contra

Minutes of Kingsclere Parish Council Ordinary Meeting OM 03/25
Held at 7.30pm on Monday 31st March 2025 in the Village Club

OM 03/25 – Present:
Cllrs: Conquest; Gaines; Hamilton; Jonas and Mussett.
Clerk – Ackrill; RFO – Porton.
OM03/25.1 – Apologies: Cllr N Peach; Cllr R Peach. Cllr Conquest may be late as attending a Borough Council meeting.
OM03/24.2 – Declarations of Interest: None.
OM03/25.3 – Minutes:
3.1 Minutes of Ordinary Meeting Monay 24th February 2025 were accepted and signed.
OM03/25.4 - Questions from the Public:
4.1 Parking in Swan Street, particularly the spaces available in 24 Swan Street. A meeting was held on Saturday with the trustees of the premises and residents. How do residents go about getting a parking provision in Swan Street. Provision could be provided at the Primary School with access adjacent to number 1 George Street. Residents on Swan Street are concerned that there is no provision for parking for them.
4.1 Disabled parking in Swan Street – there is no provision for disabled drivers/passengers in the vicinity of the shops in Kingsclere.
OM03/25.5 – Chairman's Remarks:

i) Thank you, to the Clerk for arranging the fixing the smashed bus shelter panel so quickly (within 3 days).
ii) Thank you to the BCllrs for pushing for the double yellow lines in Swan Street to be repainted

OM03/25.6 – Clerks Report:

6.1 The **Annual Parish Meeting** was held on the 17th March there was a good turnout of residents, The Making a Difference Awards for 2025 were officially opened for Nominations, relevant Form on the website or from the office.
6.2 **The Spring Clean** was held on Saturday successful morning 27 bags collected, and 21 Volunteers took part, thanks to Sam for providing first aid cover, to St Marys for lending us the tables and chairs to Swan Street Stores for the loan of additional Hi Viz gilets and to all who turned up and volunteered.
6.3 **Notice Board -** Thanks to Ray Peach and Ed for the installation of the new notice board.
6.4 **Allotments –** there is currently one vacant, a note has gone out to all plot holders reminding them their Dogs must be always tethered on their owner's plot. The water was turned on at the weekend.
6.5 **The Cemetery Water Supply–** has also been turned on.
6.6 **Report from PSCO** Kieron Venn was read out and is attached **Appendix 1**
6.7 **Hampshire Hoppit** trail race is scheduled for Sunday 15th June – any surplus funds generated will go to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance. Managed road crossing on the B3051 by the 40 MPH speed sign. All welcome
6.8 **Annual Report** – articles of no more than 200 words to be in by the end of April. Ken Rhatigan is happy to deliver FOC and the printers are holding the same price as last year.
6.9 **Impersonating the Council** – recently someone pertaining to be from KPC reported that the Greggs advertising feather flags on the Budgens site were blocking the site line turning out of the garage onto the A339. This was done on the BDBC website, and the person used council contact details and stated the Parish Council has concerns the matter was reported and subsequently deleted from the BDBC systems and no further action was taken by the Planning Enforcement Team on this particular report. This isn't KPC saying the flags were not causing concerns it's that the matter had not been debated publicly, and the report was not from or on behalf of the Parish Council.
6.10 **Roadworks Basingstoke Road –** SGN have sent a letter to inform us works will Commencing 7th April for approximately 8 weeks to replace the old metal gas pipe. The road will be closed from the Pellows to the Dell access will be available to residents and businesses. Notice has gone on social media.

OM03/25.7 – Correction of Finance and Establishment Minutes January 20th, 2025, Meeting – item 5 Review of Current Years Budget Forecast – All at the FE confirmed this was discussed and reviewed at the meeting on the 20th January 2025 with no concerns raised. Correction To be minuted this evening:
Resolved: Amendment Accepted

OM03/25.8 – County Councillor: Absent. No report.
OM03/25.9 – Borough Councillor: Cllr Bound's report is attached **Appendix 2**
B.Cllrs have been busy with - good response from the borough on the issue with dog fouling on the playing fields at the Fieldgate Centre. CSPO's have stepped up their patrols. Issue at Anchor Road Car Park with a wall which the resident has now accepted is their responsibility. Listen Up event with free live music in Basingstoke was a very good event. Strengthening Community Grant available – look it up. The Borough is looking to provide more parking in residential areas where they have a parcel of land. The problem in Swan Street is more challenging as there is no land available.
KPC Chairman would like to see large signs outlining the health issues regarding dog fouling in light of the recent serious incident. Cllr Jonas to research wording for notice.
OM03/25.10 – Accessibility Concerns for access to Swan Street Businesses:
20:01 Cllr Conquest joined the meeting
Disabled access issues – one of the problems inhibiting progress on this is the size of space required for doors opening wide and for a sustained period. Disabled/Accessible Parking not only reduces the number of regular spaces but anyone with blue badge can park. One option is to investigate applying for a disabled space outside the estate agent at the dead end. Swan Street is too dangerous to consider for this type of space. The PC will need to take advice on this, so will send thoughts to HCC and request it investigates.
Action: CM to do a visit to Swan Street for a review and to submit findings and suggestions to HCC.
OM03/25.11 – 24 Swan Street – Parking for Residents:
Parking has been thoroughly investigated by Parish Council. Number of pressure points for parking, at the end of Swan Street there was parking occurring on green spaces. Southern Water were contacted to discuss possible use of their forecourt, but this was refused, and they subsequently reinforced their security. An investigation took place into purchasing land at the end of Swan Street, but the landowner decided to double the price once they realised there was a potential buyer which meant BDBC could no longer negotiate with them. Residents are using spaces provided for businesses to their own means. In the Anchor Road Car Park, BDBC has cut back the hedges to ensure maximum use of the parking spaces but and would not introduce parking fees. £15,000 has been spent by the PC on increasing the Holding Field car park. The Fieldgate Centre has plenty of parking just not in the right location.
The Medical Centre is owned by the NHS and is unable to expand the car park due to the trees. Businesses did look at parking at the Fieldgate Centre to free up parking for customers, but it is noted that this would be too far for a young woman to walk alone. Parking on the street and access for timed bays via a permit system would require enforcement from HCC. Access to the Primary School via George Street would require permission from the landowner (privately owned).
Could the Medical Centre be moved to free up the parking?
BCllrs – transferring 24 Swan Street as a community asset was facilitated to prevent the premises being converted for housing. The Trustees plan to charge for residents for parking bays so the Trustees and residents should work together to find a solution. Parking here has always been for lease holders. Whitchurch did not want Rural Parking Charges so it did not happen anywhere – Kingsclere could reopen the subject. Has the PC missed anything? The Borough Council can take the evidence and review it but really it is a HCC matter.
Opened for the public:
Signage on parking bays – why is it different in different locations? If you are resident you cannot park because of the restrictions. Why no restrictions outside the flats in George Street? Answer - Its housing association land. Could the restrictions on Swan Street be changed to help residents?
The PC will put the challenges and suggestions with this forward along with the items discussed in 25.10.
One resident was very pleased with the electric parking bays in Anchor Road, it has enabled them to have an electric car which would have been impossible to them at their home on Swan Street. Residents told to provide evidence of different parking restrictions in other towns and villages.
OM03/25.12 - Interim Internal Auditors Report - Review report and invoice to approve £215 No VAT:
Report reviewed and it was noted that the IA had identified the Clerk should possibly have received a pay review annually. The relevant item in the Clerk's employment contract was reviewed and it was agreed that this should happen.
Resolved: The Clerk's Salary to be reviewed, item to be included in part 2 for April's OM Meeting
Resolved: Invoice of £215.00 approved.
OM03/25.13 - SLCC Membership for RFO at £150:
Resolved: Approved
OM03/25.14 - Basingstoke Road and Ashford Hill Road Hedges – £1520 plus VAT was approved for the hedge and pavement work carried out by CGS, slight increase on budgeted amount due to delays with weather and roadworks.
Resolved: Approved
OM03/25.15 – Community Engagement and Media:
Lots of hits on Facebook and website. No comments received on the budget for 2025-26.
OM03/25.16 – Health and Safety:

Budgens flags moved further back and no longer a problem but large steel lorry ramming pillars have been installed which obliterate the line of sight for drivers.

Action: CM will take photos and send to the Clerk who will then write to Highways

OM03/25.17 – Notice Board – Green Barnes Purchase of the 5th Board 3 bay Accessible £2216.18

Resolved: Approved

OM03/25.18 – Planning Matters and Neighbourhood Plan:

18.1. 24/01061/FUL The Old House Rectory Lane Amended plans and revised description – **no concerns**

18.2. T/00122/25/TCA 9 Newbury Road Pollarding. Reduction and Removal of various Trees – **no concerns**

18.3. 25/00452/HSE Summer Trees Foxs Lane Erection of single storey outbuilding **– no concerns**

18.4. 25/00516/ADV The Star Display 1 Illuminated and 1 non-illuminated Signs – **no concerns**

18.5. T/00099/25/TCA Old Orchard Garrett Close Cedar tree reduce height and width **– defer to tree officer's observations**

18.6. 25/00534/LBC 1 George Street – removal and rebuild of wall **– defer to Conservations Officer's observations**

18.7. 25/00581/RET Cleremede Foxs Lane Replacement of wooden window frames with UPVC Retrospective – **no concerns**

18.8. 25/00684/HSE 3 Anchor Road – Alteration to fenestrations and hanging tiles to weatherboarding – **no concerns**

18.9. Letter from Anglo Renewables: – Proposed Community Benefit Contribution for Solar Farm – Clerk to acknowledge the letter. The Government are possibly planning some regulations around Solar Farms and their contributions which may be helpful in the future.

Action: Clerk, acknowledge letter

OM03/25.19 – Approval of Bank Transfers, Income and Expenditure:

The Bank Transfers, Income and Expenditure lists were agreed and signed off.

OM03/25.20 – Matters for Future Consideration:

Parking – to be brought back when we receive a reply from HCC.

OM03/25.21 – Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 28th April 2025 7:30pm in the Village Club.

Meeting closed 21:18

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

Signed:……..…….Clerk Date:……..……

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

Appendix 1 - Kingsclere Police Reports for March 2025

Fraud – Police have received reports that several people have received phone calls from someone pretending to be a Detective Constable with the Metropolitan Police. These types of scams are occurring regularly where they will try and convince the victim to send money as part of an investigation. It is worth reminding the community that police or any lawful business will not ask you to transfer money over the phone. If they have any doubts, they should hang up the phone and call 101.

Road Traffic Collision – Police have received three separate reports this month of road traffic collisions where one of the drivers have made off from the incident.

Road Traffic Incident – A report was made to police that a child had been hit by a car. It was reported that the child had run out from behind a lorry and clipped the side of the moving car. There were no injuries reported, and no further action was taken by police.

Dangerous Driving – Driver on the A339 reporting that the vehicle in front of them was swerving all over the road and suspected they were intoxicated.

Theft – Report that trade number plates had fallen off the back of a car and when they went back to collect them, they had gone.

Criminal Damage – It has been reported that a streetlight on Knowle Crescent is getting repeatedly damaged.

Anti-Social Behaviour – Report made of two youths smoking cannabis outside of the pub.

Appendix 2 – BCllr M Bound Report to Kingsclere Parish Council for March 2025

What is the latest position and next steps on local government reorganisation?
BDBC, along with all the other Councils in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and numerous other areas of the country, each received a letter from the Minister, Angela Rayner inviting them to submit proposals for local government reorganisation

They had to submit interim proposals to the government by the 21st March on which they'll then get feedback. The final proposals have to be submitted by the 26th September. The government will then decide, probably in early 2026, on the structure of new unitary councils they wish to create in Hampshire. Structural change orders, which is the legal process, will then need to go through parliament with those new unitary councils replacing all the existing councils either in April 2027 or April 2028.

Over the last few weeks, BDBC have hosted and taken part in workshops for Council Leaders and Chief Executives across Hampshire to consider how to work together and the possible ways forward. They commissioned work on behalf of all the 15 councils in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight to assess the options for unitary councils against the criteria set out in the letter from the Minister and to develop an interim proposal to submit to government by the 21st March deadline. Their aim, through that joint work, was to get the best possible outcome for their communities and to reach as much consensus as is possible so that they could submit a single interim proposal to government by the 21st March that many, if not all, of the current councils in Hampshire were supportive of.

For BDBC, an interim proposal, was formally considered & accepted by Cabinet on the 11th March and by full Council on the 20th March. The proposal was for a unitary comprising, Basingstoke & Deane, Hart and Rushmoor. It was submitted to the government by their deadline which was the next day, 21st March. So, we now wait on the Government deliberations. Hampshire County Council submitted their own proposals; their thinking is probably contained within this paragraph clipped from the HCC web site talking about how they view the reorganisation - No preferred proposal is being recommended to the County Council and its Cabinet, but three early options for Hampshire's 'mainland' have been evaluated – comprising either two, three or four unitary councils. However, indicators show that a higher number of unitary councils does not stack up financially – costing the taxpayer more and weakening the financial strength of each individual council. The talk here of a high number of unitary councils not stacking up financially seems to run counter to the governments thoughts that unitary councils should be looking after around 400 to 500 thousand residents not over 1 million.

I extracted this minute from the minutes of the Standards Committee that sat last Monday (17th) as it does reference Parish Councillors as well.

24/24 Complaints Report the Monitoring Officer introduced the report, which sought to update the Committee on progress in determining Code of Conduct complaints, received against borough, parish, and town councillors.

It was confirmed that the Council had received an increase of the number of complaints in the 2024/25 municipal year which totalled 19 complaints. There were two complaints still to be determined. The Monitoring Officer stated that one complaint had been investigated, to which there was no breach of the code of conduct. The process provided some learning as it was noted that the complainant did not cooperate with the investigation, and that earlier intervention and communication would take place in the future.

The Committee discussed the report and made the following comments:
• Observed that of the 19 complaints, 9 were related to borough councillors and 10 related to parish and town councillors and asked if there had been any breaches of the code of conduct found. The Monitoring Officer clarified that there were no breaches found.

• Suggested that increased councillor participation for its code of conduct training could help reduce complaints.
• Emphasised the importance of ensuring people felt comfortable coming forward with complaints to the council.
• Suggested a mandatory e-learning module on the code of conduct be introduced for councillors. The Monitoring Officer referred to the LGA code of conduct e-learning module which councillors could complete.
• The Monitoring Officer explained that making code of conduct training mandatory would require discussion with political group leaders and the council's Constitution Working Group. Resolved: The Committee note the progress made on complaints received and the learning derived from the consideration of complaints.