

## KINGSLAND PARISH COUNCIL

### MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2013 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 G T Bradley, Mr H Jones, Mr D Thompson and Mr P D Vaughan.

#### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr Julian Grove (and colleagues), Kingsland Fire Station; District Cllr. S Bowen; and Mr R Hewitt, Parish Clerk.

**2014/96**            **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Apologies were accepted from Mrs R J Edwards, Mr D Fordham and Mr B J Watkins.

**2014/97**            **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST and WRITTEN DISPENSATIONS**  
There were no declarations of interest or written applications for dispensation made or received during the meeting.

**2014/98**            **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** – The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 10 September 2013 were agreed and signed.

**2014/99**            **LOCAL POLICE MATTERS**  
West Mercia Police were not present at the meeting. Speed enforcement on North Road has been requested and West Mercia Police has advised that it will be implemented.

**2014/100**          **KINGSLAND FIRE STATION**  
Mr Julian Grove asked for the support of the parish council in the forthcoming review of services which aims to save £4.7 million from a £13 million annual budget for fire and rescue services in Herefordshire and Worcestershire. He highlighted the longstanding 120 year history of the fire service in Kingsland, and the exemplary track record of the local service in being able to provide a full 12 strong crew in a modern, up to date fire tender for 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

This availability is in contrast to other local stations – for example the station in Leominster has difficulty finding a crew for the second tender and many of the crew at Leintwardine work away from the village which can make it difficult to field a crew during working hours. Kingsland Fire Station is the closest to large industrial enterprises such as Tyrrell's Crisps and Kingspan, important heritage sites like Croft Castle, as well as the air field at Shobdon.

The local fire service receives less funding than average. Across the nation, funding is an average of £20 per person, but in Herefordshire and Worcestershire it is £14.00 per person.

The parish council unanimously **RESOLVED** to support Kingsland Fire Station and agreed to write a letter highlighting the reasons why the fire service should remain in the village to [Kingslandfire@outlook.com](mailto:Kingslandfire@outlook.com).

**2014/101**

**HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

There will shortly be two by-elections – at Tupsley and Pontrilas. The full impact of cuts will be felt in the next year. Increasingly, services will focus on adult and childrens services, waste management and highways, and there will be little funding for other commitments. The Children's Safeguarding scrutiny review found there is too many agency and temporary staff.

Balfour Beatty has demonstrated a positive attitude, but it has taken some time for them to get up to speed. Requests for service and defect reports should be made via the District Councillor who will deal directly with the local Balfour Beatty officer. District Cllr. Bowen said he will be looking at the condition of local U and C roads in preparation for Spring 2014 and a map has been requested for the parishes to help identify the location of defects. Balfour Beatty is keen to do more with the lengthsman service.

**2014/102**

**LOCAL RESIDENTS DISCUSSION**

There were no matters raised by the members of the public present at the meeting.

**2014/103**

**CLERK'S REPORT**

The Fair Share Petition was completed by people using the Post Office and returned to Herefordshire Council. Eardisland Parish council would like to use the SID donated by Kingspan four times per year and is willing to pay the necessary rental to Balfour Beatty. Sandbags have been requested for North Road, Kingsland. Balfour Beatty has yet to advise on options for street signs at St Michaels.

A letter from HMRC re: the donation of £7,000 from the Old Fire Station Trust states it is not possible to obtain a written ruling "for information that is already covered in our published guidance". Nonetheless, the letter goes on to say that "when applied to a specific situation, you may wish to request... non-statutory clearance". HMRC will be contacted to request non-statutory clearance.

**2014/104**

**FINANCE**

The meeting noted the receipt of the parish precept from Herefordshire Council (£5,000). The following payments were agreed: PIP Printing, parish plan (£822.94); S Sheridan, courier for parish plan £27.60); Coronation Hall, parish meeting, 23 Oct. 2013 (£5.00); and Wigmore High School, awards sponsorship (£30.00). The following payments were ratified by the meeting: Turtle Engineering Ltd, Lifebox (£616.80); Tallis Amos Group (TAG), P3 strimmer (£513.00).

