

KING'S SOMBORNE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held virtually via Zoom

Monday 8th March 2021 at 7.00pm

These minutes are draft until resolved as accurate at, usually, the following Full Council meeting.

Present: Cllr I Beacham
Cllr R Harwood
Cllr L Hodge
Cllr K Hughes (Chair)
Cllr M Qassim
Cllr G Searle
Cllr O Wales
Cllr S Whitehead

In Attendance: Borough Councillor Mr T Ward
Mrs E Manship, Clerk to King's Somborne Parish Council

Also present: 18 members of the public were present.

Apologies: Cllr P Duncan & Cllr R Webb

578 Welcome & Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Duncan, due to a medical appointment and Cllr Webb due to pressures of work.

579 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations

Cllr Hughes declared a personal interest as an allotment holder.

580 Public Session

Cllr Hughes welcomed everyone to the meeting and took questions and comments from the floor.

a) Application 19/02899/OUTS (agenda item)

A member of the public advised Council that the Allotment holders, as one voice, had submitted a further objection to the above application, outlining the reasons the proposed allotments site do not meet the "equivalent or better to" test. A copy of which had been sent to the Council. In addition, they advised:

- a. That in 2018 a petition with over 400 names was submitted to the Diocese of Winchester.
- b. That 155 objections have been submitted against the application on the TVBC planning portal, primarily in relation to the new site.

Other members of the public present regarding this agenda item endorsed the comments made. The Chairman thanked the Allotment holders for their document.

b) Proposals from King's Somborne Football Club (agenda item)

The Secretary of King's Somborne Football Club took questions from councillors regarding the club's proposals for consideration.

Q. What effect on the wear & tear of the pitch do you anticipate, playing in the summer months?

R. Limited damage anticipated, as we only wish to play up to June.

Q. If the Council felt comfortable extending the use of the pitch to the league, when King's Somborne is not playing (considering wear & tear) what effect would this have on the club?

R. None. Clubs within the league have simply been asked to ascertain whether home pitches have any spare capacity. If the Council agreed to rent it to other clubs, this would be a direct rental, not a sub-let.

c) Village Hall Grant Request (agenda item)

The Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee took questions from councillors regarding the hall's application for funding for carpet bowls equipment.

Q. Do you have a carpet bowls group currently?

R. No, this will be new to the village, seen as a good community asset. We have advertised in the Gauntlet and have received a good response.

Q. In consideration of the outlay it would be helpful to have a list of confirmed interest in the village, people who would wish to play from day one.

R. I can contact people who have indicated interest to ascertain this. A further member of the Management Committee confirmed he had spoken to about 10 to 12 people and believed there would be a lot of interest.

Q. What is the reason Chilbolton are selling their carpets?

R. The game is extremely popular in Chilbolton, they are upgrading their facility. To purchase 2nd hand carpets is sensible, considering the price for new carpets. We have though been advised not to buy 2nd hand bowls.

Q. Would you accept a loan and repayment when the hall has a membership?

R. We already have a loan, so we would rather not.

Q. Have you considered a loan from Sport England or the National Lottery? If this is a possibility it would be important to apply for funding prior to purchasing the equipment.

R. Funding is only currently being awarded against COVID-related applications.

R. There has been little opportunity over the past 6-years for the hall to be used during the day. With the Pre-School using the Community Building, the Village Hall see this as an opportunity to move forward.

d) Topsoil for the Cricket Pitch

The President of King's Somborne Cricket Club asked the latest position regarding the topsoil and whether the Council would be comfortable with him following it up with the supplier.

The Chairman thanked the President for his offer and confirmed they could liaise outside the meeting.

581 To receive report from Borough Councillor Ward

Borough Councillor Ward updated Council on the following matters:

- a) **Flat Mat Bowls** – Cllr Ward confirmed he believed Flat Mat Bowls would be incredibly popular.
- b) **Nitrate Neutrality** – Cllr Ward advised that 90 – 100 applications are being held up in this regard, affecting about 500 houses. He is concerned as to the outcome if a way around this issue cannot be found.
- c) **Aster Bungalow, Stockbridge** – Cllr Ward advised that Aster is selling a bungalow in Stockbridge from its housing stock. Marketed for £250k, it requires approximately £100k spent on it, hence Aster is seeking to off-load it. He mentions this as concerned Aster may take a similar approach to properties in Kings Somborne. One has been identified in Eldon Road, but further to discussion Aster has agreed not to sell it.
- d) **Allotments** – Cllr Ward confirmed he had been advising a resident associated with the allotments, on the planning process. He advised Council that the number of objection letters on the planning portal had increased significantly. He believed 15th March 2021 was the closing date for new additional information to be forwarded to TVBC. The Chairman asked whether he felt individuals should write. Cllr Ward felt that this would not be helpful. He confirmed that the allotment holders had written a report and a report from the Parish Council further to this evening's meeting should be sufficient. Cllr Ward believed the Planning Committee meeting would be held in April 2021 but only TVBC could confirm this.

