

KINGSLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 17 JUNE 2014 AT 7.30 PM AT THE POST OFFICE, KINGSLAND

PRESENT

Mr R C Smallwood (CHAIRMAN); Mr C Southgate (VICE CHAIRMAN); Mrs G B Bengry; Mrs J Barbour; Mr D Thompson; and Mr B J Watkins.

IN ATTENDANCE

District Cllr. S Bowen; and Mr R Hewitt, Parish Clerk.

2015/45 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Apologies were accepted from Mrs R J Edwards, Mr D Fordham, Mr H Jones and Mr P D Vaughan.

2015/46 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST and WRITTEN DISPENSATIONS**
Cllr. Barbour declared a disclosable interest in the payment to hold meetings in the room behind the Post Office.

2015/47 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** – The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Tuesday 20 May 2014 were agreed and signed.

2015/48 **HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR’S REPORT**

Balfour Beatty has appointed a new locality steward, the former PROW officer for north Herefordshire. District Cllr. Bowen has gone round with the new steward to identify defects that need repair. Class 1 potholes should be repaired within 24 hours and others should be fixed within 28 days. The plans for programmed works are encouraging though there is no timetable for implementation at present. Shortly District Cllr. Bowen will review potholes with the head of Balfour Beatty and will talk to him about repairs where the tarmac is already coming out again. The repairs of the C and U roads are just getting off the ground, and the £20 million to fund the work has been raised from a public works loan.

Herefordshire Council has £200 million of borrowings, and needs to make further budget cuts in the next two years. Cutting of verges has been reduced to three times from 7 times per year in order to save money. Junctions and other places where visibility is important are supposed to be cut more often. The lengthsman can always step in and cut verges where the parish council thinks it is required. The collection of refuse is going to be fortnightly later this year to save money.

Herefordshire Council needs to save £15 million in 2015 and £15 million in 2016 and this will mean reduced services. The council is looking to do things differently, which may allow access to new sources of funding. Adult and social care will be the priority. There is currently an ‘open book’ review of nursing home fees. OFSTED has completed its review and childrens' services are now going in the right direction.

The Core Strategy is out for public consultation. The Kingsleane planning application is going to be considered by planning committee. The white line vehicle should be active in the parish next month.

In response to a question about when the drains and roads are to be cleaned in the village, Cllr. Southgate said a council drainage vehicle had been seen working in the village the previous week.

2015/49 LOCAL RESIDENTS DISCUSSION

A member of the public said few vehicles using North Road were within the 30 mph speed limit. The same member of the public said she was very impressed with the neighbourhood plan drop in consultation held earlier in the month.

The Chairman said the parish council has decided to request that Section 106 monies are used to purchase and install a permanent flashing sign to encourage vehicles entering the village from the Luctonians end to observe the speed limit.

2015/50 CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk said the work to install dropped kerbs at the crossroads by the post office and Corners Inn had yet to be carried out by Balfour Beatty. This means the £22,500 allocated to highways improvements by Amey remains unspent. District Cllr. Bowen said he will contact Balfour Beatty for a speedy implementation of the work and confirmation of the remaining budget.

The Safer Roads Partnership has offered to undertake speed checks in the village at two locations which can be nominated by the parish council. The meeting decided to request speed checks by North House, North Road, to measure the traffic as it speeds into the village; and at the other end of the village on Longford, between Holgate and St Mary's Farm to measure the speed of traffic entering the village from the opposite direction.

Herefordshire Council will consult with the parish council on the allocation of section 106 monies which may result from the Kingsleane planning application. The SIDs deployed in the village have been fitted with refreshed batteries in recognition that the earlier deployment did not run the full four weeks due to the batteries running down. The meeting noted the SIDs are being stored in situ and that Balfour Beatty will move them when they are next due to be deployed in the county.

2015/51 FINANCE

The following payments were agreed: J Barbour, parish council meetings 2014-15 (£150.00); Coronation Hall, meetings on 17 April and 20 May 2014 (£10.00); Whitley Printing, neighbourhood plan (£306.00); Hoople, neighbourhood plan (£588.20); S Deakin, neighbourhood plan (£200.21); and S Hanson, neighbourhood plan (£96.00).

The meeting noted the neighbourhood plan grant will cover the expenses for the weekend consultation event, but that a proportion of future running costs may need to be met from parish council funds.

2015/52 THE LENGTHSMAN SCHEME

The Clerk said Herefordshire Council has confirmed that the 2014-15 grant is is £1,926.00, reflecting the reduction from £110 to £90 per kilometre which takes effect after the third year.

The Vice Chairman reported the lengthsman has trimmed back growth by the speed limit signs in the village and will tidy up the ground at the Monument. The hedge by St Mary's Farm was reported to have grown to take up half the path, and the hedge by the Fire Station was reported as overgrown and requiring attention.

The Vice Chairman said the landowners are responsible for the maintenance of their hedges. Cllr. Thompson said he would raise the matter of the overgrown hedge by the Fire Station with Smiths Gore, the agents for the landowners.

2015/53

P3 FOOTPATH SCHEME

The Clerk reported that Mr Jones has withdrawn from the role of Footpath Officer following the briefing at the end of May 2014, and that Cllr. Vaughan has offered to take on the role on behalf of the parish council. The meeting agreed to accept Cllr. Vaughan's offer to take on the role, and asked the Clerk to arrange the required briefing with Balfour Beatty.

The footpaths grant for 2014-15 is confirmed as £1,000.00 by Herefordshire Council, and the Chairman signed the footpaths contract for the financial year.

The meeting asked Richard Bayliss, the footpaths contractor to undertake the regular work required to keep the main footpaths open until the new footpaths officer is in place.

2015/54

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Vice Chairman reported on the community consultation weekend held earlier in the month: the presentation was good, but the numbers of people attending (170) were slightly down compared to the planning for real event held for the parish plan (240). A second consultation will be held for local businesses and clubs at Luctonians on 18 June 2014. The consultation has been placed online at www.kingslandlife.com, and displayed at the post office to help boost the feedback.

There is a lot more to do, and the work required in the short term has been increased because Herefordshire Council has brought forward the deadline for evaluation of sites.

2015/55

HGV TRAFFIC THROUGH COBNASH AND KINGSLAND

The meeting considered a letter from Cobnash House which raised concern at the number of HGVs driving through Cobnash and Kingsland. The meeting agreed to consult with Balfour Beatty to understand the options available to address the issue.

2015/56

LAPTOP FOR PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS

The meeting agreed a budget up to £450.00 to purchase a Windows 8 laptop for parish council business, and an additional £100.00 for office and security software.

2015/57

CORE STRATEGY CONSULTATION

The meeting agreed to ask the neighbourhood plan steering group to comment on the core strategy consultation.

2015/58

RISK SCHEDULE

The parish council reviewed the risk schedule, and agreed to consider a new bench on Church road to replace the one that had to be removed, and organise for the parish noticeboard at the Coronation Hall to be re-oiled in preparation for the winter.

2015/59

PLANNING

There were no planning applications to consider.

Planning enforcement: The meeting noted the enforcement officer has written to ask the owners of the Old Forge, Cobnash, to confirm the planning approval which they believe is in place.

The meeting noted the protection of the wildflower meadow at Kingsleane was in place for 10 years and had lapsed at the time the meadow was ploughed earlier this year.

Planning decisions: The planning applications for The Rosary (P140918/F), Oakfields Farm (P140769/F), and Luctonians (P141284/F and P141285/F) have been approved by Herefordshire Council.

2015/60

MATTERS RAISED FOR NEXT MEETING (no discussion)

Replacement bench.

2015/61

INFORMATION ITEMS

The meeting noted the information items on the agenda.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.50 pm.

Signed:

Date: