

Kingston Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held at 8.00pm on 8 March 2012

Present:

Simon Draper, Chairman (SD)

Julie Conder (JCo)

Katherine Stalham (KS)

James Clear (JCI)

Fiona Whelan CCC

Tumi Hawkins, SCDC

Peter Stokes, Clerk

Members of the public: Mr and Mrs P Owers, Mr P Wright, Mr D Stone, Mr P Wheeler

1. Apologies

Tim Fitzjohn, Fiona Whelan

2. Minutes of last meeting

Accepted.

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1. **3.1 Community Plan update:** Tim Fitzjohn was not present, so Julie Conder advised that an initial questionnaire has been prepared and will shortly be distributed.
- 3.2. **3.5 Willow tunnel at playground:** a water butt and hose have been installed at the playground. Mr and Mrs Venn have agreed to keep the butt filled as necessary. Agreed that a letter would be sent to the Venns thanking them for their kind gesture. **Action: Clerk.**
- 3.3. **3.6 Parish Magazine editor:** Stuart Leslie has agreed to take on the role of editor when he and his wife move back into the village in the summer. Until he is ready to take over, Peter Stokes will continue in the role of Acting Editor.
- 3.4. **3.7 Thermal Imaging camera project:** Katherine Stalham reported that there had been no uptake of the offer to take thermal images. No further action.
- 3.5. **3.8.1 40 mph speed limit on Bourn Road: application for funding:** KPC has been invited to attend the members' panel at which applications are being reviewed to present their scheme. Person attending to be decided when date of meeting known. Clerk to advise. **Action: Clerk.**
- 3.6. **Reports of actions completed or ongoing** (no discussion unless requested):
 - 3.6.1. **8.4 Litterpick:** has been arranged for 25 March. SCDC to supply binbags and collect bags afterwards. Insurance provider has been informed.
 - 3.6.2. **8.5 Phonebox:** BT advises that the Kingston phone box is not on the list to be removed.

4. Correspondence

- 4.1. **Letter from Mr Mark Taylor re first responders scheme:** agreed that KPC in principle will support the scheme with an appropriate financial contribution, as it will potentially benefit Kingston residents. Clerk to request a breakdown of expected costs and sources on income. **Action: Clerk.**
- 4.2. **Letter from Joan Reynolds re orchard:** wishes to keep orchard as a peaceful space to be enjoyed by all, with possible provision of seating.

- 4.3. **Email from Tumi Hawkins re bus subsidy withdrawal:** see District Councillor's report.
- 4.4. **Email from Paul Wright:** complaining that the school bus has taken to waiting near the crossroads, parking on the verge and damaging it. Following approaches by him to the driver, and to the bus operator, the bus is now parking in a different place and the problem appears to have been resolved.

A discussion then followed on the related problem of the regular no 18 towards Cambridge which sometimes arrives at the bus shelter early, and then waits there. This leaves no room for another bus, or large vehicle, to pass, forcing these vehicles to climb the opposite verge, causing damage. Agreed to write to Stagecoach asking them to arrange for early buses to wait at another location where there is room for large vehicles to pass. **Action: Clerk.**

- 4.5. **Email from Wildlife Trust re protected verge:** Clerk has obtained a quote from Stuart Buchan to cut the protected verge in accordance with the provided specification at £174. Agreed to accept this quotation and incorporate the task into the present contract specification. **Action: Clerk.**

This led to a discussion about the hedge on the south side of Bourn Road, which needs cutting. Agreed to write to CCC and ask them to either request the landowner to cut it, or cut it themselves. **Action: Clerk.**

5. County Councillor's report

See Appendix A. Tumi Hawkins highlighted the following items:

- 5.1. **No 18 bus (long term):** CCC has established that the bus is only commercially viable between Cambridge and Comberton, so the long term future of the bus beyond Comberton is threatened. CCC is now considering the next round of cuts and the subsidy to the no 18 is likely to be discontinued in April 2013, which is likely to result in the service being discontinued as the operator will not be willing to run it at a loss. There will be consultation 6 – 9 months beforehand with the public and the operator to look for other solutions.
- 5.2. **No 18 bus (Friday night):** Stagecoach has quoted £7000 to operate the discontinued Friday evening service. The proposal is that this is shared between the parishes served. It has been established that an SCDC Community Grant will not be available to pay for start-up costs as this grant is not available for services which should be already in place. Tumi assured us that each parish's expected contribution would be proportional to its population.

