

KINGSLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2017 AT 7.30 PM AT THE VILLAGE SHOP AND CAFE

PRESENT Mr D Thompson... VICE CHAIRMAN, Mrs G B Bengry, Mrs L Juson, Mrs C Sawyers, Mr D Fordham, Mr J Vaughan and Mr B J Watkins.

IN ATTENDANCE Ward Cllr. S Bowen; and Mr R Hewitt, Clerk. There were 16 members of the public present.

2018/122 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mr R C Smallwood, Mr C Southgate and Mr P D Vaughan.

2018/123 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION
Cllr. J Vaughan declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in planning application 173707 Land off unnamed road between Kingsland and Eyton. Cllr. B Watkins declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in 2018/127 lorry signing and 2018/128 HGV sat navs.

2018/124 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS – The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 October 2017 were agreed and signed.

2018/125 REPORT ON HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

Ward Cllr. Bowen said the ambulance service is one of the best in the country. There is a paramedic on each ambulance, and 4x4 vehicles are used by the service. The council wants to help people to stay in their homes for as long as possible, and is putting in place a programme to provide more home care. Cottage hospitals will continue to provide care for minor injuries. There will be an emphasis on prevention rather than cure by encouraging healthy lifestyles.

Balfour Beatty gave a parish briefing at their Kingsland depot earlier in November. There are severe financial pressures on the roads budget. The local depot is more efficient. A key challenge is the age old problem of potholes. It is hoped that North Road will finally be resurfaced once the funds awarded in a recent highways legal case are available.

According to the road safety officer, there have been no reported accidents at Lawton Cross since the new signage was put in place. The junction may benefit from a mini roundabout in the future as well, which should act to slow traffic down. Enforcement has had some success at removing cars from a private garden at Shirlheath.

Herefordshire Council has been asked to be the ‘accountable body’ for the new university at Hereford. Scrutiny will look at this and make a recommendation shortly. The new university will not take over the Shirehall, but may use a committee room in the building.

The new link road at Hereford should open before Christmas, and getting through Hereford is now a lot easier. There have been no resignations at cabinet level following the problems at Blueschool House. The reasons for the Blueschool House cost overrun are being looked at and the lessons learned should mean that it never happens again.

2018/126 LOCAL RESIDENTS DISCUSSION

The Vice Chairman highlighted the relevant clauses in the Standing Orders which state that a member of the public shall not speak for more than two (2) minutes, and the period of time designated for public participation at a meeting shall not exceed ten (10) minutes unless directed by the chairman of the meeting.

A member of the public said people living in the south of the parish were not aware of the parish council's lorry signing initiative. More should be done to publicise the plans on the noticeboard and in the newsletter. The member of the public said no more traffic should be directed down the A4110 to Lawton Cross and along the B4529. Traffic approaching Lawton Cross needs to be slowed down. Any plans for a mini roundabout should be consulted upon with local people. The member of the public said neighbouring parish councils were unaware of the lorry signing initiative and proposed traffic island at Burnt House, which is not in Kingsland parish. The member of the public asked why the parish council felt the need for such an initiative.

A member of the public said police figures show 19 personal injury accidents have occurred at Lawton Cross since 2007, which compares with 2 personal injury accidents at Hostel Lane over the same time frame. A member of the public said they were aware of three unreported accidents at Hostel Lane. A member of the public said HGV traffic should be directed in line with the classification of the local roads, which should mean taking account of the Department of Transport definitions for 'A', 'B' and 'C' roads.

Ward Cllr. Bowen said he is seeking a complete review of traffic in north west Herefordshire. A member of the public said car drivers use the B4529 as a racetrack and the road will be made more dangerous as they try to overtake the lorries. Broomy Hill Lane, which joins the B4529 is a single carriage lane, and there are already access problems with the lane. People parking to attend Leominster Car Auctions walk across the A4110.

A member of the public asked why the parish council has commissioned a feasibility study for a traffic island at Burnt House junction when it is not in the parish, and also said Leominster North is not aware of the proposal. A member of the public said a letter to the parish council requesting chevrons and slow down signs at Lawton Bank was not acted upon.

A member of the public reported that vehicles are parking on the double yellow lines by the Corners junction. Ward Cllr. Bowen said enforcement will be informed. A member of the public said the condition of some of the public rights of way in the parish were very poor, and made it difficult to walk to nearby villages. Cllr. Juson, the new footpaths officer, said this will be looked at in the new year. A notice will be placed in the newsletter to invite volunteers to a footpaths meeting.

[Cllr. B Watkins left the meeting.]

2018/127 LORRY SIGNING/ TRAFFIC ISLAND CONSULTATION

The Clerk provided an overview of recent emails from members of the public on the lorry signing initiative and proposed traffic island at Burnt House. Members of the public who contact the parish council by email are being referred to www.kingslandlife.com where details and drawings of the lorry signing initiative and traffic island are available to view.

The parish council resolved to consult local residents and businesses on the proposed lorry signing initiative and traffic island by Burnt House. The consultation process will be similar to recent neighbourhood plan consultations in that there will be a questionnaire that can be completed and returned. The consultation will be in the new year and will be held once further information has been obtained from Herefordshire Council and Balfour Beatty. This information will be made available as part of the consultation process.

Herefordshire Council, the highways authority, will be invited to a consultation evening at the Coronation Hall. The date of the consultation evening will be set in light of the highway authority's availability and the Burnt House junction feasibility study. The consultation will be publicised in the newsletter, on the parish noticeboard by the village hall and on www.kingslandlife.com.

A decision will be made by the parish council on whether to fund the lorry signing and traffic island once the results of the consultation have been published. It was noted that the parish council is already funding a feasibility study into the proposed traffic island at Burnt House junction. There will be no further decisions made on the lorry signing initiative and traffic island until the consultation has been completed and the outcome considered by the parish council.

2018/128 HGV SAT NAVS

A decision was postponed until the outcome of the consultation on the proposed lorry signing initiative and traffic island by Burnt House has been considered by the parish council.

[Cllr. B Watkins rejoined the meeting.]

2018/129 CLERKS REPORT

Members were reminded to return completed Register of Interests forms to the monitoring officer, Herefordshire Council. Electoral Services have written to advise that the parish council may co-opt a new member. The two new signposts and seven fingerposts for Corners crossroads have been delivered. BT Openreach has been asked to repair the damaged broadband cabinet at Cobnash. Wigmore School has written to thank the parish council for supporting two awards at their recent celebration evening. PKF Littlejohn LLP has been appointed external auditor for 5 years commencing with the financial year 2017-18. The appointment has been made by Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd. Please advise if there is any potential conflict of interest relating to this appointment. The Clerk attended a recent parish briefing by Balfour Beatty at the Kingsland depot.

2018/130 PLANNING

[Cllr. J Vaughan left the meeting.]

173707 Land off unnamed road between Kingsland and Eyton, Aston, HR6 9SW – Proposed change of use of oak trees situated within an agricultural field to allow two tree tents for the purposes of tourism. The planning application was supported.

[Cllr. J Vaughan rejoined the meeting.]

174028 Garden House, Longford, Kingsland, HR6 9QS – Proposed dwelling. The planning application was supported.

174171 Land adjacent to Garden House, Kingsland – Propose to remove non indigenous Tulip tree (T1) and replace with tree of native species in different location. The proposed tree work was supported, including the planting of a replacement native tree.

Planning Decisions/ Enforcement – Herefordshire Council has granted planning permission for Old House (173386 and 173387) and 4 Mortimer Meadow (173274). Works to trees are allowed for 173261 Milestones and 172690 4 The Wardens.

It was noted that notification for tree works at 174327 Oldfield Lodge was received too late for consideration at the meeting. The tree representative, Cllr. Bengry, was asked to look at the application and advise whether an extraordinary meeting is appropriate.

2018/131 FINANCE

The receipt of the VAT reclaim for 2016-17 (£1,239.30) from Herefordshire Council was noted. The following payments were AGREED: Clerk, expenses April-October 2017 (£448.28); and R Bayliss, footpaths maintenance (£154.98).

The financial statements to 26 October 2017 were noted. The parish council considered the 2018-19 budget proposed by the finance working group, and removed funding allocated to a traffic island at Burnt House, and instead allocated £1,000.00 for maintenance of the Monument. The precept was held at £15,000.00. The budget for 2018-19 includes higher spending on the parish lengthsman as the grant will be withdrawn from April 2018.

Systems of internal control were reviewed and it was agreed they are effective in safeguarding public money and resources.

It was decided not to make a donation to Age UK.

2018/132 HIGHWAYS/ LENGTHSMAN SCHEME

The meeting noted a breakdown of lengthsman and footpaths expenditure for quarters 1 and 2 of the current financial year. There is £378.60 of the lengthsman budget remaining and £840.70 of the footpaths budget remaining. Additional funding will be required to repair the 135 potholes identified with the locality steward and lengthsman in October 2017. The cost of the two tonnes of materials required for this work was £663.40. Balfour Beatty has been asked to pay the lengthsman and footpaths grant due to date, which is £384.84 (the parish council's share of the cost of materials has been deducted from the grant by Balfour Beatty).

2018/133 LEOMINSTER NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The Regulation 16 consultation was noted.

2018/134 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANNING EVENT

The Vice Chairman kindly offered to attend the event at Herefordshire Council for parishes with an adopted neighbourhood development plan on 1 December 2017.

2018/135 REVISED PROPOSALS FOR WEST MIDLANDS CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES

It was agreed to object to the proposal by the Boundary Commission to create a combined north Herefordshire and south Shropshire constituency as historical county boundaries should be respected.

2018/136 TRAVELLERS SITES DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The consultation on the plan was noted.

2018/137 MATTERS RAISED FOR THE NEXT MEETING (no discussion) – Bonfires, road leading to St Michael’s Church.

2018/138 INFORMATION ITEMS

The information items on the agenda were noted.

The Vice Chairman closed the meeting at 9.53 pm.

Signed:

Date: