

Kingston Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held at 8.00pm on 8 January 2009

Present:

Simon Draper, Chairman
Helen Underwood
Julie Conder
Mike Warren (part time)
Robin Martlew, SCDC (part time)
Fiona Whelan, CCC (part time)
Peter Stokes, Clerk

1. Apologies

None

2. Minutes of last meeting

Accepted.

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1. Footpaths map:** Clerk has obtained a scan of an A3 section of the 25000:1 OS map with Kingston in the centre. This will be used to create A4 maps for the website, each with a walk route superimposed.

Clerk has obtained a price from DCG Design of £55.00 per route to have walking routes electronically superimposed on A4 sections of the scanned map. However it was agreed that Helen would try creating walk routes on the scanned map. Clerk to give electronic map file to Helen. **Action: Clerk & HU.**

Clerk has also obtained information from OS regarding the licence necessary to publish maps on the website – a minimum charge of £47.50 for the licence will allow up to 527 A4 downloads. Agreed to go ahead and obtain the licence. **Action: Clerk.**

- 3.2. Parish Paths Partnership:** Clerk has received the application form and related information and passed on to Tim. Simon to remind Tim to make the application. **Action: SD.**
- 3.3. Registering Land:** Clerk has sent draft Statutory Declarations to Charlie Richmond, Tony Smart, David Ellar and Irene Heyman. He has received replies from all of these except Charlie Richmond. Clerk will now send final versions to the three who have responded so that they can arrange to have these signed before a solicitor. Clerk will also make a suitable Statutory Declaration himself and submit all of these with the application to the Land Registry to register the green to the south of Field Road. **Action: Clerk.**

(Robin Martlew and Fiona Whelan joined the meeting.)

- 3.4. Peter Reynolds' tree report:** As there were only three Parish Councillors present it was agreed that this item would be deferred to the next meeting. The report refers to a management plan for the Smithy which was adopted by the Parish Council in 1995, together with 6 byelaws. It was agreed therefore that the Clerk would circulate copies of the report again for discussion at the next meeting, and in the meantime would try and find out details of the management plan and the byelaws. **Action: Clerk.**
- 3.5. PC assets:** the strimmer and loppers have been sold to Bill Lovell for £50.00.
- 3.6. Re-launch of Neighbourhood Watch:** the article intended for the November magazine has still not appeared, but should be included in the January magazine.

- 3.7. **Mulberry tree on Smithy:** the agreed work has now been carried out, but animals (probably rabbits) have been burrowing into the soil around the roots. Clerk agreed to place some chicken wire or similar to discourage this. **Action: Clerk.**
- 3.8. **Parish Council website:** Helen has been unable to make any progress with this due to time constraints and is unlikely to be able to complete the work until the summer. Agreed to discuss again at the July meeting. **Action: Clerk.**

(Mike Warren joined the meeting.)

- 3.9. **Crane's Lane allotments:** Jenny Clark, Lands Officer at SCDC has informed allotment tenants that they must keep the plots clear of weeds but she seems to be either unable or unwilling to enforce these instructions. It is not known whether or not the prospective buyer of no. 9 Crane's Lane is still a prospective buyer, or what he/she has been told regarding the possible availability of the allotment for purchase. Agreed that Robin Martlew will find out more about the possibility of KPC taking over responsibility for the site, or even purchasing it, and inform the Clerk. The Clerk will then make an appropriate approach to SCDC. **Action: Robin Martlew, Clerk.**
- 3.10. **Reinstatement of footpaths nos. 2 and 16:** agreed that Helen will check on current state of footpaths, and inform Tim. **Action: HU.**
- 3.11. **Kingston's PCSO:** Kingston's new PCSO is Trudy Newman-Hart. She has been in touch with the Clerk and Bill Lovell.
- 3.12. **Grasscutting contract 2009:** Buchan Landscapes submitted a quote for £2071.19 (4.6% increase on 2008 prices) so as agreed they have been awarded the contract. They have also completed the work to reduce the height of the hedge between the Smithy and Tranquil to about 5ft so that it can be maintained with the other hedges in future.
- 3.13. **School bus:** Mike Warren has been in contact with Philip Norwell of Stagecoach, who has agreed to reroute the 7.55am bus from Kingston so that after Grantchester it travels to Long Road via Trumpington rather than via Newnham. This should shorten the time for this section of its journey. This will be monitored for a period, and if not effective Mr Norwell has said he will give consideration to changing the timetabling of this bus.
- 3.14. **Mirror at crossroads:** this has been removed by the Highways department.

4. Correspondence

- 4.1. **Letter from Kingston PCC** thanking KPC for the grant of £550 towards churchyard maintenance.
- 4.2. **Newsflash from CPALC** with two items of interest:
 - 4.2.1. **Example of village hall risk assessment:** Clerk has passed this on to the chairman of the VHMC.
 - 4.2.2. **Sustainable Communities Act:** this Act enables parish councils to influence government to protect Post Offices, increase bus services, restrict supermarkets etc etc. Parish councils can only use these powers if their principal councils (in our case SCDC, CCC) have chosen to use it too. There is a website on which the principal councils who have subscribed to the Act are listed, but neither SCDC nor CCC is listed.

Fiona Whelan stated that Comberton Parish Council have already requested that she table a motion at CCC requesting that they sign up to the Act, and Robin Martlew undertook to do the same for SCDC. **Action: Fiona Whelan, Robin Martlew.**
- 4.3. **Email from SCDC** inviting representatives from parish councils to a Parish Forum Meeting at Cambourne on 19 January. Simon agreed to go. **Action: SD.**

5. 2009/10 budget and precept

The draft previously circulated was accepted with one change: £100 pa to be included for rental of the village hall. See Appendix 1.

It was also agreed that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on 21 May, one week after the AGM on 14 May.

6. County Councillor’s report

- 6.1. Any problems with gritting roads in Kingston? There is a process for requesting gritting on roads not included in the gritting programme. Clerk to check what roads are currently included in the programme and circulate round members. **Action: Clerk.**
- 6.2. The police are spending a day in each village checking speeding and (with number plate recognition equipment) tax, insurance etc. They will spend a day in Kingston at some time in the near future.
- 6.3. ‘Surestart’ is the government’s programme for 0-4 year olds ‘*to deliver the best start in life for every child by bringing together early education, childcare, health and family support*’. It is being extended by providing centres in villages, and funding is expected to be agreed shortly for one such centre to be built on the primary school site in Caldecote, for families in Comberton, Kingston, Toft, Bourn and Caldecote.

7. District Councillor’s report

No report

8. Clerk’s report

- 8.1. **Bank balances:** current account £1000, deposit account £8121.78. This does not include the £50 received for the sale of the strimmer and loppers (see minute 3.5) nor £333.25 recently received from CCC for grasscutting of verges in the village.
- 8.2. **Invoices:** Cambridgeshire ACRE membership £25.00, Eastern Landscape Services £276.00 for work on the mulberry tree (see minute 3.7) both agreed. **Action: Clerk.**
- 8.3. **Grasscutting:** Buchan Landscapes have requested that the lower branches of some tress on village greens be removed or cut back to facilitate access for grasscutting machinery. They have quoted a price of £85.00 to do this work – agreed. **Action: Clerk.**

9. Planning

- 9.1. S/1644/08/F extensions at Bridgefield has been approved by SCDC.
- 9.2. S/1992/08/F: an application has been received for an extension at Broadlands. After consultation with neighbours the Clerk and Chairman have previously agreed KPC has no objection. This was retrospectively approved.

10. A.O.B.

As the Clerk will be abroad until 20 March, the next meeting will be held on 2 April. **Action: All to note.**

Meeting ended at 10.10
Next meeting: 2 April 2009

Signed.....

Date.....