582 To approve the Minutes from the 08th January 2021 meeting

Resolved

The minutes of the Parish Council meetings held 08th and 15th February 2021 were approved.

Proposed: Cllr Wales Seconded: Cllr Beacham All Agreed

583 To review the Resolved Actions since the last meeting.

To postpone until the next meeting.

584 To reorder the agenda.

Resolved:

To reorder the agenda to give time for Ms Toni Wilden, Head Teacher of Test Valley School, to join the meeting, who was unavoidably delayed.

Proposed: Cllr Beacham Seconded: Cllr Hughes All Agreed

585 Planning Committee Meeting held 8th February 2021

Resolved

To receive the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held 8th February 2021.

Proposed: Cllr Webb Seconded: Cllr Wales All Agreed

586 Planning Application 19/02899/OUTS – due to be tabled at a meeting of TVBC’s Planning Committee in the near future.

To consider the following motion requested by Cllr Searle:

“Following the recent receipt and review of AECOM’s “Site Options and Assessment DRAFT Report”, where 12 potential development sites have been identified. The Parish Council confirms its current position on the Allotment Site identified as Site 186.

The Parish Council reaffirms its current position in that the site is unsuitable for the proposed development shown in 19/02899/OUTS, for the following reasons:

- The Allotments are registered as an Asset of Community Value
- The site has high visibility when viewed from the Clarendon Way and Cow Drove Hill
- The Allotment holders confirm the new site is wholly unsuitable against the requirements of the Local Plan.
- In response to the NDP questionnaire 88.69% (353/398) answered yes to: “Should these allotments be preserved going forward?”
- In context of Landscape, the Allotments provide a valued open space in close proximity to the village centre helping to maintain a sense of village rather than urban character.

The Parish Council continues to endorse the current draft NDP Green Space document approved by Council in March 2020 which identifies the existing allotments as a Local Area of Green Space.

Formal assessment of ALL sites identified “potentially suitable for allocation subject to constraints being addressed” within AECOM’s report, will be carried out as part of the NDP process”.

Resolved:

- a) That the motion as above be agreed in full.
- b) That the Clerk, in consultation with Cllrs Harwood and Searle, write to the Planning Case Officer with the Council’s objection and associated reasons before the consultation closing date of 15th March 2021.

Proposed: Cllr Beacham Seconded: Cllr Wales All Agreed.

587 Test Valley School – Its plans and developments

The Chairman welcomed Ms Toni Wilden, Head Teacher and Mr David Hall, School Governor, to present to the meeting. Summative points from their presentation and discussion are as follows:

- **Toni Wilden:** Seconded from Westgate School, Winchester at the beginning of 2020 to lead Test Valley on a new strategic journey.
- **David Hall:** Assists the school engage with the community in its surrounding areas. Arranging to meet with several parish councils.
- **Standards:** The school is on a journey. Over the past year there has been close attention to its standards; in particular, behaviour and exclusions. The school knows the position it wishes to reach, and it is focusing on getting there.
- **USP:** Test Valley is moving forward to ensure its USP as a small, rural, high achieving school.
- **Vocational or Academic positioning:** Aiming to be in the country's top 20% of schools academically. Aim to be high-achieving, with high expectations, not only academically but in Sport, Music, Leadership; and for pupils to leave school as well-rounded individuals.
- **Links with the rural community:** Developing links with the Leckford Estate. Looking at linking key stage 3 science and maths into work on the Estate. Working to deliver a Level 2 Technical Award in Land Based Industries, which will prepare pupils for the range of Level 3 land-based qualifications at Sparsholt, enabling access into the Farming, Falconry, and Fishing industries. Land-Based Studies is also academically challenging. Electronics within Rural Studies is underpinned by science. Many careers within Agricultural Engineering, Veterinary Science, Water Management and Arboriculture demand HNDs and Degrees.
- **Parental Perception:** Appreciate the work that needs to be done to address parental perception if pupils are to choose Test Valley rather than a Winchester school. Meeting with Primary Headteachers; the new smart school uniform reflects where the school wishes to be; Toni, as Headteacher, continues to be employed by Westgate, which creates links between Test Valley and the Winchester Schools. Toni would like to share the message that pupils do not need to go to Winchester.
- **Members Suggestions:** Consider approaching the charity "The Talent Tap" which provides mentoring and inspiration for young people and young leaders. Be careful not to do yourself down, known Test Valley pupils have achieved in a range of academic and scientific careers such as Theology and Pharmacy etc. Consider inviting past pupils to share their experiences as role motivation. Consider involving the local military as speakers on leadership. Consider presenting to Ashley Parish Meeting, where a number of Members are landowners. Consider contacting some of the many local landowners in King's Somborne, which support several farms and estates.

