

Kingston Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held at 8.00pm on 14 March 2013

Present:

Tim Fitzjohn (TF) (Chairman)
Julie Conder (JCo)
Katherine Stalham (KS)
James Clear (JCI)
Peter Stokes, Clerk
Tumi Hawkins, District Councillor (TH)
Fiona Whelan, County Councillor (FW)
Peter Fane, Lib-Dem candidate for County Councillor

1. Apologies

Simon Draper

2. Minutes of last meeting

Accepted

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1. **3.1 Signatories for internet banking system:** all members except TF are now able to use the internet banking system. Clerk to contact Tim to arrange a session to try and resolve the problem. **Action: Clerk.**
- 3.2. **3.2 Workday at playground:** set for 6 April.
- 3.3. **10.1 New chairman for Playground User Group:** KS reported she has been unable to find an interested person for this role. Agreed to encourage parents of playground users in Kingston to take active involvement with the playground and maintenance of contact with KPC to report problems, suggest improvements etc. **Action: Clerk.**
- 3.4. **3.6.1 and 4.2 Speeding through village and application for funding under Local Minor Highways Improvements scheme:** the Clerk reported that a useful meeting had been held between Karen Lunn of CCC Highways Department, SD and the Clerk. See Appendix A for a full report on this meeting. The Clerk has since chased Karen regarding funding for the speed bumps, but this has not yet been actioned by Karen. FW advised that reorganisation in the Highways Department may mean that Karen Lunn's job disappears, so we should continue to chase. **Action: Clerk.**
- 3.5. **4.3 Turning right into Crane's Lane:** see para 5 of Appendix A.
- 3.6. **4.4 Website feature with tradesmen recommendations:** JCo reported that this is now up and running.

4. Correspondence

- 4.1. **Email from Chris Reid regarding noise nuisance at the playground.** It is understood that a meeting is being arranged privately between Chris Reid and Andrew Bedford. It was agreed that no further action would be taken until the outcome of the meeting is known.
- 4.2. **Email from Joanne Gray, CCC re Open July** inviting us to organise an event as part of the 'Open July' initiative. It was agreed to hold a summer party on the Orchard on either 6 or 13 July.
- 4.3. **Letter from Kingston PCC** thanking KPC for financial support.
- 4.4. **Letter from Andrew Crawshaw** re clipping of hedge.

- 4.5. **Email from Paul Darrington** to SD about nuisance noise from 'gas gun' bird scarers. SD advised Paul details of guidelines for the operation of gas guns and advised him to contact the farmer responsible. The Clerk has obtained advice from SCDC to the effect that the NFU can be contacted and has passed this information on to Paul Darrington. JCI advised that the gas guns heard around the village were not his, but reminded the meeting that emerging crops are being devastated by birds, and farmers need to take what action they can to discourage birds.

5. County Councillor's report

- 5.1. Anglian Water are carrying out a survey to identify areas prone to flooding.
- 5.2. CCC are also becoming more involved in looking for flood problem areas and we are invited to contact Jennifer Gough with any known problem areas. Agreed that we will contact her to report problems in Crane's Lane and at Toft bridge.
Action: Clerk.
- 5.3. Meetings have been held about local bus services. Discussions have been focussing on Demand Responsive Transport based solutions. No decisions have been taken.
- 5.4. Fiona Whelan announced that she will not be standing for re-election as our County Councillor due to family pressures. She is happy to help her successor, and willing to attend both the KPC meeting and the Parish Meeting in May. All present thanked Fiona for her hard work on our behalf during her period in office.

6. District Councillor's report

- 6.1. The owners of Summerhill have appealed to the Secretary of State regarding refusal of their planning application to SCDC. It was agreed that KPC would reiterate the objection previously made together with the previously-stated grounds of the objection. Clerk to draft a letter and circulate it for comments/approval. **Action: Clerk.**
- 6.2. For the full report see Appendix B.

7. Community Plan report

- 7.1. Responses to the second survey have been received and analysed.
- 7.2. A meeting will be held next week to look at the data and discuss how they are to be presented, and the next actions required to achieve the Community Plan.
- 7.3. A report will be presented to the next parish council meeting.

8. Village Hall upgrade project

- 8.1. KS has various fundraising ideas involving children.
- 8.2. Chris Reid has made a grant application to the Big Lottery Fund.
- 8.3. Other grant applications need majority of funding to be secured.
- 8.4. The FaBrick scheme is nearly ready – waiting for Gift Aid option to be incorporated.
- 8.5. Planning permission has been granted.
- 8.6. It is believed that the detailed drawings are now being produced by the architect. When these are completed selected builders will be invited to tender.
- 8.7. The latest draft agreement between KPC and KVMC to provide a grant was agreed. SD is requested to arrange for signing of the agreement. **Action: SD.**

9. Open Spaces report

A work day was held at the Orchard in January at which trees were pruned, dead trees removed, 3 new trees planted and general tidying carried out.

10. Clerk's report

10.1. **Bi-monthly report:** previously circulated – see Appendix C.

10.2. **Invoices for payment:**

10.2.1. Kingston Village Hall hire fees £180.00: approved for payment

10.2.2. Clerk's expenses 12/01/2013 – 31/03/2013 £2.75: approved for payment

10.2.3. The Clerk informed the meeting that, as already advised, due to his error in setting up payments, his salary has been paid gross instead of net. This applies to all monthly salary payments since April 2013. Income tax has been correctly paid to HMRC by KPC, which should therefore have paid the salary net of income tax. The Clerk has corrected the error by paying his income tax for the year (£211.20) to KPC. This action for dealing with the error was agreed.

10.2.4. The Clerk advised that he has entered the receipt of £211.20 as a 'negative payment' in the Clerk's Salary section of the cash book so that this section balances correctly to budget at the year end. This action for dealing with the payment was agreed.

10.2.5. It was agreed that the monthly payments for the Clerk's salary and PAYE to HMRC for 2013/14 could be set up as standing orders as previously.

10.3. **Playground inspections:** The most recent monthly inspection reports holes in the far goal net. It was also noted that the willow tunnel needs attention. It was agreed that these tasks would be added to the programme of work to be carried out on 6 May (see item 3.2).

10.4. **RoSPA and Cambridgeshire ACRE inspections:** it was agreed that the 3 quarterly inspections by Cambridgeshire ACRE would be discontinued on the understanding that the monthly inspections and the annual RoSPA inspection will continue.

10.5. **Local Green Areas:** the Clerk has made a submission to SCDC suggesting that the following green areas in the village be designated LGAs: the Village Green (at the crossroads), Field Road Green, the Orchard, and the Recreation Ground.

10.6. **Cambridge Future Transport working group:** Kingston's representatives have attended meetings and a report appeared in the February parish magazine. See also item 5.3.

11. Planning

11.1. **S/2629/12/FL and S/2630/12/LB Extensions and alterations at Gamekeeper's Cottage:** permission has been granted.

11.2. **S/0297/13/VC Variation of planning permission at The Old Rectory:** agreed by SD and the Clerk to respond 'no recommendation' on 01/03/2013 under Standing Order 13.3. The earlier decision was confirmed.

11.3. **S/2624/12/LB Retrospective application to demolish wall at The Old Rectory:** agreed by SD and the Clerk to respond 'no recommendation' on 12/01/2013 under Standing Order 13.3. The earlier decision was confirmed. Permission to demolish the wall has since been refused.

11.4. **S/0095/13/FL Two storey extension at Tollfields:** permission has been granted.

- 11.5. **S/2512/12/LB Amendments to kitchen layout at The Old Rectory:** agreed by SD and the Clerk to respond 'no recommendation' on 22/01/2013 under Standing Order 13.3. The earlier decision was confirmed.
- 11.6. **S/2421/12/FL Single storey extension at Kingston Village Hall** (amended 16/01/2013): Permission has been granted.
- 11.7. **S1814/12/FL Application to demolish existing house and rebuild with two houses at Summerhill:** the applicant has appealed – see item 6.1.
- 11.8. **S/0552/12/FL Meteorological mast at land off Ermine Way, Arrington:** the applicant has appealed to the Secretary of State.
- 11.9. **S/2567/12/FL Kingston Barns:** permission has been granted for an amendment to the earlier proposal to convert a barn to holiday accommodation.
- 11.10. **S/2453/12/FL 3, Crane's Lane:** permission has been granted for vehicular access and on-plot parking.

12. Date of next meeting: 9 May 2013

Meeting ended at 22:00.

Signed.....

Date.....

Notes on a meeting between Kingston Parish Council and Cambridgeshire County Council on 5 February 2013

1. Present

Kingston Parish Council (KPC): Simon Draper (SD), Peter Stokes (PS)
Cambridgeshire County Council: Karen Lunn (KL), Area Traffic Engineer

2. Purpose

The meeting was a site meeting to discuss various options to address the problem of traffic speeding through the village. All the sites mentioned below were visited. Kingston has no pavements and in places the roads through the village are narrow. Traffic frequently speeds through the village presenting a danger of collisions between vehicles, including those parked at the roadside, and also danger to pedestrians.

3. Bourn Road

- 3.1. There is already a known problem of vehicles arriving too fast at the crossroads, and sometimes even over-shooting into Field Road.
- 3.2. An application has already been made by KPC for funding under the Minor Highways Improvements scheme for a 40mph buffer zone between Tinkersfield and the start of the 30mph zone in an attempt to reduce this problem.
- 3.3. KL pointed out that the existing 'Give Way' sign on the approach to the crossroads would normally be more correctly positioned nearer the junction. However it was agreed it should remain in its present position to avoid being obscured by vehicles parked outside The Old School House.
- 3.4. KL suggested that an additional, advance 'Give Way' sign, with distance plate, would probably help to slow vehicles down as they approach the crossroads. Agreed that KPC would add this to the application for the 40mph buffer zone and email to Karen. **Action: PS.**

4. Church Lane

- 4.1. KPC would like to install a broad-top sleeping policeman of the type seen at the southern approach to Hardwick, complete with appropriate road markings and warning signs, to slow down traffic entering the village from the North.
- 4.2. KL suggested that the preferred location for this would be a short distance inside the 30mph zone, under the first street light.

5. Tinker's Lane

- 5.1. KPC would also like to install a sleeping policeman as in 4.1 above at this entrance to the village. It was agreed that a suitable position for this would be outside Town Farm as housing is sparse before this point.
- 5.2. There is also a problem at this end of the village of the safety of traffic travelling southwards and turning right into Crane's Lane. Visibility of approaching traffic from the Eversden direction is poor due to a bend. If approaching traffic is speeding, this increases the danger of a collision.
- 5.3. It was agreed that a 'road junction ahead' sign positioned on Tinker's Lane facing traffic from Eversden, just before Netscroft, and a short distance beyond the sleeping policeman, would help to mitigate this problem as the junction is not easily visible.

6. General

- 6.1. It was agreed that KL would investigate possible sources of funding for the sleeping policemen and the junction sign and advise KPC of the outcome of this. **Action: KL.**
- 6.2. It was noticed that at some points vegetation protrudes into the highway, which may reduce sight lines or discourage drivers from keeping in to their side of the road. In particular hedges or border plants outside The Old Farmhouse, Tinkersfield and Carey Hill were examples of this. Agreed that Peter Stokes would approach the owners to ask them to trim or clip the vegetation as necessary. **Action: PS.**

South Cambridgeshire District Councillor's Monthly Report

March 2013

1. SCDC Local Development Plan - Update

The second consultation closed on Monday 18th February 2013 5pm. The results are now being collated. Further to that, we have had two workshops for the councillors, where we've discussed some of the outcomes of the first consultation. Some of the key issues discussed include the criteria on delivering high quality homes-e.g. housing mix, village frameworks, exception sites etc. Also discussed issues on what types of new employment to provide for, employment buildings, tourist attractions and accommodation and how we protect village amenities (such as pubs, shops etc.). Provision for Gypsy and travellers was also discussed. There will be further discussions in the next month or so, and I hope to be able to give you more details as time goes on.

2. Finance – Council Tax

Unfortunately, it's a bit of bad news on this one. At the full council meeting that took place on Thursday 28th, the council approved a 4% rise in SCDC element of the council tax for the year 2013/14. For a Band D property, this equates to £120.46. This will be on top of the increase in any parish precept. The vote was carried at 33 for, 10 against and 1 abstention. This is unfortunate, considering the higher costs of living that we are all facing and the squeezed incomes. The opposition put in a proposal asking that the council tax be frozen again this year, and the shortfall be made up from the £7m reserves that the council currently sits on but this proposal was defeated by the ruling conservatives.

The Band D figures for the Ward are as follows (the full council tax includes the parish precept)

	Parish Precept	County/District/Fire/Police Precept
Caldecote	£120.84	£1583.56
Kingston	£70.85	£1533.57
Toft	£71.43	£1534.15

The average parish precept in the district is £73.55, the Caldecote figure is surprisingly the highest in the district. The average Band D council tax for the district is £1,536.27 of which £177.93 goes to the Police Authority, £64.26 to Fire Authority, £1,100.07 to County and £120.46 to District and £73.55 to Parish. Based on this, the council tax goes from £975.15 for Band A to £3167.12 for Band H.

Grants Review

SCDC Leader, Cllr Ray Manning, at his portfolio holder meeting in February, approved cuts to the grants budget for the next municipal year. Although the Leader agreed to have consultations, he chose unsurprisingly to ignore the useful suggestions that came out of it. So much for being a listening council!

Upshot is that

1. funding for capital grants has been axed . There will be no grants from SCDC as from 1st April 2013. There is still some money in the pot, and any groups needing a grant should get their applications in to Joseph Minutolo by 28 February 2013. The community chest grants program will continue.
2. The CAB have a 2 year reprieve before their grant is removed
3. the grant that has supported the st-art programme (www.start-arts.org.uk) at our local village colleges has been removed though the Leader made a one off payment of £40 000 to give them breathing space.

The grantfinder service is still available from SCDC for assisting communities to search for grants nationwide. Contact Joseph Minutolo directly, or me and I will do my best to support the application.

3. SCDC Business Support Service and Fund

This is the last month that the SCDC Business Support Fund will be available. It ends on **29 March 2013**.

The timetable for the remaining workshops is at the end of my report.

To book a workshop place or find if you or your business qualifies for a grant, call 0844 346 0755 (Mon-Fri) or email southcambsbusinesssupport@examplas.com or visit www.exemplas.com/southcambs.

4. Youth Council Launched

The South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) Youth Council was formally launched on Wednesday 23rd January 2013. The Council received nominations from young people from across the district, and though 20 places were available, only 15 of them have been filled. The Youth Council will give young people in the district a chance to have a voice and to influence the decisions taken by the Council which will ultimately affect the development of their neighbourhoods. See article on my blog at <http://bit.ly/10MzGMS>

5. South Cambs Magazine

The delivery of the spring edition of the SCDC residents' magazine started on Saturday 23 February and was supposedly completed Sunday 10 March. If you have not received your copy by now, please contact me. You can also call the delivery contractor PDC directly on 01904 606300 or customerservice@teampdc.co.uk, but if you do that, then we won't know about it.

