

WEST KINGSDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of West Kingsdown Parish Council held in the Main Hall, Old School, School Lane, commencing at 7.45pm on **Wednesday 28th November 2018** to transact the following business.

Members of the Parish Council: Cllr M Stoneham (Chairman), Cllr Yarnold (Vice-chairman), Cllr I Bosley, Cllr Mrs P Bosley, Cllr V Codling, Cllr G Christie, Cllr Miss J Holdstock, Cllr A Illingworth, Cllr D Land, Cllr Mrs M Richards & Cllr Mrs J Watchorn.

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Illingworth and Cllr Codling, Cllr P Bosley and Cllr I Bosley

Members of the Public and Councillors who wish to raise matters.

Whitegates: Cllr Watchorn reported that a property in Whitegates had had some extension works carried out but this was now being marketed as a bedsit for rent. The Clerk had reported this matter to planning enforcement for them to look into the matter.

Accident Neal Road: It was recorded that a lady had trip on the pavement in Neal Road and broke both her arms. The incident had been reported to KCC by that resident and the matter being handled direct.

Network Power: The Clerk to chase network power regarding the leaning pole at the far side of the Gamecock.

Recycling area: It was noted rats had been seen in this area and the Clerk would report to SDC for them to clean the area.

Hole along London Road: Cllr Richards reported a hole that was quite deep opposite the industrial estate and the Gamecock. Cllr Richards would email the picture to the Clerk and the Clerk would then report to KCC.

Planning Agenda

Apologies for Absence: Cllr Illingworth and Cllr Codling, Cllr P Bosley and Cllr I Bosley

Declarations of Interest: None.

Plans:

SE/18/02790/Ful: Land east of 30 Ashen Grove Road: Knatts Valley: Conversion of existing building to create 1 no dwelling and associated works. Retention of existing building for ancillary residential use. (amended Plans)

SE/18/03579/HOUSE: 37 Oaklands Close: Part demolition of existing attached garage with new part pitched roof. Erection of single storey rear extension and erection of 1.5m high front boundary wall.

West Kingsdown Parish Council Wednesday 28th November 2018

Parish Council Meeting

1. Apologies for absence: Cllr Illingworth, Cllr Codling, Cllr P Bosley and Cllr I Bosley

2. Declaration of Interests relating to items on the Agenda: Cllr Yarnold

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings:

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The MINUTES of the planning committee meeting held on Wednesday 24th October 2018 were submitted.

It was moved from the chair that they be signed as a true record.

ALL IN FAVOUR

The MINUTES of the Parish council meeting held on Wednesday 24th October were submitted.

It was moved from the chair that they be signed as a true record.

ALL IN FAVOUR

The MINUTES of the planning meeting held on Monday 12th November 2018 were submitted.

It was moved from the chair that they be signed as a true record.

ALL IN FAVOUR

The MINUTES of the General Purpose Committee meeting held on Monday 12th November 2018 were submitted. It was proposed from the chair that under Tree works the first sentence of the paragraph beginning: *A 30% reduction was discussed...* be deleted and the following substituted: *Reducing the crown by 30% would result in a greater rate of growth than just cutting it back and suggested that a better option would be to accept the trimming quote of £165.00 and then in 5 years time, when it would need to be cut back anyway, have it trimmed again.*

ALL IN FAVOUR

It was then moved from the chair that they be signed as a true record and any recommendations therein approved.

ALL IN FAVOUR

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The MINUTES of the Finance Committee meeting held on Monday 12th November 2018 were submitted.

It was moved from the chair that they be signed as a true record and any recommendations therein approved. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

Rulings:

The Chairman ruled that any business received since the despatch of the Agenda, by reason of special circumstances, be considered, in order to avoid any undue delay and have up to date information.

Diary Item:

There were no diary items.

Footpaths: There were no footpath items

Correspondence:

Report from the Old School Management Committee:

The three dedicated buildings continue to be used by Pre-School, Kings Church and Woodside Dance School. The craft room is used by a model railway group, under an agreement with Kings Church.

The hall in the Old Building is used by pre-school, camera club, gardening group, Line dancing, and parish council and for some parties

Thanks is recorded to the volunteers who helped clear the planted pots of dead Plants etc with the plan that pre-school will take on the planting in the Spring with the children. Time was also spent in removing weed growth around the old building.

Regrettably the work undertaken earlier the year to resolve the water leak has not Fully succeeded and we have received another large bill. Ian has been in contact with Castle Water – our supplier – to try and understand how the amounts are computed.

A site meeting has taken place on 27th November with the plumber and the plan of Action is (a) dig around the repair to check if the connection is leaking and if this is not the cause then (b) dig up across the tarmac playground/car park to expose the old pipework to the point where the new connection was made when the buildings were rebuilt in 1999/2000.

