

Kingston Parish Council
Minutes of Meeting held at 7.30pm on 17 September 2014

Present:

Tim Fitzjohn, Chairman (TF)
Julie Conder (JCo)
James Clear (JCI)
Keith Tan (KT)
Peter Stokes, Clerk
Tumi Hawkins (SCDC)
Member of the public: Paul Wheeler

1. Apologies

1.1. Stephen Frost, CCC Councillor

2. Minutes of last meeting

2.1. Agreed

3. Matters Arising

3.1. **3.1 Cycleway between Kingston and Toft:** to be discussed at next meeting as Cllr Frost absent.

3.2. **9.5 Extending insurance cover to include councillor indemnity:** TF has not yet been able to contact the person at the underwriters to whom we have been referred to resolve this question. TF stated that if we are not able to obtain this cover we may need to change insurer. **Action: TF.**

4. Correspondence

4.1. **Email from Waldon Telecom Ltd** re proposed upgrade of telecoms mast at New Farm, Old Wimpole Road: noted, no action.

4.2. **Information from Balfour Beatty** regarding programme of work on streetlights in Kingston: noted. Agreed to put an item in the parish magazine informing residents about the forthcoming programme of streetlight work. Agreed that a village meeting with a Balfour Beatty representative attending would not be necessary.

4.3. **Email/letter from Paul Wheeler and Chris Reid** re flooding and blocked drains in village

4.3.1. Kingston is due to have its gullies cleaned in October. Agreed that the Clerk would try to ascertain a) a more exact date and b) what work will be done – is it just de-silting the gullies or does it include checking/jetting underground drains? All emails to be copied to Stephen Frost. **Action: Clerk.**

4.3.2. Paul Wheeler agreed to monitor the work of the gully-clearing team to ensure the work was of a satisfactory standard and all blocked gullies were cleared. **Action: Paul Wheeler.**

4.3.3. Residents will be informed of the forthcoming programme (item in magazine) and asked to contact the Clerk with details of any gullies which are known to be blocked. This information will be passed to Paul Wheeler to assist him in monitoring the gully cleaning (see para 4.3.2), **Action: Clerk.**

4.3.4. It was agreed that an item would be put in the magazine asking residents to keep any ditches on their frontage clear of potential blockages, **Action: Clerk.**

4.3.5. It was agreed that the results of these actions would be monitored during the next heavy rainfall to assess if further action is needed. **Action: All.**

5. County Councillor's report

5.1. No report

6. District Councillor's report

6.1. The fibre optic cabinets have now been installed in Toft and are live, so faster broadband should be available in Kingston. Agreed to put an item in the magazine advising residents. **Action: Clerk.**

6.2. For full report see Appendix A.

7. Village Hall upgrade project

7.1. TF advised that the project currently has a shortfall in funding of £27,000. There are outstanding applications to Biffa, Amey-Cespa and the Bernard Sunley Charitable Foundation for further funding, but although it is expected that at least one of these is likely to make a grant, decisions are not expected to be available until after the expiry of other confirmed funding offers, and/or the preferred contractor's quotation. Work cannot start until all funding is confirmed. The village hall management committee therefore has formally asked for a further grant to be made by the parish council of up to £27,000 so that work can start on the project before expiry of the above deadlines. The actual amount of grant required would be the residual shortfall not made up by other grants.

7.2. Agreed that the parish council would underwrite the current shortfall in funding for this project by way of a grant of £27,000, or the actual shortfall when all outstanding grant application decisions are known whichever is the lesser amount.

7.3. This agreement will be contingent on the parish council being able to secure a further loan for £27,000. It was agreed to make an application for this loan from the Public Works Loan Board, with repayments spread over 25 years. **Action: Clerk.**

7.4. Agreed that TF and Mark Stalham, Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee would make a joint statement, to be published in the parish magazine, informing residents about these arrangements. **Action: TF.**

8. Open Spaces report

8.1. It appears that plot 1 at the Crane's Lane allotments is not being worked. Plots 2, 3 and 4 are being worked. Clerk to contact tenants to offer renewal of tenancies, stressing to the tenant of Plot 1 the need to keep it cultivated. **Action: Clerk.**

9. Clerk's report

9.1. **Bi-monthly report** – previously circulated. See Appendix B.

