



Minutes of Kingsclere Parish Council Ordinary Meeting OM 06/20
Held at 7.30pm on Monday 29th June 2020
Using Zoom Online Meeting Software

OM 06/20 – Present:

Cllrs: Adams; Bowes; Farey; Mussett; Peach N; Peach R; Price; Sawyer F; Sawyer J.
BCllrs: Kinnear; Rhatigan. Clerk – Porton; Admin Assistant – Read.

06/20.1 – Apologies:

None.

06/20.2 – Declarations of Interest:

17.2. Kingsclere Rugby Club Grant Application – IB; NP.

06/20.3 – Minutes:

3.1 Minutes of Ordinary Meeting 18th May 2020 were accepted and signed with one correction. The minutes reflected a true record of the meeting however there was a retrospect correction to the BCllr report.

3.2 Minutes of General Purposes Meeting 8th June 2020 were accepted and signed.

06/20.4 – Matters Arising:

None.

06/20.5 – Chairman's Remarks:

- i) Many thanks to the Clerk, the Admin Assistant, and the Litter Warden for continuing their duties and going above and beyond what could have been expected during these unprecedented times.
- ii) Thanks are also expressed to the volunteers who have stepped forward; and the shops, businesses, and Healthcare Centre who continue to provide vital services for the residents of Kingsclere. Thanks also to the local supermarkets for keeping on schedule with home deliveries.

It was agreed to take items 15 and 17.2. next

06/20.15 – Borough Councillor:

There are concerns regarding pubs reopening on 4th July. All relevant businesses will be contacted by BDBC licensing team to ensure they understand and are abiding by social distancing rules. Police have had leave cancelled for this weekend to ensure there is enough police presence. There is a wish to have more rural patrols and a greater police presence in rural areas.

BCllrs were made aware of a licencing application for Budgens on the A339. Both KR and CK object as there is no reason for 24 alcohol sales being required and do not wish to encourage drink driving. The application is likely to be passed, however it was noted BDBC can retrospectively withdraw the licence if necessary. Kingsclere Community Library has approached KR and CK regarding moving into the old council offices on Swan Street. BDBC has reviewed this request but is unable to house them at this time. The HCC Library consultation is still on hold. BDBC cannot deal with any funding issues for the Library until clarity is received from HCC. BDBC has received representation from Cllr Bowes and others regarding upgrades at the Fieldgate Centre. It was noted the CCTV needs upgrading.

KPC has received details regarding new hospital sites and the Healthcare Consultation ending on 31st July. BDBC is updating its local plan. Developers have been asked to submit possible sites for development to BDBC for review. The strength of Kingsclere's NP remains. The Manydown Outline planning application is likely to be passed at a virtual BDBC Development Control Committee meeting on 8th July. This will help BDBC meet housing needs. It was questioned how Basingstoke will handle the extra traffic. It was reported the capacity of the roads is 65% of pre Covid-19 levels. A survey of road furniture on the A339 will be completed once the Manydown planning application is approved. It was noted not all of KPC's concerns had been addressed in this planning application. BCllrs accepted money needs to be spent on roads and maintenance and BCllrs still need to feed into the consultation on this planning application. BCllrs were asked where progress stood with the Joint HCC and West Berkshire Council traffic survey on the A339. It was reported both councils had been focusing on Covid-19 and there are limited funds. It is best to ask CCllr Thacker.

Garden waste collections resumed on 15th June. It has been requested for new sign ups to restart. BDBC is working to resume weekly collections of grey bins towards the end of July. Bulky waste collection has not been reinstated. Please inform Dave Perkins at BDBC of any rural roads KPC would like cleared of rubbish. Week commencing 17th June, CSPOs dealt with 72 incidents, including fly-tipping, welfare checks and antisocial behaviour. Patrols are continuing in busier areas of the borough, such as parks and open spaces, due to the potential increase in gatherings following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions. More patrols are being dedicated to the town centre after more shops reopened on Monday 15th June. Fly-tipping in the layby by Sandford Springs was reported. A non-licenced and non-working van housing an individual and dog was also reported in this layby. Police have visited and BDBC Officers are aware. Fly-tipping tonnage is not increasing. Crime has slightly increased due to coming out of lockdown.

