

Parish 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

www.kingstoneandthruxtongpc.org

MINUTES

**of Kingstone and Thrupton Group Parish Council
Meeting held in Kingstone Village Hall
on Wednesday 4th March 2020 at 7.00p.m.**

PRESENT: Cllr M. Walker (Chairman); Cllr D Lloyd; Cllr C Russell; Cllr L Thorne; Cllr S Walker (Vice Chairman) and Cllr J. Watkins.

PRESENT: Ward Cllr C Bolderson. Mr S Madison – Sport Association.
Parish Clerk: Mrs L A Hay

Also, present were 7 members of the public.

Chairman welcomed those present to the March meeting.

1.0. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Lengthsman - Paul Wright.

2.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WRITTEN APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATIONS by Parish Councillors – Cllr J Watkins declared an interest in agenda item 11.3 and signed the book accordingly.

3.0 TO CONSIDER CO-OPTION PARISH COUNCILLORS – no nominations were put forward.

Cllr. Gerard Bonner has now failed to attend any Parish Council meeting for the last six months – according to the Parish Council legal process, he has now automatically disqualified himself as a Parish Councillor.

The Clerk will inform the Elections Officer of this and the vacancy will be advertised on Notice Boards and on line. There are now five vacancies on Kingstone and Thrupton Parish Council.

4.0 THE MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on the 22nd January 2020 – it was agreed the minutes to be a true record and it was unanimously voted that they be adopted and signed by the Chairman.

THE MINUTES OF EXTRA ORDINARY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING held on the 5th February 2020 – 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 OPEN SESSION

(5.1) Recent Local Flooding. The Parish Councillors listened with sympathy as local residents described the recent flooding of their homes. There was a long and lengthy discussion on the reasons associated with the recent flooding issues within the Parish and, while it was acknowledged that the rainfall levels have been unprecedented, it was unanimously agreed that further urgent work was required on all the ditches and gullies within the Parish.

Various suggestions were made with reference to possible changes in the drainage course within the village which would improve the general drainage problems - and again, whilst it was agreed these would certainly help, it was acknowledged these changes would be expensive and were not currently featured in Herefordshire Council's highways budget.

The Ward Cllr agreed that she will again follow these issues up with the Locality Steward and Joel Hockenhull Senior Drainage Engineer.

It was suggested that Mr Hockenhull should be invited to Kingstone and Thruxton to discuss the various issues that are obviously contributing to the recent flooding issues.

A resident raised again the issue of the dangerous state of the KS25 – entrance from B4349 opposite entrance to Deans Pool Industrial Estate – including the need for a safety barrier. The Locality Steward has been made aware of the problem and has logged it for urgent attention. The

Ward Cllr confirmed that she was liaising with the Locality Steward and the Clerk confirmed that she too had been in touch with the Locality Steward (a copy of that email and the Locality Steward's response has been circulated).

A resident asked if there were plans for a footpath/cycle path from Seven site to the main road through Lagan Homes. Ward Cllr confirmed plans for a footpath are on-going and there is finance available.

It was agreed that other items raised i.e. recent flooding issues; Lagan Homes would be covered within the Agenda items yet to be discussed.

PCSO Carol Marsh joined the meeting.

As previously agreed, local resident, Mrs Claire Evans, had drafted questionnaire that would be circulated around the schools in the area. The questionnaire would ask the children and young adults what they would like to have in their village in the way of recreational/sporting activities.

A draft copy of a Questionnaire had been circulated. After some discussion with regard to the age groups and which schools would be asked to participate – and it was agreed on primary and senior level. Also, there was discussion on whether results would be recorded via Survey Monkey or via paper copy.

It was agreed that the Chairman and Ward Councillor will liaise in order to prepare draft letters of explanation to the schools and parents – they will also review the draft questionnaire. Draft copies will be shared with the Councillors prior to circulation.

During the discussion, PCSO Marsh asked for the Parish Councillors thoughts on proceeding with the dirt bike track.

Councillors were reminded that the Chairman and Ward Cllr Bolderson had visited the dirt bike track at Withington. Photographs of the area had previously been circulated.

It was confirmed that the Clerk had approached the Council's Insurance Company and ascertained there would be little additional costs to the

current PC insurance policy assuming regular maintenance checks are carried out and any necessary repair work is done as a matter of urgency.

There was discussion on possible maintenance costs – which could include ½ hour of lengthsman time per month + an annual ROSPA Inspection (cost approx. £60 per annum). Apart from these costs, there should be minimal costs for maintenance materials as there is no equipment but there would be costs involved for grass cutting / emptying bins and possibly some extra Clerk hours due to the possible additional administration.

There was discussion on whether a decision should be made prior to the questionnaire and it was eventually agreed that the questionnaire should be circulated first to include reference to a possible bike dirt track being provided in the village. The responses would then be assessed and taken into account before a final decision was made.

The Chairman closed the Open Session

6.0 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

(6.1) Community Speed Watch – 8 volunteers have now put their names forward. The Chairman and Adnan Ali (West Mercia Police – Safe Roads Team representative) are liaising with regard to having a meeting. Cllr Lynne Thorne also offered to meet with Adnan and locate the various areas that it would be safe to stand and watch the traffic. Once these sites have been agreed, training can be organised,

(6.2)

The new Dog Bin has been delivered and the lengthsman will install the bin weather permitting. A supply of black bags has been purchased.

(6.3) A new Notice Board for Thruxton had been priced at £55.99 + VAT. Chairman reported that he had visited Thruxton with a view to re-siting the Notice Board - but confirmed that the current position is the most suitable. Clerk to order the new Notice Board.

7.0 WARD COUNCILLOR REPORT. Ward Cllr Bolderson gave a detailed verbal report which is added, as an attachment, to the end of these minutes.

(7.1) Planning application 191725/6 - Exchequer Court.

Ward Cllr, Bolderson informed Councillors that she has asked for the Thruxton Court planning application to be referred to planning committee as she is aware that there are 9 residences within the parish with 3 objections and 1 letter of support.

8.0 VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE REPORT:

The revised extension plans have now been completed and submitted for approval. Planning application: 20280 full details now available on line – Herefordshire Planning Applications.

It was confirmed that the village hall would remain open during the extension work but that in the latter stages there may be a two week period when the hall would have to close.

9.0 SPORTS ASSOCIATION REPORT: Mr Madison reported

Mr Madison thanks the Parish Council for their letter of support with regard to the Adverse Possession of Title number: HE26994. The letter will be discussed at the Kingstone Sports Association committee meeting later in the week and then forwarded with other correspondence to Herefordshire Council.

Mr Madison reported that he had applied for a flood grant towards improving the drainage on the playing field. Unfortunately, due to the present water logged condition of the playing field it will not be useable for at least a month plus.

Mr Madison confirmed that he had joined the Locality Steward, the Chairman and lengthsman on the village 'walk about' and had an opportunity to discuss problem areas associated with the Sports Playing fields and surrounding areas.

Mr. Madison also informed the Parish Council that he was currently in correspondence with the developers of the old Allpay site.

M. Madison asked about VE and VJ Day commemoration events planned in Herefordshire and queried the possibility organising a local event. Clerk will forward correspondence.

10.0 LOCALITY STEWARD / LENGTHSMAN SCHEME

(10.1) Footpath's Officer report – no representative present.

(10.2) Lengthsman report – none available

The Chairman confirmed that, following the last meeting, he had reported on line the ditches to the left of the Sport Field Entrance; B4348 Blocked culvert at Arkstone Court Junction and A4349 Blocked Culvert and ditch – together with the previously mentioned KDS25 Entrance from B4349 Opposite the entrance to Dean Pool Industrial Estate.

11.0 PLANNING

(11.1) As was agreed at the last meeting - an updated report had been requested from Lagan Homes. Please see a copy of the report received from John Lagan of Lagan Homes at the end of these minutes.

(11.2) Planning application: 200296 Land South of B4349 – increase by 31 additional dwellings - full details available on Herefordshire Planning website). It was noted that an amended version of the Planning Application had been received on the 4th March – the Clerk to contact the Planning Officer to request an extended response date.

There was a lengthy discussion with regard to the above application which allowed Parish Councillors and members of the public to put forward their thoughts and opinions.

A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would strongly object to the proposed addition of 31 houses with the original boundary.

A letter of objection would be drafted by the Chairman – shared with the Parish Councillors – and, once the content was agreed, the Clerk would submit on to the Herefordshire Planning on line Planning Application site.

Ward Cllr Bolderson informed the Councillors that John Lagan would be pleased to meet Councillors on site. However, after discussion this invitation was refused as Councillors felt they would prefer Mr Lagan to attend a Parish Council meeting where members of the public could also be present.

(11.3) Planning application 194134 Arkstone Court Ltd – Cllr Watkins left the room.

This application was discussed and it was unanimously agreed – no objection subject to it meeting statutory conditions.

Cllr Watkins returned to the room.

(11.4) 200307 Wallbrook Farm Allensmore – discussed – no objection raised.

(11.5) Core Strategy Questionnaire – this questionnaire was filled in and the clerk will submit to the Neighbourhood Planning team before the 3rd April 2020.

12.0 TO RECEIVE THE FINANCIAL REPORT:

(12.1) Schedule of payments. The Feb March schedule of payments had been circulated and it was unanimously agreed these should to be paid.

PAYABLE TO	FOR	GROSS AMOUNT £	VAT £
Radbourne es	Sand Bags	£270.00	£45.00
Expenses	Expenses February	£31.63	£5.50
Expenses	Expenses – March 2020	£29.80	£5.50
Glasdon	Dog Bin and Accessories	£260.28	£43.38

P R Wright	Lengthsman	£225.00	
Bookers	Dog Bin Bags	£22.80	£3.80
SLCC annual subscription	SLCC	£38.40	
Christmas Bingo	Donation	£10.00	

Bank statement as of: end of March 2020

Income

Current £17568.79

Savings Account £3,685.99

TOTAL £
21,254.78

B/F from 31st March 2019 £19,926.74

Add Income £12,021.98

Total £31,948.72

Less paid out to date £10,693.94

Total: £21,254.78

12.0 CORRESPONDENCE:

John Smith Charity – the Report to the Trustees for the year ending 31st December 2019 – had been circulated.

There was a brief discussion during which it was acknowledged that any decisions regarding distribution of funds/grants/payments do not involve the Trustees appointed by this charity.

Cllr Malcolm Walker and Cllr Sheila Walker – both Trustees – will be sending a letter of resignation to the Charity.

Other correspondence:

Programme of Commemorative Events
Email on Flooding issues;
Parish Summit Day;
County Plan; VE and
VJ Day commemoration and
Coronavirus – public information - circulated
County Plan 2020-2024
West Mercia PCC Road Safety Strategy – circulated

It was acknowledged that all correspondence had been previously circulated and there were no comments made.

Parish Summit Day - 2nd April at the Shire Hall – it is hoped someone from the Parish Council will be available to attend.

13.0 TO CONSIDER MATTERS RAISED BY MEMBERS FOR NEXT AGENDA – None raised other than those itemised in the Minutes.

14.0 DATE of next general Parish Council meeting: will be Wednesday 22nd April 2020 start of 7.00p.m.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25 p.m.

Signed:

Date:

March Parish Council Update

Flooding

I unfortunately have received many emails from concerned residents in relation to flooding since October last year. I have raised the issue with the Cabinet Member of Housing, Infrastructure and Transport and I am in the process of meeting with key Council Officers to discuss the flooding and what can be done to reduce the likelihood of future flooding events within Wormside.

As of 3 March 2020, 405 residential and 102 business properties within Herefordshire are understood to have been affected by February's flood event with the cost of repairs following Storm Dennis currently estimated to be around £10m. Herefordshire Council has received emergency government funding by way of the Bellwin grant to support residents and businesses directly affected by the recent flooding and this week a three month extension to the Bellwin period has been requested to account for the scale of flooding and assessing its impact. The [open letter to Prime Minister Boris Johnson](#) has been published on the Herefordshire Council website.

In addition to hardship payments of up to £500 per resident and £2,500 per business, the Council has also offered free collection of flood damaged items from houses and waved the usual trailer permits to deposit flood households debris to transfer sites. If your home or business has been impacted by the recent flooding please go the website below and get the latest information. <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads/345/flooding/3>. The website has information about clean-up & disposal, financial support, users of septic tanks and private water supplies, sandbags, emotional support, insurance and how to stay up-to-date with future information.

The other impact has been on our highways -- Please can I encourage you all to report any EMERGENCY defects and potholes by phone

01432 261800 or for non-emergency defects, by logging on the Herefordshire Council website <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads>

Coronavirus

Herefordshire Council are working closely with colleagues in Public Health England and the local NHS to ensure we have robust systems and processes in place to respond to the coronavirus situation in the county as it emerges. Information received from the Council indicate that we are well prepared for any confirmed UK cases, that there are tried and tested procedures to prevent further spread and that the NHS is extremely well-prepared and used to managing infections. The key messages from the Council's director of public health are:

- **Wash hands regularly with soap and water for a minimum of 20 seconds**, especially before cooking and eating; after using the toilet and using public transport. We have sent posters to public buildings in our communities. If more posters are required, email Karen.wright@herefordshire.gov.uk.
- **'Catch it. Bin it. Kill it'**: If you sneeze or cough remember to catch it with a tissue; bin the tissue and kill it by washing your hands or using a hand sanitiser that contains at least 60% alcohol if soap isn't available.
- **Follow public health's returning traveler advice**: There are some countries and areas where there's a higher chance of coming into contact with someone with coronavirus. If you have returned from travelling outside of the UK within the last 14 days please check and follow the public health England specific [advice for returning travellers](#).

For the latest, reputable sources of information about this coronavirus please visit the following websites:

- Health advice about coronavirus: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- Latest information: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

- Frequently asked Questions: <https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/01/23/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-what-you-need-to-know/>

Full Council

Herefordshire Council has an annual budget of £380m which is used to deliver services to over 187,000 residents. These services include maintenance of over 2,000 miles of roads, collection of over 85,000 residential bins, safeguarding around 1,000 children (including 354 in the council's care) and providing care and support to 2,500 vulnerable adults. Full Council on 14 February 2020 approved the 'County Plan 2020-2024' and associated 2020/21 budget, Capital Programme, Medium Term Financial Strategy and Treasury Management Plan. An increase to Herefordshire Council Tax rates was approved at 3.9% in order to achieve a balanced budget. We also managed to win an amendment by one vote to put aside an additional £2 million for Unclassified and C roads including drainage.

Hereford Transport Strategy

The Hereford transport strategy review will include an assessment of the proposed Hereford Bypass and Southern Link Road, alongside alternative options. The review is expected to be completed by 31 July 2020 and feedback received by 31 March 2020 will be considered in the review. I would encourage as many of you as possible to take part and submit your comments via <https://travelinhereford.commonplace.is/>

Student Accommodation

Working with Hereford College of Arts and a range of private sector partners and investors, the Council has enabled the development of a £19 million, 178 bedroom student accommodation development in Hereford which should be complete in time for higher education students to move in for the academic year starting September 2020. Delivery of 127 modular 'pods', will be transported as large loads, some with escort vehicles, and delivered to the site over four weeks, starting on 10 February 2020 until w/c 9 March 2020. There will be six deliveries each week day (seven on the final day) between 9.30am and

3.30pm. These bedrooms and study spaces have been built off site using an innovative construction method and will be assembled as they arrive.

Hereford Cultural Partnership

The Herefordshire Cultural Partnership is looking for a new Chair. Do you know anybody who might fit this role? The role of the HCP is to:

- Champion Herefordshire's cultural strategy and cultural ambition.
- Identify and support initiatives, which attract funding and investment for creative and cultural activity.
- Oversee the development and delivery of the Cultural Strategy 2019-29, producing an annual action plan with specific objectives and targets.
- Support strategic programmes and identify key initiatives to deliver the Cultural Strategy action plan.
- Take collective responsibility for ensuring that cultural funding is allocated properly and against agreed priorities.
- Monitor activity against the Cultural Strategy's Strategic Objectives and Key Actions and publish an annual review.
- Examine and respond to local, regional, national and international environments and policies to ensure that the Cultural Strategy's vision and objectives remain valid.

Herefordshire Libraries

Children aged five and under can join Squirrel's reading club and collect beautiful character stickers with every library visit. Designed by local illustrator [Iain Welch](#), the special woodland stickers create a magical picture of Squirrel and his woodland friends. Once children have collected four stickers, they can choose their very own story to keep, personalised with a Squirrel Club bookplate featuring the child's name. Children's reading charity [BookTrust](#) has donated 2,500 picture books to give to children as a reward. The Hereford Library is also running Early Hurly Burly, a fun, free and creative music, story and drama sessions for children under five. It will run every Thursday 1.45-2.45pm from 5 March to 2 April.

Also, as part of this year's [World Book Day](#), Herefordshire Libraries is inviting younger readers (and book loving adults!) to vote for their favourite 2019 story book. Voting runs from 5 – 12 March and can be cast through Twitter @HfdsLibraries.

Adult Mental Health

This year Healthwatch are focusing on the topic of adult mental health and people's experiences of this within their GP surgery; including how mental health support is delivered, who you would like to be seen by for your mental health as well as the effects of physical ill health on your mental health and vice versa. The new transformation fund for the next two years will see an additional £5 million invested to pilot new models of delivering services for mental health in primary care across Herefordshire and parts of Worcestershire, as well as a general increase in NHS funding (The Mental Health Investment Standard).

The Council are trying to reach people from all over the county who have or are experiencing poor mental health, and are encouraging as many people as possible to take part in a survey so they can gather feedback to influence how services can best serve the

public. <https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/5312442/Mental-Health-2019-2020>

Kingstone

I have met with BBLP to discuss 2020/21 planned activity. Given the level of recent flooding and the impact this has had on the roads, current planned activity may be subject to change. There are currently no resurfacing works scheduled for Kingstone, however, there is drainage works scheduled on the B4348 between Kingstone and Thruxton. Other work within the Ward includes Haywood Lane (C1226) and sections of Tram Inn Lane (C1228) which is scheduled for resurfacing.

I do note that the road up to Clehongher has been registered for resurfacing work, however, does not currently fit within the 2020/21 budget. I am hoping that the most recent road closure and associated works will address many of the reported defects.

Lagan Home - Update on Kingstone

Further to my previous update in January please see below a brief overview of the current status of matters. Please be aware I have spoken to Councillor Bolderson and requested a meeting with the parish council so that there is an opportunity to engage constructively with Lagan Homes so we can understand any comments/ concerns raised with the site or the revised application so that we can see if there a way to address anything as might be required.

Since your last parish meeting this has now been registered and all of the details are available on the website. The planning reference is P200296/F and it is due for determination on 6th May 2020.

Having engaged with Welsh Water we are pleased to note they reviewed the application and confirmed they require no additional capacity to accommodate this revised application and accordingly have no objections with the same. As previously advised Lagan Homes have recently completed major upgrades to the foul and surface water network within Kingstone which will have a lasting positive impact on the network. Much of the existing drainage runs were in a poor state of repair, many collapsed and partially blocked, but we are pleased to say the new that drains that have been installed by Lagan Homes have been inspected by the drainage clerk and has since the last parish meeting been approved and are now fully flowing.

We have now been asked to further upgrade approximately 40 meters of pipeline on the private track opposite Dean Pool for which we have detailed designs and this is currently out to tender. I previously stated how we improved the ditch within Coldstream meadow which had become blocked and was causing some issues.

We have commenced phase 2 of our site having handed over 35 homes on the scheme thus far, a mix of both private and affordable homes.

Otherwise we mentioned we were approached by the owner of the sports pitch as a result of flooding they have had on their pitches due to the recent wet weather. We understand flooding on this site has been a historical and persistent problem however we have erected an earth bund to ensure there is no run off from our own site. We have also instructed at our own cost an external company to undertake a sample of the ponds there which is required before anything can be tanked away.

As I previously offered we are prepared to set aside a considerable donation towards the upgrade of the parish hall which can be directly linked to each of the net additional units on our application which we would then seek the support of the Parish Council. The current application for 89 units is on phase 4 which already has planning for 58 units so the increase would only be 31 units. As presented in the July 2019 meeting at the Parish Council the site would still consist of a very low density of 9 units per acre which is significantly below national and regional guidance of closer to 15 units per acre. We look forward to agreeing a meeting date with the Parish Council to discuss our current application.

Parish Council Chairman

Cllr Mr M Walker. 