6. Environmental Services

SCDC has decided to increase the fees it charges for some of its Environmental Health services. For example, additional or replacement black, green or blue bins will now be charged £69.50 (formerly £63.50). Stray dog kennelling fees have gone up from £12 to £15 and Pest Control fees have also increased. Reason for increase is that charges will contribute to the efficient and cost effective delivery of a range of council services that impact directly on people's safety and health. List of revised charges can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/EnvChg>

Trial textile and shoe recycling collection service

A new textile recycling trial started at the end of January in South Cambridgeshire in an attempt to collect textiles and shoes and stop them ending up in landfill. Households in Bar Hill, **Childerley**, Chittering, Dry Drayton, Knapwell, Landbeach, Longstanton, Swavesey and Waterbeach are in the trial. SCDC will roll it out to the rest of the district if the trial proves successful.

7. Broadband – Connecting Cambridgeshire

The contract for this project which was awarded to BT in February 2013, and the contract was signed on 8th March 2013. We don't know in what order the rollout will happen, so keep those registrations coming in to give us a good chance in getting it first. Please encourage your neighbours and friends to register or call me if they need assistance.

8. Local Issues

Planning Appeal: The planning inspectorate has confirmed it has received an appeal relating to the refusal by SCDC of the application S/1814/12/FL to build two houses at Summerhill. Anyone who wishes to make comments to the planning inspector can do so by writing to the Planning Inspectorate or online at <http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/planning/planninginspectorate>, ref APP/W0530/A/13/2191146.

9. 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!

10. Councillor Drop-in surgery

Thank you to those who have dropped into talk to us at the councillor drop-in surgeries held jointly with County Councillor Fiona Whelan. The next surgeries will take place as follows

Kingston Village Hall: second Thursdays of every other month, next on 9th May 2013, 7pm – 8pm

Toft People's Hall: first Mondays of every month, next 1st April 2013, 6pm – 7pm
Caldecote Village Hall: first Thursdays of the month, next on 4th April 2013 7pm – 8pm

11. Dates for your diary

29 March 2013		Good Friday (Council offices closed)
1 April 2013		Easter Monday (Council offices closed)
3 April 2013	10am	Planning Committee
4 April 2013	7pm-8pm	Councillor Surgery, Caldecote Village Hall
8 April 2013	6pm-7pm	Councillor Surgery, Toft People's Hall
25 April 2013	2pm	Full Council meeting
2 May 2013	7am -10pm	County Council Elections
9 May 2013	7pm-8pm	Councillor Surgery, Kingston Village Hall
20 March 2013	1 pm-4 pm	Exemplas Workshop "Finding and Keeping Customers"
20 March 2013	4.30pm – 7 pm	Exemplas Workshop "Business Networking"

Tumi

Tumi Hawkins
14-Mar-13

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Follow on twitter:	http://twitter.com/CouncillorTumi
Facebook share:	http://www.facebook.com/itsCouncillorTumi
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Read my blog at:	http://www.TumiHawkins.org.uk
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Appendix C

Financial report 11 Mar 2013

N.B. All figures exclude VAT

Item	Budget 2012-13 £	Expenditure YTD £	Budget minus expenditure YTD £	
Grass and Hedge cutting	1856.00	2016.51	-160.51	No more invoices expected, payments now received from CCC (£262.43) and Fasnacloich Estates (£28)
Insurance	744.00	744.39	-0.39	No more invoices expected
Clerk's salary	1057.00	951.28	105.72	Salary has been paid gross each month, instead of net. Clerk has paid 12 months PAYE to KPC as a lump sum (£211.20) to bring this item back to budget.
Grants (section 137)	1496.00	1690.66	-194.66	Part costs of Jubilee party. See separate report for breakdown
Audit fees	169.00	160.00	9.00	
Village asset maintenance	3350.00	2969.38	380.62	
Subscriptions	202.00	170.45	31.55	
Parish Magazine	400.00	400.00	0.00	No more invoices expected
Footpath lighting	139.00	108.65	30.35	
Miscellaneous and expenses	250.00	173.07	76.93	
Income other than precept	-114.00	-1064.51	950.51	SCDC Grant, interest, allotment rents
To reserves				
Total	9549.00	8319.88		

Bank balances	Current account:	£1,252.74	
	Deposit account:	£5,553.27	