Discussions regarding the Ice Rink at the Leisure Park are commencing. Test results regarding the surface are due at the end of June. Two parties are in discussion about refurbishing the current Ice Rink. The Ice Rink is due to open in July but there is still a risk the ice will fail.

Regarding the new Leisure Park, NewRivar have been affected Covid-19. BDBC has been clear that progress needs to be made and if there is no quick response, BDBC will have to challenge them. If NewRivar fail to execute the development agreement and legal proceedings are required, they may argue Covid-19 is an Act of God. A Planning application is due to be submitted in 18 months.

BDBC finances are secure despite Covid-19. There is a freeze on recruitment at BDBC and spending has been reviewed. BDBC is lobbying Central Government for additional funds. BDBC has successfully distributed Small Business grants to those who need. The first round of business grants is complete, the second round starts on Monday 29th June. Budget setting for next year has started. There are no BCllr grants available for this year; the budget covers 54 Cllrs and there are still 65. This money has been given to support groups during Covid-19 instead. Reserves were reviewed last year, and a significant amount of money was allocated to reserves ensuring BDBC reserves are secure. Can draw from reserves this year but BDBC need to ensure money is replaced to remain in a resilient position. Shortfalls in this year's budget are from lack of income such as car parking charges. There are currently no enforcements for things like Council Tax. Town Centre footfall is down 50% as on 23rd June. BDBC is working on how to ensure people are safe as they move around. The CEO of BDBC is leaving at the end of August. Recruitment for a replacement has commenced however a replacement is not expected to start until next year. Ian Ball has agreed to take the position in the interim.

All Rough Sleepers have been housed during Covid-19. At the height of the pandemic the total number was 28. BDBC hope to have continued engagement with them and all have been offered permanent accommodation, however they may not take up this offer.

At 5pm on 15th June there are 4,502 lab-confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight area: 3,377 in Hampshire; 202 in Isle of Wight, 324 in Portsmouth; 605 in Southampton.

In Hampshire there 53,223 people shielding. 29,500 people have been contacted by the contact centre; 10,735 people have been contacted by the WACs; and 5,803 referrals have been made for food and medication deliveries. There is an overall reduction in the number of people registered as requiring support which now sits at 6,169. Food banks are still operating, please help keep them well stocked.

17.2. Kingsclere Rugby Club Grant Application for Pitch Improvements - £800:

This agenda item was brought forward so BCllrs could be included in the discussion as it involves proposed works to the Fieldgate Centre (TFC) which is owned by BDBC. Kingsclere Rugby Club (KRC) is requesting a grant of £800 from KPC to go towards work to improve drainage on the rugby field at TFC, the total cost of which is £3547. This is to make the pitch playable for the next season; it was noted KRC has not played a home game since October 2019 due to the waterlogged pitch. This would be a short-term fix as all the playing fields at TFC sit on a bed of clay, which does not drain water. The Kingsclere Community Association (KCA), on behalf of all the sports clubs based at TFC, has submitted a LIF application to raise the required funds to permanently fix the continuing drainage issues on all pitches. There were concerns that if the proposed short term works to the rugby pitch were completed, this would have a detrimental impact on the success of the LIF application intended to resolve the problem in the long term. KR addressed this and said BDBC had approved a grant to KRC for these short-term works, and that the LIF application would only be decided on the information provided in the application. The further issue of KRC spending money on this short-term fix if the LIF application to fix the whole problem will be successful in September was raised. Cllr N Peach, as a member of the KRC committee, explained that if no work to the rugby pitch was completed, KRC would not be able to play this season as there are no other pitches available to them. If the LIF application is successful and works to fix all drainage issue commence next year, KRC has secured permission to use another pitch while works are completed. It was noted this alternative pitch is currently under construction, therefore KRC cannot play on it for this season. NP also explained that the major works to fix all drainage issues on all pitches are only applied every 5 metres, therefore these short-term works to the whole rugby pitch would still benefit the space on the grass in between the 5 metres. It was noted that KPC has approved grants of a similar amount to Kingsclere Tennis Club and Kingsclere Cricket Club in the past.

Resolved: Grant of £800 approved with a majority of 6 votes. 1 Cllr voted against and 2 Cllrs abstained from voting. 1 due to a conflict of interest and 1 due to a non-understanding of the issue.

06/20.6 – Annual Return:

6.1. Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2019/20:

Resolved: Unanimously approved and signed.

6.2. Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2019/20:

A query regarding including the Holding field Car Park in KPC's list of assets was raised. Asset register to be reviewed.

Resolved: Unanimously approved and signed.

06/20.7 – Review of Terms of Reference for Committees:

All documents circulated prior to the meeting.

7.1. Terms of Reference for General Purposes Committee:

Some alterations were suggested. It was agreed to change the minimum number of meetings a year from ten to four. IB to edit and bring to July OM.

7.2. Terms of Reference for Finance and Establishment Committee:

Minor alterations suggested. IB to edit and bring to July OM.

7.3. Terms of Reference for the Panning Panel:

Referred to July OM.

7.4. Terms of Reference for the Employment Panel:

No comments. Referred to July OM.

06/20.8 – Review of Press / Media Policy:

Document circulated prior to meeting. This is a new policy.

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to adopt.

06/20.9 – Manydown Planning Application at BDBC DC Committee Meeting 8th July 2020:

KPC wish to make BCllrs aware that KPC has concerns over the A339 and this planning application. JS to contact CCllr Thacker regarding the joint HCC and WBC survey on the A339.

Action: JS.

06/20.10 – LGPS – Employer Consultation on Revised Exit Credit Policy:

IB to draft response on behalf of KPC.

Action: IB.

06/20.11 – Event to Celebrate the End of Coronavirus Lockdown:

After a short discussion it was agreed to ask if Kingsclere Community Association, the Village Club, and St Mary's Church wish to work together with KPC on a joint event. It was suggested to have a face to face meeting, when restrictions allow, with representatives from all parties to organise. Clerk to write to all parties.

Action: Clerk.

06/20.12 – Monitoring of Neighbourhood Plan:

BDBC wish to monitor the NP as well as Local Plans. BDBC request KPC's response on the draft monitoring document. Suggestions about including the monitoring and work completed by the Clerk and the AMG regarding the allotments was put forward. SA to go through document and bring to next GP.

Action: SA. July GP

06/20.13 – Use of Crown Green by The Crown Pub:

The Crown contacted KPC asking for HCC contact details to ask permission to use Crown Green as an outside seating area to maximise the capacity of The Crown and accommodate social distancing. It was agreed that if HCC give permission then KPC would ask The Crown to maintain the grass, as it would be difficult for KPC contractors to complete works. It was reported the alcohol designation zone extends to the edge of Crown Green. It was agreed that KPC support this idea and that KPC need to do everything in its power to support the businesses in the village. Clerk to write to CCllr Thacker and inform him that KPC support The Crown's request.

Action: Clerk.

06/20.14 – County Councillor:

No report.

06/20.16 – Planning Applications:

16.1. 20/01278/RET – 40 Swan Street: No objection.

16.2. T/00190/20/TPO – 34 Garrett Close: No objection.

06/20.17 – Clerk's Report:

17.1. Renewal of Software Subscription for Scribe (Accounting) - £347.00:

Resolved: £347.00 for Scribe Subscription approved.

17.3. Home Start North West Hampshire Grant Application for £250:

Resolved: Unanimously approved.

It was reported that Sue Woodman, a Clerk to Kingsclere Parish Council of 15 years, has passed away. Her funeral is on 30th June 2020. The Chairman stated that a minute's silence would be observed at the next physical meeting of the Parish Council in remembrance.

06/20.18 – Approval of Income and Expenditure:

The accounts for 18th May 2020 to 29th June 2020 were agreed and signed off.

06/20.19 – Date of next meeting:

Monday 27th July 2020 7:30pm using Zoom Online Meeting Software unless Government restrictions in place for Covid-19 are lifted, in which case normal meeting procedures will resume in the Village Club.

Meeting closed 21:15

Signed:.....Chairman

Date:.....

Signed:.....Clerk

Date:.....

Distribution: Cllrs: S Adams; I Bowes; M Farey; C Mussett; N Peach; R Peach; A Price; F Sawyer and J Sawyer.

Noticeboard; Website: www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk.