

KINGSWEAR PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held at the Village Hall (Lower Room)
on Wednesday 14th June 2023 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs L Maurer (Chairman), J Hawkins, G Webber, H Newcombe, S Pearson, P Burnell, T Burnell, C Dawes, A O'Rourke, M Bentley

In Attendance: Sue Balsdon (Clerk)

Members of public present: 8

C/029/23 – Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

C/030/23 – To receive any apologies for absence from the Meeting.

None.

C/031/23 - 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 in regard:

- i) New Stay and Play group commencing in August
- ii) Double council tax on second homes
- iii) Planning Application 4345/22/FUL

The Council will receive the following reports if available:

i) Devon County Councillor

'Devon County Council and South Hams District Council have had their first Full Council meeting of the new year. I will be holding regular Teams meetings with Cllrs Ged Yardy and Ben Cooper, the two new District Councillors for the Dartmouth and East Dart Ward.

We had a meeting with Devon and Somerset Fire Service regarding the reduction of one of our two area appliances. Dartmouth have always had two and we expressed our concerns, that with a town as remote as Dartmouth, one appliance was not sufficient. It was also concerning that the narrow width appliance is the one that has been withdrawn, when we have so many narrow roads. The Fire Service advised that if we could get more on-call Fire Fighters in Dartmouth, the second appliance could return, but unfortunately, they have been having difficulties in recruiting. A recruitment evening is to be held at Dartmouth Fire Station on 28th June 7.00 to 9.00pm.

I was recently consulted by the Steam Railway Company who are proposing to go cashless, but I felt that this would not be an issue for the Parish.

The road surface at the Higher Ferry has been reported to Highways.'

ii) South Hams District Councillors

Please see the Parish Council website for reports received.

iii) Police

None.

iv) Sustainable Kingswear

'Sustainable South Hams have had their monthly meeting of the leaders of the group and the emphasis was on scaling up of the conserving of Earth's natural resources and the different ways of doing that, for example saving water, composting, repairing and sharing items and also the suggestion that owners of all publicly owned buildings should be encouraged to collect rainwater using water butts. Free Water Butts are becoming available and those that have them are entitled to a 5% discount on their water bills. Public space management was also discussed, for example the management of verges. Each of the topic's discussed will have a working group to take forward ideas.

The Council will reconvene to discuss the following items:

C/032/23 - To receive an update in regard to Kingswear Primary School (Jonathan/Lynne).

Cllr Maurer has asked Matthew Shanks, who is the Executive Principle and the Chief Education Officer of Education Southwest, for a definitive and clear statement which is as follows:

'We continue to plan for the school to be open with staffing in place for September. The small number of children means that we do not believe this is best for children's education in the long term. Currently, there will be two children, but I think we have now learnt that there will only be one. We continue in conversation with the regional director and local authority regarding future arrangements.'

Simon Niles, the coordinator between the academies and the County Council, has said:

'We are currently in discussion with education Southwest regarding the future of Kingswear Primary School. We will consider the options for the school in the coming months and if the minister is minded to consider the closure of the School, then there would be a listening period where stake holders can make representations before a final decision is made. If this is the case, it is likely that a listening period would take place in September 2023 and stakeholders would receive further communications about this.'

Anthony Mangnall MP is also liaising with the Education Authority regarding the closure.

C/033/23 - To make comment to the Planning Authority with regards to the following planning applications (Hector).

Cllr Hawkings did not participate in any discussion or vote, in regard to the following planning applications.

i) Ref: 0618/23/FUL Proposal: Erection of 2no. residential units (Use Class 3) within void space consented under Planning Application A Site Address: Noss on Dart Marina, Bridge Road, Kingswear, TQ6 0EA

SUPPORT

ii) Ref: 0622/23/VAR Proposal: Application for variation of condition 2 (approved plans) following grant of planning permission ref 2161/17/OPA (as amended by S.73 planning permission ref 05-4/20/VAR) for amendments to Phase 12 of the Noss Marina Redevelopment & specifically relating to the Waterside Apartments building, raised walkway and Central Square only and associated conditions 15, 20, 36, 49 & administrative changes required to conditions 1, 2, 4, 17, 22, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 41, 42, 43, 45, 51, 52, 56, 58, 59, 60 reflecting approved discharge of conditions. Site Address: Noss on Dart Marina, Bridge Road, Kingswear, TQ6 0EA

SUPPORT

iii) Ref: 1405/23/FUL Proposal: Amendments to patio and deck Site Address: Apartment 2, Oceana, Higher Contour Road, Kingswear, TQ6 0DE

SUPPORT

Standing Orders were suspended to allow residents to make representation in regard to planning application 4345/22/FUL.

iv) Ref: 4345/22/FUL Proposal: Proposed erection of a 2-storey structure with parking for 3 cars plus ancillary space above serving the properties Two Guns and The Boat House Site Address: Development site adjacent to the Almshouses, Beacon Road, Kingswear

OBJECT – Overdevelopment / Detrimental effect on Almshouses / Planned development will affect access to the retaining wall for maintenance purposes.

Cllr Pearson declared an interest regarding planning application 4345/22/FUL and therefore did not vote.

Standing Orders re-instated.

C/034/23 - To resolve to approve the following minutes subject to any amendments:

i) Full Council Meeting – 10/05/23.

The minutes were approved without amendment.

C/035/23 - Financial Matters (Clerk).

i) To resolve to approve the expenditure of the Council for the period 01/05/23 – 31/05/23.

It was resolved to approve the expenditure of the Council for the period 1st May 2023 to 31st May 2023.

ii) To present for review the month end finance report and bank reconciliation as at 31/05/23.

The finance report and bank reconciliation for month ending 31st May 2023 was reviewed by Councillors. All receipts and payments have been reconciled against the Council's bank statements and a difference of 10p has been identified. The unreconciled amount relates to an overpayment which has now been corrected.

iii) To note forecast of year end position compared with 2023/24 budget.

In regard to the costs for the repair to the retaining wall on Beacon Lane, the Clerk prepared a forecast to show the year end position, including the anticipated cost for the wall. The repairs to the wall were not expected and are therefore unfunded. To afford the cost of the repairs, the Council will need to utilise the 6.8k budget allocated to fund inflationary increases in 23/24 and the £8.9k 24/25 moorings income. This will ensure that the Council is left with the minimum level of general reserve 50% precept (£22,886) as at 31.3.24, but it will impact budget setting for 24/25. The Council will not be able to fund any additional expenditure unless it is already funded within the 23/24 budget, or it is to be funded from the Covid grant or bequest funds.

iv) To consider whether to delay the transfer of £15k to a high interest savings account.

Item deferred to the Finance Committee meeting (26th July 2023).

C/036/23 - Chairman's Report.

Cllr Maurer introduced the three new Councillors, who then gave a brief statement about themselves and their interests.

C/037/23 - To resolve to approve Scheme of Delegation decisions made 01/5/23 to 31/05/23

(Clerk).

It was resolved to approve the Scheme of Delegation decisions for the period 1st May 23 to 31st May 23.

C/038/23 - To make comment to South Hams District Council with regards the following licences:

i) Variation of Premises License – Steam Packet Inn, 3 Fore Street, Kingswear, TQ6 0AD.

SUPPORT

ii) New Premises License – Kingswear Park Club Ltd, Redoubt Hill, Kingswear, TQ6 0DA

SUPPORT

C/039/23 - To appoint a chair and members for the following:

i) Amenities & Environment Committee - Chair: Cllr J Hawkins Members: Cllr L Maurer, Cllr S Pearson, Cllr G Webber, Cllr M Bentley, Cllr A O'Rourke

ii) Finance – Chair: Cllr M Bentley Members: Cllr L Maurer, Cllr P Burnell, Cllr C Dawes, Cllr G Webber

iii) Staffing – Chair: Cllr L Maurer, Members: Cllr G Webber, Cllr T Burnell

C/040/23 - To approve the following quotes (Clerk):

i) Measured survey / site investigation work regarding the Beacon Lane Wall.

The Council approved a quote in the sum of £4997.50 plus VAT from Marine Civil Solutions.

ii) Cemetery Lodge – Bathroom.

The Council approved a quote in the sum of £2,562.05 from PSL Plumbing (Installation of Shower).

C/041/23 - To consider project ideas in regard to (Jonathan):

i) M Emms Bequest

ii) Covid Grant

The following project ideas were proposed:

- Village Hall rent for the new 'Stay and Play' group.
- To pay the Village Hall archive room storage fee for the Historian Group.
- Cemetery Memorial Garden in the Cemetery
- Waterhead Creek Preservation Society - Litter Pickers
- Beach Clean Stations
- Purchase of Marquee

Project ideas to be discussed further at the Amenities & Environment Group.

C/042/23 - To consider and approve recommendations – Moorings Working Group (Chris).

The policy resolutions made at the moorings working group meeting held on 8th June 2023, were approved by Councillors. The mooring policy changes will come into effect from 1st April 2024, but the Clerk to start contacting permit holders now, so that they have sufficient time to rectify any non-compliance issues.

C/043/23 - In regard to the Council's Coronation events (Clerk/Jonathan):

i) To note the final income and expenditure schedule.

A schedule of receipts and payments made in regard to the Council's Coronation events was reviewed by Councillors. The Clerk advised a surplus of £2709 remained in the Coronation budget.

ii) To approve the formation of a Coronation community fund.

The Council approved for a Coronation Community fund be created, to utilise the remaining funds allocated for the Coronation events. The Council will award grants to community organisations which contribute to the activities and wellbeing of residents in the Parish.

iii) To approve the transfer of funds to the Jubilee/Coronation Bell project

The Council agreed to the transfer of £5000 to FROST (Friends of St Thomas Church) as a donation towards their Jubilee/Coronation Bell Project. The funds were raised as follows:

£2,819 - Proceeds from boat trip ticket sales

£2,000 - Return contribution made by FROST in regard to the temporary fencing (Churchyard Wall)

£ 181 - Funds raised Community Market for Jubilee/Coronation Bell Project

C/044/23 - To receive an update in regard to Cyber Security Insurance and agree future actions (Clerk).

The Clerk advised that the Council's insurer (BHIB) would consider the council a 'small Council' and so they could have a joint Cyber Security insurance policy with up to 3 other Councils to split the cost. Councillors remain unsure as to whether Cyber Security insurance is required. The Clerk to contact the internal auditor to ask if they could confirm what the minimum requirements are in terms of cyber security. Item to be discussed further at the July Finance Committee meeting.

C/045/23 - To consider and approve for the Council to sign the Civility & Respect Pledge (Clerk).

The Clerk advised that the Civility and Respect Project was founded by the Civility and Respect Working Group and is supported by representatives from across our sector including councils, county associations, NALC, the SLCC and One Voice Wales. The primary aim of the project is to coordinate a programme of work designed to promote civility and respect in public life, including good governance, positive debate and to support the well-being of councillors, officers and staff. 1242 Councils have signed the pledge at today's date. The Council agreed to sign the Civility and Respect Pledge.

C/046/23 - To propose agenda items for the next Full Council meeting.

To consider signing up to the Armed Forces Covenant.

C/047/23 - Urgent Items – For information.

None.

Sue Balsdon

Sue Balsdon
Clerk to the Council

The Meeting ended at 8.40pm.

Minutes Approved: Councillor L Maurer – Chairman