

KINGSWEAR PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Council Meeting held at the Village Hall (Lower Room)
on Wednesday 12th February 2020 at 7.00pm

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

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

2 Members of public present.

C/156/19 – Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

C/157/19 – To receive any apologies for absence from the Meeting.

Cllr E Jones, District Cllr R Rowe, District Cllr H Bastone.

C/158/19 - 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:

A resident raised their concerns regarding blocked drains throughout the village. The Clerk advised that Glanville Environmental have been booked for 20th and 21st April 20, to clear those drains which have been identified as being blocked.

Concerns were also voiced, regarding the Beacon Lane Steps which are in need of repair following a SWW sewer issue. Unfortunately, the steps are further eroding due to the recent heavy rains. This matter has been reported to Devon County Council Highways, however they are currently experiencing very high workloads in light of recent weather conditions, so it may take a little longer for the repairs to be carried out.

The siting of the Canon in Jubilee Park was raised. It was noted, that at the Council's July 19 meeting, approval was given for the Canon to be sited in Jubilee Park. The Council have received letters of support for the relocation and also letters from those who have objected. Councillors have taken into consideration all the comments made but felt their decision to relocate the Canon to Jubilee Park was the correct one. The item on the Council's agenda for this evening in relation to the Canon, is an update only, for those Councillors who were unable to attend a recent site visit, to establish where in Jubilee Park the Canon should be sited.

A complaint was made regarding contractors and builders cordoning off large sections of public highway for their vehicles and building materials. The Clerk will liaise with Highways regarding this matter.

Concerns were raised regarding the Council's mooring policy, with reference the sharing of mooring holder's contact details for safety purposes. It was agreed for this issue to be discussed at the April Full Council meeting.

The disappearance of a green recycling bin from Kingswear Playing Field was reported. The Clerk will raise this with South Hams District Council.

The Council will receive the following reports if available:

i) Devon County Councillor - Jonathan Hawkins

Devon County Council will be discussing its budget this month and a new machine has been purchased to repair pot-holes more effectively. Cllr Hawkins has met with Lisa Edmonds, our Neighbourhood Highways Officer and the issue of blocked drains was raised.

Stagecoach have started a public consultation on proposed changes to some of their services. They are proposing to withdraw the 18A bus service, leaving only the 18 to run hourly. If approved the change will take effect from 20/9/20. Further details regarding the plan, can be found using the following link:

<https://www.stagecoachbus.com/promos-andoffers/south-west/route-consultation-plan-2020>

Residents may respond to the consultation by emailing exeter@stagecoachbus.com or sending a letter to Stagecoach South West, Route Consultation Plan, Matford Park Depot, Matford Park Road, Exeter, EX2 8FD. It was agreed for the Clerk to contact Stagecoach, to invite them to the Council's next Full Council meeting on 11th March 20.

Cllr Hawkins noted, that some concerns have been raised by residents with regards the development on

Beacon Road. These have been reported to the enforcement team at South Hams. The Devon Highways team will also be looking into the issue regarding permits for the scaffolding and the closure of the steps to the river.

South Hams District Council will be meeting to discuss the 20/21 budget. The Council are fully supportive of putting in place a Climate Change Officer for a two year contract and this will be funded by both SHDC and West Devon. An allocation of £400k, from the New Homes Bonus is to be put aside, for Communities to bid on for Climate Change.

i) South Hams District Councillor Rosemary Rowe – None.

ii) South Hams District Councillor Hilary Bastone

Please see Kingswear Parish Council website (Full Council Minutes) for February report.

iii) Police – None.

iii) Residents Parking

Cllr Hawkins met with members of the Residents Parking Group - A report will be brought to the next Full Council meeting.

iv) Neighbourhood Plan Group Report

The Neighbourhood Plan group gave their apologies, for not providing a report at the January Council meeting and this was due to them not meeting over the Christmas period. The comments from SHDC regarding the consultation were received on 13th of December 2019.

The Group had a meeting on the 8th of January to review the responses received from the consultation. They met with Liz Beth the consultant, on 17th January to check the responses and to add any extra evidence needed in the plan. Councillors have been forwarded a table of comments and suggested responses and these were approved at the meeting. The possibility of having electric car charging points in Kingswear was raised and Councillors were in favour of this. The Council were advised that the RA 19 building plot on Brixham road, has not been included as an allocated site in the plan, by the Neighbourhood Plan group or by SHDC and this was supported by Councillors. A suggestion has been put forward in the plan, with regards purchasing existing Devon tied houses, as affordable housing should there be a need, and this was noted by Councillors.

A detailed response was received by the NHP Group, regarding ideas for parking. A copy of this was given to the Clerk who will forward onto Devon Highways and to the Residents Parking Group.

Work is progressing on the consultation document which is proving quite time consuming. David Macilrath and Eileen Parkes have had 5 meetings so far, collecting and uploading all the evidence of the consultation process. It is hoped the draft consultation document will be available at the next meeting.

The Neighbourhood Plan group have sent a response to Stagecoach with regards to the bus consultation for 18A. In the results of the questionnaire protecting and improving the bus services received 90 % support from residents. Mrs Parkes asked if notices could be put up at the bus stops regarding the consultation and the Parish Council agreed to do this. Mrs Parkes also noted, that as a representative of the Kingswear Neighbourhood Plan Group, she had attended a meeting with Dartmouth Town Council, to give a talk on how Kingswear have been preparing their neighbourhood plan.

The Council will reconvene to discuss the following items:

**C/159/19 - To resolve to approve the following minutes subject to any amendments
[Amendments to the Confidential Minutes to be noted and documented in Part II:]**

i) Full Council Meeting – 8th January 2020.

ii) Full Council Meeting – 8th January 2020 (Confidential).

iii) Planning Committee Meeting – 22nd January 2020.

iv) Extraordinary Council Meeting – 22nd January 2020.

iii) Amenities & Environment Committee Meeting – 22nd January 2020.

It was resolved to approve the minutes without amendment.

C/160/19 - Financial Matters:

i) To resolve to approve the expenditure of the Council for the period 01/01/20 – 31/01/20.

It was resolved to approve the expenditure of the Council for the period 1st January to 31st January 2020.

ii) To present for review – Finance Report and Bank Reconciliation as at 31/01/20.

The Income & Expenditure report and bank reconciliation for month ended 31st January 2020 was reviewed by Councillors.

C/161/19 - To receive the Chairman's report.

The Council now have a representative on the Kingswear Primary School's PTA. I recently attended a school meeting, where community involvement was discussed and the school's parliament also spoke about what they felt was important for the school. It is abundantly clear, what an amazing, nurturing and inspirational school and we are lucky to have the school in the village.

I accompanied Eileen Parkes, Chair of Kingswear Neighbourhood Plan Group, to Dartmouth's Town Council meeting, where she delivered a presentation about preparing the Neighbourhood Plan for Kingswear.

Local residents have voiced their concerns about two planning issues in the village and these have been reported to the Enforcement Team at SHDC.

Tree works have been taking place this week, throughout the village, as a result of a recent Tree Survey carried out by the Parish Council.

For information, the Council are in the process of ascertaining whether the Brixham Road interactive speed sign, is able to be repaired.

C/162/19 - To receive an update from the Clerk:

i) Churchyard wall railings.

A review of our Faculty and Planning applications by the Diocese Advisory Committee and SHDC's Conservation Officer, have concluded that if there is a need for a permanent barrier for health & safety purposes and that if railings were deemed to be necessary, they should be 'architecturally correct in their composition' – (Estimated cost by Architect £17,500 +). A second option of a more natural barrier (hedging) was suggested. Cllr Maurer and Hawkins to meet with the Parochial Church Council to discuss a way forward.

ii) Substation railings & bench.

The refurbishment of the substation railings is now complete. A new bench has been sponsored and will be installed during March.

iii) Site visit meeting – Canon.

A site visit meeting was held on 24.01.20, to ascertain the best location within Jubilee Park, to site the Canon. It was agreed that it should be placed near to the slipway, on the Hoodown Woods side of the Park.

iv) Jubilee Park play area sign.

The Clerk has produced a Play Area sign in accordance with ROSPA guidelines. South Hams District Council have advised, that it is acceptable for the sign to be placed in the notice board behind the Jubilee Park play area, as opposed to being fixed to the wooden gates.

C/163/19 - To discuss and agree future actions for the following events:

i) Annual Parish Meeting and Kingswear Award nominations.

The Village Hall has booked for the evening of Wednesday 20th May, for its Annual Parish Meeting. Three speakers have already confirmed their attendance. It was agreed that Devon Communities would be invited, to give a talk about Emergency Planning and the Neighbourhood Plan representative agreed to provide an update.

An advert has been placed in the 'By the Dart' magazine to request nominations for the Kingswear Award. The deadline for nominations is 1st April 20.

ii) VE Day Celebrations.

In celebration of the 75th anniversary of VE day, it was agreed that an 'Afternoon Tea' event be held for the senior citizens of Kingswear. It was proposed the event be held on Sunday 10th May. The Clerk will obtain quotes from local caterers, for approval at the next Full Council meeting.

C/164/19 - To consider and agree future actions for:

i) Future maintenance requirements - US Garden.

The wall at the Us Garden needs to be repaired and a green metal bench is due to be refurbished. Planting in the garden needs to be addressed and this will be considered at the next Amenities and Environment committee meeting.

ii) Website accessibility regulations.

The Clerk advised that there all public sector websites must comply with the WCAG2.1 AA accessibility standard and the necessary measures to make websites accessible should be completed by 23 Sept 2020. Making a website accessible means making sure it can be used by as many people as possible. This includes

those with impaired vision, motor difficulties, learning disabilities, impaired hearing etc.
The Clerk will evaluate what options are available to the Council and present at a future meeting.

iii) 18A bus service to Brixham.

It was agreed the Council would make representation to Stagecoach, with regards the proposed withdrawal of the 18A bus service. Notices will be put up in the bus stops, to advise residents of the consultation and how they able to respond to the changes proposed.

iv) Railway station fence and parking sign.

It was discussed whether the Council could approach the Steam Railway, to ask that rather than re-instating the fence, they instead have wooden planters to improve appearance and access to the station. However, it was felt that this may cause a safety issue, as there would be no physical barrier between the tables outside of the station café and the road.

The parking sign will be replaced by the Steam Railway, when the fence has been replaced.

C/165/19 - To consider and agree list of approved contractors (Over £300).

A list of approved contractors, was compiled by the Clerk and reviewed by Councillors. Details of a local electrician were provided to the Clerk and will be added to the list.

C/166/19 - To review and approve a Facilities Management Plan for the Lower Ferry Public Toilets.

The draft Facilities Management Plan for the Lower Ferry Toilets was considered and approved by Councillors.

It was agreed for the Clerk to contact South Hams District Council, to ask if sharps bins should be provided in the toilets.

C/167/19 - To propose agenda items for the March 20 Full Council meeting.

- i) Rural Policing.

C/168/19 - Urgent items - For information.

The Clerk provided Councillors with an update regarding the road sweep, due to take place on 26th February 20.

C/169/19 - 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 quotes:

i) Cemetery Lodge - Exterior redecoration.

A quote in the sum of £2,714+ VAT, received from Pete Scoble Roofing and Property Maintenance, was approved by the Council.

ii) Jubilee Park – Clear area behind moorings.

A quote received from John Crisp was approved by the Council – Price not to exceed £400+VAT.

iii) Railings - Self Watering Half Barrier Baskets.

A quote in the sum of £445, from Stevie Rogers was approved by the Council.

iv) Mooring Permits 20/21.

A quote in the sum of £62+VAT, received from Abbey Signs was approved by the Council.

By Order of the Council

Sue Balsdon

Sue Balsdon
Clerk to the Council

The Chairman will thank the members of the public for their attendance and close the meeting.

The Meeting ended at 8.25pm.

Minutes Approved: Councillor L Maurer – Chairman