

KINGSWEAR PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Council Meeting held remotely via Zoom
on Wednesday 9th September 2020 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs L Maurer (Chairman), B Longland, J Hawkins, G Webber, P Burnell, P Pudduck, E Jones, H Newcombe, District Cllr H Bastone.

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

12 members of public present.

C/051/20 – Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

C/052/20 – To receive any apologies for absence from the Meeting.

Cllrs J Hacking.

C/053/20 - 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:

Representation was made regarding the unregistered strip of land, on Higher Contour Road. The Council were asked to register the land, with the Land Registry using a General Vesting declaration. The resident advised that ownership of the land would provide additional parking for local use and would mean that abandoned vehicles and rubbish could be quickly removed. The Council were also asked if they were aware of anybody who had recently registered the land. This matter will be discussed at the Council's next meeting in October. ***Amendment to minutes approved Full Council 14.10.20 – A petition to request that Kingswear Parish Council continue the registration process of the verge, was supported by 180 people, mainly residents who support this campaign.***

Residents raised the issue of parking and the increased difficulties they have had this year, in trying to find available parking spaces. They advised that implementing a scheme for only part of the village, would have a knock on effect for the rest of the Parish and therefore a relevant and effective parking scheme, should be available to all residents.

Galmpton residents association raised a query regarding a planning application for the Galmpton Touring Park. The Clerk received prior notification of the question and this was forwarded to the SHDC Planning Department and their response was sent on to the residents association.

The Council will receive the following reports if available:

i) Devon County Councillor - Jonathan Hawkins:

Devon Highways have advised that in October, they are to resurface Higher Contour Road, from the junction of Lower Contour Road to the bottom of Ridley Hill.

The Van on Higher Contour Road has now been removed by South Hams District Council.

Several residents have contacted me regarding vehicles accessing Beacon Rd, which are too wide for the width of the road. The Council are liaising with Highways to request new signage.

Devon County Council had a Children's Scrutiny Committee meeting and it was reported that nearly 97% of children are now back at school following the six month break due to Covid.

It is expected that South Hams District Council and Devon County Council will continue to have virtual meetings until the Spring of next year.

ii) South Hams District Councillors:

Please see Kingswear Parish Council website (Full Council Minutes) for July/August reports.

iii) Police: None.

iv) Residents Parking:

Please see minute ref C/056/20.

v) Neighbourhood Plan:

All the documentation for the Neighbourhood Plan including the groups responses to the comments made at the Reg. 16 consultation have been submitted to SHDC and the Government examiner. The Neighbourhood Plan group are awaiting feedback.

The Council will reconvene to discuss the following items:

C/054/20 - To resolve to co-opt applicant to the vacant Councillor post.

It was resolved to co-opt Barry Lowe (Hillhead) to the vacant Councillor post.

C/055/20 - To receive completed 'Acceptance of Office' form from co-opted Parish Councillor.

The clerk advised that the new Councillor's 'Acceptance of Office form', should be completed either before or at the next Full Council meeting.

C/056/20 - To receive an update regarding Residents Parking and agree future actions required.(JH)

The Council discussed an extension to the existing residents parking scheme and concerns were raised in relation to visitor permits and permits for those residents who reside in outlying settlements. Cllr Hawkins advised, that he doesn't believe a residents parking scheme will ever solve the parking problems in the village during July and August, because there are too many houses, second homes, holiday lets and builders for the number of available parking spaces on the roads, but that he supports a residents parking scheme for the entire village.

It was agreed that a meeting be held with Councillors and members of the residents parking working group, to work through the issues raised.

Cllr Hawkins proposed that the Covid Business Grant of £10,000 be ring fenced to fund a residents parking scheme. Councillors voted 3 in favour (Cllrs Hawkins, Pudduck and Newcombe) and 5 against (Cllrs Maurer, Longland, Webber, Burnell and Jones).

C/057/20 - 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 – 22nd July 2020**
- ii) Planning Committee Meeting – 12th Aug 2020.**

It was resolved to approve all minutes without amendment.

C/058/20 - To make comment to the Planning Authority with regards to the following planning applications:

- i) Ref: 2089/20/FUL Proposal: Site Address: Fish Hoek, South Town, Dartmouth, TQ6 9BU**
OBJECT – The Parish Council reiterate their objection to the original application. The Council object to the development on the following grounds – Over development, impact on conservation area and excessive visual impact.
- ii) Ref: 2461/20/VAR Proposal: Application for variation of condition 2 of planning consent Site Address: Little Ravenswell, Beacon Road, Kingswear, TQ6 OBS**
SUPPORT
- iii) Ref: 2469/20/HHO Proposal: Householder application for proposed conservatory Site Address: Coronation Cottage, Brixham Road, Kingswear, TQ6 OBA**
SUPPORT
- iv) Ref: 2658/20/HHO Proposal: Householder application for demolition of three existing garden buildings and replacement with one larger garden building housing multipurpose ancillary annex (Resubmission of 1806/20/HHO) Site Address: Baytree House, Church Hill, Kingswear, TQ5 0BX**
SUPPORT
- v) Ref: 2659/20/LBC Proposal: Listed building consent for remedial and stabilization works to west elevation Site Address: Almshouses, Beacon Road, Kingswear**
SUPPORT

C/059/20 - Financial Matters (Clerk).

i) To resolve to approve the expenditure of the Council for the period 01/07/20 – 31/08/20.

It was resolved to approve the expenditure of the Council for the period 1st July to 31st August 20.

ii) To resolve to approve September payments via internet banking.

It was resolved to approve the September payments via internet banking.

iii) To present for review – Month end finance report and bank reconciliation as at 31/08/20.

The income and expenditure report and bank reconciliation for month ending 31st August 2020 was reviewed by Councillors.

C/060/20 - To receive the Chairman's report.

Work around the Parish has been ongoing during August. We are awaiting the outcome of the Council's recent tree survey. The base of the Canon is now in place and the Lengthsmen will be attending Chapter 8 training to enable them to carry out road side work. The responsibility of the Council to make safe the Church wall is still being discussed with the Parochial Church Council, the Diocese and the SHDC Conservation Officer.

C/061/20 - To seek approval for the siting of a memorial bench - Us Garden, Castle Road (JH).

The Council approved the siting of a memorial bench in the Us Garden on Castle Road.

C/062/20 - Website accessibility (Clerk):

To consider and approve:

i) Website provider.

Netwise UK were approved by the Council, to provide the new WCAG2.1 accessible website (Cost £899).

ii) Website accessibility statement.

The Clerk to publish an accessibility statement on the Council's current website. The statement will advise that the Council are committed to making their website accessible in accordance with the WCAG 2.1 regulations; that they are aware that some parts of the existing website are not fully accessible and therefore it is not compliant with the accessibility guidelines; that a new website has been commissioned, which will be fully compliant with the accessibility standards.

C/063/20 - To consider freeholder's offer with regards using the gents as a store room and agree future actions (LM).

The Clerk contacted the freeholder for the public toilets building, with regards the possibility of using the 'old gents toilets' under the archway as a Council store room. The freeholder advised that he would consider a rental for use of the gents as a store on a revocable license basis. Councillors voted not to pursue ownership and agreed that they do not have any further use for this part of the premises. The Clerk to contact the freeholder, to ascertain whether he would consider removing the gents from the Council's lease.

C/064/20 - To receive an update and agree future actions with reference to:

i) Cemetery Lodge septic tank (Clerk).

The Clerk advised that the Council have so far spent £885 emptying and jetting the septic tank this year, when ordinarily the annual charge would be approx. £220. The contractors emptying the tank have raised issues with both the soakaway and the septic tank. Cllr Jones to investigate.

ii) Closed Churchyard (Clerk/ JH / LM).

The 2019 Quinquennial inspection for the Church has identified works required to the Lych Gate, railings, steps and retaining walls. It was agreed that a meeting should be held with the Parochial Church Council to determine the Parish Council's responsibility in respect of the repairs.

C/065/20 - With reference to the recent thefts from Dart Harbour and the Creek, to consider a number plate recognition camera and agree any future actions (Clerk).

Councillors supported the idea of installing a number plate recognition camera, in the hope this will deter future thefts from moorings in Kingswear. The Clerk to notify the Harbour Master.

C/066/20 - To consider and approve the South Hams District Council Play Area Agreement 20/21 (Clerk).

The Council approved the 20/21 South Hams District Council Play Area Agreement at a cost of £210 per annum. The agreement provides for regular monthly inspections of the Jubilee Park play equipment and safety surfacing, an annual engineering inspection and public liability insurance.

C/067/20 - To consider winter hanging baskets for the square (JH).

The Council approved for winter hanging baskets to be put up in the village and these are to be sponsored by Cllrs Maurer and Hawkins.

C/068/20 - To clarify the terms of the Lengthsman Contract (PP).

Clr Pudduck raised concerns regarding the payment of course fees and for the Lengthsmen's time in attending, a Chapter 8 training course at Brixham Town Council. It was questioned why the Council were paying for this training, when the Lengthsmen's contract states they should be 'Chapter 8 trained' and also whether the fees should be paid for using Council funds.

The Clerk advised, that it was known that the Lengthsmen did not have this qualification when appointed. All those attending the Course are groundsmen/Lengthsmen from other Parish/Town Councils who do not hold the qualification. The training costs are to be funded from savings made, whilst the lengthsman post was vacant April to June this year. The training will allow the Lengthsmen to carry out drain works, which the Council has previously paid £550 per day for.

C/069/20 - To propose agenda items for the October 20 Full Council meeting.

Strip of Land, Higher Contour Road; Beacon Road Sign.

C/070/20 - Urgent Items – For information.

None.

C/071/20 - 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:

a) Planting Us Garden / Jubilee Park

A quote in the sum of £750 from Stevie Rogers (Dartmouth Green Partnership) was approved by Councillors.

b) Play Area Repairs

A Quote in the sum of £1345+VAT from Outdoor Play Devon Ltd was approved by Councillors.

By Order of the Council

Sue Balsdon

Sue Balsdon
Clerk to the Council

The Meeting ended at 9.00 pm.

Minutes Approved: Councillor L Maurer – Chairman