



KINGSNORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday 11th February 2014
At The Pavilion, Church Hill, Kingsnorth, Ashford, Kent from 19.00

Present: Cllr Moorby (Chairman), Cllr Shorter, Cllr Breese, Cllr Stevens, Cllr Luery, Cllr Holland,
Cllr Davis (joined the meeting at 2000)

Six members of the public

In Attendance: Cllr Hicks, Cllr Angell, Len Bunn (Clerk)

1. Apologies:

Cllr Wedgbury, Cllr Ciccone & Cllr Snelling

2. Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Breese – Allotments – Pecuniary interest

Cllr Shorter – Planning Application 13/00099/AS – Pecuniary interest

Cllr Shorter – Playing Fields – Tenant farmer of adjacent land

3. Approve Minutes of 14th January 2014:

Proposed as a true record by Cllr Moorby and seconded by Cllr Holland. All agreed.

4. Matters arising from previous Minutes

Cllr Davidson attended the meeting on the 14th January 2014, but not shown in minutes.

5. Community Warden, PC and PCSO Reports:

PCSO Dan Smith & Community Warden Peter Beasley in attendance. PCSO Dan Smith introduced himself to the Parish Council as the new PCSO for Park Farm North & South having previously been responsible for the Willsborough area for 7 years. He will be holding regular joint surgeries with Community Warden Peter Beasley at the Kingsnorth C of E Primary School. It was confirmed that there will be regular meeting with the Clerk in the Parish Office and at these meetings various reports will be provided for the information of the Parish Council. PCSO Dan Smith advised that the Hawk Eye or a standard Police vehicle are now being used on a regular basis in the Kingsnorth Parish areas and that these vehicles will be parked in prominent areas including at The Moat and in the Pavilion car park, as well as in areas where speeding continues to be a problem. The Clerk highlighted the parking problems that still exist in the Church Hill areas and Community Warden Peter Beasley stated that this is being closely monitored.

6. Open Forum:

Agostinho Ascensao, a resident in Kingsnorth for some time, expressed his and other parents concerns regarding the safety of their children when going to and from John Wallace Academy especially when crossing to / from Moat Park. Vehicles exceed the speed limit in this area on regular occasions, despite the signage and chicanes in the area. He asked the Council to assist in any way to improve this situation as soon as possible as this situation is an accident just waiting to happen. This is now even more important taking into account the schools proposed expansion plans. Mr Ascensao suggested that perhaps the introduction of a 'lollypop lady' may assist the situation or even a zebra crossing perhaps controlled with lights. He also requested that Cllr Angel to assist to put pressure to bear on the Highways division and to get the Inspector involved. Mr Corrigan, who has lived in the Washford Farm area for 10 years advised the meeting that speeding in the area is becoming a danger with vehicles being driven in excess of 60mph along the Washford Farm Road. Cllr Shorter requested the PCSO's who were in attendance to assist in this matter.

7. Questions to Councillor or Borough Councillors relevant to Parish

Cllr Shorter advised the meeting that the first part of the cycle track in Pound Lane has now been fully completed. It now appears that the 2nd stage from Knights Park to Chilmington Green is now fully funded and it is hoped that this 2nd stage will commence in March 2014. He reported that residents from a caravan park in Yalding are now mainly residing in hotels and it is expected that residents will be unable to return to their

properties for some considerable time, in fact it will be between 6 and 18 months before things return back to normal. Cllr Shorter also advised the meeting that the new Council Tax figures are being discussed by Ashford Borough Council on the 13th February 2014 in order to approve the 2014/2015 budget and that Councillors should be aware that, due to the adverse weather conditions, pot holes are now a major hazard. As such these should be reported on the ABC web site and a report number will be issued. Brisley Farm trees are being planted on the 18th February 2014, weather permitting, and volunteers are urgently needed for approximately 4 hours to complete this project.

Cllr Hicks advised that £1m has been set aside for the right to buy mortgages and that this will especially help first time buyers onto the property ladder. Cllr Hicks advised the meeting that details regarding drainage in the area are now to hand and the Clerk requested copies of these as they refer to 3 reservoirs in the area including Ashford, Aldington and Wittersham. These all appear to be within one foot of the top of the reservoirs. Reports are also coming in indicating that water is coming up through the floors in some areas of Chilmington Green.

8. Personal Letters & Correspondence since Clerks Notes

No new correspondence

9. Finance

Payments received 1st January 2014 to 31st January 2014

Kingsnorth Pilgrims Football Club 2nd stage payment **£250.00**

Total Income Received	£250.00
------------------------------	----------------

Bank Reconciliation as at 31st January 2014

Balance at bank NatWest Current Account £100.00

Balance at bank NatWest Direct Reserve Account £129,488.00

Balance at bank NatWest SIBA Account £5,446.00

NatWest Fixed Rate Bond – 5 Year Account £16,000.00

KPC Cash Balance	£135,034.00
Fixed Rate Bonds (Balance reserve due for payment to ALT)	£16,000.00

Invoices Received & Payments Due In February 2014

		Recoverable		
		Net	VAT	£
BT	NW804	64.54	12.90	77.44
Helpful Hands Cleaning	NW805	150.00	30.00	180.00
L Measday	NW806	84.00	00.00	84.00
L Cooke – Pavilion Repairs	NW807	150.00	00.00	150.00
Swift Security	NW808	35.00	7.00	42.00
Culligan	NW809	173.00	34.60	207.60
Chubb	NW810	124.50	24.90	149.40
KALC	NW811	180.00	36.00	216.00
Trans-Fire	NW812	155.05	31.01	186.06
Medash Signs	NW813	290.00	58.00	348.00
KCC	NW814	97.01	00.00	97.01
G Blackmer - Expenses	NW815	41.52	00.00	41.52
Cancelled	NW816	CXX	CXX	CXX
KCC	NW817	55.46	11.09	66.55
#1 Employee	NW818	317.85	00.00	317.85
#2 Employee	NW819	1644.25	00.00	1644.25
Cancelled	NW820	CXX	CXX	CXX
#3 Employee	NW821	273.28	00.00	273.28
Cancelled	NW822	CXX	00.00	CXX
Swift Security	NW823	256.00	51.20	307.20
L Bunn – Expenses	NW824	73.61	00.00	73.61
Total		£4,165.07	£296.70	£4,461.77

The Clerk advised the Council that although the financial figures were fairly strong, a number of expenses would shortly be incurred due to problems in and around the Pavilion area. The benches located at the front

of the building were now unsafe due to the ground heave caused by the present weather conditions. As these are now represent a Health & Safety issue they will shortly be removed for refurbishment and any necessary ground works will be carried out before they are returned to the Pavilion.

Another major problem is the chain link fencing around the Pavilion field. There is a total of 36mtrs of fencing that has either been broken down or needs repairing. Once again this is a Health & Safety issue as people could now be injured if they try to take short cuts across the fields to their homes and children are being found to do this regularly.

The fence, therefore, is no longer fit for purpose especially as it is also broken down along land adjacent to fields where cattle are located. To this end, cattle could easily get through to the playing fields and cause injury to the general public for which the Parish Council could be held responsible. To date this part of the fencing has been temporarily repaired but it is essential that permanent repairs are carried out as a matter of urgency. Cllr Breese proposed the approval of these works and this was seconded by Cllr Holland and all agreed.

Once again, due to the present adverse weather conditions, it is going to be necessary to have a survey carried out on all of the trees in the Pavilion area, for which the Parish Council are responsible.

A survey and valuation on the Pavilion is also going to be arranged as a valuation on this property is now necessary to ensure that the Parish Councils insurance is up to date.

11. Planning Applications needing a decision at this meeting

13/00029/AS – 2 South Motto, Kingsnorth TN23 3NJ – Erection of single storey rear extension – **No objection**

13/00041/AS – Jobbins Farm, Kingsnorth TN26 1NH – Variation of condition 4 to appeal approval 12/0067/AS (Change of use of land to provide for Gypsy/Travellers including stationing of 1 mobile home and 1 touring caravan together with hard standing & cesspit) to allow a double unit mobile home. **Object. Vital information missing from the application. O/S map incorrect. Parish Council unable to comment until correct information provided.**

13/00042/AS – 31 Forum Way, Kingsnorth TN23 3RJ – Garage conversion to habitable accommodation **(Retrospective). Comment – Is sufficient parking still available.**

13/00083/AS – 9 Forum Way, Kingsnorth TN23 3RJ – Single storey rear extension and erection of detached garage – **Object. Change of site line. Change of character in the area which will set a precedent.**

13/00099/AS – Proposed Compound, Knoll Lane, Ashford – Creation of car park with vehicle access – **Comment – Indications are that this is for temporary use. How long will this be?**

13/00127/AS – 2 Kestrel Close, Kingsnorth TN23 3RB – Proposed garage conversion into habitable accommodation & increased to form gable

Decided Planning

13/01361/AS – The Elms, Magpie Hall Road, Kingsnorth TN26 1HG – Construction side extensions to provide replacement garage, lounge, utility room & bedroom with ensuite in roof space as previously approved – **Permit**

13/01380/AS – Ashdown, Steeds Lane, Kingsnorth TN26 1NQ – Erection of first floor & rear extension with insertion Of dormer windows to west elevation – **Permit**

13/01412/AS – 16 Harrow Way, Kingsnorth TN23 3JB – Proposed garage conversion to habitable room, extension of Single storey front extension garage/entrance hall & erection of a rear sun room extension – **Permit**

13/01431/AS – 9 West Moors, Kingsnorth TN23 5UQ – Convert of existing garage to utility room & lounge extension - **Permit**

13/01406/AS – 20 Augustus Walk, Kingsnorth TN23 3PR – Retrospective height increase to 1.8 metres on existing boundary fence – **Withdrawn by applicant**

The Clerk was asked to contact the Planning Department to request that Dan Carter be invited to next month's meeting in order to explain the Plan-it projects especially in view of the fact that a number of areas within the Kingsnorth Parish have been identified as possible development areas.

Once this matter had been discussed with Dan Carter in detail it was suggested that the matter could then be discussed with the public at the next AGM.

The matter regarding the lack of response from ABC regarding infringement issues in Myrtle Close was highlighted and the Clerk was asked to follow this matter up.

12. Communications

Trevor Measday gave an update regarding the Parish Councils new web site and the latest changes that had taken place since the last Parish Council meeting in January 2014. These updates were as follows:-

1. The menu bar has been re-arranged and is now in green.

2. A link has been included to access the latest Stagecoach bus services timetables.
3. A Google map has been included and should now show road names.
4. The advertisement for the vacancy of a Caretaker / Handyman / Key Holder has now been included on the site. The Clerk will advise Trevor when this should be removed.
5. Trevor is now able to provide details of the number of 'hits' on the web site and will produce these until further notice on a monthly basis. The present figures show a large number of 'hits' but a number of these will be indicated as the web is being developed and Trevor the Clerk and Councillors are accessing the site just to view the updates but more accurate figures should be available in the future.

In addition to the updates Trevor expressed his concerns regarding moving forward with the site due to the lack of some information, some of which are as follows:-

- 3 Councillors had still not made themselves available to have formal photographs taken. In order of conformity these photo's need to be of a standard nature and the backgrounds all to be the same.
- The home page should be showing the history of Kingsnorth in order to attract new residents. Councillors have been asked for their ideas.
- Advertising could be a source of revenue and the Council needs to decide whether to accept any advertising on the site which naturally could not be of a political nature. If advertising is going to be accepted, costs for adverts need to be discussed.
- It must be decided how frequently updates to the site are required. Should it be weekly, monthly, bi-monthly etc.
- Once the Precept has been finalised, details of this should be shown on the web site and the Clerk was asked to provide a pie chart to help with the visual format of this item.

At this point of Trevor's presentation to the Council, Councillors were asked for their comments regarding the site and what they considered to be the most important details that need to be addressed.

The Chairman advised that peoples titles should be standardised and as such she requested that the details be preceded with the title of Doctor and that the title of Mr for male members of the Council be standardised and used for all male members of the Council. Trevor confirmed that this would be done.

Cllr Davis, as the Communications Champion, advised that it had to be decided if 'cookies' would be accepted or not. Cllr Moorby advised the importance of standardising how the web site should be carried forward. To this end, it was agreed that a separate committee be set up for this project and that Cllr Davis, as the Communications Champion, and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Parish Council form this Committee and meet as quickly as possible, in order to give Trevor the details that he requires. Some important items that need to be discussed at the initial meeting were to include a template for Parish Councillors to use so that to their profile details, including email addresses could be standardised as some were considered to be far too long and in some cases none had been received.

The Clerk advised the meeting that he would pass the Web Master details of Pavilion bookings and that details regarding the hire of this facility should be included on the web site. In order for people enquiring about bookings for the Pavilion a contact number and email address will be shown on the Pavilion page.

During the Parish Council meeting in January 2014, Cllr Breese expressed some concerns regarding the security of the web site and all other aspects of the computers owned and operated by the Parish Council. The Clerk advised the meeting that Sabre Solutions, who already provide a service contract for the Parish Office computer, could offer a full back up service, off site, at a cost of £10 per month, £120 per year. This service was proposed by Cllr Shorter and seconded by Cllr Holland and all agreed for the Clerk to proceed with this as quickly as possible.

13. Kingsnorth Recreation Centre

As Cllr Snelling was unable to attend this meeting no reports were available.

14. Highways & Footpaths

As Cllr Ciccone was unavailable for this meeting his report on the footpath AV302 and surrounding area will be requested for next month's meeting.

The Clerk was asked to contact ABC and the KCC regarding landscaping matters to find out 'who does what' as this matter is quite confusing. It was suggested that Christine Fuller may be able to provide the answers

that were needed. It was also suggested that representatives from ABC and KCC could be invited to a meeting of the Parish Council in order that concerns could be highlighted.

Speeding is still a major cause for concern within the Parish and it had been noted that a number of Parish Councils were now installing various types of signs to deter speeding within their Parish. A number of ideas were discussed including a mobile facility but this would need to be managed and maintained and that a storage area may be needed for this equipment when not in use. Some Parish Councils have been using 'radar guns' but only with some very limited success, however, they were seen to be a deterrent.

16. Pavilion and Playing Field & Open Spaces

The Clerk has checked the damaged portion of the fencing running around the playing field area as reported previously by Cllr Hicks. It appears that some of the fencing, which is chain link fencing, has been purposely broken down by unknown persons who are using the area as a short cut. Other parts of the fencing were broken down during a spate of thefts from residential properties backing onto the field. When asked, Cllr Shorter confirmed that he has had to frequently repair the fencing running along part of his land to avoid his cattle escaping. The Clerk advised that remedial work will have to include new fencing. See item 9 under finances regarding this matter.

17. Standing Orders

The Clerk distributed a draft copy of the latest Standing Orders that has been compiled for the Kingsnorth Parish Council. The Chairman requested that all Councillors study this document and submit their comments as soon as possible so that this item can be finalised during the March 2014 meeting.

18. Items for next Agenda

Review draft Standing Order document.

Feedback from Velma Page, regarding consideration of a possible new Ward Councillor, due to the ever increasing size of the population in Park Farm South.

Report regarding the transfer of Riverside Close to be awarded Village Green Status.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chair thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 22.00.

The next main Parish Council meeting Tuesday 11th March 2014 at 18.30.