

Kingston Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held at 8.00pm on 14 November 2013

Present:

Simon Draper, Chairman (SD)
Tim Fitzjohn (TF)
Julie Conder (JCo)
Katherine Stalham (KS)
James Clear (JCI)
Peter Stokes, Clerk
Stephen Frost, CCC

1. Apologies

Katherine Stalham, Tumi Hawkins

2. Minutes of last meeting

Accepted

3. Matters Arising

- 3.1. **2 First Responder scheme:** The agreed payment of £325 has been made, and an item appeared in the November issue of the Parish Magazine. Mark Taylor has promised to give us regular updates.
- 3.2. **5.2.3 Speeding through village:** the police have replied through Alex Giltinane to our request for a further attempt at speed measurement at the North end of the village, to say that it has not been possible due to electrical interference from overhead cables. Agreed that they should again be asked to measure speeds at the north end, if necessary using other methods that are not susceptible to electrical interference.

4. Correspondence

- 4.1. **Letter from SCDC re parish precepts and estimated tax base:** the grant paid by SCDC last year to offset the reduction in precept paid due to changes in payment of welfare benefits will not be paid this year. Clerk to copy to JCo. Precept will be set at January meeting. **Action: Clerk.**
- 4.2. **Letter from Kingston PCC requesting increase in parish magazine grant:** agreed to increase the grant to £470.
- 4.3. **Email from CCC re protected verges:** CCC are now to cut protected verges once again, so it was agreed to delete this from the specification of grass- and hedge-cutting for next season.
- 4.4. **Letter from SD and representatives from seven other local parish councils re developments at Bourn Airfield:** for information only.
- 4.5. **Request for financial support from Victim Support:** agreed that KPC will not support this charity nor – in general – any request for support from charities, as its priority is spending money in a way which benefits parish residents.

5. County Councillor's report

- 5.1. A new cycleway is to be provided between Shepreth and Foxton using new funding provided in August. Cllr Frost to find out if KPC could apply for funding from this source to provide a cycleway between Kingston and Toft, to link up with the cycleway from there to Comberton and Cambridge. Stephen Frost to investigate and advise. **Action: Stephen Frost.**
- 5.2. See appendix A for full report.

6. District Councillor's report

- 6.1. Tumi Hawkins advises us that Cambridgeshire County Council has agreed to keep Bus No 18 running from Cambridge to Gamlingay and back. The service will continue to run every hour through Toft and Kingston, Monday to Saturday. No 18A however will not be coming back.
- 6.2. See Appendix B for full report.

7. Community Plan report

- 7.1. The first draft is now complete and was presented to the parish council for comments.
- 7.2. It has not yet been submitted to Linda Brown at SCDC for comments.

8. Village Hall upgrade project

In the absence of KS it was noted that:

- 8.1. there has been a meeting of a small group to agree the design for the kitchen
- 8.2. the decision on the WREN grant application is expected at the end of November.

9. Open Spaces report

- 9.1. No report

10. Clerk's report

- 10.1. Bi-monthly report: previously circulated. See Appendix C.
- 10.2. In response to a query from the Clerk, the auditors PKF Littlejohn have clarified that the upper threshold for 'zero fee' audit is £10,000 for both income and expenditure i.e. if either is over £10,000 a fee is payable.
- 10.3. Invoices for payment:
 - 10.3.1. Buchan's Landscapes, grasscutting in September £461.39 agreed for payment.
 - 10.3.2. SLCC subscription £64.00 agreed for payment.
 - 10.3.3. PKF Littlejohn, audit fee £120 agreed for payment.
- 10.4. The Clerk reported that Santander bank has restored on-line banking with the facility to carry out transactions. He has used this to carry out a transfer between accounts, which he was able to do without other authorisations (previously two authorisations were needed, as for payments). Although this is an acceptable procedure, permitted by law and by KPC financial regulations, it would not be acceptable if payments could also be carried out in this way. It was agreed that he would further test the new facility with a payment, and if the payment was completed without the need for further authorisations, he would stop using the facility as the law requires that payments are authorised by at least two councillors. We will in that case revert to paper banking until the issue for online banking could be resolved.
- 10.5. Dates for meetings in 2014 were agreed – see Appendix D.
- 10.6. CCC are inviting bids for grants under the 2014 Local Highway Improvement Initiative. Agreed that KPC will apply for a grant for asphalt speed cushions at the north and south entrances to the village, and a warning sign for the Crane's Lane junction for traffic approaching from the south. **Action: Clerk.**