The Chairman thanked Toni Wilden and David Hall for their work with others to turn the school around, with the purpose of changing parental perception and enabling young people to achieve and become well-rounded individuals at a school in their local community. An extremely positive meeting, thank you.

588 To receive the RFO's Financial reports, to approve the Payment of the Accounts and Sign the Bank Reconciliation

The finance reports had been previously circulated.

Resolved

- a) To receive the RFO's Financial reports, to approve the Payment of the Accounts and Sign the Bank Reconciliation.

Proposed: Cllr Hughes Seconded: Cllr Beacham All Agreed

589 NDP Update

No items to update this month.

590 King's Somborne Recreation Ground

The Cricket Club has been consulted and, in the circumstances, fully supports the Football Club's request to play until June 2021. If the Cricket Outfield shows wear, the Cricket Club will roll it. The Cricket Club however would be concerned if the pitch showed excessive wear, which could be a reality if the pitch was additionally used by league teams without King's Somborne playing.

Resolved

- a) That King's Somborne Football Club may continue to play matches on the King's Somborne Recreation Ground until June 2021.

- b) That league matches may only take place if King's Somborne Football Club is playing.
Proposed: Cllr Beacham Seconded: Cllr Wales All Agreed

591 Village Hall Grant Request

The Council wished to support the Village Hall in its proposals, but Members were concerned that the amount requested was for more than the whole of the 2021/22 Council allocation for grants, and we were only in March 2021.

Resolved

- a) The Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee to ascertain a list of residents who would commit to taking up the opportunity play Carpet Bowls, from the outset of the facility's availability, and to consider an appropriate fee; to brief the Clerk in advance of the next meeting for the agenda notes.
- b) The Chairman of the Village Hall to consider the level of funds the Village Hall can contribute to the purchase of the carpets and equipment in consideration of demonstrated interest and reduce the amount requested to a more achievable level; to brief the Clerk in advance of the next meeting for the agenda notes.
- c) The RFO to complete the year-end finances to enable Council to have a better understanding of the sum a Council can reasonably afford.
- d) The Clerk to bring the above back to Council at the April 2021 meeting.

Proposed: Cllr Searle Seconded: Cllr Whitehead All Agreed

592 Noticeboards

Resolved:

- a) The Clerk to clarify the owner of the noticeboard at the entrance to the Village Hall.
- b) Cllr Hughes kindly offered and will take over from Cllr Wales placing meeting agendas on the noticeboards by the telephone box, at the village hall and at the entrance to the village hall.

Proposed: Cllr Wales Seconded: Cllr Beacham All Agreed

593 Clerk's Report

a) Police – Local Policing Team

- a. Contact has been made with the Police. Currently waiting for the local Beat Officer to make contact. The Clerk will follow this through.
- b. The Clerk has signed up to 'Hampshire Alert'. Information is forwarded to village representatives as appropriate.

b) Census Day – 21st March 2021

The census is a survey about all the households in England and Wales. The next census takes place on Sunday 21st March 2021. Information, as received, is forwarded to Cllr Hughes for Facebook and the Village Agents who are working to enable the harder to reach members of our community to be kept informed. [Census 2021](#)

594 Correspondence Received:

a) Hampshire Emergency Planning Team

Environment Agency Ground Water Briefing Note for Hampshire, dated 12th February, circulated to Council for sharing as helpful.

b) Rural Market Town Group (RMTG)

An invitation for KSPC to become a member of the RMTG has been received. Information forwarded to Council via e-mail.

The Council extends its thanks to the RMTG for its approach, but in consideration of the Council projects currently being progressed, the Council does not currently have the spare capacity to offer a meaningful contribution and therefore declines this offer.

595 Councillors Reports

a) Garages in Church Road

Cllr Wales raised the concern of a local resident in regard to the recent sale and direction of travel in regard to the garages behind Church Road. The October 2020 minutes 480c, speak of a similar concern and resolution brought to the Council's attention by a resident of Church Road. Hopefully this is of some assistance.

b) Muss Lane

A resident in Muss Lane has again raised his concern as to the lack of support from Hampshire Highways regarding the flooding the road experienced. This is a private road so the Parish Council is limited in what it can do to assist. To support as far as able, the Clerk will write to HCC Highways, asking them to look into the issues of concern.

c) The Gauntlet

Cllr Harwood raised concern that not all residents are aware that the Gauntlet is available online, even though not currently available in hard copy. The Clerk to advise the Gauntlet that if they wish to advertise on the Council Noticeboards, they are welcome to do so. Cllr Hughes will advertise this on Facebook.

d) Cllr Harwood

Cllr Harwood confirmed he had a moving date for the end of March but as discussed, he will continue as a Councillor to enable him to support the Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Chairman thanked him for all he had done and will continue to do for the village and wished him well on behalf of the Council with his move.