In connection with the approval of the invoice for the printing of the parish plan, which has now been delivered to every household in the parish, the meeting agreed to issue a notice clarifying statements in the parish plan on pages 6, 19 and 20 with regard to the shop at the Garden Tea Room and Post Office. The notice will be published in the Kingsland newsletter and submitted to [www.kingslandlife.com](http://www.kingslandlife.com).

**2014/105**

**THE LENGTHSMAN SCHEME**

The Vice Chairman reported that the lengthsman did not feel able to cut back the hedge opposite Whitley Court, given the number of vehicles using the road and the proximity of the corner on the B4360 at Cobnash. Cllr. Vaughan kindly agreed to ask the landowner to arrange for the hedge to be cut back.

- 2014/106 P3 FOOTPATH SCHEME**  
Cllr. Bradley reported that a gate leading to the Glebe has been repaired, and the parish P3 contractor has been strimming and clearing footpaths using the new strimmer which was purchased at a 25 percent discount for £427.50 (excluding VAT). There is approximately £300.00 left in the budget for footpaths work for the period to 31 March 2013.
- 2014/107 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**  
The meeting noted that the parish meeting on 23 October 2013 will be an opportunity to review the requirements for the neighbourhood plan, including the formation of a steering group.
- 2014/108 WIGMORE SCHOOL AWARDS**  
The parish council agreed to sponsor the Tutor Group and BTEC Science Awards at Wigmore School, and to offer to increase the sponsorship from £15.00 to £25.00 per award.
- 2014/109 SCHEDULED MONUMENT, THE GLEBE**  
The meeting noted the requirements for the proposed footpath works at The Glebe highlighted in a letter from English Heritage. Permission to undertake the work to clear the overburden on the path remains outstanding.
- 2014/110 SCHOOL TRANSPORT CONSULTATION**  
The meeting agreed that the current arrangements in place for school transport should continue as they are.
- 2014/111 POLICE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY**  
The meeting commented that the Draft Community Engagement Strategy makes no mention of parish councils, which are one of the main channels through which to engage with local communities. The parish council would like to see a role for parish councils in the Community Engagement Strategy.
- 2014/112 PLANNING**  
**132719/K 8 Orchard Close, Kingsland, HR6 9QS** – Holly tree to rear to be removed. The tree application was supported.  
**132312/F The Dales, Shirlheath, Kingsland, HR6 9RN** – Change of use to B1C (light industrial) and erection of workshop for a traditional blacksmith business. The planning application was supported.  
**132324/FH 4 Mortimers Cross Cottages, Mortimers Cross, HR6 9TG** – External insulation with slip and brick render system to external envelope of building, and addition of window to South East elevation. District Cllr. Bowen said the planning application was going to be withdrawn. In light of this the parish council did not consider the planning application.  
**132472/FH The Pleasaunce, Kingsland, HR6 9SB** – External wall insulation to all elevations. The meeting supported the planning application.

**Planning enforcement:** Planning services thinks the Angel Inn looks better following the painting of the external timbers and will seek historic building officer advice on whether there is a need for listed building consent. The meeting agreed to ask planning enforcement to look at the recent house extension at Dry Bridge House, and to ask for an update on Dark Orchard.

**Planning decisions:** Planning applications for Showers Farm (132082/L), The Dairy, West Town Court (130912/L), Venns Bridge, Cobnash (132039/FH), and The Rosary (132152/F) have been approved by Herefordshire Council. Determination has been made for the tree works to go ahead at Stonehouse (132101/K) and High Field (132251/K).

**2014/113 MATTERS RAISED FOR NEXT MEETING (no discussion)**  
The parish council agreed to consider clarifications to the parish plan at the next meeting.

**2014/114 INFORMATION ITEMS**  
The meeting noted the information items on the agenda.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.45 pm.

Signed: .....

Date: .....