



KINGSWEAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Amenities and Environment Committee Meeting held in the Village Hall (Lower Room) on Wednesday 13th October 2021 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors J Hawkins (Chairman of the Committee), L Maurer, G Webber, E Jones, P Pudduck.

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

1 member of public present.

A&E/13.10.21/01 - The Chairman of the Committee welcomed everyone to the meeting.

A&E/13.10.21/02 - To receive any apologies for absence from the Meeting.

None.

A&E/13.10.21/03 - 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].

Cllr Hawkins declared an interest with reference to the Grounds Maintenance contract with South Hams District Council.

The Council will reconvene to discuss the following items:

4. To discuss and agree future actions for:

a) Cemetery – Memorial Safety Check / Waste Bins (Lynne).

It was agreed to appoint Shrives Bros. to carry out this year's Memorial Safety check.

Cllrs Maurer and Webber empty the bins in the Cemetery and regularly find that they are being used for broken glass, plastics etc. which is a health and safety hazard. It was proposed that the bins along the path be removed and their metal frames used as planters and then to have a wooden compost bin for used florals. The Clerk to obtain a quote for a compost bin.

b) Cemetery Lodge – Refurbishment Works / Roof Repair Update (Clerk).

The Clerk advised that the scaffolding was in place, ready for the roof repairs to be carried out. The upgrade to the hot and cold water system has now been completed. The clerk to liaise with Cllr Maurer, in regard to a repair which is required to the cupboard housing the new system. It was agreed for the Clerk to obtain three quotes for the replacement of the double glazing and doors. The electrical inspection and emptying of the Septic tank has been booked.

c) Public Toilets – Drainage Issues / Electric & Water Meters (Clerk).

The toilet drains have been blocked several times since the Council took over the lease in January 20. South West Water have been called out to clear the blockages, but have done so only as a goodwill gesture. They have advised that any future blockages will be the responsibility of the Parish Council, as the drain is located in a private section of the drainage system. The freeholder of the property is currently liaising with SWW in regard of this issue.

SWW have previously advised that the water supply to the public toilets is shared with the Coffee Shop next door. A new meter has since been installed to record only the water usage for the toilets, but unfortunately it has been placed in a location which is not accessible, to those wishing to read the meter. The Clerk to apply for a relocation of the meter.

The faulty electric meter has yet to be replaced.

d) Church – Community Noticeboard (Lynne).

The Church would like to have a community noticeboard in the village and it was suggested that the red telephone box at the bottom of Church Hill could be utilised for this purpose. Cllr Maurer to liaise with the Church.

e) Closed Churchyard – Health & Safety/Wall Repairs (Lynne).

It was reported that some repairs may be required to the churchyard perimeter wall. The Clerk to contact Stuart Truss at South Hams District Council, to request for an engineer to call out to assess the wall.

Cllr Maurer also noted, that to the rear of the church there is a 15ft drop next to the retaining wall

which is a health and safety risk. It was proposed that a gate be re-instated to restrict access to this part of the churchyard. The Clerk to liaise with Cllr Maurer to progress.

f) Jubilee Park Play Area (Lynne).

Further issues have been reported in regard of the basket swing. The Council have recently replaced the swing assembly on both sides of our basket swing, following a defect report stating 'Plastic bushes wearing.' The Council have now received a second defect report which advises that the fixings are loose at the top of the basket swing. The area around the fixings has rubbed over the years since instalment, resulting in grooves and splintering in the wood and the fixings have to be re-tightened regularly. The Clerk to contact the play equipment manufacturer (Caledonia Play) to obtain advice as to the best course of action.

The Clerk to also contact Rob Sekula at South Hams District Council, in regard of playground surface options to replace the existing matting.

The Council also need to ensure, that the two pedestrian gates to Jubilee Park are self-closing. The Clerk to contact the Public Rights of Way Warden, to ask for his advice in regard of this matter.

g) Waterhead Creek (Jonathan).

A litter pick was carried out by residents in Jubilee Park/Waterhead Creek. They found quite a lot of old mooring debris along the foreshore which needs to be removed from the Creek. It was also noted that builder's rubble has been dumped in the Creek on the opposite side. Cllr Maurer and Jones to meet at the Creek to assess both issues.

h) Lengthsman / Grounds Maintenance Contracts (Jonathan).

The current Lengthsmen have given notice to terminate their contract. It was proposed that the Lengthsmen and Grounds Maintenance contracts be combined and for the Council to re-tender for the revised contract. A Zoom meeting will be held to compile a revised work schedule and contract and for this to be brought to Full Council for approval.

i) Verge – Higher Contour Road Verge (Clerk).

A letter has been received from a resident, in regard to the untidy state of the verge on Higher Contour Road. The Council were asked if they could contact those responsible, but it was noted that as the Council do not own the land, they do not have the right to do so.

j) Fore Street/Hillhead – Kerbside Maintenance (Jonathan).

The spraying of the weeds in Fore Street and Hillhead has been undertaken by a Councillor, but they do not have the resources to do this as often as is needed. It was agreed for this work to be included within the combined Grounds Maintenance/Lengthsman Contract.

k) Drain Clean – 8th November (Clerk).

The drain clean has been booked for Monday 8th November. Cllrs Maurer and Webber to identify the blocked drains throughout the village and the Clerk to ensure this information is forwarded to Glanville Environmental.

l) Solar Speed Sign – Brixham Road (Clerk).

A letter of concern has been received by the Council in connection with speed of vehicles travelling on Brixham Road. As agreed at the September Full Council meeting, the Clerk has obtained the cost of a Solar Speed Sign - £1969 + VAT. Item deferred to the November Full Council, for approval.

m) Castle Road Telephone Wires – BT Openreach Visit (Clerk).

A resident has raised concerns, in regard to trees on Castle Rd pulling on the telephone wire. BT Open Reach have sent an engineer out who has advised:

- 1) The tree branches are lightly touching the BT wires. They are high strength/steel reinforced power cables and therefore the engineer advised that he doesn't believe there is a possibility of any damage being cause, even during windy weather.
- 2) There are labels on the telephone poles dated July 21, which state that there has been tree rub on the cables and they are therefore due to be replaced by BT Openreach. The engineer is unsure when the works will be carried out.

It was agreed, that in the interim period whilst we are waiting for the cables to be replaced, the trees should be cut back in accordance with the advice from the tree specialist at South Hams which allows for the removal of approximately 1m to clear the cables, but no height taken down. The Clerk to obtain quotes for the work to be undertaken.

n) Funding for Infrastructure and Community Projects (Clerk).

An email has been sent to the Council by a resident, in regard to whether funding would be available for infrastructure and community projects, using the NOSS S106 monies. The Clerk advised that a meeting had recently been held with South Hams District Council in regard to the S106 funds and

that the Parish Council are awaiting a schedule from them, in regard to how the monies are to be allocated. It was agreed that a copy of the schedule be forwarded to the resident when available.

o) Council Land – Rewilding (Clerk).

A recent consultation held by the District Council, has had overwhelming public support for its plans to increase biodiversity and wildlife. A large proportion of replies to the consultation, are happy with proposals to relax 'grass cutting regimes, leaving areas of long grass along the verges and edges of parks, as well as introducing planting of new areas of wildflowers'.

Councillors agreed that the Parish Council already ensure areas within the Cemetery and Churchyard are left, to allow for the growth of wildflowers. A wildflower area has also been created by the Orchard Group.

It was felt that further rewilding could be considered for Castle Gardens and also at the allotments.

p) Refurbishment of Fire Engine – Update (Clerk).

Carousel Signs are in the process of identifying the colour of paint to use in the restoration of the Fire Engine and they also need to liaise with the railway, with regards insurance for them to work at the paint shed in Churston.

q) Waste/Dog Bins – Playing Field / Lower Ferry / School Steps (Clerk).

Playing Field

A litter bin has recently been installed at the playing field, but a resident has asked whether a dog bin could also be installed.

It was agreed to propose to Full Council that an additional dog bin be installed. South Hams District Council have confirmed that the costs are as follows:

50L Dog Bin - £214.50 + VAT

Installation Cost – £50 to £250 + VAT (Dependent on where the bin is placed and how much work is involved)

Maximum Cost - £464.50 + VAT

The ongoing cost for emptying the bin would be £156 per year (One visit per week x £3.00 per visit).

Lower Ferry

It was proposed at the September Full Council meeting, that siting a bin near to the slipway may encourage late night ferry passengers to properly dispose of their rubbish, but it was felt that there were a sufficient number of bins already in situ, in this location.

School Steps Bin

The Clerk received an email regarding a missing bin at the bottom of the school steps on Lower Contour Road, but this has now been replaced by the localities team.

r) Viability of New Defibrillator Location (Lynne).

Item deferred – To be discussed at the November Full Council meeting.

s) Welcome Sign – Hillhead (Lynne).

Item deferred – To be discussed when sign is due to be replaced.

t) Chough Awards (Clerk).

The Clerk to obtain costs for a 'Chough' plaque/medal, to be awarded for 'Service to the Community'.

u) Village Hall Broadband (Lynne).

The Village Hall Committee have advised, that if they renew their broadband service, they will have to recharge the cost to those using it. It was agreed that the Parish Council do not use this service and so would have no issue if the Committee decide not to renew.

v) 22/23 Budget Requirements (Clerk).

Item deferred to Full Council.

w) Events:

i) Remembrance Sunday (Clerk).

The Remembrance Service will take place on 14th November at 10.45am. All wreath layers have been invited and have accepted. Refreshments will be served in the Church after the service.

ii) Christmas (Jonathan).

It was agreed for the Christmas Light Switch on to take place on Friday 3rd December, followed by a Christmas celebration in the Church with Carols, Mince Pies and Mulled Wine.

iii) Platinum Jubilee (Jonathan).

A Platinum Jubilee Working Group has been set up and the first meeting will take place via Zoom on

Tuesday 19th October at 7pm.

5. With reference to Moorings, to consider (Clerk):

a) & b) Parish Pontoon – Boat Length & Width Restrictions / Mooring Usage.

The Clerk has received emails from three permit holders in regard of oversized boats moored on the pontoon, as well as some permit holders mooring their boats adjacent to the pontoon, taking up two spaces. It was agreed that a Pontoon inspection take place, to ascertain what the issues are and to also propose a change to the mooring policy, to advise that boats are to inspected for all new permit holders, to ensure they adhere to the size restrictions.

c) Jubilee Park – Vehicular Access.

An enquiry was received from a resident, in regard of access to Jubilee Park by Canoe clubs. It was agreed that the Council should make the park and slipway more accessible, to those wishing to use it.

6. Items for next meeting.

Platinum Jubilee / Additional hanging baskets for the Banjo.

7. Confirmation of date of next meeting.

15th December 2021.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Minutes Approved:

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Councillor L Maurer – Chairman