



Minutes of Kingsclere Parish Council General Purposes Meeting GP 04/22 Held at 7.30pm on Monday 9th May 2022 in the Village Club

GP 04/22 – Present:

Cllrs: Adams; Bowes; Conquest; Peach N. Clerk – Ackrill; Assistant Clerk – Read. Press – Newbury Weekly News

04/22.1 – Apologies:

Cllrs: Farey, Sawyer.

04/22.2 – Declarations of Interest:

Cllrs Bowes; Peach N – Item 3 Allotments.

Questions from the Public:

There were no questions from the public.

04/22.3 – Allotments Pest Control Concerns:

There is a significant rat problem at the allotments and the Clerk has sought advice and a quote from pest control companies to help manage the problem. The council appreciate that the area is by a river and that it is an outside space, however there were concerns over the fact that people grow food on the allotments, and that it is next to a children's play area. After a short discussion it was agreed to write and inform allotment tenants of the advice from the pest control company and encourage implementation of these measures, it was also suggested to put posters up in the allotment listing the advice. It was noted that shop bought poisons and bait are not strong enough. It was agreed that the Clerk can use their emergency expenditure allowance to approve the quote of £160 + VAT for pest control treatment for the allotments.

04/22.4 – Yew Tree in Churchyard:

The Clerk has sought a quote to trim the yew tree in the Churchyard. It was suggested that Twist is asked to contribute 50% of the cost, as it is at their request that the work is being undertaken. The tree is in the conservation area so permission will need to be sought. Quote of £480 + VAT approved.

Resolved: Quote of £480 + VAT approved, with possibly 50% of the cost being contributed by Twist.

04/22.5 – Cemetery:

At the end of April, a memorial was installed in the Cemetery without approval from, or payment to, KPC. The Clerk reported that a stonemason contacted KPC regarding this plot about a year ago, and the memorial application that was submitted at the time was not approved. There was no communication since, and then this memorial has been installed without the funeral directors, or KPC's knowledge or permission. The Clerk confirmed that KPC has a signed copy of the Cemetery Rules and Regulation for this plot, and the rules and regulations state that no memorial can be installed without approval from KPC. After a short discussion it was agreed to write to the next of kin responsible for the grave and ask them to remove the headstone within 90 days as it was installed without permission, against the Cemetery rules and regulations that they have signed. It was also agreed to put a notice on the headstone. This issue will be brought back to GP in the memorial is still in place after the notice period has expired.

Action: Clerk. Sep GP.

04/22.6 – Orchard Bench:

Suggestions regarding the remaining Orchard bench were to either do nothing, remove the ground anchors and reinstall with postcrete, or install a concrete base and buy concrete fixings for the bench to secure it too. It was agreed to go with the second suggestion and £10 budget for postcrete was approved. NP and RP to refix bench using postcrete.

Resolved: £10 expenditure for postcrete approved.

Action: NP, RP.

04/22.7 – Village of the Year:

The Clerk has received information about entering the Village of the Year Competition 2022. KPC last entered in 2018 and won the Excellence in Localism award and was runner up in the Best Small Village category. After a short discussion it was agreed that KPC is not in a position to enter the competition this year, however could consider it next year when more projects are completed.

04/22.8 – Public Toilets:

It was agreed KPC need to meet with BDBC to discuss the proposal. Cllrs discussed and listed the information and documentation that KPC still require prior to negotiations being started for the possible purchase of the toilets. This list includes, but is not limited to, whether the purchase would be freehold or leasehold, the office copy entries from the land registry, and the building condition survey. Clerk to send list to BDBC.

Action: Clerk

04/22.9 – Pony Riding on Holding Field:

The Chairman received an anonymous letter claiming that a resident at an address on Basingstoke Road is keeping a pony in their back garden and riding it on the Holding Field (HF). Numerous residents have reported both seeing the pony in the back garden in question, and being ridden on the HF. The HF rules

state no horses are allowed on the field without the prior written permission from Kingsclere Parish Council, and no permission has been sought or given. Health and safety concerns were raised, as the HF is now being used by sports clubs for practice. It was agreed to write to the residents and issue them with a cease and desist letter.

Action: Clerk

04/22.10 – Fly-Tipping on the Holding Field:

The Clerk reported that numerous piles of straw have been dumped on the Holding Field, along the ditch by Basingstoke Road. It was suggested that this could be from an easter egg hunt that was apparently held on the Holding Field in April. It was agreed for NP to remove the straw, and for the situation to be monitored.

Action: NP.

04/22.11 – Recycling Facilities at the Fieldgate Centre:

Approximately two years ago, BDBC asked KPC for a list of recycling facilities it wished to see at the Fieldgate Centre. This list was discussed and agreed at GP in February 2020 (Minutes ref: GP 02/20.12) and the Clerk sent the list to BDBC on 27th February 2020. Since then, BDBC has not acted in this and has now removed the paper and cardboard recycling facilities from the Fieldgate Centre. IB has enquired with BDBC asking why this is twice but has not received a reply. All that remains is glass, foil, and small electrical recycling, and some charity clothes and book bins. KPC's original list asked for: glass, cardboard, tins, cans, foil, water filters, batteries, printer cartridges and some small charity bins such as books and clothing. Clerk to chase BDBC regarding this matter.

Action: Clerk.

04/22.12 – Community Transport Group:

A Cllr asked for this item to be included on the agenda. The Care Group, which provided transport to things such as hospital appointments among other things, disbanded during covid. Cllrs discussed if a new similar sort of group could be established, to help with transportation to hospital and doctors appointments, and also perhaps expand to leisure activities for individuals or families that don't have a car and may not be able to afford to travel on public transport. It was noted that there are grants available for such things, and perhaps an already established charitable organisation such as the Kingsclere Community Association could provide the charitable status and bank account to facilitate receiving a grant for this purpose. It was agreed to raise this at the Annual Parish Meeting on 23rd May and possible share this idea in the Tower and on social media. DC to look into Newbury Voluntary Groups who may be able to assist.

Action: DC. APM.

04/22.13 – Jubilee Lamp:

A couple of residents have suggested to a Cllr that a small battery powered light could be purchased and installed inside the glass globe of the Jubilee Lamp, so that it lights up for the jubilee weekend, as any long-term permanent fixing of the lamp wouldn't be completed in time for the Jubilee weekend. After discussion a budget of £50 was approved for a rechargeable battery powered light. NP to coordinate with residents to purchase and install light.

Resolved: £50 budget agreed for battery powered light.

Action: NP

04/22.14 – Health and Safety:

The risk assessment process is due to commence soon, however it was agreed the current system could be improved. The Clerk will seek advice from HALC on guidelines for completing risk assessments.

NP reported that the rabbit burrows on the Recreation Ground football pitch are being filed, however more are being dug. Residents are advised to take care. It was noted that the goal nets need replacing and securing with proper pegs, and the concrete boulder be removed. This was suggested that quotes are sought for these and brought to a future GP.

Action: Clerk.

04/22.15 – Planning Applications:

15.1. 22/01192/HSE – 74 Coppice Road: No objections.

15.2. 22/00241/FUL – Sterling House, 2A George Street: No objections.

04/22.16 – Matters for Future Consideration:

None.

04/22.17 – Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 13th June 2022 7:30pm in the Village Club, subject to approval at the Annual Meeting on 30th May.

Meeting closed 21:03

Signed:.....Chairman

Date:.....

Signed:.....Clerk

Date:.....

Distribution: Cllrs: S Adams; I Bowes; D Conquest; M Farey; S Jones; C Mussett; N Peach; R Peach; and J Sawyer.

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