

**Minutes of Kimpton Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 27th April 2022
Kimpton Memorial Hall at 7.52 pm**

Delayed start due to the public meeting held with Bridge Cottage Surgery which overran.

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

In attendance: Mrs C Helmn, Parish Clerk, District Cllr J Bishop, County Cllr R Thake and 5 members of the public.

22/036 Apologies

To receive and accept apologies for absence.
Cllr J Marsh due to health reasons

22/037 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.

22/038 Minutes

To confirm the Minutes of Kimpton Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 23rd March 2022 as an accurate record of proceedings
Resolved, proposed Cllr N Burns, seconded Cllr A Firth that these Minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be duly signed by the Chairman. Unanimously agreed.

22/039 Public Issues

Members of the public and councillors can raise matters of concern.
Mr B Finch asked for information regarding the coronavirus Government Financial Support awarded to Kimpton Rugby Football Club.

22/040 Reports from Working Parties and Committees

- a) Allotment Working Party
Notes from meetings held on 30th March and 26th April are attached and were noted.
- b) Kimpton Bench Working Party – Mr B Finch
To receive a report on activities
Report received and noted, see attached. The Chairman thanked the BWP for their continued work for the parish and, in advance, for replacing the wheels on the portable football posts ahead of the 5 a side children's football competition at Kimpton May Festival.

Fly tipping has recently taken place on FP60 at Parkfield Sports Ground.
Action: Clerk to write to neighbouring properties

- c) Planning
 - i) To receive a report from Planning Working Party for approval
Resolved, proposed Cllr C Procter, seconded Cllr B Purple to approve the recommendations in the report. Unanimously agreed.
- d) Public Spaces and Playgrounds Working Party
 - i) To receive a report from the meeting of current and future users of the pavilion and pitch held on Tuesday 19th April.
Report received and noted, see attached.

22/041

Reports to the Council

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

- a) Hitchin Rural Neighbourhood Police Report with Crime figures 2021-22
Report received and noted, see attached.
- b) County Cllr R Thake.
A meeting has been arranged for 10th May with Highway officers to examine the proposal for 20mph speed limit within Kimpton village.

22/042

Kimpton Surgery

- a) To review the proposed changes in GP provision in Kimpton
Dr Pathmanathan, Bridge Cottage Surgery attended a public meeting, attended by approximately 50 residents, held at 6.30pm prior to the council meeting. A summary outlining the reasons for the preferred option of closing the Kimpton Branch Surgery was given and the alternatives that have been explored. The reasons for closure included safety concerns of loan working and the requirement from new practitioners to have two clinicians on site at any one time, the lack of disability access at Kimpton Surgery and travel time for clinicians reducing appointment availability. Details of unsuccessful property grant applications, that would have improved the physical features of the branch surgery, were given. 700 Kimpton patients (out of 16,000 patients in the practice) will be affected of which 300 only use Kimpton surgery. The other 400 patients, prior to the pandemic, use both the Welwyn and Kimpton surgeries for their appointments. Residents raised questions about the options that have been explored, the financial situation relating to the property and concern for the vulnerable in the village being able to access GPs. Many expressed their strong disappointment at the closure and worry that health care would be reduced for patients. Bridge Cottage Surgery reassured the meeting that home visits would continue. It was mentioned that the NHS in general is under severe strain and that the Government is looking at Integrated Care Systems involving local authorities and NHS working together.
- b) To consider making an application to North Herts Council for registration of 9 High Street, Bridge Cottage Surgery as an Asset of Community Value
Resolved, proposed Cllr D Reavell, seconded Cllr S O'Brien to make an application. Vote 5 For, 2 abstain, Cllr Firth and Cllr Procter.

22/043

Kimpton Parish Council Election

- a) To confirm the nominations that were elected unopposed
Councillors G Durrant, A Firth, D Reavell S O'Brien, C Procter, D Reavell were elected.
- b) To agree the process for co-option for 2 vacancies due to insufficient candidates at election

Notices advertising the vacancies have been issued with a simple application form. The co-option will take place at the Annual Council Meeting on 11th May.

22/044

Finance

- a) To authorise payments made in accordance with the budget
- b) To note receipt of income
- c) To receive budget report
- d) To receive bank reconciliation
Resolved, proposed Cllr A Firth, seconded Cllr S O'Brien to note/approve agenda items a) to d). Unanimously agreed
- e) To approve expenditure in 2022/23 on annual insurance, annual contracts and annual grants as per the budget.
Resolved, proposed Cllr S O'Brien, seconded Cllr C Procter to approve these payments, see attached. Unanimously agreed.
- f) To approve the Kimpton Parish Council Statement of Accounts 2021/22
Resolved, proposed Cllr D Reavell, seconded Cllr A Firth to approve these payments, see attached. Unanimously agreed
- g) To receive the report from the Internal Auditor 2021/22
Resolved, proposed Cllr D Reavell, seconded Cllr A Firth to note the report from the Internal Auditor, see attached. It was noted that Ill Health Insurance was included within staff costs and not in other costs. Unanimously agreed.
- h) To approve AGAR Section 1 Annual Governance Statement 2021/22
Resolved, proposed Cllr N Burns, seconded Cllr B Purple to approve Section 1 AGAR. Unanimously agreed.
- i) To approve AGAR Section 2 Accounting Statements 2021/22
Resolved, proposed Cllr N Burns, seconded Cllr B Purple to approve Section 2 AGAR. Unanimously agreed.
- j) To approve the dates for the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights of Monday 13th June to Friday 22nd July 2022 and to confirm the date the Notice is to be published on the Council's website
Resolved, proposed Cllr S O'Brien, seconded Cllr D Reavell that the period for the exercise of public rights be Monday 13th June to Friday 22nd July and that the notice is published on Friday 3rd June. Unanimously agreed.
- k) To consider price quotations, charges and grant requests
 - i. Kimpton Folk Festival
This application is necessary to provide 'free events' at Kimpton Folk Festival for the residents to enjoy. A taster of folk music. The costs are normally covered through fund raising events organised by members of the committee, but these events were not possible due to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. The grant will cover marquee hire, toilet hire, signage, children's storyteller, adult storyteller and open mike publicity.
Resolved, proposed D Reavell, seconded Cllr N Burns to award a grant of £1,500. Unanimously agreed.
 - ii. Kimpton Bowls Club
Councillors raised concerns regarding the finances of the club and agreed to defer the item to the next council meeting and invite a representative from the Bowls Club to attend.

22/045

Clerk's Report

Items for information only

The Clerk informed the meeting that Cllr N Burns and herself had attended a seminar on Rural Social Housing hosted by English Rural Housing Association. English Rural are interested in being in a partnership to deliver social housing within a Rural Exception Site at the 'Ron Hyde' gap.

22/046

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 11th May 2022

The retiring Chairman Cllr I Corbett tendered his apologies for this meeting. The chair will be taken by Vice-Chairman Cllr A Firth.

22/047

Date of Annual Parish Meeting

To note that the Annual Parish Meeting will take place after the Annual Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 11th May at approximately 9.00pm

The draft Annual Report 2022 was approved by the council for publication.

Meeting closed at 9.02 pm.

Chairman

Date.....