

KINGSWEAR PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held at the Village Hall (Lower Room)
on Thursday 17th October 2019 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: L Maurer (Chairman), B Longland, G Webber, H Newcombe, P Burnell, S Smith, P Pudduck.

In Attendance: Miss Sue Balsdon – Clerk to the Council.

There was 2 members of public present.

C/095/19 – Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

C/096/19 – To receive any apologies for absence from the Meeting.

J Hacking, J Hawkins, E Jones

C/097/19 - To receive any Declaration of Interest. [Councillors are also reminded that they must register any new interest or change in any interest already registered within 28 days of that new interest or change].

There were no declarations of interest noted.

The Council Meeting was suspended to allow members of the public to ask questions and make representations to the Council:

The Council will receive the following reports if available:

i) National Trust – Long Wood Tree Works

Tim Bumby from the National Trust, attended the meeting to provide information with regards the felling of trees at Longwood Noss Plantation:

Felling at Longwood Noss plantation, Autumn 2019

Longwood is an ancient oak woodland with an industrial past on the edge of the river Dart between Kingswear and Galmpton. In the 1940's a commercial plantation was added of larch and Douglas fir, called Noss plantation. Over the last 70 odd years this plantation has been managed for its timber and has now reached an age where it should be harvested. The National Trust will be taking on this work during the Autumn of 2019.

The oak in Longwood was historically managed as a means to produce charcoal and the bark was used in the leather tannin process. Since the industrial revolution the woodland has largely been left to its own devices, apart from occasional ride management and fires. As such it is a haven for wildlife and a beautiful area to walk on the banks of the river Dart.

In the 1940's a new commercial plantation, known as Noss plantation, of larch and Douglas fir was added to the southern edge of the woodland adjacent to bridge road, the A379. This has now reached the age where it should be harvested for its timber. This Autumn the National Trust will be undertaking some felling works in Noss plantation Longwood to remove Larch and Douglas fir from the woodland. Due to this work, there is likely to be disruption to access routes and a considerable change to the landscape in this area.

We are hoping to use this opportunity, once the felling is completed, to establish deciduous broadleaf woodland on the site. Where possible we will be allowing natural regeneration to occur but may need to undertake some planting and bramble control to ensure woodland cover.

We are aware that this work will have an impact on the area both visually and in the short term to access to footpaths in the woods, however the long-term benefits to wildlife and the habitat will far outweigh this.

The Larch was specifically planted as a crop to harvest and is also very susceptible to a fungal disease called phytophthora which if it catches, we will have to fell anyway. This has occurred in a number of other local woodlands and we are keen to avoid this situation if possible.

The Douglas is also going to be removed but we are keen to keep a small number of these trees due to their size and visibility on the site, as such we will be retaining a small number within the woodland. The plantation already has a good number of deciduous broadleaf trees growing within it and we will be working closely with the forestry contractor to protect as many of these as possible from damage or removal during the works. However due to the size of some of the trees being removed 'collateral' damage to some of these will be unavoidable.

We appreciate that the removal of trees is an emotive subject and we have thought long and hard about undertaking this work. The site will remain as woodland and all re-gen and replanting will be managed to ensure broadleaf trees can establish as quickly as possible.

If you have any further questions, please contact the countryside ranger team on 01803 752776 or timothy.bumby@nationaltrust.org.uk

ii) Neighbourhood Plan

The Six Week consultation of the plan is now open and will run from 23rd September to the 4th November 2019.

Copies of the plan have been sent to all the formal consultees. Letters have also been sent to major land owners and businesses who do not live in the village to tell them the consultation is open.

The Neighbourhood Plan Group have put up 2 banners and 20 posters. The plan is on their web site and also the Parish Council's. Paper copies of the full plan, comment forms and a summary of the plan are available in Dartmouth and Churston libraries. They have also left a summary of the plan in the two cafes, village shop and the post office. There are also comment forms available on line, in the Village Shop and Post Office. They have put an advert in the Dartmouth Chronicle and also in the By the Dart. Two Drop in sessions will also be held for people to view the plan and ask questions. One will be held in the lower village Hall on Monday 14th October 5pm to 7pm and the other will be held in a bus parked at Hillhead Park on Saturday 19th October 2019 between 2pm and 4pm.

Their hope is to try to inform as many residents as possible about the plan.

After the consultation period is over, they have to respond to any comments made, write a consultation document, write a basic conditions statement and liaise with the government inspector. The Council approved a quote of £1750 for advice on this and for writing the basis conditions statement.

The Neighbourhood Plan group have written to Dartmouth Council about the importance to the village of the 120 Bus and asked them not to try to reroute this bus via Dartmouth.

Neighbourhood Plan Expenses of £313.86 were approved by the Council.

The Council will reconvene to discuss the following items:

C/098/19 - To make comment to the Planning Authority with regard to planning application:

i) Ref: 2909/19/HHO Proposal: Householder application for extension to replace conservatory. Location: Castle Lodge, Castle Rd, Kingswear, TQ6 0DX.

The Council voted to support application 2909/19/HHO.

C/099/19 - To approve quotation for the Carlow Bequest Lunch and consider any future actions required.

The Council approved a quote of £16.50 per head from for a two-course lunch, provided by The Royal Castle Hotel. Tickets for the event will be charged at £10 and this will include cheese & biscuits after the meal.

C/100/19 - To discuss the allocation of the 'Investing in Devon' grant and agree future actions required.

The Council, at their February 19 meeting, agreed for the 'Investing in Devon' grant monies to be allocated to the Orchard Group. The practicalities of reimbursing the group for their purchases, was discussed and agreed by Councillors. The Clerk will make payment upon receipt of a letter from the

Chairman of the group, detailing their expenditure and enclosing proof or purchases. The grant monies of £1152 will then be claimed from Devon County Council.

C/101/19 - To approve Temporary Events Notices – Christmas Light Switch On / Carlow Lunch.

The Council approved both the 'Christmas Light Switch On' and Carlow Lunch Temporary Event Notice applications, although the Clerk will seek advice from South Hams District Council as to whether a TEN is required for the 'Switch On' event.

C/102/19 - To discuss items of a confidential nature and resolve that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Sub section 2, and the Local Government Act 1972 Section 100A sub sections (2) and (4) that the public and press be excluded from the Meeting in view of the items to be discussed. (Quotes and Staffing).

The Council approved the following quote:

A quotation of £1712+ VAT received from Broadgate Roofing Ltd was approved for the repair to the Cemetery Lodge Roof.

The Meeting ended at 7.30pm

Minutes Approved: Councillor L Maurer – Chairman