Pat Bosley
Chairman

RECEIVED

Car park rear of the Co op and Nurse Car park in Hever Road:

Since the Council considered whether or not to litter pick land that it doesn't own all reports of flytipping and dumping of furniture is being reported to Sevenoaks District Council for the rear of the Co op and the Land owner for the car park in Hever Road.

David Dibol is paid weekly to carry out 3 hours of litter clearing - his time is spread between the Gamecocks site/ Recreation and Hever Road , The Clerk would ask David to stop clearing the litter from the car parks and could work in the burial ground. The problem is being taken up by SDC who is going to speak to environmental department and also write to the land owner.

AGREED

Remembrance Sunday Parade.

The Parish Council thanked the volunteers who helped on Remembrance Sunday and to express our appreciation to well over 200 parishioners who attended the War Memorial. Also to note the thanks of the Royal British Legion for the support received for the Poppy Appeal which has raised in excess of £5,600.

To note the comments received by the Chairman from Lady Nelson on behalf of the Lord Lieutenant:

Can I thank you and everyone involved with the Services yesterday for your welcome to me as the Lord Lieutenant's representative. I thought West Kingsdown did itself proud and produced a most impressive day of Remembrance. I will remember the silhouettes and the stories of the soldiers, the huge number of poppies both in the cascade and inside the church, the priest's address and the candles relighted after being extinguished at the 100 year anniversary of the beginning of the first World War. It was good to see around 250 people standing in the sunshine and shower at the War Memorial and the involvement of the children and all the societies and associations in the Parish.

RECEIVED

Finance

It was noted that an income of £72,043.13 had been received and it proposed through the chair that cheques to the total of £6,813.76 be paid.

ALL IN FAVOUR

An internal audit was carried out Cllr Illingworth on 26/10/18 and no areas of concerns were identified.

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Youth services:

The club has been going well with engagements varying but we are regularly seeing 12 young people. Sessional workers are working closely with them and are also working hard to engage with new and more young people in the area as our cohort of young people seem to be the same most weeks. Even though this is a positive it would be nice to gain new engagements so we are

putting a plan of action in place to achieve this. The extension of the service has added some energy to the project as both the staff and young people are seeing a long term vision for the youth activities in the area.

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Our vision of having a much more engaged and proactive youth forum is being organised which will bring about ideas for change, support funding bids and work with the local area to improve.

Young people are starting to really show ownership over the project and want to make positive changes.

Sessions have included sports, games and pool competitions, outdoor games, relationship building, team building, drug and alcohol awareness and sexual health talks.

We are excited at the extension and feel in this period we will be able to develop an engaged and proactive youth group that can help support themselves and the local area. The report was noted but agreed that Councillors would need to visit during the evening sessions. The Clerk would also approach with West Kent Extra regarding publicising the youth work on the Facebook page.

Telephone box:

The adoption of the telephone box has been completed

RECEIVED

Burial Ground: A working party is required Members are asked to arrange a date. It was agreed that a working day would be arranged for January 2019 and that a plan for works to the burial Ground extension will be discussed.

RECEIVED

KCC Bus consultation: Bus Service 404 and 405 Changes Public Consultation

A bus consultation have been proposed for two services, the one that affects West Kingsdown is the 405, currently running Two proposals; from Stagecoach (services 42/42A, 56 and 39/39A) in Thanet and from Go-coach (services 404 and 405) in Sevenoaks are being considered. These would save KCC approximately £410k per year (£360k from Thanet proposals and £50k from Sevenoaks proposals). This note focuses on proposals for services 404 and 405 consultation will run from 22 November to 19 December 2018

Reduction in the overall number of journeys, removal of the Plaxtol to Borough Green section and the withdrawal of the Wednesday only 405 service.

Service 222 will continue to offer a link to Borough Green and Tonbridge whilst service 429 provides West Kingsdown with a link to Dartford and Swanley.

In addition, a new Taxi Bus service is being introduced as a Big Conversation pilot scheme and this will provide new journeys linking West Kingsdown, Fairseat, Otford, Stansted and East Hill with Sevenoaks.

Cllr Brazier spoke about the plan for the proposed taxi bus service from Fairseat to Sevenoaks, this will be on a small bus that will run three times a day between the Fairseat and Sevenoaks, it will be on a trial basis for one year with regular reviews and if the service isn't used then the service would be stopped. Routes were being finalised and the times of the buses. Journey time was expected at 40 minutes. This proposal by KCC was expected to begin in April 2019.

RECEIVED

Land at Millfield Road:

A letter has been received regarding some land in Millfield Road the new owner was originally led to believe from the seller that the space in front of garages belonged to the resident the solicitor then claimed it was not part of the house and believed it to belong to the Parish Council. The sale and move has been completed and the owner has requested the Council considers selling the land to them. A letter was attached for Members it was discussed by members and agreed that it would not sell land on this request, the Clerk would get in touch with the resident who requested Members consideration.

RECEIVED

Line marking of Roads:

KCC have repainted and lines along the main A20, The Clerk has spoken to KCC and it has been confirmed that when all signs are erected highlighting the cycle lane the parking problem become enforceable by the District Council parking enforcement Officers. The Clerk would request that traffic enforcement visit the site along the London Road.

AGREED

Oak Tree Burial Ground:

Previously Council had agreed the following works to take place at the Burial ground

A. Two Oaks in the Burial ground (new section by the compost area)

Raise the crowns on both Oaks to approx. 5m by removal of complete branches where applicable.

Arisings to be chipped for use in the burial ground

£390.00

Oak behind William Ellard grave

Remove the bulk of the dead wood.

(note; the tree is showing stress most likely due to graves being dug below the tree damaging roots) Arisings to be chipped for use in the burial ground. **The oak has suffered due to Benches being so close and the graves being dug so close to the roots and is showing distress**

£390.00

Stump in the area by the Compost bin and two oaks

Grind out to approx 250mm below ground level Leave arisings tidy **£130.00**
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It was then subsequently agreed that one oak should be trimmed and the second felled

B. To remove the oak tree nearest the compost bin the quote is as follows:

Burial ground Oak by Compost Bins

Dismantle /Fell to near ground level

Remove all arisings from site. Note, if this option is taken, quote 208629 cost for raising the crowns on two Oaks will be amended accordingly

£528.00

One in the Burial ground (new section by the compost area)

Raise the crown on one Oaks to approx 5m by removal of complete branches where applicable.

Arisings to be chipped for use in the burial ground

£195.00

Grinding if required

Grind out the stump to below the bole (ie, separates all the roots from the stump) Leave all arisings tidy to settle **£195.00**

Subtotal £918.00 plus VAT £183.60 Total £1101.60

It was proposed through the Chair to accept the second quote to remove the oak and trim the second, grinding out the stump. This will allow more burials to take place in that area. **ALL IN FAVOUR**

Recreation ground :

Hever Avenue Recreation Ground Conifers (45 Hever Ave to behind the Playground)

Hedge from picket fence to the far corner of the playground. Reduce in height to the previously reduced height Large Leylandii and others in fenced area alongside 45 Hever Avenue.

Reduce in height to the same height as the other trimmed trees in the Recreation Ground Lightly trim the top to tidy as required.

Remove all arisings from site

£1,320.00

Subtotal £1,320.00 VAT £264.00 Total £1,584.00.

It was proposed through the chair to accept this quote including the lowering of the two conifers close to the front gate.

ALL IN FAVOUR

Caretaker:

The closing date was 17th November for a replacement caretaker; there have been no applicants for this position. Agreed to re-advertise in January. **AGREED**

KCC library consultation:

A consultation on the draft Kent County Council Libraries, Registration and Archives strategy for the next three years, has began, including a proposal to tier libraries and review library opening hours.

Kent County Council is looking at the future direction of Library, Registration and Archive services so that we can build a sustainable service for the future that maximises the positive benefits it can deliver.

The public consultation will run from today to 29 January 2019 and we wanted you to be aware of this and encourage you to consider the draft strategy as we are keen for feedback from your perspective. We want to hear everyone's views before a formal decision is taken.

The draft strategy and the consultation questionnaire can be found online at www.kent.gov.uk/lrastrategy or paper copies are available in all Kent Libraries, Register Offices & Gateways.

KCC will also be running 20 drop-in sessions across the county in libraries where people can come and speak to our team about the proposals. You will find all the dates and times of these online.

KCC want to hear from as many people as possible. Please help us spread the word by sharing details of the consultation with your service users, staff and partners.

An Easy Read version of the draft strategy and questionnaire has been produced and is available from our website or in hard copy from our libraries. If you or your service users require any of the consultation material in an alternative format these can be requested via email alternativeformats@kent.gov.uk or phone 03000 421553 (text relay service number: 18001 03000 421553). This number goes to an answering machine which is monitored during office hours.

Should you have any specific questions about the proposal and how this might affect you or your partnership with us, please do not hesitate to contact us directly by emailing lraconsultation@kent.gov.uk or call 03000 413131. **RECEIVED**

Land at School Lane:

It had been noted that all the hedges along the side of the John Fordham Memorial have been cut back to 6ft. This work was carried out by a contractor on behalf of the KCC. **RECEIVED**

Newsletter items.

Youth work

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Car park and flytipping
Telephone box and defibrillator
Litter Gamecock

Matters arising:

The Clerk on behalf of the Council thanked the Chairman in his capacity as Chairman of the Council but also his position within Royal British Legion for all his works for remembrance parade and all his help and knowledge with commemorations for the centenary of the ending of WW1. This was **agreed** by all members.

Dates of Next meetings

Parish Council Committee Meeting: Monday 10th December: 7.30pm Old School Hall, School Lane.

2019 [Parish Council election due on 2 May]

7 January - General Purposes Committee

14 January – Finance [Precept] [*No Planning Committee*]

23 January - Parish Council

The meeting closed at 8.52pm