9.2. Invoices for payment:

9.2.1. Buchan's Landscapes grasscutting (June) £434.69 – agreed for payment

9.2.2. Buchan's Landscapes grasscutting (July) £434.69 – agreed for payment

9.2.3. Buchan's Landscapes grasscutting (August) £434.69 – agreed for payment

9.2.4. Peter Stokes Clerk's salary for September 14 £73.98 – agreed for payment

9.2.5. HMRC PAYE for September 14 £18.60 – agreed for payment

9.2.6. Peter Stokes Clerk's salary for October 14 £73.98 – agreed for payment

9.2.7. HMRC PAYE for October 14 £18.60 – agreed for payment

- 9.2.8. Algar Signcraft £52.20 (already paid) – agreed for payment
- 9.2.9. CCC contribution to 40mph speed limit signage etc £159.76 – agreed for payment
- 9.2.10. PKF Littlejohn audit fee £120.00 – agreed for payment
- 9.3. **Annual Return and audit:** the Clerk advised that the audit is complete and the auditors have found no matters for concern. The statutory announcement will be posted by the Clerk. **Action: Clerk.**

9.4. Parish Council Banking

- 9.4.1. It was agreed that the Parish Council would apply to open Current and Savings accounts with Unity Trust Bank, and transfer all funds from Santander into the new accounts. The Santander accounts will be closed. The Clerk and all five councillors will be users of the account, with access to on-line banking and the ability to set up transactions and view all information. The five councillors only will be signatories. Two signatures will be required for all external payments. One signature will be required for transfers between accounts. **Action: Clerk.**
- 9.4.2. The first six statements under the heading '*Unincorporated organisations, clubs and societies, councils, credit unions, political parties*' on page 17 of the Unity Trust Bank's 'Application to open an account' form, version dated April 2013, are hereby agreed. The seventh statement: '*The committee members/trustees acknowledge that they shall be jointly and severally liable for any liabilities of the organisation, club/society, council, credit union, political party to the bank*' is specifically excluded and is not agreed.
- 9.4.3. The completed form was signed by those councillors present, and the Clerk, where required. Clerk to obtain Trish Dunlop's signatures and submit the application. **Action: Clerk.**

9.5. Village Hall cleaning

It was agreed that the parish council would employ a part-time cleaner to clean the village hall and the bus shelter monthly. The VHMC would be recharged for the village hall cleaning. The Clerk confirmed that the part-time employees would be covered by the insurance policy under the employer's liability and public liability sections. The cleaner would be paid at the rate of £8.00/hour, the tasks being expected to take 1½ hours. The Clerk to recruit a suitable person by advertising in the magazine and in local shops. **Action: Clerk.**

9.6. Local Highways Improvements bid 2014

The Clerk confirmed that he had been advised that the bid should be submitted as a single bid and not split into two separate bids. The Clerk has therefore submitted the bid, similar to the 2013 submission with a few minor changes.

10. Planning

- 10.1. **S/1723/14/FL** refurbishment and conversion of stables at The Old Rectory, Rectory Lane: agreed by TF on 9 Aug 2014 that KPC would respond 'no objections'. The earlier decision was confirmed.
- 10.2. **S/1452/14/FL** single storey breakfast room extension at The Old Rectory, Rectory Lane: the plan has been amended to reduce the width by 300mm. For information only.
- 10.3. **S/1290/14/FL** infill building to farm buildings South Sea Farm, Bourn Road: permission has been granted.
- 10.4. **S/1713/14/FL** demolition of sun room and replacement with single storey extension at Walker's Field, Church Lane: permission has been granted.

- 10.5. **S/1347/14/FL** demolition of garage and erection of annexe building at The House on the Green, Bourn Road: permission has been granted.
- 10.6. **S/0128/14/FL** single storey rear extension and two storey side extension at Wychwood, Crane's Lane: an application has been made for approval of details reserved by condition 2.
- 10.7. **S/1814/12/FL** two new houses at Summerhill, Tinker's Lane: permission has been granted for the addition of a covered car port and store.

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

12. **Date of next meeting:** 13 November 2014

Meeting ended at 22:00

Signed.....

Date.....

