

Kings Worthy Parish Council

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 16 April 2012
at Kings Worthy Community Centre, Fraser Road, Kings Worthy**

Present: Councillors: Sarah White [Chairman]; Terry Bohle, Rosemary Sign and Denis Welstead.
Newly co-opted Councillor Martin Taylor

HCC; Cllr Jackie Porter
WCC: Cllr Jane Rutter

Public: 0

PC/12/52 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Prince, Barnes, Gordon, Hallisey and Steventon Baker; Kerstin Reiners [newly co-opted councillor]; Clerk: Colin Arnett and PCSO; Kerry Croutear and colleague.

Cllr White informed members that Cllr Andrew-Power had resigned from the Parish Council due to external work pressures.

PC/12/53 Public Question Time

Jackie Porter on behalf of the Tubbs Hall Management Committee updated members on their application for Hallmark Status and the various issues that need addressing in order to do this. They require;

- a formal land plan of which area is under which lease and to whom
- to update their constitution
- as part of this they want to increase the numbers. needed on their committee from 8 to 12, to include one appointed by WCC and two appointed by the Parish Council

The conditions of the lease from the PC to THMC are that they need to apply to the PC in order to alter the number of committee members. This will be done shortly.

PC/12/54 Co-option of Councillors

In the absence of a Proper Officer, Martin Taylor could not sign his acceptance form in front of the council. It was also noted that Kerstin Reiners was not back from her trip to Australia until later in the week. It was discussed that within our Standing Orders new councillors should provide all necessary paperwork and sign their acceptance form within 28 days of co-option. As this was not possible at this meeting, all agreed that we still wished to co-opt Martin Taylor and Kerstin Reiners and that they should complete their paperwork whenever practicable within the next month.

PC/12/55 Reports from Police/County Councillor/City Councillor/School Governor/Parish Councillors

- **Police** – a report had been circulated to members [copy attached].

Members discussed the recent dedicated meeting of two councillors with the PCSO's which was very constructive and probably more beneficial from both sides than attendance at full PC meetings. A further meeting should be convened with the PCSOs and suggested that this become a regular quarterly meeting and just a report be sent for PC meetings. **Action – the clerk**

- **County Councillor** – Jackie Porter's presented her report for April [copy attached]. She particularly noted;
 - a works officer has been appointed for the Church Lane project – we will be hearing from Jackie to arrange a meeting to discuss Church Lane issues
 - there is a new footway officer in post who is keen to tackle the issues of leaf mould, encroaching undergrowth etc along the footpath behind school (from Nations Hill).
Cllr Sign also raised the issue of the path between Springvale Road and Lovedon Lane where there has been an issue regarding horse droppings. Jackie will raise this one with the footway officer.
 - there is a meeting later this week to discuss various highways/footpath issues and there may be an option of HCC both building, funding and taking on the ownership and hence subsequent maintenance of the proposed path across Eversley Park – we will be updated after the meeting.
 - a list of aspirations for Kings Worthy highways wise is required by 19th April – Jackie will follow this up with an email – in the absence of the clerk, we were unaware if we had previously received this request.
Action - Planning & Highways Committee
 - the HCC investigations into the possibility of reducing the speed limit along Springvale Road to 30mph would be evidence based, not based on public opinion. We discussed that “an evidence based approach” was important in view of the ongoing opposing opinions regarding this issue.
 - It was raised that during the street light replacement the new lights would cast their light over a smaller area and so extra lights may be needed. The need and possible funding for this would need to be discussed with the HCC team dealing with this.
Action - Planning & Highways Committee
 - It was noted that no other parishes had shown any interest in funding an evening bus service, so this is unlikely to happen. However the running the 67 bus route is shortly to be taken over by Velvet Travel.

- on 11th June and they are looking into increasing the summer evening services (this would of course only serve old Kings Worthy and Abbots Worthy within our parish and currently only runs every 2-3 hours)
The Abbots Worthy bus shelter being in the position that it is was is in need of a clean. **Action – the clerk**
- It was suggested that the pot-holes in London Road should be filled in before the Olympic Torch Procession – would HCC consider this as a priority – Cllr Porter would put this to the Highways committee.
- o **City Councillor – Jane Rutter** was in attendance, she discussed;
 - There was a meeting regarding the Children’s Centre this week to discuss future plans.
 - That there was a deal of support for the reduction of the Springvale Road speed limit to 30mph when speaking to constituents on the doorstep. It was re-emphasised by all parties (HCC, WCC and PC) that any decision on this would be based on evidence and **not** public opinion and that it would be helpful if we all reinforced this when discussing the issue with parishioners.
 - That the Barton Farm issue is still ongoing and is currently going through legal processes as to what would happen next.

PC/12/56 Land at Hookpit Farm Lane

This item was taken out of order whilst Cllrs Porter and Rutter were still present.

The suggestion was discussed that there was a potential purchase and then planning application proposal for the whole of Top Field, not just the previously discussed area.

It had been suggested by Stuart Dunbar Dempsey [WCC] that we meet with the developers to discuss their plans pre-emptively rather than wait for their proposals. We had subsequently been contacted by WCC requesting a meeting to discuss the area.

It was agreed that we should have a sub-group of 2 representatives from each of Planning & Highways and Recreation& Amenities committees to meet in the first instance with WCC and subsequently with the developers to discuss this area. In the absence of much of the council it was agreed that these representatives would be put forward separately from the sub-committees once all councillors had been consulted.

The initial meeting needs to be arranged with the sub-group. **Action – the clerk**

Cllrs Porter and Rutter left the meeting

PC/12/55 Reports from Police/County Councillor/City Councillor/School Governor/Parish Councillors cont.

- o **School Governor’s Report** – Cllr Gordon was not present

- **Parish Plan** – a number of councillors had attended a presentation of the final report and were very impressed with the quality. A formal letter of thanks should be sent to the committee for all their hard work over the last 3 years.
Action - the clerk

Due to current pressure of projects the council would start to address issues raised in the Parish Plan from the autumn onwards.

PC/12/56 Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 19 March 2012

The minutes were agreed as a true record and were signed by Cllr White.

PC12/57 Matters arising from the Minutes of the 19 March 2012

- **Evening Bus Service** –as discussed under HCC report.
- **Field in Trust** – there appeared to be little interest in this and as the green is on lease and not actually a field is probably not suitable.
- **Tesco Garages** – Cllr Gordon is still trying to arrange a date to get the various inspectors to attend and give a view on these.
- **Meeting with SSE** – it had been suggested that this should be on the afternoon of 14th May to fit in with the Annual Parish Meeting and that we could ask a representative from SSE and Steve Brine to give a brief talk at our meeting. All councillors felt this was a sensible plan.
(Post meeting note – MP Brine is not available on this date and has suggested 11th May as an alternative for the SSE meeting)
- **Dog Fouling Initiative** – the rota for this is a little slow in completing – there is generally only one councillor available for each am or pm session – Members present were able to complete week one 21st to 27th April but we may need to accept that this is a one, not two week initiative. We are waiting to hear from Cllr Hallisey a source for the spray paint so we can purchase more cans. The plan would be to cover Eversley Park and footpaths to the park (incl. from Nations Hill, Legion Lane, Gillingham Close and Lovedon Lane) each morning and afternoon. Cans of spray paint and the “Responsible Dog Owners” postcards would be made available to volunteers at the Parish Office
Cllr White would keep everyone informed of progress on this.
- **Byelaws** – these had been advertised in last week’s Hampshire Chronicle that they were available for viewing before final ratification from the Home Office and subsequent erection of signs.

PC/12/58 To receive the Minutes of the Sub-Committees:

The Minutes of the following Committees were received and discussed.

- **Planning and Highways Committee 27 March 2012**

The dashboard screen supplied by Cllr Gordon was reviewed [copy attached].

It was noted that the cost of street lighting had been less for the last 6 months than had been anticipated.

It was noted that there was to be push on parking on verges – PCSO Croutier had agreed to put notices supplied by the council on offending vehicles. It was discussed as to whether kerb parking was also an issue but probably only if this led to driving on or parking on the grass verge. Notices to be created by the council.

Action - Cllr Gordon with the Clerk

- **Recreation and Amenities Committee – 5 April 2012**

Unfortunately the correct dashboard was not available but Cllr White talked through last months with updated information [correct dashboard copy attached].

Members ratified the decision to favour the lower cost equipment and tender for the groundwork in relation to the Cricket Nets. This view is to be put to WCC along with the application for S106 funding for the project. **Action - the clerk**

It was confirmed that safety issues had been discussed with the suppliers, and the extended nets should make this area as safe as possible. It was confirmed that insurance for the equipment and Public Liability insurance remains the responsibility of the Parish Council.

ROSPA report – the inspector had unfortunately not contacted the office in advance, so the clerk was unable to accompany him or ask any specific questions. There were thankfully very few issues raised, these were all minor and most of these should be able to be dealt with either by Scandor or our maintenance operative once in place. In particular no mention was made concerning the slight wobble on the Surfer and wearing of the bearings on the Skier in the Exercise Area outside Tubbs Hall. It was felt that these issues were therefore not a safety risk. It was discussed that we should consider getting a more detailed report including the possibility of the clerk and/or a councillor accompanying the inspector to discuss details next year. This would likely be more expensive and should be discussed nearer the time.

Members ratified the proposal of installing a Willow Hurdle fence at the Lovedon Lane end of Upper Broadview at the cost of £240.

Members ratified the suggestion of removing the tree bough on Kim Bishop Walk overhanging the property on Legion Lane.

It was suggested that the fence at the bottom of Legion Lane bordering Parish Council land should be looked at with a view to repair.

PC/12/58 To receive the Minutes of the Sub-Committees cont:

- **Finance Committee 11 April 2012**

Cllrs viewed the dashboard screen presentation [copy attached].

Members were delighted to see that overall there would still be a small surplus for this financial year.

PC/12/59 Burial Ground Regulations

Members viewed the amended regulations and accepted the amendments. It was also discussed and agreed that at Section 2 – Notice of Interment – that email should be another accepted form of communication for confirmation of details and at Section 18 – Children and Dogs – that we should add to the clause forbidding dogs within the grounds - (with the exception of any type of assistance dog e.g. Guide Dogs).

Cllr Bohle left the meeting at 9.10 at which point the council was no longer quorate so further decisions could not be taken

PC/12/60 Annual Parish Meeting

This item had already been partially discussed in relationship to the SSE meeting. We also discussed that as per usual representatives of local organisations would be invited to present at the meeting. It would be a good opportunity to have a formal public presentation of the Parish Plan at this meeting and that Derek Smithers had already put the date in his diary to do this. Light refreshments would be available.

It was pointed out that for Quality Council Status a written annual report was required that could be available to the public. It was agreed that where possible the chairs of the sub-committees should make their presentations available in a brief written format, but that in view of other current pressures that this should not be a priority for this year.

Cllr White advised councillors that the next Parish Council meeting would include the AGM at which we vote for chair and vice-chair and allocate members to sub-committees. She pointed out that the position of chair could only be held by the same person for a maximum of 3 years and that she would have been in place for 2 years this May. She also emphasised that her own day job workload meant that she was often not available for meetings or consultation during the working day and that councillors should consider this when choosing and voting for next year's chair. She encouraged councillors to talk to each other about the positions and sub-committees so that we can reach sensible conclusions at the next meeting.

PC/12/61 Olympic 2012 Torch Relay

It was reported that meetings were continuing regarding the details of this on a monthly basis.

PC/12/62 Queens Jubilee Celebrations

Cllr Bohle had provided pictures of the sundial that he had chosen at a cost of £195 as previously discussed.

The amended wording on the front of the obelisk in view of the requirements of the cabinet office would be "To Celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee". "Kings Worthy & Abbots Worthy" would be engraved on the base and the dates in roman numerals "MMXII" and "MCMLII" would be on opposite sides of the top of the obelisk. The crown symbol and EIRR would be on the remaining sides on the top of the obelisk. There did not seem to be any need for any additional wording on the sundial.

The voting on the placement of the obelisk so far was discussed in that there had been a very positive response at the litter pick and at the two events Cllr Andrew-Power had attended at the King Charles. It had been observed that very little voting had taken place at the King Charles when there was no-one to man the voting box. Where possible it would be better for councillors to man the voting at our selected sites the post offices, Tesco's and at WSSC. Cllrs White, Prince and Sign were due a meeting at the WSSC so we could take that opportunity to invite parishioners to vote there. Cllr Welstead would investigate voting at Tesco's and Cllr White at the London Road Post Office.

PC/12/63 Keep Britain Tidy “Love where you Live” campaign

A large turnout and a very positive event were commented on in regards to the litter pick. It was noted that the R&A committee had suggested the purchase of further litter pickers to aid future events. Those non-councillors involved in organising the event should be written to, expressing our thanks.

PC/12/64 Community Communications

Cllr White reported that a meeting regarding finalising the new website was being arranged and had been delayed due to councillor's availability.

Members discussed the first Parish Council Surgery held before the litter pick where we had had an excellent turnout of councillors, but no response from the public. However a number of useful discussions had taken place during and at the round up of the litter pick.

We may be more successful in engaging the public as previously suggested on a Saturday morning directly in front of Springvale Stores and Tesco. However in view of current workload the next surgery would be postponed for the time being. Cllr Welstead would discuss the possibility of holding one outside Tesco's when he was talking to them about the Obelisk voting. We would ask the clerks to investigate whether we can obtain permission from the relevant landowners to hold surgeries in these sites.

Action - Cllr Welstead and the clerk

It was discussed that ideally the communications teams should have 3 members so that if one was absent there would still be two to discuss the publication. With our new councillors this would become possible.

The next team to report on this (April's), May's and June's meetings would be Cllrs. Prince, Hallisey and our new Cllr Taylor. Cllr White would re-circulate information on how we have done this previously for the new team. **Action – Cllr White**

PC/12/65 Inter-council communications

It had been observed that there had been increasing email communications of late, making the reading of such increasingly onerous and less likely to be done. It had also been noted that direct interpersonal email exchanges were often copied to all councillors. It was suggested that we all consider if everyone needed to see each email, newsletter etc before circulating to all. **Action – ALL councillors and clerks**

PC/12/66 Clerk's Notices

It had been noted that Itchen Valley Parish Council had not showed an interest in Abbots Worthy moving parishes to join them.

PC/12/67 Chairman's Notices

None

PC/12/68 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would be the Annual General Meeting/Parish Council at 7.30 on the 21 May 2012.

The meeting closed at 10.10pm.

Signed

Dated