11. Planning

- 11.1. **S/0552/12/FL Temporary meteorological mast at land off Ermine Way, Arrington:** the appeal has been dismissed.
- 11.2. **S/1988/13/FL Erection of replacement dwelling and garage, Kingston Wood Farm Cottages:** application has been granted.

11.3. **S/1083/13/FL Demolition of existing dwelling and garage and erection of replacement dwelling and garage:** application has been granted.

11.4. **C/11/40/04851/13 Tree work at Tranquil, Rectory Lane:** agreed to respond 'no comment'.

12. **Date of next meeting:** 9 January 2014

Meeting ended at 22:10.

Signed.....

Date.....

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR STEPHEN FROST

COUNTY COUNCIL GEARS UP FOR WINTER

The County Council has geared up for gritting and winter maintenance operations to ensure the wheels keep turning across Cambridgeshire when the cold weather strikes. The council has more than 10,000 tonnes of salt stockpiled across the county with a further 6,000 tonnes in reserve. Arrangements to top up supplies as necessary are also in place.

A dry run gritting operation was held on 22 October to give the teams involved a chance to check their preparedness before the official start of the winter gritting season. There are 38 gritters and specialist gritting plant in Cambridgeshire's winter maintenance fleet and all depots are fully stocked with salt. Officers are confident that we are ready for winter and will once again aim to keep Cambridgeshire moving.

Local County Councillor Stephen Frost, said: "We have done everything we can within the resources available to us to ensure we are as prepared as possible for the winter weather - whenever it arrives. "But I would remind all road users and pedestrians that they have a responsibility to take care and to keep traffic moving by taking account of the weather and by avoiding any unnecessary accidents caused by inappropriate driving or speed in winter conditions."

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TRANSPORT STRATEGY FOR CAMBRIDGE AND SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

The consultation on the draft Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire has concluded, with around 1,000 responses being received. It ran alongside the consultations on Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council's draft Local Plans. The responses are being analysed and changes to the Strategy will be made to reflect feedback, with a view to taking the final strategy to Cabinet for adoption at the beginning of March. The Strategy will provide support to the submission of the draft Local Plans and outline the key improvements needed to ensure that the transport network can accommodate future growth.

Local County Councillor Stephen Frost, said: "It is important that we set the right strategy for or transport infrastructure, especially as South Cambridgeshire continues to have rapid growth."

A14

A series of public exhibitions has taken place and the Highways Agency attended a number of Parish meetings to discuss their proposals. Feedback on the option that was consulted on will help inform a preferred scheme alignment that will feed into the preparation of draft orders and commencement of the planning process. A member of the Council's Communications team has been invited to take part in the Highways Agency's Communications Board to shape future engagement.

At present, the Highways Agency is targeting the end of 2016 for the scheme to start. The current design process is focussed on value engineering the scheme to reduce costs and accelerate delivery. Some significant improvements have already been made to the designs, particularly around the key junctions.

Local County Councillor Stephen Frost, said: "We have all waited a long time for the A14 to be upgraded. I hope that the projected finish date of 2019 will not be as far away as it appears. We certainly all need this upgrade."

CYCLE CITY AMBITION GRANT

Work will start in November on providing a new cycle way alongside the A10 between Shepreth and Foxton. This will be the first scheme to be delivered with the funding that was awarded in August.

