

**Minutes of Kimpton Parish Council Meeting  
held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016  
Peters Green Village Hall at 7.30 pm**

**Present:** Cllr D Hardstaff (Chairman), Cllr L Hawke, Cllr J Marsh, Cllr S O'Brien, Cllr D Pirola

**In attendance:** Mrs C Helmn, Parish Clerk, District Cllr J Bishop and County Cllr R Thake. No members of the public.

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**16/151** To receive and accept apologies for absence  
Cllr I Corbett due to work commitments, Cllr J Palmer due to illness and Cllr D Reavell due to a family emergency.

**16/152** Declarations of interest and dispensations

- a) To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda  
None.
- b) To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests; and  
None.
- c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate  
None.

**16/153** To confirm the Minutes of Kimpton Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2016

**Resolved** that these Minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be duly signed by the Chairman. Unanimously agreed.

**16/154** Planning

- a) To consider planning applications listed below

**16/02440/1                      87 High Street**

Replacement dwelling following demolition of existing house  
No comment.

**16/02480/1HH                22 Blackmore Way, Blackmore End**

Single storey rear extension, front bay window extension and replacement first floor front extension. Roof extension and insertion of two rear and one side dormer windows to facilitate loft conversion  
No comment.

**16/02340/1HH                69 High Street**

Part two storey and part single storey rear extension following demolition of existing conservatory.  
No comment.

- b) To consider planning applications received between 12<sup>th</sup> October and 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016  
None.

- c) To review the removal of a temporary portakabin at Cottage Farm, Kimpton Bottom

The owners of Cottage Farm have contacted the Parish Council to say that an offer for the portacabin has been accepted and they are awaiting a visit from the purchaser's transport contractor to survey access to Cottage Farm. They anticipate the cabin to be removed within 4-6 weeks from the 3rd October, and the owners believe they remain on target to achieve this.

**16/155** To receive reports on actions agreed at the last Council meeting  
Actions are included separately on the agenda.

**16/156** To receive reports from representatives on outside bodies, working parties, local authorities and agencies

Cllr R Thake advised that Hertfordshire CC is undertaking a financial review and will be paring back the value of grants and member locality budgets.

District Cllr J Bishop announced the launch of a Community Facility Capital Projects Funding Scheme with £1 million of capital funds over 4 years. It aims to help local organisations with the enhancement of community amenities. This fund is not available to parish councils but will be of interest to the Dacre Rooms Committee for their kitchen and toilet refurbishment projects which meet the criteria.

Cllr J Bishop has £500 discretionary grant available in 2016/17 for community initiatives and was seeking applications.

Kimpton Bench Working Party was thanked by Cllr Pirola for all the works completed at Peters Green. Numerous other tasks, primarily in the Churchyard and Dacre Rooms were finished in recent weeks.

Cllr Lewis Hawke reported on the uptake of allotments this year to a position where all the plots will be taken and a waiting list generated. This is a phenomenal success with the allotment site looking better than for many years. The Parish Council will be in a better position to insist on improved management of weeds by allotment holders.

Further works to the boundary paths and trees are planned. It was agreed that the keeping of bees was not appropriate within the allotment site as it is located near to houses and public footpaths.

Cllr Hardstaff is in discussion with Nigel Douse regarding the development of a Kimpton website.

**16/157** To receive petitions, comments and questions from the public  
None.

**16/158** To review traffic on the High Street and traffic calming measures

Councillors discussed the increase in the number of extremely large articulated vehicles using the High Street and local lanes. Numbers have increased by drivers, often foreign, using domestic sat navs, to avoid traffic jams either on M1 or A1(M) and they take a detour through Kimpton.

Residents have safety concerns because wing mirrors overhang the pedestrian footpaths so brushing past their heads, the lorries travel at unsafe speeds for a narrow High Street and due to their size often mount the pavement to get pass parked cars. Extreme caution must be exercised by residents exiting their properties on foot and several near misses have been reported. If two of these huge vehicles happen to meet then serious congestion incurs to the frustration of everyone.

Residents have asked the parish council to consider traffic calming measures such as roundabouts or humps. Earlier schemes designed for the High Street were not fully endorsed by the community due to the impact of lighting, new signs, traffic slowing down and accelerating outside their houses and reduced on-street car parking space. A DriveSafe scheme is being introduced in Kimpton that has attracted 31 volunteers. When operating this will be able to provide evidence of the type of vehicles using the High Street and their speed.

Cllr R Thake will check if a traffic survey has been completed this summer and will review its results with the Highway manager.

The Council agreed to write to The Rt Hon Peter Lilley to seek support in changing regulations so that commercial vehicles are only allowed to use commercial sat navs. As these are set up for lorries this would keep unsuitable vehicles away from Kimpton which is not equipped to deal with this commercial traffic.

**16/159** To review dog fouling within the parish and agree actions

A discussion was held with the view that there are some incidents of dog fouling in public spaces within the parish but it isn't a huge problem. Dog fouling poses a serious health risk, especially to small children, with owners subject to fines if an offence is committed. Most dog owners take their responsibilities seriously and the parish council is appreciative of their actions. However Councillors commented on the repulsive practice of doggy bags containing faeces being found discarded in hedges, trees etc. with the conclusion that the owners should use one of the 13 dog bins supplied and serviced by the parish council; 11 in Kimpton and 2 in Peters Green. This list will be circulated on Kimpton Village Group Facebook.

**16/160** To review the pedestrian gate onto the Jubilee Gardens

The Council reviewed the situation including comments that there has been no evidence of the gate being used. We will continue the programme of planting to reinforce the absence of a pedestrian right of access from the property onto Jubilee Gardens.

**16/161** To review and agree actions regarding the broken pedestrian gate at Parkfield Sports Ground

Cllr Marsh advised that the pedestrian metal gate latch was repaired at a cost of £50 and is back in place. He was thanked for organising this repair.

**16/162** To review incidents within the Wren Close area and agree actions

A multiagency meeting between North Herts Homes, Police and Kimpton Parish Council will take place on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November to review incidents and consider future improvements.

**16/163** Finance

- a) To approve payments made in accordance with the budget  
**Resolved**, proposed Cllr Hardstaff, seconded Cllr Marsh to approve payments, see attached Appendix A. Unanimously agreed.
- b) To receive bank statements, bank reconciliation and budget report  
**Resolved**, proposed Cllr Hawke, seconded Cllr O'Brien that these were received by the Council and found to be satisfactory. Unanimously agreed.
- c) To consider and agree the budget and precept 2017/18  
**Resolved**, proposed Cllr Hawke, seconded Cllr Hardstaff to approve the budget, see attached, Appendix B, and precept of £72,000 for the year 2017/18. Unanimously agreed.
- d) To consider quotes, donations and agree funding  
None.

**16/164** To receive the Clerk's report (for information only)  
None.

**16/165** To suggest agenda items for the next Meeting of the Parish Council on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016

County Cllr Thake forwarded his apologies due to another meeting.

- To consider location and items of outside gym equipment

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

Kimpton Parish Council  
Minutes Meeting 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016

**Chairman**..... **Date**.....