596 Date and Time of Next Meetings

In consideration of Easter, the next meeting will be held on Monday 12th April 2021 at 7pm.

597 Exempt Business Resolved

The Council resolved, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press for discussion and potential appointment of contractors, where publicity might be prejudicial to the special nature of the business.

Proposed: Cllr Hughes

Seconded: Cllr Beacham

All Agreed

598 Lengthsman Contract 2021/22

HCC has committed to fund the Lengthsman Scheme for 2021/22, providing each parish within the Stockbridge Cluster £1000 to provide the services of a Lengthsman. With only good feedback regarding his work and considered financially good value against other lengthsman, Stockbridge Parish Council, the lead parish for the cluster, has resolved that Shane Ling Garden Maintenance will continue providing the lengthsman services to the Stockbridge cluster for 2021-2022.

Resolved

- a) KSPC agrees the contract for the Lengthsman, as part of the cluster of parishes led by Stockbridge Parish Council
- b) The Clerk and Proper Officer to sign the Lengthsman contract on behalf of King's Somborne Parish Council

599 Grounds Maintenance Contract 2021/22

Greengrass Services has held a grounds maintenance contract with KSPC for a number of years, cutting the grass in most of the council managed open spaces. Greengrass Services has requested consideration for an increase to the hourly rate, the first for many years. The Council agreed that Greengrass Services provide an excellent service at competitive rates.

Resolved

Further to discussion, the Council agreed an hourly rate in consideration of the available budget, bringing the value of the Grounds Maintenance Contract – Grass Cutting, to approximately £6,500 to £7,000 for 2021/22.

Proposed: Cllr Beacham Seconded: Cllr Searle All Agreed

600 Speed Limit Reminders (SLR)

The 2nd SLR is currently being repaired and is expected in the next few weeks. The Council's contract with Simon Nightingale to move our current SLR between sites, replace the batteries on a fortnightly basis and to keep the SLR clean, expires 31st March 2021. Simon also offers support and guidance to the Council within his area of expertise. Further to comparing costs with another council for similar services it was agreed Simon Nightingale's costs are competitive.

Resolved

The Clerk and Proper Officer to sign a contract with Simon Nightingale to include both SLR's for the 2021/22 period, to a value of £518.15 per SLR.

Proposed: Cllr Beacham Seconded: Cllr Searle All Agreed

601 Website Hosting

The Council's webhosting, currently managed by Cllr Whitehead, expires 13th March 2021. Cllr Whitehead has requested this be transferred to another provider and suggested Northerwood Websites (Northerwood Systems Ltd), as they are currently supporting the Clerk with the day-to-day management of the website. A quote has been obtained, which Cllr Whitehead confirmed as fair in the market.

Resolved

Northerwood Websites (Northerwood Systems Ltd) to be awarded a contract for hosting the Council's website for the period of one year as follows:

- a) Website hosting on a secure well-managed shared server in a UK based datacentre: £10/month.
- b) Software updates: checked at least weekly and implemented for all plugins and Wordpress core software. Important to maintain security of the website. £10/month.
- c) Migration at agreed hourly rate, estimated at £75.

Proposed: Cllr Searle Seconded: Cllr Hughes All Agreed

602 E-mail Hosting and integrated IT Support

The Council's e-mail hosting, currently managed by Cllr Whitehead, expires 13th March 2021. Cllr Whitehead has requested this be transferred to another provider.

Resolved

Affordable IT to be offered a contract to host the Council's e-mails with integrated package of IT technical support, antivirus and off-site back-up for the Clerk's IT system and Councillors' e-mail and one-drive access, to be reviewed after 6 months. One year contract value, including one-off migration service and two-year domain registration: £974.80 + support hours as required.

Proposed: Cllr Searle Seconded: Cllr Hughes All Agreed.

603 Trees to Screen Community Building

The Council has previously agreed the purchase of trees in principle to provide some screening of the Community Building from immediate neighbours. The Chairman thanked Cllr Wales for all his work to bring this to fruition.

Resolved

- a) To purchase 8 x 12–14' high potted Purple Beech Trees along the fence line, to provide instant height and screening, which overtime will be pruned into a hedge, but at a higher level than the

existing. Together with 1 x 150/180cm Prunus Spinosa (Sloe) to be planted behind the Community Building, at a total cost of £1,495.

b) Planting to be undertaken by Cllrs Wales and Beacham.

Proposed: Cllr Hargrave

Seconded: Cllr Beacham

All Agreed.

604 Gang Mowing Contract 2021/22

Resolved

That the Council's Gang Mowing Contract be awarded to Test Valley Borough Council. Contract value: £2,744.40.

With no further business to transact the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30pm.