

Kingston Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting held at 8.00pm on 12 July 2016

Present:

Tim Fitzjohn, Chairman (TF)
Julie Conder (JCo)
James Clear (JCI)
Keith Tan (KT)
Trish Dunlop (TD)
Peter Stokes, Clerk
Tumi Hawkins (SCDC)

Members of the public: Chris Reid, Jeannie Venn, Paul Wheeler

1. Apologies

1.1. None

2. Minutes of last meetings

- 2.1. Parish Council meeting 10 May 2016: the date in the heading was corrected from 11 to 10 May.
- 2.2. Annual Parish Meeting 19 May 2016: accepted.

3. Matters Arising from Parish Council meeting

- 3.1. **4.1 Communications problems with County Councillor:** TF has written to Cllr Frost but received no response. Agreed that he will now write to our MP. **Action: TF.**
- 3.2. **4.2 Drain clearing workday in Crane's Lane:** The Clerk advised that the letters promised for Crane's Lane residents by Brian Heffernan of the Flooding and Water Team do not appear to have been sent. Clerk is chasing. **Action: Clerk.** Mrs Venn requested that notice be given to the affected householders if the PC is going to undertake ditch clearing work to enable the households to make any arrangements necessary in their gardens that might be affected. The PC agreed they would endeavour to notify affected residents.
- 3.3. **4.3 Dog waste/litter bins:** two have been installed, the third (by the pump) still awaited. Clerk is chasing. **Action: Clerk.**
- 3.4. **5.2 Footpath 140/6 near Bourn Brook on Toft road:** a Rights of Way officer from CCC has made a site inspection and reported that there is adequate and safe access for pedestrians. Clerk to inform Bourn parish council. **Action: Clerk.**
- 3.5. **9.5 Consultation on Neighbourhood Plan:** The chairman reported after reviewing the proposed South Cambs Local Plan he considered it would be better to wait for the final outcome of the plan to be confirmed before working on our own Neighbourhood Plan. The Local Plan proposes very tight planning control on Kingston as an 'Infill Only' village which we have to generally work within. An option to consider if we agree with the Local Plan but still want to maintain some local influence over planning might be to propose a Village Character Plan. Agreed to revisit this issue again once the South Cambs Local Plan has been confirmed.

4. Planning

- 4.1. **S/1719/16/FL construction of a new garden building** at The Thatches, Rectory Lane.

- 4.1.1. Keith Tan, as an adjoining neighbour to the site, declared a pecuniary interest in the proposal and withdrew from the meeting.
- 4.1.2. Chris Reid, as the applicant, informed the meeting that the location plan issued by the Planning Department was incorrect: the intended position of the shed was nearer to the corner of the garden, and oriented so that the doors faced towards the house. He has informed the Planning Department of this change. The meeting therefore considered the application based on the revised location and orientation.
- 4.1.3. Paul Wheeler, as an adjoining neighbour, informed the meeting that he had no objection to the revised proposal.
- 4.1.4. It was agreed that KPC supports the revised proposal.
- 4.1.5. Keith Tan re-joined the meeting. Chris Reid left the meeting.

5. District Councillor's report

- 5.1. Cllr Hawkins advised that the devolution proposal for Cambridgeshire had changed from the original concept in which other adjoining counties were to be included. The proposed new area will comprise the county of Cambridgeshire including Peterborough.
- 5.2. £100m has been allocated initially for the new authority, which will have an elected mayor.
- 5.3. It is not clear how the new authority will interface with the existing District and County authorities. There are also fears that much of the allocated funding will be taken up establishing this new level of bureaucracy.
- 5.4. There is a public consultation exercise – see minute 6.4.
- 5.5. For full report see Appendix A.

6. Correspondence

- 6.1. **Letter from Playdale** re KPC complaint (ref minute 11.11.10 meeting 10 May 2016): see minute 9.5.
- 6.2. **Email re District boundary change:** Tumi Hawkins explained that there are regulations regarding the balancing of populations of wards. If Kingston were to be moved to another ward this would upset the balance. No further action.
- 6.3. **Letter from Bourn Primary School** requesting support for grand piano appeal: agreed to donate £100.
- 6.4. **Email from SCDC** inviting participation in a public consultation exercise regarding the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough devolution deal. Agreed to publicise by email, website and an item in the magazine. **Action: Clerk, JCo.**
- 6.5. **Email from the Greater Cambridge City Deal team** inviting participation in a public consultation exercise regarding their eight-point package to tackle congestion in Cambridge. Agreed to publicise as in 6.4 above.

7. County Councillor's report

- 7.1. No report

8. Open Spaces report

- 8.1. No report

9. Clerk's report

- 9.1. **Bi-monthly report** – previously circulated. It was noted that the entry for Expenditure YTD on the line 'Income other than precept' had a minus sign missing. Clerk to correct and re-issue. See Appendix B. **Action: Clerk.**

9.2. Invoices for payment:

9.2.1. Buchan's Landscape Services, April 2016, grasscutting £456.85: agreed for payment.

9.2.2. Buchan's Landscape Services, May 2016, grasscutting £456.85: agreed for payment.

9.2.3. Playdale Playgrounds, carriage costs for repair parts £72.00: agreed for payment.

9.3. **Procedure for dealing with planning applications between meetings:** the Clerk advised that the parish council can delegate decisions to a committee or an officer. It cannot delegate decisions to a single councillor, neither can the Chairman take decisions on behalf of the council. The source of this information is the Governance Toolkit for Parish and Town Councils (version 3 Apr 2009) and Governance and Accountability for Local Councils (Mar 2014). In neither document is the term 'decision' defined, but it would appear to be common sense that in this context 'decisions' excludes minor or trivial decisions, and whilst many decisions could be delegated to an officer such as the Clerk, it would be unwise and undemocratic to delegate, for example, major spending decisions. It was agreed that the council's Standing Orders would be modified to include a procedure as described in minute 11.5.5 of the parish council meeting held on 11 May 2016. It is important to note that although the procedure can specify that the Clerk must obtain the view of another councillor, it is the Clerk who takes the decision, under powers delegated to him, not the Chairman or any other councillor since this would be illegal. The revised draft Standing Orders will be circulated and considered for agreement at the next meeting. **Action: Clerk.**

9.4. **Fence at permissive path on Toft Road:** Barry Marsh, who is to repair the fence, has told the Clerk that there is now a considerable amount of grass etc grown up around the fence which will need to be cleared away. The Clerk has agreed with Barry that a reasonable charge for this additional work will be acceptable.

9.5. **Repairs to tunnel at playground:** Playdale had offered to supply the timbers and other fittings charging carriage only, with installation charged at £295. It had been agreed before the meeting that KPC would accept the offer of materials but, on the assumption that this would be straightforward, fitting would be arranged using volunteers in the village. In the event a small team of volunteers attempted to dig out the old timbers but found that they were embedded in concrete. This considerably increases the complexity of the job, which was abandoned at this point. Agreed to contact Playdale once more and accept their offer to install the new timbers at a cost of £295. **Action: Clerk.**

9.6. **Closed footpath near Kingston Wood:** there is a public right of way running approximately north/south along the eastern edge of Kingston Wood. At the point where it crosses New Ditch (map ref 3300 5450) the path is impassable due to thick vegetation. There is also a question over whether or not there is a bridge over the ditch. It is believed that the landowner is Julian Metherell at Kingston Wood Farm. Agreed to write to Mr Metherell to remind him of landowners' obligations in regard to rights of way and to request that, if he is the landowner, he clears this path to make it passable to walkers. **Action: Clerk.**

10. Items for next meeting:

10.1. JCo advised that she has contacted BT to ask for an update on the plans for faster broadband in Kingston, but they have nothing to add to what they have already told us.

10.2. The Clerk advised that he will be unable to attend a meeting on the next planned date of 13 September as he will be on holiday. It was agreed to move the meeting date to 20 September.

11. **Date of next meeting:** 20 Sep 2016

Meeting ended at 22:05

Signed.....

