

KINGSLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 9 JANUARY 2019 AT THE VILLAGE SHOP AND CAFE

PRESENT: Mr D Thompson (Vice Chairman), Mrs G B Bengry, Mrs C Sawyers, Mrs L Juson, Mr C Southgate, Mr R Harris, Mr B J Watkins and Mr D Fordham.

IN ATTENDANCE: PCSO S Harper, West Mercia Police; Ward Cllr. S Bowen; and Mr R Hewitt, Clerk. Eight (8) members of the public were present.

2019/139 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Mr R C Smallwood, Mr J Vaughan and Mr P D Vaughan.

2019/140 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION – Cllr. Juson declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 2019/147 Coronation Hall donation. Cllrs. R Harris and C Southgate declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 2019/147 PCC donation. Cllr. B Watkins declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 2019/145 Land at the Old Forge.

2019/141 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS – The minutes of the meetings held on 20 November and 18 December 2018 were agreed and signed.

2019/142 LOCAL RESIDENTS DISCUSSION

PCSO S Harper provided an update on local police matters. There is some theft from sheds and outbuildings locally. Property can be marked with a unique identifier, available as part of the ‘We don’t buy crime’ campaign. PCSO Harper said that periodic speed enforcement is undertaken, and noted concerns raised at the speed of traffic on North Road. PCSO Harper kindly offered to give a talk on cyber security. A question on accidents at Lawton Cross was referred to the traffic management advisor, West Mercia Police.

[PCSO Harper left the meeting.]

A member of the public said there has been a further accident at Lawton Cross and requested a 40 mph speed limit from the top of Lawton Bank as accidents appear to be caused by the speed of vehicles.

A member of the public said the road surface of the B4360 at Cobnash is deteriorating and should be resurfaced and kerbed to help lorries keep to the tarmacked area. Ward Cllr. Bowen kindly said he will raise this with Herefordshire Council.

2019/143 REPORT ON HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

Ward Cllr. Bowen said Balfour Beatty is planning a 4-metre-wide ‘maxi-mini’ roundabout at Lawton Cross, and a 40 mph speed limit in each direction. Based on advice from highways the 40mph speed limit in the direction of Leominster is unlikely to extend to the hill at Lawton Bank. The roundabout is expected to be built in the coming financial year, hopefully during 2019, and is intended to bring down the number of accidents at the crossroads.

A velocity patcher is to be purchased for the repair of potholes. Balfour Beatty work crews start early in the morning, so will finish earlier in the day as well. They are not ‘knocking off work early’.

Herefordshire Council has been fined following a legal case brought against children's services. Work has been done to address the problem so that it doesn't happen again. It is also important to maintain the morale of the county's social workers. Surrounding county services are currently in special measures.

Council tax is likely to increase by 4.9 percent with 2.9 percent of this allocated to social services. The Police precept will rise by nearly 10 percent to support recruitment of an additional 250 officers.

Balfour Beatty is expected to resurface Longford in February 2019. The exact extent of the resurfacing is yet to be confirmed but should include the road to the church.

2019/144 CLERK'S REPORT/ MEETINGS ATTENDED BY COUNCILLORS

The Clerk said a new Council Matters article has been submitted to the Kingsland newsletter for the January 2019 issue. Herefordshire Council is holding another parish council summit on 24 January 2019. Balfour Beatty is to publish a new Community Commissioning Toolkit with estimated costs for new highways and traffic engineering solutions such as measures to address speeding.

2019/145 PLANNING

[Cllr. B Watkins left the meeting.]

Land at the Old Forge, Cobnash – Consultation by landowner on proposal to erect two houses. It was noted that the site lies within the Cobnash settlement boundary, so is allocated for development in the neighbourhood development plan subject to making a full planning application.

[Cllr. B Watkins rejoined the meeting.]

Planning Decisions/ Enforcement – Herefordshire Council has granted planning permission for 184006 The Coach House; 182866 Dev 1 Land at Cobnash House; 183335 The Limes; and 183062 Barn at Kingsland Court. Works to trees within a conservation area are allowed for 183843 Kingsland Coronation Hall; 183842 Hollybank; 183844 North Acre; and 184068 Lorne House.

2019/146 COMMUNITY PROJECTS/ GRANTS POLICY

A draft community projects grants policy document was considered and several amendments agreed. With these amendments the policy document was adopted and will be available on the parish council pages of www.kingslandlife.com.

2019/147 FINANCE

The following payments were AGREED: Kingsland Life, donation for SSL subscription (£80.00); R Bayliss, footpaths maintenance (£248.00); and Hitrees, repair of noticeboard and maintenance by the memorial (£696.00).

[Cllr. Juson left the meeting.]

A donation of £2,000.00 to the Coronation Hall to support the resurfacing of the tennis courts was agreed.

[Cllr. Juson rejoined the meeting.] [Cllrs. R Harris and C Southgate left the meeting.]

A request from the PCC for a community grant was considered. The parish council noted the request but felt that the guidance from NALC would still apply for the purposes highlighted in the request and did not feel it would be prudent to make the donation as it cannot be certain it would be legally valid.

[Cllrs. R Harris and C Southgate rejoined the meeting.]

2019/148 HIGHWAYS/ LENGTHSMAN SCHEME

There were no matters raised.

2019/149 PARKING AT ST MICHAEL'S AVENUE

Options to address reports of restricted visibility for vehicles joining Longford from St Michael's Avenue were considered. The meeting agreed to ask for advice from the locality steward. One option to explore might be to use Community Commissioning to build a crossroads wide platform to slow traffic approaching the junction. Double yellow lines were not felt to be an appropriate response.

2019/150 SPEEDING ON NORTH ROAD

There have been reports of speeding on North Road. It was noted that this was raised with PCSO Harper earlier in the meeting. In addition, it was agreed to hire an additional SID from Herefordshire Council and find out the cost of wheelie bin stickers to remind drivers of the speed limit.

2019/151 P3 FOOTPATHS

Cllr. Juson said planning is underway for 2019-20 and confirmed the annual footpaths maintenance budget set by the parish council is £2,000.00. The Clerk said Balfour Beatty has given a deadline of 31 March 2019 to claim the footpaths grant for 2018-19, and materials need to be ordered by 1 February 2019.

2019/152 MATTERS RAISED FOR THE NEXT MEETING (no discussion) – None.

2019/153 INFORMATION ITEMS

The information items on the agenda were noted.

The Vice Chairman closed the meeting at 9.14 pm.

Signed:

Date: