



Minutes of Kingsclere Parish Council General Purposes Meeting GP 08/21 Held at 7.30pm on Monday 13th September 2021 in the Village Club

GP 08/21 – Present:

Cllrs: Adams; Bowes; Farey; Mussett; Peach N. Assistant Clerk – Read.

08/21.1 – Apologies:

Cllrs: Price; Sawyer J. Clerk – Ackrill.

08/21.2 – Declarations of Interest:

None.

08/21.3 – Matters Arising:

3.1 GP 04/21.11 – Request from Resident to Use Parish Outdoor Space for Fitness Group:

At April GP it was agreed to permit a resident to run a fitness group on the Holding Field until the summer holidays, with a review at July GP. This item was mistakenly missed off the agenda for July GP. The Clerk has contacted the fitness instructor twice during August and has not received a reply. It was agreed that should the instructor start fitness groups again, they would be doing so without KPC's permission. It was agreed that the Clerk should not contact the instructor informing them, as the instructor had not replied to any communication.

08/21.4 – Travellers on the Holding Field:

On 20th August 2021 two caravans with towing vehicles and travellers accessed the Holding Field. Bailiffs were engaged on 24th August, and they were evicted on 25th August. A full report will be submitted to full council at September OM, where decisions and expenditure will be ratified. The Clerk is investigating who can enforce the village byelaws, that state: "No person shall without the consent of the Council erect a tent or use a vehicle, caravan or any other structure for the purpose of camping." It was agreed that KPC should have a formal procedure in place to follow, for any future incidents. There are approximately four piles of foliage that were left on the Holding Field by the travellers, it was agreed to source quotes to have the foliage chipped and relocated to the Community Orchard. Clerk to source quotes.

Action: Clerk. Sep OM.

08/21.5 – Security of the Holding Field:

After the travellers were removed from the Holding Field, a heavy-duty chain and padlock was installed in the gate. Options including a mound or trench behind the wooden bollards, a height restriction rail at the entrance to the car park, and a stronger gate were suggested. However, after a short discussion, it was agreed to recommend to September OM that KPC take no further action, as the cost of installing higher security measures was disproportionate to the cost of removing people from KPC's land. This is the first time an incident of the kind has occurred to the councillor's knowledge, and the option to install higher security measures in future would still be considered by KPC, if it becomes a more regular occurrence.

Action: Sep OM.

08/21.6 – 24 Swan Street:

KPC understand that BDBC placed 24 Swan Street on the market for £750,000 last week. This is more than the £500,000 told to KPC by BCllr Rhatigan at July 2021 OM. KPC has submitted a request to BDBC to get 24 Swan Street registered as an Asset of Community Value (AoCV). This has been acknowledged by BDBC and BDBC has 8 weeks to respond. The basis for this request is due to the extent of the educational value of the building, the protection of the much needed parking provision in the centre of the village, and the preservation of the conservation area, that would be severely impacted if parking provision was removed for local residents. The dance school and performing arts collage employ 20 people and have over 200 students between them, with many past students going on into professional careers. All trustees of the Kingsclere Youth Club have agreed that they would like 24 Swan Street to be their base of operation, which is much sought after, as the Youth Club has not had a permanent home for a number of years. Having 24 Sawn Street registered at an AoCV would also benefit the other businesses that rent space in the building. It was noted that none of Kingsclere's three borough councillors have responded to KPC's request to support this initiative. The dance school has started a petition to gather public support and KPC support this, it was agreed to promote the petition on KPC's social media and website. It is Cllrs understanding that it is only KPC that protects the conservation area and as such, wants to reduce the impact on the conservation by any actions regarding 24 Sawn Street. It was noted that KPC has a conservation area management plan. It was reported that the dance school was contacting high profile individuals asking for support, and Cllr Adams has contacted Locality UK for advice however has yet to hear back. It was suggested that KPC contact CPRE for advice and support on this issue, to write to our MP, and perhaps contact the media. It was reported that BCllr Rhatigan informed a Cllr that he is unable to get involved as this is a property deal, however KPC do not understand how this would prevent him, or either off the other BCllrs, supporting KPC's submission for 24 Swan Street to be registered as an AoCV. It is also KPC's understanding that this issue has not been discussed at a BDBC meeting, only during property meetings.

Action: All Cllrs, Assist Clerk. Sep OM.

08/21.7 – Church Fete:

At the Church Fete on 30th August Cllrs gauged public opinions on various issues. Residents were shocked to learn about what BDBC is proposing regarding 24 Swan Street and were glad to hear that KPC is trying to find a solution. Residents at the fete who were asked about moving the Recreation Ground play area to the Holding Field were 3-1 in favour. It was suggested that this should be fully funded by grant and CIL money.

08/21.8 – Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme:

A Cllr received an email from a resident regarding the rural broadband voucher scheme. This resident had contacted their internet provider regarding the Gigabit Broadband Voucher Scheme and was informed that at least 50 homes in the local area would need to be eligible and sign up, for the internet provider to be able to consider doing works. The resident requested that KPC investigate how many homes would be eligible for this scheme. It was agreed that KPC does not have the administration capacity to do this, however if the resident were to arrange a community inbox or petition to gather support from eligible homes, KPC would support and advertise this. It was noted that a satellite internet connection could be an alternative for faster internet connection. Clerk to write and inform resident.

Action: Clerk

08/21.9 – Fawconer Road Site:

Some tree works have been undertaken at the Fawconer Road site by the landowners. BCllr Rhatigan was informed as soon as KPC was made aware and said that BDBC was not aware of the work and that he would organise for officers from the Planning Authority to attend the site. KPC do not know if these officers attended site. KPC added a statement on its website and social media, and as far as KPC understands, no trees with TPOs have been affected. A planning application has not yet been made for the care home however if it is submitted it was agreed that KPC should provide a statement that residents can submit to BDBC to object to the care home, based on the fact that it goes against the policies agreed upon in the Neighbourhood Plan. If a planning application received six or more objections, a site inspection takes place and the application will be referred to the Planning Committee, the meetings of which KPC is able to attend. It was agreed that once a planning application is submitted, SA will draft a response on behalf of KPC and circulate to Cllrs. The response will clarify the points of objection; them being that the proposal goes against the Neighbourhood Plan, the parking issues that will be exacerbated, it will remove the opportunity and space to build affordable homes, the proposal is for a palliative care home in an enclosed site where the residents would not be able to contribute to the community. It was suggested that the site at Cottismore on the A339 would be a more suitable location for a care home.

08/21.10 – Locations for Wildflower Seed Scattering:

A Cllr received communication from a resident expressing interest in offsetting their business carbon footprint by offering their customers the opportunity to purchase wildflower seeds to sow around the village. They were asking if KPC could provide an area for these seeds to be sown, where they wouldn't be mowed. After a short discussion it was agreed that KPC could not designate a specific site that would not get mown, however had no issue with people scattering wildflower seeds in the village. The bank at the Fieldgate Centre along Field Gate Drive was suggested. It was noted that seeds should not be sown in the Wildflower Meadow on the Recreation Ground or in the Churchyard, as these are naturally occurring wildflower meadows and should not be interfered with. The suggestion that the resident's customers could pay into a fund for biodiversity that KPC could access at a later date was put forward, however it was agreed that KPC could not allocation administration time to this. NP to inform resident.

Action: NP

08/21.11 – Memorial Trees in the Community Orchard:

The Clerk received a request from a resident to place a memorial tree in the Cemetery. The Clerk informed them that, at present, KPC is not approving any more memorial trees in the cemetery until a review of planting locations has been completed and a planting and biodiversity plan is in place. It was suggested that instead, the resident could sponsor or purchase a tree for the Community Orchard. After discussion it was agreed that while this was a nice idea, the administration involved for the logistics of installing memorial trees and plaques in the Community Orchard is not something that KPC can accommodate. It was noted that KPC will engage with members of the public regarding memorial tree planting once the relevant plans and reviews have taken place. The particular resident that this memorial tree would have been in memory of was a previous Clerk for KPC, and it was agreed that KPC would recognise their service to the community with some sort of memorial when able to do so. Clerk to inform resident.

Action: Clerk

08/21.12 – Mowing and Maintenance Contract:

The mowing and maintenance contract is due to end next year. The Clerk wished for all Cllrs with areas of responsibility to review the schedule for their area and alter where appropriate, prior to KPC going out to tender. It was requested that the current mowing and maintenance schedule be put on the Cllrs OneDrive.

Action: All Cllrs, Clerk

08/21.13 – Health and Safety:

13.1. Risk Assessments:

Risk assessments for the Allotment Gardens, Allotment toilet block, SIDs, and Parish Paths were received but not reviewed. NP reported that the risk assessments for the Community Orchard, MHOS, and Churchyard have been completed but not typed up, these would be sent to the office soon. Outstanding risk assessments are: Cemetery, Christmas Lights, Recreation Ground, Remembrance Day, Office Working, and Financial and Banking.

Action: IB, NP, Clerk, RFO.

08/21.14 – Wildflower Meadow:

The Wildflower Meadow on the Recreation Ground is only cut on the Clerk’s instruction. Considering it was mistakenly cut in May, the Clerk wished to check if the council wished for it to be cut again in the Autumn. It was agreed to ask a local resident who is an expert on wildflowers for their advice and for any cutting instruction to be based on that advice.

Action: Clerk.

08/21.15 – Planning Applications:

15.1. 21/02451/HSE – 1 Barton House, 36 George Street: No objections.

15.2. 21/02503/HSE – 15 Anchor Road: No objections.

15.3. T/00441/21/TCA – Durrants, Foxs Lane: No objections.

08/21.16 – Date of next meeting:

Monday 11th October 2021 7:30pm 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.