South Cambridgeshire District Councillor's Monthly Report

September 2014

1. Mystery and Mayhem at SCDC Planning

In July, SCDC lost two planning appeals at Waterbeach. Developers had appealed the decision by SCDC to reject proposals to build on land in Waterbeach earmarked as green separation between the existing village and the planned new town. The Planning Inspector allowed the appeal because he claimed that SCDC did not have a 5-year housing land supply!! This put the cat amongst the pigeons – because the proposed LDP had been forced through on the basis that it would give the Council the much needed 5-year supply plan.

Mystery: SCDC used one method of calculating the housing supply, the Planning Inspector used another method-and the two did not meet!! There is a shortfall of 1400 houses.

Mayhem: Cllr Pippa Corney subsequently stepped down from the role of Planning Portfolio Holder, and the role is now taken up by Cllr Robert Turner – who was until then the Chairman of the Planning Committee.

So, unfortunately, this ruling is BAD for the council and for ALL communities because speculative proposals may now be put forward which may be difficult for the Council to refuse.

2. SCDC Draft Local Development Plan Update

The examination by the Planning Inspector of the SCDC Draft Local Development Plan is to start on 4th November 2014. The Inspector arranged a preliminary hearing on 11th September 2014 at which she will be explained how the hearings will be conducted, and what we can expect in terms of witness to provide more information, and timescales. The recent appeal decision against SCDC is expected to carry some weight in how the plan is viewed.

The plans for both SCDC and the City are being examined together

I am expecting to speak at the hearings on a number of issues, and will try to keep you updated via my website, on matters as they arise.

3. Strategic Partnerships with Hunts Council and Cambridge City

SCDC is considering formalising shared Building Control Services with Huntingdonshire District Council, and Legal and ICT services with Cambridge City Council. Discussions have been ongoing since the “unplanned” announcement in May.

Apparently it is expected that “shared services through a strategic partnership could improve resilience, provide specialist skills and deliver efficiency savings of up to 15% to help protect residents from the full force of national cuts to funding”. That is code for job losses and fewer staff carrying heavier work loads as we have seen in recent months. This of course leads to longer waiting times for residents to have their issues seen to. The matter should go to full council after it has done its round at Cabinet.

4. Superfast Broadband

Connecting Cambridgeshire Project

GOOD NEWS - The Connecting Cambridgeshire team notified me that the new fibre cabinets for Comberton Exchange serving Toft, Kingston & Old Caldecote have gone live!! Hurray!!

Orders are now being accepted – so anyone in the three communities who wants to get on the superfast broadband highway should contact their current internet service provider immediately. Those that are unable to connect now may need to wait until the second cabinet is live.

Caveat: (not mine) The broadband speed delivered depends on a number of factors including the length of the line from the cabinet, the line quality, and the equipment and internal wiring within premises. There may be some premises connected to an upgraded cabinet that are simply too far away to receive a fibre service. Improved broadband will be available by December 2015 for premises who currently receive less than 2Mbps. This means that potentially Old Caldecote and Kingston both of which are at the far end of the exchange, may not get any better service than they currently do.

I am talking to the CC Team with a view to having additional cabinet installed at this end to serve both these villages better.

5. 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!

6. Councillor Drop-in surgery

This takes place on the first Thursday of every month, 7pm – 8pm at the Caldecote Village Hall and first Monday of every month, 6pm – 7pm at the Toft People's Hall.

7. Dates for your diary

11 th Sept 2014	6pm	Cabinet Meeting
25 th Sept 2014	2pm	Full Council Meeting
4 th Oct 2014	10am	Planning Committee Meeting
4 th Nov 2014		Examination of SCDC Local Development Plan begins

Tumi

Tumi Hawkins
17-September 2014

Email me @:	tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk
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
Call me on:	01954 210840

Appendix B

Financial report 23 Sep 2014

N.B. All figures exclude VAT

Item	Budget 2014-15 £	Expenditure YTD £	Budget minus expenditure YTD £	
Grass and Hedge cutting	1872	449	1423	
Insurance	677	677	0	
Clerk's salary	1111	463	648	
Grants (section 137)	650	0	650	
Village Hall upgrade	16155	0	16155	
Audit fees	145	40	105	
Village asset maintenance	500	118	383	
Subscriptions	180	101	78	
Parish Magazine	470	0	470	
Footpath lighting	114	71	43	
Miscellaneous and expenses	260	418	-158	
Income other than precept	-20154	0	-20154	
Total	1979	2337		

Bank balances	Current account:	2240	
	Deposit account:	4596	