

KINGSLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2017 AT 7.30 PM AT THE POST OFFICE

PRESENT Mr P D Vaughan... ACTING CHAIRMAN; Mrs G B Bengry; Mrs L Juson; Mr D Thompson (Vice Chairman); Mr J Vaughan; Mr C Southgate and Mr B J Watkins.

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

2017/164 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mrs C Sawyers, Mr R C Smallwood (Chairman), Mr G Bradley and Mr D Fordham.

2017/165 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION – Cllr. Watkins declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in planning application 164062 Land adjacent to Garden Cottage. [Ward Cllr. Bowen declared an interest under 2017/171 with regard to the proposed donation of £50.00 to the primary school.]

2017/166 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – The Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 January 2017 were agreed and signed.

2017/167 REPORT ON HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

Ward Cllr. Bowen said the precept will increase by 3.9 percent in 2017-18, with 2 percent earmarked for social care. By 2020 there is likely to be no government grant and Herefordshire Council will need to rely on business rates instead. More than 50 percent of spending is on adult social care. Herefordshire Council will have a balanced budget, and an additional £8 million is expected from the legal ruling in connection with a former highways contractor. Ward Cllr. Bowen said he is pressing for this to be spent on the roads in the county. The A4110, from the car auction site to Shirlheath is expected to be resurfaced in April 2017. The Balfour Beatty yard at Shirlheath, is to be up-rated and made more efficient.

[The Vice Chairman joined the meeting.]

The primary school is strapped for cash, and is unable to find additional funding as requested by the Coronation Hall for using the parking facility. The school has indicated this is likely to mean increased parking and use of Longford.

A mayor will be elected on 4 May 2017 for the West Midlands, who will effectively be the chairman of the West Midlands Combined Authority. Herefordshire Council is likely to become a non-constituent member of the combined authority at a cost of £25,000 per year. The Local Enterprise Authority is also seeking similar non-constituent membership.

2017/168 LOCAL RESIDENTS DISCUSSION

A member of the public asked about a tree that was reported to be removed in error by Herefordshire Council, leaving a dangerous metal rod behind. Ward Cllr. Bowen said he will look into this matter and get the metal rod removed, and also said the highways improvements funded by Section 106 monies is being scheduled by Balfour Beatty.

The same member of the public asked when the drains by the village hall will be working properly, and reported the road sign at the Baskets Gate Crossroads is missing letters and is not possible to read.

2017/169 CLERKS REPORT

Balfour Beatty has acknowledged the updated request for new speed limits at Cobnash, and will let the parish council know the ranking of the Traffic Regulation Order once their review is complete and forthcoming budget allocations known.

Earlier today, the primary school sent members correspondence regarding the school's use of the playing field and car park. The parish council asked to look at this at the next meeting.

Speed data from the November 2016 deployment of Speed Indicator Devices on North Road and Longford has been submitted to the newsletter. The Trustees for the AH Williams Trust will need to be updated to reflect the current members of the parish council.

A request has been received from a household on North Road for the road to be resurfaced. The meeting noted the request and that Herefordshire Council has been asked repeatedly to resurface North Road and Longford.

2017/170 PLANNING

164011 and 164012 1 Park Terrace, Kingsland, HR6 9SQ – Proposed rear extension, new roof to porch and internal improvements and alterations to existing dwelling. *The meeting agreed to support the planning applications.*

[Cllr. Watkins left the meeting.]

164062 Land adjacent to Garden Cottage, Hostel Land, Cobnash – Proposed 2 bedroom sustainable self build dwelling and ancillary garage. *The meeting agreed to support the planning application.*

[Cllr. Watkins rejoined the meeting.]

170139 High Field, North Road, Kingsland, HR6 9RZ – Fell two silver Birch and replace with Himalayan Birch trees. *There was no objection to the proposed work.*

Planning Decisions/ Enforcement – It was noted that Herefordshire Council has granted planning permission for 163804 Lawtonbury Farm and 163637 Storage depot Northern Division Surveyors Department. Applications for works to trees within a conservation area have been allowed for 163833 Bryn Y Coed and 170139 High Field. Planning application 163723 The Granary has been refused by Herefordshire Council.

Herefordshire Council's planning committee approved 162166 Land south of Martindale. Ward Cllr. Bowen said he was being consulted on planning conditions for Land to the south of Martindale: The meeting supported the proposed condition to have a 30mph speed restriction on the A4110 at this point so that people are able to enter and leave the development more safely, and to communicate this to the appropriate planning officer.

2017/171 FINANCE

The lengthsman and P3 footpaths grant has been received from Herefordshire Council for the period to September 2016 (£2,897.28). Payment of Quarter 3 for the period October-December 2016 is expected shortly.

The following payments were AGREED: Balfour Beatty, SID hire November 2016 (£360.00); Groundwork UK, return of unspent NDP grant (£2,294.00); Kingsland C E Primary School, Celebration Evening Awards (£50.00); and R Bayliss, P3 footpaths maintenance (£112.00).

After considering a request for additional support for the maintenance of the churchyard in 2016, the parish council agreed to make a further donation of £250.00.

The meeting reviewed expenditure to date on the lengthsman and P3 footpaths activities. There has been £869.36 spent on maintaining footpaths, and £3,481.57 spent on minor highways maintenance, mostly repair of approximately 300 minor potholes. There is an additional £498.43 available to spend on lengthsman work to 31 March 2017. Due to the match-funding element of the lengthsman grant, the parish council will need to pay back £501.57 if the grant is totally spent by 31 March 2017.

The Annual Maintenance Plan 2017-18, which provides £1,485.00 for lengthsman work and £1,436.50 for footpaths maintenance was agreed unanimously by the parish council. The total budget of £2,921.50 for lengthsman and P3 footpaths work in 2017-18 is funded from parish council funds (£1,321.50) and a grant from Herefordshire Council (£1,600.00). The lengthsman budget will be kept under review during 2017-18.

Costs associated with the proposed allowances scheme for parish councillors were noted. It was agreed to postpone a decision on an allowances scheme to the next meeting.

2017/172 HIGHWAYS/ LENGTHSMAN SCHEME

The parish council noted a request from a local resident for local companies to route their heavy goods vehicles via Lawtons Cross rather than via Cobnash. It was agreed to contact local companies to urge more use of Lawtons Cross by their HGVs. In addition, the meeting agreed to fund the placing of an HGV sign on the A4110 just before the turning to Cobnash so that HGV drivers are signposted to keep on the A4110 to Lawtons Cross.

2017/173 P3 FOOTPATHS

There was no footpaths report. The Clerk said Cllr. Bradley has asked the footpaths contractor to undertake several jobs since the last meeting.

2017/174 SECTION 106 WISH LIST

The parish council considered requests for Section 106 funding from the St Mary's residential development which is nearing completion. The parish council noted that the specific provisions in the Section 106 Agreement include £16,015.00 for "improvements to the existing open space and play facilities in Kingsland. It was agreed to request that £1,000 is allocated to improve pedestrian and disabled access to the existing bowling clubhouse and green facilities; and the remaining funds are used to improve the tennis courts at the Coronation Hall. The parish council requests will be made via the Section 106 officer at Herefordshire Council.

2017/175 LOCAL CONNECTION PROCESS

The meeting noted the local verification process set up by Herefordshire Housing will allow one week for the local connection committee or parish council to verify a connection. Members of the local connection committee are aware of this and have committed to be available to meet at short notice.

2017/176 PUBLIC ACCESS DEFIBRILLATOR

It was agreed to follow the example of the British Heart Foundation and keep the defibrillator cabinet unlocked. The Clerk was asked to purchase a sign to help people find the exact location of the defibrillator cabinet at Markham's Garage.

2017/177 RESTORATION OF CORNERS' CROSSROADS ROAD SIGN

Balfour Beatty has yet to comment on the treatment of the mirror in respect of the planned renovation of the traditional signpost.

2017/178 WASTE CHARGES CONSULTATION

The consultation was noted.

2017/179 MATTERS RAISED FOR THE NEXT MEETING (no discussion)

Parking and the primary school, and tree removed by Herefordshire Council by the Coronation Hall.

2017/180 INFORMATION ITEMS

The meeting noted the information items on the agenda.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 pm.

Signed:

Date: