

KINGSLAND PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 12 MARCH 2013
AT 7.30 PM AT THE POST OFFICE, KINGSLAND**

PRESENT

R C Smallwood (CHAIRMAN), Mrs G B Bengry, Mrs J Barbour, Mr G T Bradley, Mr D Thompson, Mr H Jones, Mr P D Vaughan and Mr D Fordham.

IN ATTENDANCE

District Cllr. S Bowen; Merry Albright, Border Oak; Sheridan Swinson and Rick Noordegraaf, Parish Plan Steering Group; Richard Frost, Chairman, Coronation Hall Committee; and Mr R Hewitt, Parish Clerk.

- 2013/150 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Apologies were received from Mrs R J Edwards, Mr B J Watkins, and Mr C Southgate (VICE CHAIRMAN).
- 2013/151 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST and WRITTEN DISPENSATIONS**
No declarations of interest or written applications for dispensation were made or received during the meeting. [Following the meeting, Cllr. Thompson declared an interest in item 2013/154 Croftmead.]
- 2013/152 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING** – The Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 22 January 2013 were agreed and signed.
- 2013/153 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCILLOR’S REPORT**
District Cllr. Bowen reported that Herefordshire Council’s new chief executive is now in place. Herefordshire Council has increased the budget for 2013-14 by 1.9 percent – £2 million has been allocated to reserves. Herefordshire Council remains committed to the lengthsman scheme.
- At a recent local government conference, Robert Chote of the Office for Budget Responsibility said the main focus for spending in five years time is likely to be adult social care.
- The contractor appointed to maintain the highways in June 2013 will be required to invest in bringing ‘C’ and unclassified roads in the county up to a decent standard. The number of potholes across the county continues to grow, and Cllr. Bowen has asked Amey to improve the quality of their repair. District Cllr. Bowen said residents should report potholes to Amey or himself.
- Cllr. Bowen said Herefordshire Council is consulting on the Core Strategy, and asked for local residents to give it some thought as it will shape development in the county up to 2031. The Core Strategy highlights the importance of neighbourhood plans.

2013/154 CROFTMEAD

Merry Albright, Border Oak, outlined draft plans for the development of Croft Mead. She said the plans were completely different to those approved in 2007. The land for development has been reduced in size as the owner will retain the beech hedge. The plans showed 12 houses, including three affordable houses.

Ms Albright said the properties will be built using natural, sustainable, materials, and trees in the plot will all be retained with the exception of one diseased tree. The development is more 'pedestrianised' with direct access on to North Road.

Border Oak may be the social landlord with respect to the affordable houses, and the company is exploring 'innovative options' with Herefordshire Council. Ms Albright said Herefordshire Council felt the site could support more houses.

In response to questions, Ms Albright said Border Oak plans to build a footpath on the present verge of North Road to accommodate the direct pedestrian access of properties to the main road. The building line had probably been taken from the 2007 plans and it may be possible to move the houses back slightly, but this would be balanced with the need for the properties to have a reasonable back garden. The building line might be staggered, similar to a Border Oak development at Eardisland.

The properties include 3 x two bedroom houses, 3 x three bedroom houses and 3 x four bedroom houses. The social houses are all two bedroom properties. Ms Albright said foul drainage is being discussed with the planners.

The Chairman thanked Ms Albright for attending the meeting to share Border Oak's plans for the development of Croftmead.

2013/155 PARISH PLAN UPDATE AND PROPOSAL FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Mr Sheridan Swinson, chairman of the Parish Plan Steering Group, said the questionnaire has been completed. It has taken longer than anticipated due to the need to incorporate planning questions which will be useful in the development of a neighbourhood plan for Kingsland.

As a result the questionnaire is 16 sides, instead of the 12 sides originally planned. The questionnaire, including a plastic sleeve, will be distributed and collected personally over a two week period from 8 April 2013, and the steering group is aiming for a fifty percent response rate. Analysis of the results will follow and the steering group hopes to have a draft parish plan for the parish council to review in June 2013. The adopted plan should be published in September 2013.

