerk to purchase a bag of topsoil for filling in the roots of the mulberry tree. **Action: Clerk.**
- 4.11. **Communications with SCDC and CCC:** the letters in reply to KPC complaints were reviewed and the following agreed:
 - **SCDC letter:** this clearly indicated that District Councillors are considered an essential part of the system to cascade relevant information to parish councils not covered by formal systems. As Robin Martlew had not informed the PC of the Eversden wind farm proposal at the time of the letter from CCC in November 2007 (which was the first intimation, and so far the only intimation of the proposal) the PC wished to know whether or not he was aware of the proposal at that time. It was agreed that the Clerk would email Cllr Martlew to invite him to the November meeting so that this could be explored further. **Action: Clerk.**
 - **CCC letter:** this letter also indicated that County Councillors were expected to keep parish councils informed. It was noted that there had been very little information of any kind provided by Denzil Baldwin for some time, either in writing or in person. It was therefore agreed that he would be asked to send a report in time for any future KPC meeting that he was not able to attend personally. **Action: Clerk.**

5. Correspondence

- 5.1. **Letter from CCC** inviting bids for the 2009/2010 Minor Highway Improvement Scheme. Agreed that KPC would again bid for the red markings on roads entering the village. **Action: Clerk.**
- 5.2. **Email from SCDC** re phone box closures. SCDC has undertaken provisionally to support all parish council objections. Meanwhile two options are offered by BT for phoneboxes under threat: *Adoption* (phone only is removed, PC takes responsibility for empty phonebox) and *sponsorship* (PC pays £500/year to retain phone and phonebox). It was agreed that in the event that Kingston's phonebox is to be removed, neither of these options will be taken up. In the event of an emergency, village hall hirers will use a mobile phone.
- 5.3. **Letter from the Rural Housing Trust** offering to provide a short presentation to KPC on their activities. Agreed that this was not required.

6. County Councillor's report

No report

7. District Councillor's report

No report

8. Parish Council website

Helen confirmed that Eastspace is withdrawing free website hosting from 1 October. It was agreed that we should take up the option of moving the website to a new host (www.one.com) with our own domain, www.kingstonvillage.org.uk. Helen is working to have the new address running seamlessly as the old address ceases working, but is hampered by poor response from Eastspace, from whom she needs to receive the coding package for the website. **Action: HU.**

Julie passed round copies of a 'History of Kingston' item she has prepared for the website. Agreed that Helen would copy this to Jill Coleman for possible inclusion (complete or as a précis) in the parish magazine. **Action: HU.**

9. Clerk's report

9.1. **Bank balances:** current account £1323.96, deposit account: £9587.47. The deposit account balance includes the recently received 2nd instalment of the precept, £3072.00. In response to a question the Clerk advised that the high balance in the current account was due to a recent transfer of £1000 from the deposit account in anticipation of expected outgoings.

9.2. **Payments:** the following payments were approved:

Kingston Church:	£251.00	(parish magazine)
Moore Stephens	£158.63	(audit fee)
Buchans	£387.55	(grasscutting)
Helen Underwood	£10.58	(new website)

9.3. **Parish council meetings in 2009:** due to problems meeting the deadline for the parish magazine (20th of each month) it was agreed that from Jan 2009, Kingston Parish council meetings would be held on the 2nd Thursday of each month instead of the 3rd Thursday. Meetings in 2009 will therefore be on 8 Jan, 12 Mar, 14 May, 9 July, 10 Sep and 12 Nov. **Action: All (to note in diaries), Clerk (to notify local councillors and VHMC secretary).**

10. Planning

An application has been submitted to SCDC for change of use of agricultural barns near Moat House Farm to business use. Agreed that the response from KPC is 'no recommendation'. **Action: Clerk.**

11. Any other business

None

12. Date of next meeting

20 November 2008

Meeting ended at 11:10 pm

Signed.....