Local County Councillor Stephen Frost, said: "I hope we can all benefit to some degree from this grant. There are many opportunities for cycle paths in and around villages that can have links to Cambridge."

LOCAL HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE

Community groups are now being invited to submit their proposals for next year's Local Highway Improvement Initiative. Applicants can seek up to a maximum of £10,000 from the Council as a contribution to their scheme. This could include minor improvements for as little as £500. The applicant is expected to provide a contribution towards their project of at least 10%. A panel of County Councillors will assess the applications in January, with the works commencing after April. This year over 60 projects are being progressed under this initiative, delivering real benefit to local communities.

Local County Councillor Stephen Frost, said: "This County division has benefitted from such grants in the past. It is an excellent way of improving an area that is driven by local need."

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REVIEW OF CORONOR'S SERVICES

The Resources and Performance Overview and Scrutiny Committee has expressed an interest in the Coroner's Service, mainly due to recent legislative changes following implementation of The Coroners and Justice Act 2009, and is currently in the first stage of completing a review. The Committee are currently working with the support of the Senior Scrutiny Officer to look at the relevant issues, before taking the matter back to the Committee on 3 December, with a final report due to be presented to Cabinet in March..

REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR STEPHEN FROST

South Cambridgeshire District Councillor's Monthly Report

November 2013

1. SCDC Local Development Plan Consultation update

The consultation ended on 14-October, and the Council states it received “around 8000” responses. These are now being processed and anyone who submitted a response either online or on paper should receive an acknowledgement. The Council expects the responses to be available to view online by the end of November, and does not expect to make any decisions on next steps until the New Year.

It would seem that some developers have proposed alternatives to Bourn Airfield but we should find out more over the coming months.

Thank you to everyone who sent in a response. We now wait to see what the administration will do, particularly with respect to the Bourn Airfield Development. I would encourage everyone to read the StopBAD response here at <http://bit.ly/StopBADdoc> - it makes for interesting reading.

You can read my response to the consultation at <http://bit.ly/TH-LDP1310> and includes comments about Bourn Airfield and Bennell Farm proposals.

2. Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire

SCDC response to this consultation includes the statement “Support the Transport Strategy as supporting evidence for the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan and in particular for the strategic site allocations and the preference for new settlements rather than dispersed village development in terms of maximising use of public transport”.

This is all the more worrying considering that the TSCSC proposals are seriously deficient and obviously flawed. The plan has no provision for extra road capacity and assumes that those living on the planned new settlements will always travel by bus or cycle or walk, that a bus lane can be squeezed onto the A1303 etc. The TSCSC also does not carry the same level of statutory weight at the SCDC plan, so in reality, Cambridgeshire County Council can ditch this version of the TSCSC and potentially leave SCDC in a pickle! Eric Pickles will surely have something to say about that!!

But SCDC has covered its back by also stating in its response that “the District Council will continue to work closely with the County Council to support the delivery of Local Plan allocations, including enabling the provision of major off-site transport infrastructure, particularly for Waterbeach new town and Bourn Airfield new village/Cambourne West, e.g. through City Deal.” So there we have it, they know for a fact there is a problem with the TSCSC, and are pinning hopes on the City Deal to resolve it.

You can read my response to the consultation at <http://bit.ly/TSCSC1310TH>.

3. A14 Improvement Scheme by Highways Agency

The consultation by the Highways Agency ended on 13-October. The main issue for a lot of people and the press, is about the idea of implementing a toll section from Swavesey to Ellington. There is serious opposition to it, and I tend to agree that there should be no toll on that route and that the government should not be designating the alternative route as the A1-A428. Bonkers really, considering what SCDC is planning for the A428 corridor.

I submitted a response which you can read at <http://bit.ly/A14Response1310>, in which I reiterated the need for the A428-M11 a movement to relieve congestion on the A1301 Madingley Road, removal of toll or limiting what local people pay, and the dualling of the A428 from Caxton Gibbett to St Neots – in the light of the SCDC local plan proposals. As I wrote in my blog at <http://bit.ly/CCCA14Blunder>, I think Cambs County missed an opportunity here to help residents living in the villages along the A428 corridor.

4. Transport – Demand Responsive, Bus Nos 18 & 2

Good news – Cambridgeshire County Council has agreed to keep Bus No 18 running from Cambridge to Gamlingay and back. The service will continue to run every hour through Toft and Kingston, Monday to Saturday. No 18A however will not be coming back.

This is very welcome news indeed, as I and your local transport representatives in particular Cllr Mrs Dolman and Alan Quick have been working with the county and district councils to get a bus service that is fit for purpose. I am also thrilled that the County council took heed of my request back in July 2013 when I submitted the bus petition to the County cabinet and asked the county to give us our buses back if they couldn't get the CFT (Cambridgeshire Future Transport) project up again. You can read about it here at <http://bit.ly/CFT0713>. Looks like not only is the CFT back up and running in some form, we also have No. 18 service back! Hurray!!

The first CFT meeting for Area E, which includes the Bus No 2 that runs through Caldecote, is taking place on Friday 15th November 2013. The purpose is to try and work out the best solution not just for the existing service, but for any alternatives that can be identified.

The overall strategy is to have Stagecoach/Whippet run the hourly service on the fixed routes, and have a Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) service that links to the main scheduled service. The DRT service will operate within an area of operation called the “Roam Zone” (RZ). It will run a fixed timetable at peak times, in particular the mornings/late afternoons, and after that provide a demand service where people can book the journeys to where they want to go, anywhere within the RZ. It means that people can connect with other scheduled services in other parts of the RZ, giving a greater flexibility for transport.

The Stagecoach 18 timetable is expected to commence in January 2014, and the DRT service in April 2014. The existing services will continue until the new ones have been put in place. The RZ area, timetables for both the 18 service and the DRT fixed service will be published once they have been agreed and signed off. The final route for No. 2 will be announced as and when that decision is made, hopefully in the next few months.

Thank you to everyone who has filled in a transport consultation form (probably more than once), submitted responses, contacted me directly with their concerns and suggestions. The SCDC officer in charge has been very helpful indeed and this outcome shows what can be done with concerted team effort and engagement from those who need and want the service.

5. Superfast Broadband – Connecting Cambridgeshire

Following on from my previous report, the information on the ‘My Area’ roll-over map on www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/parish/kingston has been updated. It states that some premises are already covered by BT's commercial rollout plans (if anyone believes that!). For the remaining, it states “*superfast broadband is forecast to be available in your area between September 2014 and September 2015 over more than one phase*” That is good as it gets for now.

It is useful to note that Cambridgeshire County has secured over £4.6m extra funding to enable a programme to offer a countywide package of support to hundreds of small and medium sized businesses. Work has already begun on setting up the new **support for business scheme** which will be launched in January 2014 and is expected to offer match funded grants and one-off payments for eligible companies to upgrade their connections and invest in digital technologies. Watch out for updates and specifics.

6. SCDC Community Awards scheme - reminder

The Community awards scheme for 2013/14 will open for nominations sometime in November 2013.

Proposed categories are as follows –

-
- (1) **Village Hero** - Celebrating individuals who have made significant contribution to their local community
 - (2) **Young Village Hero** - Celebrating individuals aged 17 or under who have made a significant contribution to their local community
 - (3) **Community Pride** - Local Services Award - Recognising the significant contribution to community services, by local people, for local people, e.g. community run shops, post offices or libraries
 - (4) **Community Pride - Environmental Award** - Recognising projects or groups that have improved the local environment for the benefit of the community, e.g. eco-projects, litter/graffiti removal schemes
 - (5) **Community Pride - Health and Well being Award** - Recognising projects or groups that have contributed to the health and wellbeing of the local community, e.g. mobile warden, befriending or local transport schemes. This would exclude schemes run by national organisations.

7. Housing – Count of rough sleepers

The Council will again be trying to achieve a snap shot of the number of people sleeping rough in the district on the evening, **overnight between 18th/19th November 2013**. The council is asking for help from parish councils, local people and the local Community Police Officers so it will be helpful to them to know exactly where the rough sleeper is located to prevent double counting.

The definition of a rough sleeper is as follows:

People sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or actually bedded down in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments). People in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or “bashes”).

Please contact Charles Clay on charles.clay@scamb.gov.uk or call 01954 713274 to notify the housing department of anyone sleeping rough that evening.

8. TKA Tallent – new planning application to redevelop site S/1020/13/FL

This application which was deferred last month went back to planning committee this week to be determined. The applicant's agent had discussions with the planning and environmental services officers to agree on the details of the planning conditions for the development.

I took part in the discussions, as I was concerned about the noise and vibration conditions. I had to put my foot down regarding the minimum vibration levels we would accept, and the applicant agreed to the absolute minimum threshold that the British Standards set, rather than a slightly higher level that the applicant's agents were suggesting.

This was of particular concern because though theory states that at a particular vibration level there is very low likelihood of impact on nearby houses, in real life, there are conditions that could make those levels high, and clay soil which is the type of soil in the Caldecote area, is one of those! We hope there will be no need for enforcement as the proposed new building is being designed carefully to be fit for purpose, but if there was a problem then there's a better chance of dealing with it properly.

9. Casework

Your Councillor is here to help you. Please do feel free to contact me with comments, questions, problems, reports, suggestions or complaints to do with SCDC services (housing, planning, benefits, council tax, bin collection etc). 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

This normally takes on the first Monday of every month 6pm – 7pm at Toft People's Hall, and first Thursday of every month, 7pm – 8pm at the Caldecote Village Hall, small meeting room. However, I will be taking a

break in December, which means the **next surgeries are on Monday 7th January is on Thursday 9th January 2014**. In the meantime, if you need my assistance please contact me in the usual ways.

11. Dates for your diary

November 2013		Nominations open for SCDC Community Awards
19 November 2013	9am	SCDC Cabinet meeting
4 December 2013	10am	SCDC Planning Committee Meeting
25 December 2013		Christmas Day, SCDC offices closed
26 December 2013		Boxing Day, SCDC offices closed
1 January 2013		New Year Day, SCDC offices closed
7 January 2014	6pm-7pm	Councillor Surgery Toft People's Hall
9 January 2014	7pm-8pm	Councillor Surgery Caldecote Village Hall

As this is the last report for the year, I wish to take this opportunity to wish the Parish Council and everyone in Kingston a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tumi

Tumi Hawkins
14-November-13

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

Financial report 08 Nov 2013

N.B. All figures exclude VAT

Item	Budget 2013-14 £	Expenditure YTD £	Budget minus expenditure YTD £	
Grass and Hedge cutting	2017	1800.70	216.30	
Insurance	744	677.13	66.87	
Clerk's salary	1089	544.50	544.21	
Grants (section 137)	649	325.00	323.90	
Village Hall upgrade	800	2076.25	-1276.25	
Audit fees	45	40.00	5.00	
Village asset maintenance	1000	74.00	926.00	
Subscriptions	304	95.44	208.56	
Parish Magazine	400	0.00	400.00	
Footpath lighting	112	0.00	112.27	
Miscellaneous and expenses	165	88.80	76.20	
Income other than precept	-115	-63.61	-51.39	Interest + allotments
Total	7210	5658.21		

Bank balances	Current account:	£522.28	
	Deposit account:	£11,786.88	2nd instalment of precept received

Appendix D

Kingston Parish Council – meetings for 2014

9 January	Parish Council meeting
13 March	Parish Council meeting
8 May	Parish Council AGM
15 May	Annual Parish meeting
10 July	Parish Council meeting
11 September	Parish Council meeting
13 November	Parish Council meeting