



Minutes of Kingsclere Parish Council Ordinary Meeting OM 03/21
Held at 7.30pm on Monday 29th March 2021
Using Zoom Online Meeting Software

OM 03/21 – Present:

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

03/21.1 – Apologies:

None.

03/21.2 – Declarations of Interest:

Cllr N Peach – Items 11 & 17.2. Cllr Bowes – Item 17.2.

03/21.3 – Minutes:

3.1 Minutes of Ordinary Meeting 22nd February 2021 were accepted and signed.

3.2 Minutes of General Purposes Meeting 8th March 2021 were accepted and signed.

03/21.4 – Matters Arising:

None.

03/21.5 – Chairman's Remarks:

- i) Thanks to Cllr Bowes and Andy Bates for taking down the village Christmas lights and bunting.
- ii) JS has received a reply from Jonathan Gregory at BDBC regarding 24 Swan Street, which has been circulated to Cllrs. It will be discussed at April GP. BDBC is unable to commit to spending any of the proceeds from selling 24 Swan Street on village parking as it is not a public car park and there was no mention of the parking allocation referenced in the planning application for the Dance School at the old Catholic Church. It is reportedly BDBC's intention to put a restrictive covenant on the property as it is sold, and it was suggested that tenants can make proposals about the property once it is on the market. The plight of current tenants was not mentioned and there was no suggestion that parking solutions would be looked at. Cllrs agree it would be good to discuss this issue at GP, BCllr Rhatigan indicated that he and Jonathan Gregory would aim to attend April GP to discuss with Cllrs.
- iii) Nominations for the Making a Difference Awards need to be sent to the Clerk before 1st April 2021. Residents are encouraged to nominate people as KPC feel there are numerous members of the community that deserve recognition, especially during the last year.

03/21.6 – Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Meeting of the Parish Council:

The date of the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) was discussed at March GP (Minutes ref: 03/21.5) and a decision was made, it was agreed to keep the APM date as agreed at GP. The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council (AM) legally needs to be held in May. KPC usually hold the AM before the May OM however the legislation permitting virtual meetings ends on 7th May, and the government has made no indication that it intends to extend it. The village Club intends to open on 17th May provided relevant risk assessments are in place. HALC recommends that the AM take place between the 4th and 6th May and be held virtually. It was suggested that if KPC will be holding a physical OM meeting on 24th May, the AM is held beforehand like in the past. This was unanimously agreed.

Resolved: Unanimously agreed to hold AM on 24th May 2021.

03/21.7 – Use of Holding Field Car Park for Takeaway Unit:

The resident has reportedly withdrawn their request despite engagement from KPC to create a proposal.

03/21.8 – Public Toilets:

CM and IB have been undertaking background tasks such as liaising with other local villages and contractors to try and organise logistics such as a cleaning schedule for all the of rural toilet blocks. CM has followed up with Tom Payne at BDBC to see what progress has been made, there is reportedly no change or update from BDBC, KPC is still waiting for a proposal from BDBC.

03/21.9 – Project Plan:

Document circulated prior to meeting. JS has updated the Project Plan as much as possible. There was some confusion as to whether this was a list of KPC projects or an issues list. It was agreed for Cllrs to look at their projects on the plan and bring updates to April GP.

Action: April GP.

03/21.10 – Dog Signs:

Quote circulated prior to meeting. Quote of £586 + VAT for 15 dog signs and fixings, as agreed at March GP (Minutes ref: 03/21.3.1) approved.

Resolved: £586 + VAT for 15 dog signs and fixings approved.

03/21.11 – Handrail at The Dell Steps:

Quotes circulated prior to meeting. The quote of £720 inc VAT was approved with one Cllr abstaining due to a conflict of interest.

Resolved: Quote of £720 inc VAT approved.

03/21.12 – Signage Poles:

Referred from March GP (Minutes ref: 03/21.9). Quotes circulated prior to meeting. Both quotes are compatible with very little difference in prices. It was noted that KPC should look to share work among contractors. The quote of £575 was approved.

Resolved: Quote of £575 approved.

03/21.13 – Telephone Box on Crown Green:

This item relates to actions from a previous meeting where it was decided to seek planning consent to place a red telephone box in place of the BT phone box on Crown Green, which has since been removed, and seek permission from HCC to do so. It was stressed that this would only be so KPC has the option of installing a red telephone box on Crown Green in future and would not commit KPC to act on these permissions if they were granted. It was reported the planning department at BDBC said that under permitted development KPC can install a red telephone box if desired. HCC has been contacted to ask for permission to install a red telephone box in place of the BT phone box, and bike hoops on Crown Green. HCC has not replied, and this is being chased. This item was requested to be on the agenda as it was thought that KPC would be able to purchase a red telephone box for £1, however after investigation this only applies to red telephone boxes that are still in place. The original red telephone box on Crown Green was removed years ago and replaced with the BT phone box which has also since been removed.

03/21.14 – County Councillor:

No report.

03/21.15 – Borough Councillor:

It was reported that funds have been agreed in BDBC's budget for BDBC's contribution to the Newtown Road Recycling Centre permits for Hampshire residents. KR has been in contact with Rob Humby at HCC informing him that BDBC has allocated the funds. The permit scheme is an agreement between BDBC, HCC, and West Berkshire Council; and BDBC is intending to commit to it again in the new financial year. KR is in discussions with John Lewis regarding the planned closure of the Basingstoke store.

The council tax has increased to £154 for a Band D property. KR considers this good value for money considering the average council tax for a Band D property in Hampshire is £216.

BDBC is still not on track to meet its 5 year housing supply. The Manydown development will not be delivered in time and so more speculative developments are to be expected. BDBC is aware of the issues this causes for areas such as Kingsclere and is working to deliver alternative sites to meet the supply.

The Government has said that BDBC's housing allocation is 300,000 which will require building on greenfield sites. BDBC is against greenfield site development and will look to build on brownfield sites where possible, however is required to meet the housing supply. The new BDBC Local Plan will reportedly be more environmentally focussed and will be more effective at ensuring desired planning applications and developments are put forward for consideration.

Regarding 24 Swan Street, KR accepted that tenants should have been told and that this was unacceptable. KR reassured Cllrs that there is a planning process in place for a reason, and he would not support any planning application that would not be beneficial for Kingsclere.

A Cllr asked if there would likely be any development in and around Bramley. – This is unlikely as there is insufficient infrastructure to support developments and certain areas are prone to flooding.

IB raised item 17.2 and explained how the Kingsclere Community Association is having to raise funds to upgrade a BDBC owned facility. KR explained why the LIF funding only covers up to 90% of the total works cost. KR also explained how CIL payments are spent in the areas that have been impacted by new developments, which is why a lot of CIL money has been spent in Basingstoke recently. It was indicated that if there is money built up in the CIL accounts that is required in other areas, it would be distributed.

Kingsclere has a Neighbourhood Plan which will mean Kingsclere will receive CIL payments when developments go through in the parish.

BCllr Kinnear spoke, stating this was her last KPC meeting as a Borough Councillor as she will not be standing for Borough Council again in this year's elections. She thanked all Cllrs for their work to make Kingsclere a better place for residents and said she will continue to support Kingsclere and the surrounding villages. The Chairman thanked BCllr Kinnear, on behalf of KPC, for her committed and hard work for Kingsclere residents and the community during the two years she has been Kingsclere's Borough Councillor.

03/21.16 – Planning Applications:

16.1. T/00128/21/TCA – Hopkins Cottage, Newbury Road:

No objections. It was reported that the documents associated with this application seem to be inconsistently available on BDBC's website, as some Cllrs were able to access the documentation and others were not.

16.2. T/00133/21/TCA – 1 North Street: No objections.

16.3. 21/00869/LBC & 21/00722/ROC – Priors Mill, North Street: No objections.

16.4. 20/03077/FUL – 10A George Street: No objections.

16.5. 21/00402/LBC – 9 George Street: No objections.

16.6. T/00137/21/TCA – 16 Newbury Road: No objections.

03/21.17 – Clerk’s Report:

17.1. SLCC Admin Assistant Membership Renewal:

The Admin Assistant’s SLCC Membership is due for renewal at £95. Unanimously approved.

Resolved: £95 for Admin Assistant’s SLCC Membership approved

17.2. Grant Application from Kingsclere Community Association:

A grant application for £2000 to go towards the improvements to the BDBC owned and operated sports facilities had been submitted by the Kingsclere Community Association (KCA). The sports facilities located at the Fieldgate Centre are well used by a wide range of sports groups and an important community recreational facility. In order to access Local Infrastructure Fund (LIF) grant money the KCA had agreed to act as agent for BDBC and to date has been awarded £127,400 LIF grant funds by BDBC for overall improvements to the BDBC sports facilities. To date the playing surface for the Multi Use Games Area has been upgraded but the major work yet to be undertaken is the installation of a new drainage system for the sports pitches. The pitches are susceptible to waterlogging and as a result the pitches can be unplayable for considerable periods of time. The KCA has no formal position in relation to the sports facilities owned and operated by BDBC, unlike the community centre building which it does lease from BDBC, however the KCA is able to apply for grants and manage work in relation to the sports facilities as improving the sports facilities will have an impact on improving the well-being of residents, the charitable area of benefit for the KCA. The LIF grants only provide 90% of project costs so the KCA is seeking funds of £12,700 needed for the project. The Youth Football Club has indicated it is prepared to contribute some funds, the other sports clubs who use the facilities at the Fieldgate Centre have been approached but have not yet made any offer of funding. It was noted that other sources of grant funding, such as Greenham Common Trust, have been approached however no funding can be given as they do not provide grants for local borough or district council assets such as those owned by BDBC. Available S106 funding could be allocated to the project. A separate question of the payment of VAT was raised, as the KCA is required to pay VAT on the works. If BDBC were funding the works directly and hiring contractors for its own facility, BDBC would be able to reclaim VAT paid on the works back. KPC is able to reclaim paid VAT however the KCA is not. As the sports facilities are a directly owned and operated BDBC asset, options for contracting the work were being discussed with BDBC including the LIF grant being assigned to KPC with KPC managing the work. It was noted the KPC option was unlikely to be viable due to tax avoidance as a similar suggestion was proposed to KPC in the past regarding the Tennis Courts. IB reported that he is in contact with the legal team at BDBC to find out what if any options were possible. It was agreed to make no decision regarding the £2000 grant at this time and wait until IB investigates legal options.

Action: IB.

03/21.18 – Approval of Income and Expenditure:

The accounts for 19th February 2021 to 24th March 2021 were agreed and signed off.

03/21.19 – Approval of Quarterly Bank Reconciliation:

This item was mistakenly included in the agenda.

03/21.20 – Date of next meeting:

Monday 26th April 2021 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 21:13

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.