

## **KINGSLAND PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON TUESDAY 9 JANUARY 2018 AT THE VILLAGE SHOP AND CAFE**

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

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

**2018/139 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were received from Mr P D Vaughan.

**2018/140 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION** – None.

**2018/141 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING** – The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 November were amended to change ‘Lawton Cross’ to ‘Lawton Bank’ under 2018/126. With this amendment the minutes were agreed and signed.

**2018/142 CO-OPT NEW MEMBER**

Members of the public present were invited to express an interest in joining the parish council. There were no expressions of interest. Postponed to the next meeting.

**2018/143 REPORT ON HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

Ward Cllr. Bowen said Council Tax is likely to increase in 2018-19 by approximately 5 percent. The Police precept is likely to increase by 4 percent, which is equivalent to about £8.00 for a Band D property. A decision on whether the Police and Crime Commissioner will have responsibility for the fire service is expected shortly.

The Edgar Street link road in Hereford is now open. It does open up land for development, possibly housing and student accommodation for the new university. The sale of the county smallholdings is set to raise approximately £50 million which should be re-invested in an income generating asset.

A plan to pool business rates with adjoining councils has been turned down by government. It will be a challenge to rely on business rates to fund council activities from 2020. Adult and children social care makes up 60 percent of the council’s budget.

Hereford Hospital has benefited from the Better Care Fund by enabling people to leave hospital to an appropriate care setting. A new hospital team providing care at home should demonstrate the service is working well before beds are removed.

Ward Cllr. Bowen thanked residents for their correspondence on roads, which is passed to Balfour Beatty and the cabinet member for their reference. The £8 million from the recent highways legal case is expected to be available from the new financial year in April 2018, and it is hoped to use this for the village and minor roads in the county. Ward Cllr. Bowen has requested a traffic survey for north west Herefordshire to identify the best routes for traffic and freight.

The scrutiny committee has recommended Herefordshire Council acts as the ‘accountable body’ for the new university for a period of three years. The council will be responsible for holding funding from government and the local enterprise partnership, which has been provided to establish the university, and distributing it appropriately and with due care. This service will be paid for by the university.

A peer review team will report on the Blueschool Hose overspend. The western bypass for Hereford is due to be decided shortly. Financial support from government is expected for the bypass. The proposed route will be consulted upon by the council. The Leominster east-west bypass is also in the pipeline.

In response to a question from a member of the public, Ward Cllr. Bowen said government funding for refugees was for a period of 5 years, and may or may not be renewed at the end of the period.

Ward Cllr. Bowen invited members to visit the waste-to-energy plant at Hartlebury, and recycling facility at Nordan. Members expressed an interest in the proposed visit.

#### **2018/144 LOCAL RESIDENTS DISCUSSION**

There were no matters raised.

#### **2018/145 CLERKS REPORT**

The precept for 2018-19 has been submitted to Herefordshire Council. The Vice Chairman and Clerk attended a meeting at Herefordshire Council on 1 December 2017 for parishes with an adopted neighbourhood development plan. Given the variety and range of policies in neighbourhood plans across the county it is important to make appropriate references when commenting on planning applications. One of the students who received a sponsored Wigmore School award has written to thank the parish council. An objection to the proposed parliamentary constituency boundary changes has been made to the Boundary Commission.

#### **2018/146 PLANNING**

**174327 Oldfield Lodge, St Michaels Avenue, Kingsland, HR6 9QP** – Felling of four silver Birch trees and one apple tree. Four of trees very close to house, root and shade issues. Not considered – determination made by Herefordshire Council prior to the meeting.

**174320 The Arbour Kingsland, HR6 9SF** – Proposed change of use of land to provide a glamping site. The planning application was supported.

**174575 Cobnash House, Hostel Lane, Cobnash, HR6 9QY** – Variation of Condition No. 2 162033/F amended house and garage designs. The planning application was supported.

**173908 The Waltons, Ginhall Lane, Leominster, HR6 9AH** – Proposed Erection of UPVC cattery building to replace (now demolished) wooden cattery building. There was no objection to the planning application.

**Planning Decisions/ Enforcement** – Herefordshire Council has granted planning permission for: The Brick House (161803); Westmead (170804 and 170805); and Old Office Building at Longmore (171367). Works to trees are allowed for Old House (173663).

#### **2018/147 FINANCE**

The receipt of the lengthsman and footpaths grant for the first two quarters, 2017-18 (£384.84) from Herefordshire Council was noted. The following payment was AGREED: Hitrees Ltd., lengthsman (£108.00).

**2018/148 HIGHWAYS/ LENGTHSMAN SCHEME**

It was agreed to submit an expression of interest in participating in the lengthsman and P3 footpath schemes in 2018-19.

**2018/149 SPEED LIMIT, A4110 AT LAWTON CROSS**

A Briefing Note on the suitability of a speed limit on the A4110 between Lawton Cross and Kingsland was considered. The meeting agreed to support the recommendation made in the report, which is to: “reduce the speed limit of the southern part of the A4110 under review from national speed limit to a 40 mph from the Lawton Cross junction for a distance of 650 metres in the northerly direction”.

**2018/150 POTHoles ADJACENT TO CHURCH LANE**

It was noted that the highways improvements funded by Section 106 monies and agreed with Herefordshire Council, include some work to the lane. The road appears to be adopted as defects can be reported to Balfour Beatty via the highways section of [www.herefordshire.gov.uk](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk). Ownership of the land adjacent on the bungalow side is not known. It was agreed to check Land Registry records.

**2018/151 P3 FOOTPATHS**

Cllr. Juson said a footpaths meeting on 16 January 2018 will look at ways to improve the condition of the paths. It was noted that volunteers need to have appropriate skills, so training and safety should be considered, and appropriate risk assessments completed before volunteers help with the paths.

**2018/152 LORRY SIGNING CONSULTATION WORKING GROUP**

A decision on a proposed working group was postponed pending confirmation that Herefordshire Council and West Mercia Police will attend the planned consultation evening, availability of the report into traffic in north west Herefordshire requested by Ward Cllr. Bowen, and completion of the Burnt House junction traffic island feasibility study from Balfour Beatty.

Herefordshire Council’s road safety officer has said that HGV drivers either know where they are going or will use ‘sat navs’. Either way, this means the majority of HGV drivers may well ignore lorry signs and opt to use the shortest route when travelling from Leominster to destinations north of Kingsland.

A sat nav URL to ‘Report a Mapping Problem Affecting GPS Devices, Apps, and Maps’ has been provided to West Mercia Police and Herefordshire Council.

**2018/153 BONFIRES AND BEST PRACTICE**

The meeting noted the information on bonfires available at [www.herefordshire.gov.uk](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk), which includes how to report a bonfire causing a disturbance.

**2018/154 GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR)**

The parish council noted the General Data Protection Regulations will be introduced in May 2018.

A review of IT used by the Clerk highlighted the following points:

- Website is believed to be hosted on the HALC server;
- Windows 10 may need to be upgraded to enable the contents of the parish laptop to be encrypted;
- Software subscription to MS Office will provide business class email and software; and
- Antivirus subscription should be reviewed.

It was agreed to consider the matter again following further advice and training which is expected in the coming months. The Information Commissioner's Office is expected to provide guidance for smaller organisations shortly.

**2018/155 MATTERS RAISED FOR THE NEXT MEETING** (no discussion) – None.

**2018/156 INFORMATION ITEMS**

The information items on the agenda were noted.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 pm.

**Signed:** .....

**Date:** .....