

KINGSLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 22 JULY 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 H Jones; and Mr D Thompson.

IN ATTENDANCE

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

2015/62 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Apologies were accepted from Mrs R J Edwards, Mr D Fordham, Mr B J Watkins and Mr P D Vaughan.

2015/63 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST and WRITTEN DISPENSATIONS
There were no declarations of interest or written dispensations.

2015/64 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 17 June 2014 were agreed and signed.

2015/65 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Herefordshire Council is encouraging people to go online and set budget priorities as part of the 2015-16 budget consultation. Council Tax is likely to rise by 1.9%, and the challenge is to reduce expenditure by £15 million this year and £17.8 million the following year. Government is reducing funding by two thirds.

Some services will be lost, others will be outsourced and others provided by the localities; for example, Leominster has taken on the public lavatories in the town. To save approximately £500,000 grass cutting has been reduced from 7 to three times per year. HALO has received £9 million to revamp its facilities, which will be repaid over time. Lengthsmen will be encouraged to do more, including the repair of minor potholes which is being trialled in the county.

Balfour Beatty is to resurface Harbour Lane. North Road is due to be repaired but not in the current schedule of work. The budget for the repair of 'U' and 'C' roads is larger this year than that for 'A' and 'B' roads.

The Care Act is coming forward and will raise the bar on the amount people can keep while accessing care services to about £70,000. The government is supposed to provide additional funding to support this transition but it is not clear yet whether it will be sufficient.

The Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has received £43 million to support local infrastructure work such as a train link to Rotherwas and bypass for Hereford. The Core Strategy has now gone to the appointed planning inspector and will then require ratification.

2015/66 LOCAL RESIDENTS DISCUSSION

The Reverend J Reed highlighted that over 50 percent of weddings and baptisms are for people in Leominster who say they would like to live in the village, and asked that plans for affordable housing are put high on the agenda in the parish neighbourhood plan.

2015/67 CLERK'S REPORT

The Traffic Management Adviser, West Mercia Police, has asked the Safer Roads Partnership to measure the speed of traffic on North Road and Longford, and expects to have an update shortly.

The officer responsible for Section 106 work at Balfour Beatty has emailed to state that: "...we are currently awaiting budget information and until this information is received... are unable to progress any Section 106 works. This means the £22,500 allocated to highways improvements by Amey remains unallocated and the cost of installing the dropped kerbs at the Post Office and Corners crossroads is not known. Remaining funds can be used for further highways improvements such as vehicle activated signs (VAS). The Chairman said the speed bumps in France were an improvement on those in the UK.

District Cllr. Bowen said he had contacted the officer at Herefordshire Council responsible for Section 106 funding to ask for a speedy implementation of the work and confirmation of the remaining budget.

As well as the resurfacing of Harbour Lane, Balfour Beatty will resurface the sharp bends on the stretch of the A4110 that runs through the village.

The Housing Needs Survey has been completed by Herefordshire Council and has been emailed to councillors.

2015/68 FINANCE

Herefordshire Council has paid the £1,000.00 footpaths grant for 2014-15. The following payments were agreed: Grant Thornton, external audit (£120.00); Coronation Hall, neighbourhood plan consultation weekend (£70.00); J Markham, neighbourhood plan (£21.67); HMRC, PAYE for period to 5 July 2014 (£109.20); HITREES, lengthsman (£330.00); and The Clerk, expenses for April-June 2014 and purchase of parish council laptop and anti-virus subscription (£581.54).

The meeting agreed to add the Vice Chairman and Cllr. Thompson as new signatories to the parish council bank accounts.

2015/69 THE LENGTHSMAN SCHEME

The Vice Chairman said the lengthsman is in the process of repairing the posts at The Monument. Some of the posts have become rotten and broken off in the ground, and the chains are set into the posts which means new posts are likely to be required fairly soon.

The Vice Chairman is due to meet with the lengthsman shortly to review what needs to be done, such as cutting the grass on the verges by the Kingsland village signs on the approaches into the village.

The Vice Chairman said the landowners are responsible for the maintenance of their hedges. Cllr. Thompson said he had not had a reply after contacting Smiths Gore, the agents for the landowners, about their overgrown hedge by the Fire Station

District Cllr. Bowen said he would bring the bad potholes on the junction with Boarsfield to the attention of Balfour Beatty's locality steward.

2015/70 P3 FOOTPATH SCHEME

The Clerk said Balfour Beatty has suggested three days in mid-August to brief Cllr. Vaughan on the P3 Footpaths scheme. The briefing is required in order for Cllr. Vaughan to be the designated footpath officer. At the time of the meeting, Cllr. Vaughan had yet to confirm whether these dates were suitable. Following the briefing, the footpaths contract can be completed.

2015/71 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The parish council agreed to pay the additional £229.04 of running costs incurred in excess of the neighbourhood plan budget for the consultation weekend and follow up event at Luctonians, and agreed in principle to make a further £750.00 available for future running costs of the steering group. Additional grant funding may be considered if required.

The meeting noted the need for more villagers to get involved in the steering group, and requirement for as much support from the parish council as possible.

2015/72 HGV TRAFFIC THROUGH COBNASH AND KINGSLAND

The Clerk reported that Balfour Beatty has been asked to review practical options to restrict or reduce HGV traffic using the C1037 as a cut through rather than going via Lawtons Cross. Options highlighted by the parish council included opening the splays at Lawtons Cross, removing the signs to Wigmore and Leominster to encourage traffic to use the Lawtons Cross road, and consider weight restrictions.

In addition, the Clerk said Balfour Beatty will look at the Corners' crossroads following a complaint that HGVs are damaging property as they turn from North Road/ Longford into Lugg Green road. Photographs provided by the property owner were forwarded to Balfour Beatty at their request.

The officer at Balfour Beatty has committed to look at both junctions over the summer.

2015/73 PARISH NOTICEBOARD

The Clerk reported that HITREES quoted £250.00 to weatherproof the woodwork on the parish noticeboard and noticeboard at the school. The meeting asked for an additional quotation for the work.

2015/74 PLANNING

P140626/K The Studio, Kingsland, HR6 9QN – Fell Silver Birch, Goat Willow and White Bean. The meeting supported the proposed works.

P142042/K Meadow View, North Road, Kingsland, HR6 9RZ – Works to various trees. The meeting supported the proposed works.

Planning enforcement: The Clerk said a new planning officer was handling the enforcement complaint on the Old Forge. The parish council expressed concern that the facility at the Old Forge is expanding and additional hedgerows removed without any effective action from planning enforcement.

Planning decisions: The planning application for the Land Adjoining Kingsleane (P140534/F) was refused by Herefordshire Council.

2015/75 MATTERS RAISED FOR NEXT MEETING (no discussion)
The meeting agreed to look at what can be done to mitigate the condition of the Glebeland.

2015/76 INFORMATION ITEMS
The meeting noted the information items on the agenda and noted the Clerk intends to attend Herefordshire Council's 2015-16 Budget Consultation meeting on 24 July 2014

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20 pm.

Signed:

Date: