

KIRTON PARISH COUNCIL

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 06 JULY 2021 1930 HOURS AT THE FORTERRA BRICKWORKS CANTEEN IN LINE WITH SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDANCE.

MINUTES

PRESENT; R FEGAN(CHAIR), T WILDGUST, D BEARD, H ATHERTON, D SURGEY, N BATTY & R BATTY.

IN ATTENDANCE; K HALL (CLERK) .

NUMBER	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION/FEEDBACK/DECISION	ACTION POINTS
1	Apologies for absence	All Councillors attended the meeting.	
2	Declaration of Interest	None	
3	Minutes of last meeting	The minutes of the last Parish Council meeting held on 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2021 were agreed unanimously and forwarded for inclusion on the Parish Website	Minutes created to PDF and sent to Cllr Surgery 07 July.
4	Councillors Action Points from May meeting.	<p>Item 5 from the April meeting was a discussion over utilising the memorial flag post for residents to commemorate family or events. Cllr R Batty has received some positive interest and feedback regarding this item and will now try to progress this proposal .</p> <p>At the April meeting the condition of the oak bench outside Hall Farm had been raised, the Clerk had written to Mr Price regarding this but not yet received a response.</p> <p>The Parish Council discussed raising the Clerks wages to £11.08 per hour and this change has now been put in place</p>	<p>Cllr R Batty to liaise with Cllr Surgery to move this idea forward.</p> <p>Clerk to contact Mr Price with a suggestion regarding the preservation of the bench and work required before winter. To advise Mr Price that the Parish Council are happy to undertake this remedial work E mail sent 07 July.</p>

4.1	Report on Councillor Expenses	<p>Cllr Fegan had prepared a document outlining expense procedure and policies with regard to reimbursing Council members for items purchased for the Village and out of pocket expenses. Parish Councillors are not paid for their time or for any works they undertake as part of their responsibilities but can for example claim back petrol if they attend a meeting on behalf of the Village. This document will lay out a policy for the future and can be updated each year in line with government guidance.</p>	This document to be discussed for adoption at the next Parish Council meeting.
5	Public Participation	None.	
6	Bus Stop	<p>Cllr Atherton has been in long discussion with NCC regarding the wooden bus stop in the village after many incidents of anti social behaviour there.</p> <p>Cllr Atherton had forwarded to the Council photographs of a new, but, in keeping with the location, shelter which NCC have agreed to install and it was unanimously agreed that this would be a huge improvement.</p> <p>The shelter may not be installed until 2023 rounds of funding are available.</p>	Cllr Atherton to inform NCC that the Parish Council are happy with the design of the proposed bus shelter and also to ascertain what they do with the old ones as we already have a disused shelter in the village.
7.1	Playing Field	<p>Cllr R Batty highlighted that recently a lot of rubbish has been left on the field by users and that we should be highlighting “the pick up your mess” message to field users to make it pleasant for all. He also highlighted that the football net is deteriorating rapidly and we will have to make a decision regarding possible replacement when it is no longer fit for purpose.</p> <p>It was agreed to leave this net in place for this year and put a new net up in 2022.</p> <p>Also the grass seed that was sewn earlier this year in front of the goal area did not germinate and will need to be reseeded in October.</p> <p>The small goal/rugby nets are proving very popular and are being moved around quite frequently as the grass wears thin where they are situated.</p>	

		<p>Cllr N Batty confirmed that the new netball net purchased with the residual monies from the Ambler Sykes fund gift would be concreted into the ground.</p> <p>The Bee Garden is looking very well at the moment and Cllr Atherton offered the Council a further nest box for this area if required.</p>	
7.2	Playing Field Inspection	<p>For 2021 the Council decided to contract the services of RoSPA to undertake the annual inspection.</p> <p>It was agreed that this inspection and the documentation provided was of a far higher and more in depth quality than previous inspections and that we would most likely go with RoSPA for inspections moving forward.</p> <p>The report was very clear and the inspector even took the time to examine all the benches and the fencing around the field.</p> <p>A couple of minor items were highlighted which will be attended to.</p> <p>After our Playing Field Inspection in 2020, Cllr N Batty and the Clerk met with Ben Stacey, Street Scene Manager for NSDC as we had some concerns regarding the report that year.</p> <p>One item was the depth of the bark under the play house and slide and at the time NSDC promised to bring over machinery to give the bark a good riddle and “fluff”.</p> <p>If this is done and the bark is aerated it could mean that we do not have to purchase any more bark this year but we cannot tell correctly until the work has been undertaken.</p> <p>Cllr Atherton also highlighted that despite being sent a work schedule for grass cutting in and around the village, no grass cutting appears to have happened and the schedule has no mention of Kirton in it at all!</p>	<p>Cllr Wildgust to speak to Ben Stacey regarding the promised work on the bark under the play area.</p> <p>Cllr Wildgust will also endeavour to ascertain when the grass verges out of the village will be cut properly.</p> <p>VIA had given a date of w/c 12 July so this will be noted if completed</p>
7.3	New Dog Waste Bins	<p>The Parish Council would like to say a huge thank you to Cllrs N&amp;R Batty for their hard work in installing the 2 new larger dog waste bins.</p>	

		<p>This was not an easy or pleasant task but it has certainly made a huge difference in the Village.</p> <p>The bin at Kirton Court has been slightly relocated and concreted in so that it does not interfere with the grass cutting and is now level.</p>	
7.4	Public Footpaths & Rights of Way	<p>Cllr Surgey has for several months been highlighting the overgrown state of some of the footpaths in the village area. He thanked Cllr R Batty for cutting back the overgrown path behind Hall Farm to make walking easier for all.</p> <p>Cllr Surgey highlighted the path from the duck pond towards Boughton, near the solar panels, as being pretty much impassable and it was agreed that we need to find out who is responsible for this area, although Cllr R Batty did highlight that hedges are now only to be cut every second year.</p> <p>After the meeting Cllr R Batty contacted the field owner Mr Philip Hoggard who in turn asked the current tenants, Strawson's, to undertake remedial work on the site where their irrigation pipes and tractors have caused the problems. It has been acknowledged that they were unaware it was in such a state and work will be completed to repair the damage and make the path passable again.</p> <p>Cllr Fegan reported a broken pathway sign post last year and this has still not been repaired or replaced</p> <p>Cllr N Batty also highlighted that despite putting in a request for the drains from the top of Cocking Hill down to the bottom and through the village to be cleared in April 2021, this had still not been done</p> <p>It was also noted that there have been several instances of fly tipping around the village and these have all been reported.</p>	<p>Cllrs Surgey &amp; R Batty to keep an eye on this area for the work being done.</p> <p>Cllr Fegan to find original email and forward to Clerk for further action.</p> <p>Clerk to chase up this request as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>E mail sent to VIA 07 July.</p>
8	The Queens Platinum Jubilee 2022	<p>Councillor Fegan had received a letter in connection with this celebration asking if we wished to apply for City Status or have an elected Mayor!!</p>	

		We have received correspondence from the organising Committee for this event in connection to the possible building of a beacon or a large bonfire to mark the event on 02 June 2022. The Council agreed that the building of a beacon would be too expensive and that we should reconsider this matter later in the year	Clerk to put this item on November agenda
9	Village Contributions	The Parish Council would like to say thank you to the following residents for their support in helping to make Kirton such a pleasant place to live Colin Haywood for all his hard work treating the wood on all the playing field equipment Richard and Nicola Batty for installing the dog waste bins Heather Atherton for her perseverance regarding the bus shelter George Eves for helping get the lawn mower unstuck from a ditch! Jordan Road Surfacing for the many times they have swept the road through the village.	
10	Investing to make some interest	The Council has a small business reserve account which in the last financial year made £3.40 interest. Cllr N Batty wished to explore how we may be able to invest this sum to try and increase revenue for the Parish Council. Premium Bonds had been suggested but these can only be purchased by individuals. Any investment has to be low risk and easy access and it was acknowledged that no investments are making interest at the moment and that we may have some capital expenditure coming up which could require these monies. No further action at the moment.	
11	End of Financial Year 2020/21 and VAT Refund	The Clerk confirmed that the external auditor had been through the Parish Council Accounts and these were all agreed and had been forwarded to PKF Littlejohn. Cllr N Batty applied for the VAT refund and £1606.64 has been paid into the Parish Council Current Account.	
12	Accounts Paid	BHIB Insurance/Parish Council Insurance      £952.42 Linseed Oil & White Spirit                              £87.99	



Minutes prepared by Kate Hall, Clerk to Kirton Parish Council 07 July 2021.