



www.kimptonpc.org.uk

**Minutes of Kimpton Parish Council Meeting
held on 28th April 2021.
via Video Conferencing at 7.30 pm**

Present: Cllr N Burns (Chairman), Cllr I Corbett, Cllr A Firth, Cllr C Procter, Cllr J Marsh, Cllr S O'Brien, Cllr B Purple, Cllr D Reavell

In attendance: Mrs C Helmn, Parish Clerk, County Cllr R Thake, District Cllr J Bishop, 10 and members of the public

-
- 21/040 Apologies**
To receive and accept apologies for absence.
None.
- 21/041 Interests**
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.
- 21/042 Co-option**
To agree the co-option of a parish councillor for the current vacancy and to sign the declaration of acceptance of office.
Resolved, proposed Cllr J Marsh, seconded Cllr A Firth to co-opt Ben Purple as Kimpton Parish Councillor. Cllr B Purple signed the declaration of acceptance of office.
- 21/043 Minutes**
To confirm the Minutes of Kimpton Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 24th March 2021 as an accurate record of proceedings.
Resolved, proposed Cllr J Marsh, seconded Cllr D Reavell that these Minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be duly signed by the Chairman. Unanimously agreed.
- 21/044 Public Issues**
Members of the public and councillors can raise matters of concern.
County Cllr R Thake gave his personal thanks to Cllr N Burns for being an exceptional chairman of the parish council for the past three years and for all that he has done.
- 21/045 Planning**
a) See attached report from Planning Working Party for approval
White Horse PH – The Chairman opened this item by stating that there were 35 responses on the NHDC planning portal and that the owner had

attended a virtual meeting with parish councillors to explain the proposals and answer questions.

There were several members of the 'Save the White Horse' (SOWH) campaign at this meeting. A planning consultant, Dale Ingram with expertise in saving public houses and historic buildings, spoke against the application on their behalf. The main points covered were:

- Loss of use as a community asset
- Trojan horse application (cover for another scheme)
- Loss of use of the historical special character of the building
- Fails to adequately justify the reduction in service space
- Sheer volume of changes are harmful to the special character of the building
- The unviability of the pub needs to be proven as the present owner has owned the pub for 4 years and it has not been put onto the market
- There have been numerous successful planning appeal decisions using the above arguments. Relevant planning cases were referenced.
- SOWH would like the pub to come back onto the market and for the community to purchase and run it.

Further supportive remarks were made by members of the public who want a food led offering as a community pub that isn't tied to a brewery and which differentiates itself from The Boot PH.

Other comments supported the application and thought the proposals would be good for the village. Concern was raised about the competition between two village pubs and the potential loss of business for The Boot. The implementation of the proposals will be costly but will safeguard the building.

The deterioration of an historical listed building within a Conservation Area was discussed and can be reviewed within the Design and Access Statement.

The council reviewed the extensive and detailed comments within the Planning Working Party report. Pre-application notes are to be forwarded to Kimpton Parish Council under a Freedom of Information request to NHDC.

Cllr S O'Brien left the meeting at 20:34.

Resolved: proposed, Cllr D Reavell, seconded Cllr J Marsh to take a vote on the planning application tonight. Unanimously agreed.

Vote: To object to the planning application

For: Cllr N Burns, Cllr I Corbett, Cllr C Procter, Cllr B Purple, Cllr D Reavell

Against: Cllr J Marsh

Abstain: Cllr A Firth

Resolved to object to the White Horse PH planning application and approve the comments of the Planning Working Party.

Half Moon Lodge, Peters Green

Resolved to object to the planning application and approve the comments of the Planning Working Party.

For: Cllr N Burns, Cllr I Corbett, Cllr J Marsh, Cllr C Procter, Cllr D Reavell

Abstain: Cllr A Firth, Cllr B Purple

14 Probyn Close

Resolved to approve the comments of the Planning Working Party, unanimously agreed.

- b) Kimpton Neighbourhood Plan – to discuss the merits of producing a Neighbourhood Plan for Kimpton
 A discussion took place on the merits and influence of a Neighbourhood Plan on planning control at NHDC, with a focus on the policy for the number of social housing units in a development. Documents of this nature can be costly to produce, can be superseded by new planning documents and take time for the community to write. Made Neighbourhood Plans must be taken into consideration by the planning authority and can be useful in s106 discussions.
 Proposed Cllr J Marsh, seconded Cllr N Burns not to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan.
 Vote For: Cllr J Marsh, Cllr C Procter
 Against: Cllr N Burns, Cllr I Corbett, Cllr B Purple, Cllr D Reavell
 Abstain: Cllr A Firth
Resolved to give further consideration to the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan at a future date.

21/046

Reports from Working Parties and Committees

- a) Allotments Working Party
 Report noted. See attached.
- b) Kimpton Bench Working Party – Mr B Finch
 Report noted. See attached.
- c) Environment – Cllr I Corbett
- i) To receive an update on the Greening Kimpton public meeting held on Tuesday 20th April as part of Phase 1 of the campaign. 35 participants were at the meeting with strong support for the campaign. It is important to build slowly and have a broad base across all the community, specifically working with the Primary School and Pre-School. There is a public vote on choosing the 8 challenges that will go onto the cards and then households will choose 5 challenges from the options to adopt. The cards posted through all households in the parish will launch the Greening Kimpton campaign. The timing for the cards is being considered as the campaign should not lose momentum by being carried over the school summer holidays.
 - ii) Tree Planting in Peters Green. To consider a proposal from the residents of Peters Green to plant additional trees on the village green
 See questionnaire results attached. Sharon Torres addressed the council and explained the background of several trees on the Village Green at Peters Green having been knocked down or are in a poor condition and therefore been felled or branches removed. There was a 70% response rate to the questionnaire sent to 37 houses. The majority of residents wanted the three cherry trees on the triangle replaced by new specimens, more tree planting on the grass verge from Hyde Lane to the Village Hall, a replacement tree at Perry Green and a focal tree with circular bench on the main green. About 12 new trees to be planted with care taken about species plus their height and width at maturity. The parish council is supportive about this project and will be taken forward by the Open Spaces and Playgrounds Working Party.
- d) Sports Clubs Working Party / Public Spaces and Playgrounds Working Party
- i) To receive an update on the purchase of an outdoor table tennis table

The preferred supplier has indicated that there is a 6 week lead time for this item and has been unable to obtain a quote for the groundworks. The council wants this project to be expedited. Cllr I Corbett and Parish Clerk to explore options of getting the groundworks carried out by a local contractor. An order for the table should be placed as soon as possible.

- ii) To consider expenditure for the painting of the Recreation Ground pavilion. Kimpton Rugby Football Club have volunteers willing to paint the pavilion

Resolved: the parish council to pay for the paint.

- iii) To purchase 2 benches for Parkfield Sports Ground eastern boundary.

Resolved, proposed Cllr J Marsh, seconded Cllr C Procter to approve expenditure up to £470 for 2 off six-seater picnic benches. Unanimously agreed.

- iv) Garden Club to hold a plant sale on Saturday 5th June on Garden Fields

Resolved, proposed Cllr J Marsh, seconded Cllr D Reavell to approve this event. Unanimously agreed,

21/047 Reports to the Council

To receive reports from representatives on outside bodies, local authorities and agencies.

County Cllr R Thake is a candidate for Knebworth and Codicote division for Hertfordshire County Council in the forthcoming election on Thursday 6th May.

21/048 Groundwater Alert for Kimpton

To receive a report on actions taken relating to the Groundwater Alert issued by the Environment Agency for Kimpton and Lilley Bottom

Groundwater levels report noted. See attached.

A 'Draft Framework for Managing Groundwater Flood Risk in Kimpton' is being prepared by Hertfordshire County Council with input from the multi-agency group. Kimpton Parish Council has fed in comments to this document which sets out the context for managing groundwater flooding impacts. A final version is due to be circulated in the summer. There is a high degree of uncertainty around how, when, where and to what extent any future groundwater flooding may occur and therefore the multi-agencies are adopting a flexible approach. The Parish Council will continue to represent the interests of the community in the drafting of the framework and residents will be kept informed.

21/049 Finance

- a) To authorise payments made in accordance with the budget and note receipt of income

Resolved proposed Cllr A Firth, seconded Cllr I Corbett to authorise payments and note income.

- b) To receive budget report

Resolved proposed Cllr A Firth, seconded Cllr I Corbett to note the budget report. Unanimously agreed.

- c) To receive a bank reconciliation

Resolved proposed Cllr A Firth, seconded Cllr I Corbett to approve the bank reconciliation. Unanimously agreed.

- d) To approve standing orders and direct debits in 2021/22 as per the budget

Resolved, proposed Cllr D Reavell, seconded Cllr A Firth to approve the following for the year 2021/22

Standing Orders relating to Staff costs

Direct Debits for BT, parish room energy supplier, Crashplan, NHDC

- e) To consider price quotations, charges and grant requests
 - i) Road planings for repairs to Parkfield Sports Ground access road
Resolved proposed Cllr C Procter, seconded Cllr N Burns to approve the quote of £320.00 plus VAT. Unanimously agreed.
 - ii) Signs for Butt End public footpath
Resolved proposed Cllr C Procter, seconded Cllr N Burns to approve the quote of £86.90 plus VAT for two signs. Unanimously agreed.
 - iii) Royal British Legion (Kimpton Branch) - cleaning War Memorial
Resolved, proposed Cllr I Corbett, seconded Cllr D Reavell to approve a grant of £1,620. Unanimously agreed. KPC to place the purchase order with Sand Blasting Ltd.
 - iv) Save the White Horse – grant application.
This item was deferred until more detailed information on expenditure is available.

- f) To receive Internal Auditor Report
Noted.
- g) To approve AGAR Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2020/21
This item was deferred to Wednesday 5th May.
- h) To approve AGAR Section 2 Accounting Statements 2020/21
This item was deferred to Wednesday 5th May.
- i) To approve the dates for the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights and to confirm the date the Notice is to be published on the Councils website.
21st June to 30th July 2021
This item was deferred to Wednesday 5th May.

21/050 Clerk's Report
Items for information only
None.

21/051 Date of next Kimpton Parish Council Meeting and items for the agenda
To note that the Annual Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th May 2021 via video conferencing followed by the Annual Parish Meeting.

Meeting closed at 22.25.

Chairman

Date