Mr Swinson said District Cllr. Bowen originally suggested that the steering group look at developing a neighbourhood plan alongside the parish plan. Community First confirmed the neighbourhood plan could be started before the parish plan had been completed, and had the benefit of shortening the timeframe, keeping the steering group together and recognising the development that is already happening in Kingsland.

Mr Swinson said a neighbourhood plan would help the village to obtain development that people would like. It would require greater involvement from the parish council however. Mr Swinson said funding has been announced for 'early adopter' parish councils undertaking neighbourhood plans. He suggested the parish council might want to consider linking up with other parishes, such as Shobdon, to undertake a neighbourhood plan.

The meeting RESOLVED to undertake a neighbourhood plan that is focused on core planning and development issues. The Clerk was asked to contact parish councils adjacent to Kingsland to see if they would consider working together on a joint neighbourhood plan.

2013/156 REFURBISHMENT OF CORONATION HALL AND RESURFACING OF CAR PARK

Mr Richard Frost, Chairman of the Coronation Hall Committee provided an overview of recent refurbishment projects, including new curtains and roof. The final project brings together 'bits and bobs' to complete the refurbishment of the hall building. Mr Frost said the Coronation Hall Committee favoured the quotation from Fix & Finish – two other quotes were obtained from HITREES and a local contractor – and requested support from the A H Williams Trust.

The Clerk confirmed that the balance of interest generated from the A H Williams Trust was £496.56 on 4 January 2013, and the parish council resolved to make this sum available to support the refurbishment undertaken by Fix & Finish.

Mr Frost said the Coronation Hall Committee is in the process of setting up a fund to maintain the car park at the Coronation Hall. The plan is for the Bowls Club, Mortimer Medical Practice, school, Coronation Hall and parish council to contribute annually to the fund which can be used to fund future repairs to the car park.

The Coronation Hall has obtained three quotations for the resurfacing of the car park and favours the £13,650 (plus VAT) quote from G M Joyce Surfacing Ltd. Mr Frost said the Coronation Hall Committee has taken advice from Community First on funding, and it is possible for the parish council to obtain a public works loan. Mr Frost said the Coronation Hall anticipated that the public works loan would be paid back by the planned car park maintenance fund.

The Chairman suggested that it might be possible to look at providing some of the funding for the resurfacing of the car park from the interest generated from Old Fire Station Trust, which is intended for projects for the benefit of the village.

It was agreed to look at the matter again at the next meeting.

2013/157 LOCAL RESIDENTS DISCUSSION

Mr R Bayliss said he could answer questions on the P3 Footpaths Scheme as he looked after footpaths for Richard's Castle Parish Council.

2013/158 FEEDBACK ON ACTION ITEMS & MATTERS OUTSTANDING

The Clerk reported that the reprinted Parish Watch signs have been received and now need to be placed on the circular metal plates. Members agreed to participate in the replacing of the parish watch signs and the Clerk was asked to bring the signs to the next meeting.

Herefordshire Council's senior building conservation officer has visited Birch Walk to assess the planned renovation of the footpath, and has no objections to the work. He has also suggested that planning permission is not required but this is subject to confirmation by planning services. The monuments inspector, English Heritage, is aware of the views of the conservation officer and in a telephone conversation was supportive in principle to the renovation of the footpath but expressed reservations about the plan to replant several birch trees. The monuments inspector said he will need to study the file and will then provide a considered view on the proposed renovation of the footpath.

Kingsland Millennium Green Trust has agreed in principle to host a grit bin subject to confirming where it will be placed. Amey has said that there are no grit bins left in stock and that a new order will be made in autumn 2013.

The potholes on the B4360 between Shrublands and Barn Croft were reported to Amey and have been repaired.

2013/159 FINANCE

The Clerk reported that the VAT refund for 2011-12 has been received from HMRC (£367.50). The following payments were agreed: SLCC, subscription 2013-14 (£54.00); and the Clerk, salary and expenses for February 2013 (£236.05).

2013/160 THE LENGTHSMAN SCHEME

There was no report on the lengthsman scheme.

2013/161 P3 FOOTPATH SCHEME

The Clerk said the request to join the P3 Footpaths scheme requires a volunteer footpaths officer who will receive training from Herefordshire Council. Notices have been placed in the newsletter and on www.kingslandlife.com asking for a volunteer, but unfortunately there has been no response to date.

Cllr. Bradley kindly offered to be the footpaths officer, and the chairman thanked him on behalf of the parish council. The Clerk said he would arrange for Cllr. Bradley to receive the required training.

2013/162 KINGSLAND IN NEED RELIEF CHARITY

Cllr. Barbour said she had recently become a trustee for Kingsland relief in Need Charity. The meeting agreed that this appointment would fulfil the request of the charity to have a trustee who is a parish councillor.

- 2013/163** **MANAGEMENT OF NEW SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE (SID)**
The Clerk reported that the proposal to outsource the shared Shobdon and Kingsland SID to Amey had been agreed in principle. The SID will be shared on a 4:4:4 basis, meaning it will be available for deployment in Kingsland for 4 months per year, or one month per quarter. An additional socket on Lugg Green road has been agreed following a site visit – the new socket will need to be sited on the grass verge of the road facing traffic entering the village from Lugg bridge as there is not sufficient space on the pavement. Amey and Kingspan are now in the process of finalising the details of the arrangement.
- 2013/164** **SECTION 106 MONIES: DROPPED KERBS AND/OR TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES**
The Clerk reported that Amey allocates an average cost of circa £2,000 per dropped crossing point and Amey has agreed that the Section 106 monies can be used for the kerbing of the Millennium Green on Longford.
- The meeting AGREED to ask Amey to provide three dropped kerbs at the Corners intersection and provide three dropped kerbs at the Post Office junction. A decision on the kerbing of the Millennium Green was postponed pending the agreement of the Kingsland Millennium Green Trust.
- 2013/165** **CONSULTATION ON HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL CORE STRATEGY**
The parish council agreed to postpone consideration of the core strategy consultation to the April 2013 meeting.
- 2013/166** **REQUEST FOR BINS BY CHAPEL LANE AND MILLENNIUM GREEN**
The meeting supported the request for a new rubbish bin on the Millennium Green and asked the Clerk to contact the trust to obtain permission. The parish council decided not to support the request for a bin by Chapel Lane.
- 2013/167** **INNOVATIVE LOCAL POLICING INITIATIVES**
District Cllr. Bowen said innovative policing measures being considered included the provision of a front desk at Leominster library. Other measures include the cutting of 50 CSOs across West Mercia and the closure of Ludlow Police Station. This information was noted by the meeting.
- 2013/168** **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2013-14**
The meeting agreed the schedule of meetings for 2013-14 without amendment.
- 2013/169** **PLANNING**
DMN/130333/K Stone House, Kingsland, HR6 9QJ – Fell 1 x Ash tree. Provided to parish council tree representative who opposed the plans to remove the tree and requested a tree preservation order (TPO). The meeting resolved to withdraw the request for a tree preservation order and support the application.

DMN/130331/K Stone House, Kingsland, HR6 9QJ – Remove branches on 1 x Western Red Cedar which are encroaching on house and buildings. The application was supported.

130116/F Crossways, Kingsland, HR6 9RF – Proposed general purpose portal framed agricultural building. The meeting noted that the design statement includes the use of the building for the "housing and handling of livestock", however, the location of the proposed building is believed to be within 400 metres of a residential building not owned by the applicant, which may be in breach of guidance for the location of buildings housing livestock.

2013/170 COUNCILLORS' FORUM

The Chairman read out a letter from a local resident which proposed a dual purpose tractor bypass and secondary flood protection scheme. The meeting agreed that this innovative proposal was not practical at present due to the general lack of funding available.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.15 pm.

Signed:

Date: