

# KINGSTONE AND THRUXTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Mrs Lesley Hay, Bankcroft, Monkland Herefordshire  
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Kingstone and Thrupton Group Parish Council Website

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## MINUTES

of Kingstone and Thrupton Group Parish Council  
Meeting held in Kingstone Village Hall  
on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2019 at 7.30p.m.

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

Also, present were 11 members of the public; Mr S Madison – Sport Association

**Chairman welcomed those present to the August meeting.**

**1.0. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Ward Cllr C Bolderson; James Howell – Locality Steward

### **2.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WRITTEN**

**APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATIONS by Parish Councillors.** Cllr M Walker; Cllr S Walker; Cllr L Thorne and Cllr A. Vincent declared an interest in the Village Hall – item 9.0 on the agenda – signed book accordingly.

**3.0 CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLORS** – One member of the public Mrs T Barnett showed an interest in becoming Parish Councillor. The Chairman, having confirmed Mrs Barnett held the necessary requirement, invited her to sign the Acceptance of Office declaration form and to join the table as a full voting member of the Parish Council.

**Resolved:** Clerk to inform Election Officer of co-opted Councillor.

**4.0 THE MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019. After a small adjustment to the initial of one councillor – it was agreed the minutes to be a true record and it was unanimously voted that they be adopted and signed by the Chairman.

**5.0 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE LOCAL POLICE OFFICER** - no representative present.

#### **6.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

6.1 Letter with regard to dumping of rubbish in Whitehouse Drive. It was agreed a letter of apology should be sent.

**Resolved:** Clerk to send letter

6.2 The Road Closure – details had been circulated and the Chairman read out an up to date email received that morning from Balfour Beatty's representative. There was a lengthy discussion with regard to the possible reasons for this collapse and the disruption caused by the Road Closure.

In the absence of Ward Councillor Bolderson, it was agreed that the Chairman would contact Ward Councillor Swinglehurst and raise the various points of concern which need urgent attention/action.

These points to include:

The unplanned closure of the B4349, apparently for a number of weeks, is cutting the village in half. This has resulted in diverting bus routes and all other vehicles via the C1221 - a road which is mainly without a pavement. It was noted that, although the signage advises no HGV's, the route is being used by HGV's which, in the opinion of the Parish Council and members of the public, can only end in tragedy.

The Chairman to request that URGENT action is taken to prevent HGV use of this diversion as well as some method of slowing the other traffic which is using this diversion.

The Chairman to request access to the planning enforcement officer's site reports following their numerous visits to the site as it appears that infringements are just brushed aside.

It is the view of the Parish Council that there are still numerous planning infringements which are just being ignored, currently in particular around the removal of effluent which is having to be removed from the site by tankers.

The Chairman also to raise the issue that at the July meeting of the Parish Council Lagan Homes representatives produced plans to increase the housing density for this approved site from 150 to 181 stating that this was a request from Herefordshire Council - is this something that will require a further planning application and if so has any such application been made.

It was suggested and agreed that the Leader of Herefordshire Council, Cllr David Hitchiner, should be copied into the correspondence.

**Resolved:** Chairman to contact Ward Councillor Swinglehurst as a matter of urgency.

**7.0 WARD COUNCILLOR'S REPORT** – no report available – apologies received.

## **8.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The footpath KS25 to where it joins the B4349 is becoming very slippery due to a build-up of stones and mud.

The conduit across the B4348 road - outside Gooses Foot – is uneven and sinking causing considerable vibration to nearby houses as the vehicles travel over the uneven surface. It was agreed a request should be made to Balfour Beatty for an inspection and repair to make the road surface flat.

**Resolved:** Clerk to contact Locality Steward.

## **9.0 VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE REPORT**

(9.1) Approval for the revised Village Hall Extension. Revised plans and drawings were circulated and there were no objections raised.

Councillors were re-assured that funding for this project would be Grant Funded and was not associated with any offer of a financial donation to the Village Hall made at the meeting in July by Lagan Homes.

(9.2) The four members of the Village Hall committee left the room whilst the remaining Parish Councillors discussed whether to pay Herefordshire Council the planning application fee. The Clerk explained that the total fee is £924.00 but the Parish Council would receive 50% discount so the fee would only be £462 plus £20 admin fee plus VAT which the Parish Council can reclaim.

After discussion – it was unanimously agreed to pay the planning application fee. The four Village Hall committee members returned to the room.

## **10.0 SPORTS ASSOCIATION REPORT**

Mr Madison reported that they had been let down on demolishing the old changing rooms. The situation is being closely monitored and, if necessary, they will finish taking the building down themselves.

## **11.0 LOCALITY STEWARD / LENGTHSMAN SCHEME**

**(11.1) Footpath Officer and Lengthsman's Report** - there are two collapsed bridges which need attention –Locality Steward to be asked to inspect.

With regard to the other outstanding issues itemised in the lengthsman's report - it was agreed that the Clerk would arrange a site visit with the Locality Steward so that the lengthsman can discuss first hand the outstanding issues around the village.

In Thruxton there is a stile which needs repair – it was agreed the lengthsman should go ahead and repair this.

**Resolved:** Clerk to arrange site visit.

(11.2) Extra Dog Bin – there was further discussion with regard to the extra dog bin. Previously, it was minuted on the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2019 that a local businessman had offered to finance a dog waste bin which, it was understood, was to be sited at the end of Barrow Common virtually opposite the Post office. However, there has been further discussion about locating it at the end of Cook’s Lane.

Whilst a definite site is finally agreed, it was proposed the Chairman should go ahead and get a quote for a new bin and to liaise with Mr O’Reilly regarding payment and the agreed location

Item to be deferred until next meeting.

**Resolved:** Chairman to get quote for new bin and liaise with Mr O’Reilly with regard to acceptable costings and location

## **12.0 SPEEDING ISSUES**

(12.1) The on-going speeding issues throughout the village were again discussed and reference made to the representative from Safer Road Partnership’s visit on the 15<sup>th</sup> August 2018 when it was agreed that the village would participate in the Community Speed Watch Scheme. At that time, a parishioner identified himself as willing to lead a local scheme. Since that time, there has been no communication whatsoever. The Clerk asked to write to Ian Connelly asking him for an update on the waiting list and to invite him to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council.

(12.2) The Chairman read out a letter with regard to speeding/parking on the B4348 passing Kingstone Post Office

**Resolved:** The Clerk to contact Ian Connelly – Safer Road Partnership to discuss both issues.

**13.0 Update DIRT BIKE TRACK - no up to date information available.**

Defer until next meeting.

**14.0 TO RECEIVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT:**

**(14.1) Schedule of payments circulated** The August schedule of payments had been circulated and it was unanimously agreed these should to be paid.

The Clerk raised the cheques accordingly and these were signed and counter signed by Mr C Rowan in his capacity as a current signatory.

**(14.2) Current Account sheet had been circulated.**

**(14.3)** New Bank signatories are confirmed as Cllr. A Vincent; Cllr L. Thorn; Cllr D Lloyd and existing signatory Cllr S Walker. Chairman to get relevant paperwork organised.

**(14.4) A request for a Donation to St Michaels and All Angels Kingstone Churchyard maintenance.**

**Payments to church yard maintenance** The Clerk reported that National Association of Local Councils (NALC) had put out guidance saying that there was a lack of clarity between the 1894 Local Government Act (which prohibits Parish Councils to contribute to the upkeep of church assets) and the 1972 and 2011 Local Government Acts which appear to allow this; NALCs view being that it was illegal for Parish Councils to make any kind of donation to Churches or to the upkeep of churchyards (except closed churchyards).

The Clerk had approached the Clerk's professional body (SLCC), their advice being that this should be discussed with the Parish Council, giving them the NALC advice and letting them make a balanced judgement. The SLCC felt that as long as the Parish Council could show they had considered the issue and could give the reasons why they have come to the conclusion they had, then there should be no problem in continuing to support the maintenance of the churchyard.

**Resolved:** The NALC view was noted. The Chairman asked for a vote and by majority 5 to 3 it was agreed to continue contributing to the upkeep of the churchyard. It noted that if any other requests were made from religious organisations or groups within the Parish these would be discussed openly and indiscriminately considered as and when they occurred

## **15.0 PLANNING – new applications since last meeting – none received to date**

**(15.1)** To discuss any future revised Lagan Development Planning Application – no further/revised planning application has been received.

Whilst a number of issues had already been discussed under Agenda item 6.2 - there was a lengthy discussion on the various issues surrounding the noncompliance with planning regulations and it was unanimously agreed to request that an urgent letter be sent by the Ward Councillor to the Herefordshire Planning Enforcement Team suggesting that all work cease with immediate effect until conditions are met.

It was also agreed that any proposed increase in the number of houses from 150 – to 181 was just not feasible with the current infrastructure and should be restricted.

There was discussion on the lack of rain harvesting and solar panels – but, it was reported that this green application had been discussed but that after negotiations on behalf of Lagan Homes, had not been insisted upon.

**Resolved:** Urgent issues to be raised via the Ward Councillor with the Herefordshire Planning Enforcement Officer (with a copy to the Leader of the Herefordshire Council, David Hitchiner).

In particular, requesting access to the planning enforcement officer's site reports following their numerous visits to the site.

Also underlying that fact that there are still numerous planning infringements which are just currently being ignored - in particular around the removal of effluent which is having to be removed from the site by tankers.

**15.2)** Madley and Clehonger NDPs were discussed and both considered professionally very good - both were given the full support of the Parish Council.

**(15.3)** A policy for dealing with Planning Applications between Parish Council meetings was discussed; unanimously agreed and signed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman and witnessed by the Clerk.

**16.0 CORRESPONDENCE:** Further to a recent letter with regard to Kingstone telephone kiosk – it was unanimously agreed that the telephone kiosk could be removed by British Telecom.

**17.0 TO CONSIDER MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS FOR NEXT AGENDA** – Lagan Homes; Dirt Bike Track; Speeding Issues; Dog Bin.

**18.0 DATE** of next meeting: Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00p.m.