

KINGSTONE AND THRUXTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Website www.kingstoneandthruxtongpc.org

MINUTES

**Kingstone and Thruxton Group Parish Council
meeting held on Wednesday 3rd March 2021 at 7.00p.m.**
Clerk's email address: thelesleyhay@hotmail.co.uk

**Due to present Government restrictions this meeting was
a 'virtual' meeting held via Zoom.**

PRESENT: Cllr M. Walker (Chairman); Cllr D Lloyd; Cllr L Thorne; Cllr A Vincent; Cllr S Walker (Vice Chairman) and Cllr C Pugh.

PRESENT: Parish Clerk: Mrs L A Hay. Mr S Madison – Seven Sports Association.

Chairman welcomed those present to the March Zoom meeting.

MINUTES

1. **Acceptance of apologies for absence** – Ward Cllr Bolderson
2. **Declarations of interests**, Disclosable Pecuniary, Non-Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary interests. No declarations of Interest declared.
3. **The minutes** from meeting held 20th January 2021 were considered to be a true record and it was unanimously agreed that they be adopted and be signed by the Chairman.
 - 3.1 There had been no interest shown to date by anyone wishing to fill the Parish Councillor vacancy.
4. **Police Report** – no report available.

The local parishes have recently received the following Police Email:

It had been reported that a local parish council had an incident recently whereby their Zoom meeting was interrupted by the display of explicit imagery. This is known as Zoom-bombing and the offenders can originate from anywhere. The advice is as follows:

- 1) Ensure Zoom app is up to date
- 2) Use a Unique ID and Password for any meeting
- 3) Click on the security shield icon in a meeting to
 - i) Enable 'waiting room' to validate attendees
 - ii) Make sure only the host can share their screen
 - iii) Don't allow participants to rename themselves
 - iv) Lock a meeting once it starts

The Kingstone Parish Council had recently received emails from concerned residents about the increase of local theft. Items are mainly being taken from outside sheds – power tools etc. It has been noted that there had been an extra police presence in the village for the last three weeks or so.

There have been several incidents of door knocking – at all times of the day and night – these incidents have been reported to the police.

Parish Councillors were again made aware of dog theft which sadly is happening in various villages throughout Herefordshire.

5. Chairman's Report

5.1. Allotments.

Recently there had been an email from Derek Mumford, letting secretary for Hereford Allotments, HALGS. He reported managing over 400 plots in the city for the city council and has over 80 people waiting for plots. He receives a lot of requests for plots from people outside of the city, so with all the new developments planned – developers are asked to offer the parish land for allotments/community use.

If asked they are happy to manage the sites at no cost to the parish council as they are a charity so look for outside funding for any projects they take on.

By coincidence an email was also received from a local resident explaining that she and her family had recently moved to Kingstone and had been told about the possibility of applying for an allotment – associated with the Lagan development. She would like to put her name down for one of the allotments – if possible, the one next door to her new home.

Councillors were reminded of– Minutes taken on the 11th April 2018 – item 17.

17. TO CONSIDER ALLOTMENTS AT NEW DEVELOPMENT Lagan Homes will gift the area set out as allotments to the parish council. The land will be transferred for £1.00 the Parish Council will set up a committee to tenant them out etc. The 11/04/18 KTPC/RC 83 Parish Council will take responsibility for enforcement of any rules on them i.e. to keep them tidy and managed etc. Lagan Homes will supply water and electricity to the edge of the allotments and will set up the area initially with top soil so someone can take over them and began to grow produce.

This was discussed at length – and it was decided to invite Mr Derek Mumford to the next meeting together with any residents who maybe interested in having an allotment. The Clerk will liaise with Mr Mumford. In the meantime, the Clerk to approach Lagan Homes to ask if these allotments are still in the plan; size of the plot set aside and when they will become available for allocation.

The Parish Council will give their full support to this – and to Mr Mumford managing the site – however, they would like to make sure that the local residents do get the first opportunity before the plots are offered to residents outside the parish.

6. Financial matters

6.1 Finance: Accounts sheet/schedule of payment sheet had been circulated.

6.2 It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should arrange payment of outstanding invoices.

6.3 End of year accounts. There had been no communication from the external auditor to date – however, the Clerk reminded Councillors that it is the end of 2020/21 financial year and that she will start to prepare the accounts for the internal and external auditor.

6.4 Clerk's annual increment:

As per the Clerk's Contract – it was agreed to increase the Clerk's salary point from Grade 23 to Grade 24 as from the 1st April 2021. It was acknowledged that, as yet, a revised salary scale for 2021-2022 had not yet been received. The Clerk also explained that there had been no indication of any 'cost of living' increase for 2021 -22 any information with regard to this usually comes via SLCC.

After discussion, it was unanimously agreed between the Clerk and Councillors that her hours would remain at 6 hours per week – but that any increase would be discussed at the budget/precept setting meeting in November.

6.5 It was unanimously agreed to continue the SLCC membership and contribute towards the annual subscription.

HALC – it was unanimously agreed not to renew the HALC membership for this coming year.

KINGSTONE AND THRUXTON GROUP COUNCIL
Schedule of Payments Required Date: to the end February 2021

PAYABLE TO	FOR	GROSS AMOUNT	VAT	NET AMOUNT
HMRC	February PAYE	£75.00		£75.00
Expenses	February Expenses	£18.64	2.60	£16.04

7. Ward Councillor's Report – no report available at this time.

7.1 Open session – no members of the public present

7.2 The Chairman closed the open session

8. Highways and Environmental Matters

8.1 Drainage issues - Cllr C Pugh asked the Clerk to raise three issues with the Locality Steward:

- a. The road from outside 2 Deans Pool down the Seven Sites Sports Ground (C1221) is not draining away properly – there is often a 30-foot-long deep puddle - this seems to imply that the road needs rechambering.
- b. The ditch at the back of the Sports field has been discussed on many occasions during the past few months – most recent in November 2020 when it was minuted:

Herefordshire Council have already assessed the area and are taking full responsibility for upgrade work to be carried out from Whitehouse Drive through to the Playing Field entrance.

These works have been approved and given the Job Number MA 1700029 which is, at present, fairly near the top of the list so work should commence during the next couple of months.

The Clerk to enquire from the Locality Steward if he could make enquiries as to where this job is on the waiting list and exactly what is the scale and scope of the 'upgrade work' as described in the October/November communication with the Ward Councillor.

- c. The recently resurfaced road outside the Lagan Homes development is breaking up and will need further attention and maybe resurfacing

- 8.2. K25 and footpaths – no further issues. Remove from agenda.
- 8.3 Parking issues Deans Pool has improved with the construction and opening of the new temporary hard standing parking area at the Seven Sites Sports Ground.
- 8.4 Lengthsman - Balfour Beatty 2021-22 Contract

It was noted that the Lengthsman's Contract will come up for renewal on the 1st April 2021. The Clerk has received four quotes (all circulated). These quotes were discussed at length and it was unanimously agreed that Paul Wright would remain as the as lengthsman for the public rights of way/footpaths etc. Terry Griffiths would be asked to take on the highways to include future drainage projects as he is local with the man power and heavy machinery needed to take on this type of work.

The Chairman will inform both Paul and Terry – the Clerk will contact D C Gardening and Mr Roden to thank them for their quotes but that they have been unsuccessful on this occasion.

9. Planning applications – received since circulation of agenda.

9.1 Planning App. No: 210151 – BT Madley Communications – proposed erection of 6 satellite antennas – this is a neighbouring parish - no objections raised.

9.2 Planning App. No:210193 – Snowdrop Cottage Madley – Proposed extension and conservation into holiday accommodation – this is in a neighbouring parish – no objections raised.

10. Sports Ground – Mr Madison reported that despite a car parking area being included in the original plans associated with the new Changing Rooms – the planning authorities would not accept the

new parking area as temporary and Mr Madison will have to apply for retrospective planning permission.

Mr Madison informed the Parish Council that the Land Registry have turned down the adverse possession claim. There is an opportunity to resubmit the application but this would need to include a very strong case of support from the village i.e in the form of a signed petition.

The piece of land in question has been maintained by the Seven Sites Sports Association since the 1970's but does now belong to Herefordshire Council and it is thought earmarked for council housing.

The Parish Council assured Mr Madison of their full support.

There was discussion with regard to upgrading/replacing some of the play equipment on the Sports Ground. Sadly, a lot of damage is due to vandalism but it is very difficult to catch and prosecute culprits as some are known to be below the age of 18 years.

Example costs had been circulated and it was agreed that help would be needed in the form of grant if this project is to go ahead. It was agreed to approach Mr Dave Tristram – Herefordshire Council – for help and guidance on where to apply for such a grant.

However, before approaching Mr Tristram – it was decided to try and form a working party to assist with the foundation work i.e getting school surveys to identify the wishes of the local children; collating their wishes etc. The Clerk was asked to approach Jon Johnson and his wife – to ask if they would be prepared to head up a working party.

It was noted that the 106 monies allocated to the Sports Association no longer appears on the current allocation spread sheet. It was agreed that Ward Cllr Bolderson should be asked to

follow this up with Yvonne Coleman. Item to remain on the agenda.

11. Date of next full council meeting: Wednesday 21st April 2021 – 7.00p.m. start - this meeting will be a virtual meeting via Zoom.

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30 p.m.

Signed:



Date: