



Minutes of Kingsclere Parish Council Ordinary Meeting OM 02/24
Held at 7.30pm on Monday 26th February 2024 in the Village Club

OM 02/24 – Present:

Cllrs: Conquest; Gaines; Jonas; Mussett and Peach N.
Clerk – Ackrill; RFO – Porton.

02/24.1 – Received and Accept Apologies from: Peach R.

02/24.2 – Declarations of Interest: None

02/24.3 – Minutes:

3.1 Minutes of Ordinary Meeting Monday 29th January 2024 were accepted and signed.

3.2 Minutes of General Purposes Meeting Monday 12th February 2024 were accepted and signed.

02/24.4 - Questions from the Public: None

02/24.5 – Chairman's Remarks:

- i) Thanks to B.Cllr Mike Bound for the Councillor grant towards the cost of the new noticeboards;
- ii) Thanks to Cllrs Peach and Peach for bulb planting
- iii) Thanks to person who cleared the steps from the The Dell leading into the Recreation Ground
- iv) Congratulations to our former Assistant Clerk Eleanor Read for achieving the Queens Guide Award. As far as we know, Eleanor is the only Guide in Kingsclere to achieve this prestigious award.

- v) Recent events have prompted me on behalf of the council to clarify matters regarding the Parish Council and the allocation of funds, resources and facilities.
The Parish Council is run by a statutory officer which is a paid role and an essential role to keep the council legal, governed and functioning. We operate with the finance function split out owing to our size.

All of the funds aside from grants come from the Parish Precept, the amount each household has to pay is detailed on your council tax bill. It is just that, a tax that the Parish Council levy on all of you to allow it to run and function for the equitable benefit of all.

The Councillors are all members of the community and are unpaid. We are fortunate that we also have a number of councillors who are professionally equipped to deal with the legal, commercial and technical demands that arise and support the statutory officers in the functioning of the council for the overall benefit of the community. That is additional to the numerous practical and urgent jobs, tasks and issues that arise that need to be addressed. If the Councillors did not step up to cover those areas and tasks then the operating costs of the Council would be substantially higher resulting in a much greater burden on the Precept Tax. The Parish Council have an obligation to ensure that it's/your funds and assets are used to the best effect and the widest benefit of all within our Parish community. A subsidy to one group is a tax on another, a grant for one organisation is a tax on another, a loss of revenue is a tax on everybody.

I would just ask everybody to perhaps consider that before openly criticising the council as we try to balance the costs and benefits across the community that we represent and serve.

02/24.6 – Clerks Report:

- 6.1 Annual Parish Meeting: 24 people replied and attending to date, speakers will be Prof Andy Kempe and Mark Hirst from Kingsclere Cricket Club talking about 250 years of cricket in Kingsclere.
- 6.2 Spring Clean Saturday 30th March posters are up, bin liners and wands all ok. Risk Assessment to be done.
- 6.3 King's Portrait has been ordered and will be delivered to Cllr Gaines.
- 6.4 Holding Field for Youth Football Training – email received requesting use. Additional grass cutting may be required and the council would like their own contractor to complete these. Therefore, a schedule/plan is needed to establish when and how many additional cuts may be needed. It was noted that the ground is currently very wet so it may not be suitable at present time. Clerk to request further information from the Youth Football Club.
- 6.5 Lengthsman – The lead council are asking if the council is happy with the current Lengthsman and whether they should go out to tender. The council is happy but request the Clerk to find out when the contract was last put out to tender.

02/24.7 – Annual Report: The format was considered and it was agreed to produce the report in the same format as last year (Printed A5 Booklet). Clerk will get quotes for printing. Members asked to submit articles by 29th April 2024. Organisations have the same date and have been limited to 200 words. BCllr Ken Rhatigan has offered to distribute for free again this year.

Resolved - Annual report to be distributed as an A5 booklet.

02/24.8 – Grant Request from Citizens Advice Tadley: Request for £250 to help fund mental health project. The grant is for operational funding which is not normally granted but the application has clearly identified the benefit to the residents of Kingsclere and was therefore approved.

Resolved – Grant for £250 approved.

02/24.9 – Neighbourhood Plan Meeting: The group are currently working on a response to Draft Local Plan.

02/24.10 – Basingstoke and Deane Draft Local Plan: The Neighbourhood Plan Group has split the Draft Local Plan into sections and individuals have reviewed the parts. The reports have been received and circulated. The main objection is the housing allocation number – B.Cllr Rhatigan explained how the housing allocation for Kingsclere was calculated. The comments in the circulated reports were accepted, Cllr Gaines to draft a response.

Resolved – Cllr Gaines to draft a response from the circulated reports

02/24.11 – Paying HMRC Tax and NI Contributions by Direct Debit: The RFO requests permission to set up a direct debit to pay HMRC the Tax and NI Contributions.

Resolved – RFO to setup a direct debit to pay HMRC

02/24.12 – Electricity Quote: we have now received a revised usage certificate; the wrong figure was used hence the quote coming in high. Officers are requesting re quotes for new contract. Cannot disconnect as this would involve an engineer coming to site and removing the cables from the feeder pillar.

02/24.13 – County Councillor: No report

02/24.14 Borough Councillors: Apologies received from B.Cllr M Bound and B.Cllr K Morrow reports attached at [Appendix 1](#) and [Appendix 2](#) respectively.

B.Cllr Rhatigan – There is a problem with car parking at Feilden Court – the ownership of carpark unknown. Enforcement order of 4 Basingstoke Road – Police have been asked to attend if necessary. The dropped curb will form part of the enforcement. It was recommendation that KPC contact HCC for urgent road repairs, particularly on the Ashford Hill Road at Knowle Hill where residents are shredding tyres due to the size of the plot holes. The replanting following the felling trees on A339 has not happened yet but is promised.

02/24.15 – Community Engagement and Media:

15.1. D Day Anniversary Convoy and Community Day – 29th June 2024 – The Kingsclere Community Association are planning an event and hope to make this an annual activity. The convoy will come down Basingstoke Road into George Street and on to Newbury Road up to the roundabout. The Commemorative Conveys have asked for a contact on the day and for someone to take a salute – RBL contacted. A meeting is being held at The Fieldgate Centre next week – all are welcome to attend.

02/24.16 Health & Safety:

The rabbit holes in the football pitch on the Recreation Ground are being filled as best we can at the moment – Rabbits are digging quicker than we can fill. The council may need to put a notice up at some point – situation to be monitored.

02/24.17 – Planning Matters:

17.1 **24/00124/ADV** 3 Swan Street Premier Shop – Illuminated Signage

Resolved – Object as inappropriate for the conservation area

17.2 **23/03072/ENSC** Request For Screening Opinion Proposed Solar Farm – to note KPC

02/24.18 Approval of Income and Expenditure:

Resolved - The income and expenditure lists (Appendix 3) were agreed and signed off.

02/24.19 – Matters for Future Consideration: None

02/24.20 – Date of Next Meeting: Monday 25th March 2024 7:30pm in the Village Club.

02/24.21. Exempt Business – to propose and pass a resolution in accordance with the public bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press for the discussion of the following matters where publicity might be prejudicial to the special nature of the business.

21.1. Tennis Club – A draft lease was issued based on what had been agreed. The Tennis club has replied and requested a change to the lease plan – plan circulated. The triangle of land the Tennis Club request to be included cannot because it would mean that anyone who walked between the Courts and the Club House would be trespassing. It was suggested that the

Tennis require a Right of Access. Hold over letter to be extended if agreement cannot be reached on the new lease by 29th February for a further 1 month

21.2. Bowls Club – The lease remains unsigned and the hold over stopped due to an agreement being reached and rent paid. The lease has to be signed. It was agreed to request a meeting with all Bowls Club members to explain the lease situation.

Meeting closed 21:25

Signed:.....Chairman Date:.....

Signed:.....Clerk Date:.....

Distribution: Cllrs: D Conquest; S Gaines; H Jonas; C Mussett; N Peach and R Peach;
Website: www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk.

Appendix 1- Report to Kingsclere Parish Council from Cllr Mike Bound, 26th February 2024

I am sorry that I can't be in attendance this evening; your meeting clashes with the BDBC council meeting. This meeting is mainly concerned with the budget for the new financial year. The agenda can be viewed on the BDBC web site.

The Local Plan update has been approved by Cabinet and is now on the BDBC web site for consultation response. The portfolio holder is very keen for parishes and towns to do so, and I would encourage this council to assess the plan and make those responses. The proposal is for 700 houses/annum in the first 5 years of the plan; this will be subject to consideration by an inspector considering government revisions to NPPF (published Dec 2023) and the government's own thoughts on build numbers. Going to public consultation (Regulation 18) gives the Borough additional protection against the speculative development that resulted from us not having a five-year housing land supply. The supply currently stands at 4.6 years (see below – Housing Land Supply Update). Previously this meant that planning officers and Development Control Committee had reduced scope to block unsuitable developments in the Borough. This can now stop as Regulation 18 consultation is under way (going out to the public) as the new NPPF dictates that the Borough only need to demonstrate a four-year housing land supply to get their full planning powers back.

Housing Land Supply Update: The latest Authority Monitoring Report published in December 2023 highlighted a supply position of 4.27 years at the time of publication, with a 5% buffer added. A housing land supply (HLS) position statement was then published in January 2024 setting out an updated position on 1st January 2024, following the publication of the new NPPF in late December 2023 and the movement into a new calendar year which affected the inputs into the Standard Methodology calculations (SM). Due to the revisions contained in the NPPF at paragraph 226 and 77 the Council no longer needs to add a buffer. This highlighted an improved supply position of 4.6 years. However, if the Council was to accept a recent Inspectors finding on an appeal at Wash Common, the impact of the removal of supply from two sites due to the pace of deliverability through the evidence assessed in the Watermill Bridge decision could now reduce the overall current housing land supply from 4.6 years to 4.2 years. This would remain over the 4-year requirement reported previously and as now clarified in the Planning Policy Guidance.

At the Council meeting last Thursday, the budget for the year was approved with a couple of amendments. The full agenda wasn't completed and what was not considered will be carried over to the next meeting in March.

I have noted that the borough does not consider that an EVIA for the proposed solar farm is required and that this matter is for your consideration at this evening's meeting.

Appendix 2 Report to Kingsclere Parish Council from Cllr Kerry Morrow, 26th February 2024

Budget bullet points

- 620k keeping streets and open spaces clean and well maintained.
- 100k to support residents applying to the housing register.
- 30k to support rough sleeping.
- 200k to switch the waste vehicles to hydrogenated waste vegetable oil, making a huge impact on cutting carbon emissions.
- 20k Supporting Dial a Ride.
- 80k to support solar on community buildings.
- 600k to support the delivery of affordable homes, in particular socially rented.

- 140k to continue the events programme to encourage footfall in our town and wider communities.
- Reverse 130k cut to community and voluntary group funding.

Last Thursday our budget was passed with three amendments gratefully received. The budget is balanced for two years and concentrates on investing in housing services, in parks and play areas, in street cleaning, in grounds maintenance and in regeneration.

We have also driven forward major projects.

The council has a solid financial position. As a Lib Dem/Independent administration we will continue to choose to invest in our public and community services, protect our green spaces and tackle climate change. Our Council Plan and Budget reflect this.

Greener Kingsclere

I attended greener Kingsclere at the Fieldgate Sunday. An excellent event, supported by CA Tadley and Basingstoke and Deanes green team amongst others.

Appendix 3 – Income and Expenditure Lists

Kingsclere Parish Council

Income transactions - receipts approval list

Start of year 01/04/23

February OM

Tn no	Ref.	Gross	Heading	Cttee Invoice date	Details	Ref. Total
197	CHQ240214	£425.00		07/02/24	Howe and Son - Epitaph Invoice Furness	£483.21
198	CHQ	£815.00		07/02/24	Howe and Son - Epitaph Invoice Furness	£815.00
199	FPS240220M	£440.00		15/02/24	Maddox - Epitaph Invoice Croft	£440.00
Total		£1,680.00				

Signature

Date

Signature

21/02/24 12:54 PM Vs: 8.95.00

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Expenditure transactions - approval list

Start of year 01/04/23

February 2024 OM

No	Payment Reference	Gross	Heading	Invoice date	Details	Cheque Total
1391	DCP24012 9HF	£23.99	3070	28/01/24	Hugo Fox - Website	£23.99
1392	30285140	£66.00	3040	31/01/24	National Allotment Society - Annual Membership	£66.00
1393	30285263	£250.00	2000	31/01/24	Kingsclere Village Club - Grant for new electrical consumer unit	£250.00
1394	DCP24020 5M	£22.56	3070	03/02/24	Microsoft Ireland Operations Ltd. - Microsoft 365 Licence's (2)	£22.56
1395	DDB24020 5TT	£47.14	3010/1	04/02/24	Talktalk - Phone and Broadband	£47.14
1396	30473601	£288.00	3040	07/02/24	SLCC Membership - Clerk's membership	£288.00
1397	30473811	£2,198.88		07/02/24	Countryside Grounds Services - M & M January 2024	£2,198.88
1398	30473979	£250.00	2000	07/02/24	Busy Bees Preschool, Kingsclere - Grant - Uniforms	£250.00
1399	30474259	£1,880.40		07/02/24	Broxap - 3 Sensory Boards, 3 pairs of legs and carriage	£1,880.40
1400	240207EC	£41.88	6600/1	07/02/24	E Clayton - Erection of Crown Green Noticeboards	£41.88
1401	DDB24021 2O	£37.45	7020	10/02/24	Opus - Christmas Lights Contract	£37.45
1402	DDB	£158.40	3070	14/02/24	1&1 IONOS - Email Hosting	£158.40
1403	DCP24022 0	£50.22	7100	21/02/24	Wickes - Post Crete for Interpretation Boards	£50.22
1404	DDB24022 3V	£14.82	3010/2	25/02/24	Vodafone - Sim contract for 07787041829	£14.82
1405	FPS	£57.60	7010	21/02/24	HALC - Member Training - Local Plans and Planning Policy for Local Councils	£57.60
		£5,344.60			Confidential	
Total		£10,731.94				

Signature

Signature

Date

21/02/24 03:03 PM Vs: 8.95.00

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