Date.....

South Cambridgeshire District Councillor's Monthly Report

July 2016

1. Devolution

At the Extraordinary Full council meeting of 28 June 2016, Councillors debated the Devolution deal that the Government proposed for devolving powers to a new Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA). The highlights of the deal are:

- A directly elected Mayor to act as Chair of the new CPCA
- Mayor will be supported by a number of Committees whose membership will be chosen the the head of those authorities
- Control of £100m housing and infrastructure fund
- Control of additional £20m a year to boost growth
- Additional £70m over 5 years for Cambridge to meet housing needs

The powers of the Mayor are extensive, including potentially being able to over ride local development plans with Mayor's own planning areas. As the local authorities in Cambridgeshire are controlled by one party (bar Cambridge), there will not be proportional representation on any of the committees as the Council Leaders will chose representatives from their own parties. This will lead to no proportional representation for local people. How can that be good?

The amount of money being promised is derisory, compared with the powers that local authorities will end up giving up to the Mayor.

The LibDems identified a major hole in the proposed governance plan, and I put in an amendment (one of 4 from LDs) to ensure that the Local Authority would be able to scrutinise the performance of anyone representing SCDC on any of the committees of the CPCA. This was the only amendment that was freely accepted without debate. 2 other amendments were defeated.

The vote to accept the deal was 30 in favour, 20 against, carried by the Conservative majority. The next step is for further consultation to take place over the summer holidays (not the best timing!)

Have your say on Devolution, click on this link - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/devolution> or email scdc@scambs.gov.uk or call 03450 450 500 for more information. Consultation closing date is Tuesday 23 August 2016

2. Parklife 2016

Parklife, the free family fun day at Milton Country Park, is on Sunday 17July. There are some great new additions for this year and the Council expects around 5,000 visitors to take part.

Organised in partnership with Cambridge Sports Lakes Trust, Parklife allows visitors to explore a variety of ways to improve their health and wellbeing and the opportunity to try a range of sports with a view to inspiring them to be more active.

There will be a Water Zone and this year HoverAid will bring one of their hovercrafts for short rides on the lake. There will be Cycling Zone, Wild South Cambs Zone, Extreme Zone, Entertainment Zone, Pedal powered Scalextric and much more.

Put the date in your diary – 17th July 2016 – and come have a great family outing.

3. South Cambridgeshire Local Development Plan Update

The public examination of the Draft Local Development Plan for SCDC resumed on 7th June 2016. She considered: Objectively Assessed Housing Need, Five Year Housing Land Supply and Joint Trajectory, Green Belt Review Methodology. SCDC thinks that part went well, but there is no formal response from the Inspector.

The Inspector has been examining the Cambridge City Local plan. She will start to hear matters relating to the SCDC Local Plan in Autumn 2016. You can see a draft time table for 12 weeks of hearings at www.scambs.gov.uk/local-plan-examination

4. Casework/Councillor Drop-in surgery

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).

Drop-in surgery normally 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. There will be no surgery over the summer, and will resume in October. However, if you need my assistance at any time in the interim, I am always available to you, so please contact me in one of the usual ways. There will be no surgery over the summer, and will resume in October.

Tumi

Tumi Hawkins
12-July-2016

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
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Appendix B

Financial report 04 Jul 2016

N.B. All figures exclude VAT

Item	Budget 2016-17 £	Expenditure YTD £	Budget minus expenditure YTD £	
Grass and Hedge cutting	2032	0	2032	
Insurance	399	412	-13	Increase in insurance tax
Clerk's salary	1141	304	837	
Grants (section 137)	667	0	667	
Village Hall upgrade	1288	644	644	
Audit fees	40	44	-4	
Village asset maintenance	450	155	295	
Subscriptions	226	157	69	
Parish Magazine	475	0	475	
Footpath lighting	161	0	161	
Miscellaneous and expenses	720	47	673	
Income other than precept	-125	-539	414	VAT reclaim, interest
Total	7475	2302		
Bank balances	Current account:	4892		
	Deposit account:	18403		