6. District Councillor's report

See Appendix B.

7. Village Hall Upgrade report

- 7.1. Katherine Stalham reported that Torrie Smith is to make an application for Community Grant funding to pay for architect's fees.
- 7.2. Visits have taken place to three nearby village halls which have undergone refurbishment.

8. Open spaces report

- 8.1. Simon Draper is now unable to attend the village orchard meeting planned for 18 March. Meeting to be rescheduled. Peter Reynolds to be invited. **Action: Clerk.**
- 8.2. James Clear will spray 1 allotment – the other three either do not need or have declined spraying. **Action: JCI.**

9. Jubilee Event

A public meeting has been arranged in the village hall for 15 March.

10. Planning

- 10.1. **S21092/11 North Farm House:** Erection of dwelling following demolition of existing dwelling. This application has been withdrawn.
- 10.2. **S0174/12/FL Summerhill:** building of two new houses following demolition of existing house. Peter Reynolds has made a submission to the Parish Council in respect of this application – see Appendix D. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that Kingston Parish Council would recommend refusal on the grounds that:
- 10.2.1. the houses were too large for the split site and represented overdevelopment of it
 - 10.2.2. the density of development would be inappropriate for a rural location
 - 10.2.3. the left hand house would be too close to the neighbouring Netscroft, would present an overbearing presence to it, and would reduce light to it
 - 10.2.4. the proposal was detrimental to the setting of the listed house 'The Old Farmhouse' directly opposite.
- Action: Clerk to draft letter and circulate for approval.**
- 10.3. **C/11/40/056 South Sea House:** application for tree work. The application had already been approved by the Clerk and Vice-Chairman under Standing Orders 13.3 and 1.12. Cllr James Clear declared a prejudicial interest in the application, being the applicant, and left the meeting. The earlier approval was confirmed. Cllr Clear rejoined the meeting.
- 10.4. **C/11/40/056 The Old Rectory:** application for tree work. The application had already been approved by the Clerk and Chairman under Standing Order 13.3. The earlier approval was confirmed.
- 10.5. **C/11/40/056 Field House:** application for tree work. The application was approved.
- 10.6. **S/1848/11/F Kingston Pastures Farm:** application to erect an orangery extension to existing dwelling. The applicant has appealed to the Secretary of State following refusal by SCDC.

11. Clerk's report

- 11.1. **Bi-monthly report:** see Appendix C.
- 11.2. **Invoices for payment:**
- 11.2.1. Cambridgeshire ACRE playground inspection £118.58
 - 11.2.2. Kingston Village Hall Management hall hire fees £128.00
 - 11.2.3. Clerk's salary £1005
 - 11.2.4. Clerk's expenses £251.36

All approved.

11.3. **Grass cutting contract for 2012 season**

The Clerk reported that Stuart Buchan had offered renewal of the contract at £2132.94. As this represents a smaller increase than RPI inflation (5.4%), as agreed at the January meeting it has been accepted. Stuart Buchan has also offered to maintain this price for two years, in which case he will also spray and re-seed the grassy mound at the playground. Agreed to accept this. **Action: Clerk.**

11.4. **Playground inspection 27 January 2012**

The Cambridgeshire ACRE inspector found everything satisfactory apart from the following:

11.4.1. There is an area of exposed soil near the slide. It is recommended that this will need re-seeding to prevent soil erosion. Agreed that as this is a high-wear area, a ramp with climbing 'knobs' would be investigated. Clerk to obtain prices. **Action Clerk.**

11.4.2. There is an area of poor soil coverage and lack of grass over the tunnel. Agreed (after the meeting) that James Clear will add further soil. **Action JC.** The Clerk will then advise Stuart Buchan so that the area can be seeded. **Action: Clerk.**

11.4.3. The soft-fill under the jungle climber has become compacted, so that the surrounding timber now protrudes above, presenting a trip hazard. Clerk to obtain prices for a suitable top-up material from a local supplier. **Action: Clerk.**

11.4.4. There is a poorly assembled retaining-board joint. Agreed (after the meeting) that James Clear will rectify. **Action: JC.**

11.4.5. The tree trunk has a hollow section and the inspector feared that this could be filled with combustible material and a fire started, or used to store 'undesirable objects'. It is felt that neither of these is likely. No further action.

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

13. **Date of next meeting:** 10 May 2012

Meeting ended at 22:20

Signed.....

Date.....

Appendix A County Councillor's report

Buses

This is best described as a mess at the moment. Last year all subsidized bus services all faced the axe. Then some people took the County to court and won. At the same time the County set up (with no consultation) a new-style bus project, with the first project based between Sawston and Duxford. This pilot has cost the Cambridgeshire taxpayer - £120,000 with another £40,000 committed. Since launch only **one** (1) passenger has travelled three times between Sawston and Duxford Station. The traveller didn't even have to buy a ticket as the route hadn't been registered so the journey was free!

The County Council is now going ahead and removing bus subsidies. The schedule of the first tranche of cuts has been published:

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/CMSWebsite/Apps/Committees/Meeting.aspx?meetingID=395>

I've attached the spreadsheet showing which services are at risk. As you can see the No. 18/18A is on the list.

The first tranche will have been discussed at Cabinet on Tuesday (I wasn't able to attend due to work commitments but Tumi can hopefully feedback) – the second tranche which is 2013 (which the 18/18A falls into) will be discussed later in the year and I will be at cabinet to speak on our behalf for this issue when it comes up.

I will be collecting signatures in the village which I will present to Cabinet when the second tranche is discussed in the near future (no date yet) – volunteers to help get signatures would be very welcome!

We have a County-wide on-line petition also available in paper format (attached). It runs until April 2013 in order to capture the first two tranches of cuts.

It's also available to sign on-line:

http://epetition.cambridgeshire.public-i.tv/epetition_core/view/Buses

I can't say emphatically enough that I think we've just seen a genuinely massive lost opportunity - subsidized buses could be strengthened if only our council had an open and inquisitive approach to the whole gamut of community transport operators, whom we could be supporting much more strenuously: and Community Transport operators could then be supporting subsidized bus routes. That's exactly what they are doing in Suffolk. We could have done much to improve subsidized buses, and to begin building a much stronger integrated transport system. Cambs Future Transport, when it works, will barely scratch the surface in terms of rural transport need, and is based on cutting the present subsidy by almost half.

Current proposals for the 18 Friday Night service to run again are ongoing but we have no news yet. We're still waiting to hear from Parishes along the route if they will be happy to co-fund it.

High Speed Broadband

The objectives of the SuperFast project are “to influence and where permitted” intervene in the market to incrementally provide superfast broadband access by 2015 to 90% of all premises in Cambridgeshire, with a mix of Fibre To Cabinet (75%) and Fibre To Premises (25%) as well as better broadband connectivity of up to 2Mbps to the remaining premises, using a combination of optical fibre, 4G and other technologies as appropriate.

Project officers advise that in March (was February so there's slippage already) a formal demand registration process will start that will include direct community engagement via Parish Councils (please note!). Then with 'representative stakeholders' they will identify and prioritise where influence and interventions in the market should take place to bring the benefits of broadband. So – the most effective way for us to assist in hastening the arrival of an improved service will be to ensure a speedy, collective and robust response to the Demand Registration questionnaire as soon as we receive it. Additionally, I am advised that direct contact with BT or other providers can only add to the pressure.

AskSARA

A website offering help and advice to people with a range of day-to-day needs is now available with information localised for people living in Cambridgeshire. It's a self-help guide from the Disabled Living Foundation that enables people to identify equipment that may help them in their daily lives, including info on manufacturers and local suppliers.

Access is via the pages offering

advice about equipment on Cambridgeshire's adult social care website Your Life, Your Choice www.yourlifeyourchoice.org.uk or go straight to:

<http://www.asksara.org.uk/?auth=cambridgeshire>

Street Parties for the Jubilee, Olympics etc

The County Council is keen to encourage local events and street parties, and has added simple guidance to getting a street party road closure on their website at www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/transport/trafficmanagement/events/ontheroad/street_parties.htm. If you don't have internet access, you can call 01223 507176 to arrange this or to discuss any other events that you would like to organise.

Age UK Shopping Service

This service is for Cambridgeshire residents, aged over 60, who are unable to, or may have difficulty in doing their shopping. Many supermarkets now offer online shopping but unless you have a computer you cannot take advantage of this convenient service.

Phone your order to our Shopping Service and we will make all the arrangements, and arrange delivery to your home. There is no commitment to shop every week. Age UK Cambridgeshire makes no charge for this service but supermarket charges for delivery may vary. Enquires and orders can be taken from Monday-Friday between 9-12.30 on 01354 696650.

Pot Holes and Repairs

Tumi and I are both experiencing difficulty getting Highways to fix the problems we are reporting. I have just flagged up Bush Close and Green End (particularly be the Doctors' surgery) for the umpteenth time – both areas really need urgent work.

The Library

We had an excellent meeting recently with FOCAL, Officers from County and the Portfolio Holder David Harty confirming that the Library is safe and looking at the future for the service.

And finally for something good

Madingley Rise remedial work starts on March 26th with the proper work to be carried out for 2-3 weeks from April 2nd. Having witnessed yet another accident with a motorcyclist this morning it can't come soon enough.

If you have any issues that I can help with please don't hesitate to contact me:

By phone: 01954 212725 (h) and 07947 865490 (m) or by email fewhelan@gmail.com

Fiona

Fiona Whelan
Hardwick Division County Councillor

1. Community Grants

1. The Community Chest makes grants of up to £1000 for small capital projects and for one-off revenue projects. The grants will continue to be given this year. For further information about the grants and for information about how to apply, please contact the Partnerships Officer, kathryn.hawkes@scamb.gov.uk or call 01954 713290

2. I am pleased to confirm that I have given my full official support of the Toft application for a community grant for the Toft Village playground improvements. The application is going to the Leaders' meeting for a decision on 15th March 2012.

2. SCDC attains Member Development Charter Status

The official award of the Charter Status for Member Development was made at the full council meeting that took place on 23 February. SCDC will continue to take strides forward to improve on the training it provides to new and existing members. A recent workshop on the use of twitter saw two councillors from Braintree District Council come and share how they use twitter in their council to reach out and be more effective. One of them was the UK's youngest councillor.

3. SCDC Budget for 2012

The SCDC budget for 2012/13 has now been debated at full council. At the meeting, my question (Item 12e) asking the Leader whether due democratic process had been followed was brought forward to be asked before item 7 (the Corporate plan and budget). The Leader stated that the legal officers confirmed it was not in breach. However, he did not comment on the issue of respect for fellow elected members, by announcing budgets to public first, before informing them! Highlights as follows:

- General Fund (GF) Expenditure: £14,692,380
- Formula Grant (FG) £ 5,238,860
- Grant for freezing Council Tax: £ 347,430
- New Homes Bonus: £1,817,000
- Council Tax: £7,019,160

This leaves a hole in the books of £268,530, which the council will be looking to find savings for. This hole increases to £470,000 the following years. The authority currently has no idea where the savings will come from!!

Council tax element for SCDC is frozen for now. Band D properties paying £115.46. The County Council element of the council tax is going up by 2.5%.

SCDC will be taking on a loan (debt) of £205 million at the end of March into the Housing Revenue Account, to use to buy its way out of the noose of central government. It means we can keep all the rents that come from the council housing stock, and use that within South Cambs district as appropriate. The rents will help fund the loan repayments and ongoing maintenance costs of the housing stock, and in time, will have surplus that could be used for housebuilding.

The council is planning on spending £28million on new house building in the future. This is expected to start happening in about 5 years from now when there will be some headroom in the Housing Revenue Account funds, as the council expects to have paid off enough of the loan to enable it to do this.

4. Corporate Values

The Council has also ratified its core values, which have been reduced from the previous five to three. (1) Listening to and engaging with residents, parishes and businesses , (2) working with partners (3) making sure that South Cambridgeshire continues to offer outstanding quality of life. The approaches, actions and performance measures have been spelled out. I would encourage everyone to take note of this aims and remind the council of the relevant ones if and when you have issues that you need to resolve. Residents can download this from this link below:
<http://scambs.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s62301/Corporate%20Plan%20-%20app.pdf>

5. Northstowe

As you would have heard in the news, developers have now submitted the plans for the first phase of the new town of Northstowe. It's a major step, late, and for a much smaller tranche that was first envisaged, 1500 houses, primary school, sports hub, local centre, shops and employment opportunities. SCDC is now consulting and has asked residents to have their say and give their views, as the plans are put to the public this month in Longstanton and Oakington. You can also go online to www.scambs.gov.uk/northstowe. The public consultation closes on 16 April.

6. Broadband Update

South Cambs Council has now decided that Broadband is one of its priority issues, and is looking to work with partners to bring faster broadband to the parts of the district that are not being reached in the normal BT rollout. There will be a survey sometime soon to find out what level of services are being provided currently, with a view to using this in the negotiations with partners. SCDC has also allocated £50,000 in the 2012/13 budget toward this project.

7. 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!

8. Dates for your diary

Tuesday 13 March	2pm-8pm	Northstowe event, Longstanton Pavilion, Over
Saturday 17 March	10am-4pm	
Thursday 15 March	2pm-7pm	Northstowe event, Oakington Methodist Church Chapel
Monday 19 March	2pm-8pm	
28 th March 2012 (Wednesday)	5.30pm	SCDC & Parishes- Roles, Responsibilities and Partnership Working

Tumi

Tumi Hawkins
1-Mar-12

Email me @:	tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk
Follow on twitter:	http://twitter.com/CouncillorTumi
Facebook share:	http://www.facebook.com/itsCouncillorTumi
Read my blog at:	http://www.TumiHawkins.org.uk
Call me on:	01954 210840

Appendix C

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	1764.23	3.77	No more invoices. £28 received from Fasnacloch Estates, £263.43 received from CCC.
Insurance	744.00	744.39	-0.39	No more invoices.
Clerk's salary	1005.00	0.00	1005.00	
Grants (section 137)	614.00	614.00	0.00	No more payments expected
Audit fees	165.00	347.00	-182.00	No more payments. External audit fee higher than usual due to high expenditure on playground
Village asset maintenance	1351.00	495.81	855.19	£119 to be claimed Clerk's expenses. Cambs ACRE inspection fee £92.99 not yet paid
Subscriptions	160.00	285.95	-125.95	SLCC subscription (£61) and Cambridgeshire ACRE subscription (est £26) not yet paid.
Parish Magazine	601.00	1162.00	-561.00	2009, 2010 and 2011 payments
Footpath lighting	214.00	132.30	81.70	Power only paid. No further invoices expected. Budget anticipated invoice for maintenance, now to be covered by SCDC.
Miscellaneous and expenses	150.00	191.24	-41.24	Includes VH rental. £130 Clerk's expenses to be claimed
Income other than precept	-8.00	-86.67	78.67	Allotment fees, interest
To reserves	284.00			
Total	7048.00	5650.25		

Bank balances	Current account:	741.20
	Deposit account:	9293.47