



[www.kimptonpc.org.uk](http://www.kimptonpc.org.uk)

**Minutes of Kimpton Parish Council Meeting  
held on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023  
Kimpton Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm**

**Present:** Cllr A Firth (Chairman), Cllr S Amexheta, Cllr G Durrant, Cllr S O'Brien, Cllr I Pegrum

**In attendance:** Mrs C Helmn, Parish Clerk, County Councillor R Thake, Andrew Lipski GigaClear, Mr J Ferguson, Headteacher Kimpton Primary School, Mr S Sammons, Kimpton Primary School Governor, and 5 members of the public.

- 
- 23/116 Apologies**  
To receive and accept apologies for absence.  
Cllr N Jackman due to work commitment. District Cllr R Muncer.
- 23/117 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.
- 23/118 Co-option**  
To review applications for the vacancy of Kimpton Parish Councillor  
No applications received to date.
- 23/119 Minutes**  
To confirm the Minutes of Kimpton Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023 as an accurate record of proceedings.  
**Resolved**, proposed Cllr S Amexheta, seconded Cllr S O'Brien that these Minutes be agreed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings and be duly signed by the Chairman. Unanimously agreed.
- 23/120 Full fibre rollout in Kimpton**  
Presentation by Andrew Lipski, Community Engagement Manager, Gigaclear on their build plans  
Gigaclear specialises in rural locations and is planning a commercially funded build fibre optic network in Kimpton. It has a 65% take up rate for connections and is investing £20 million in Hertfordshire. Some residents have already been contacted by the company regarding wayleave agreements with some concern expressed about their terms, specifically their liability value. Gigaclear will require permits from the Highway authority and the quality of the design will be checked. The network will offer the same upload and download speeds between 200 and 900 megabites that costs the average customer £35 per month. They hope to start the build mid-2024, go live in 3 months with all completed within 6 months.
- 23/121 Kimpton Pre-School update**  
To receive a report on the closure of Kimpton Pre-School, noted see attached.

Councillors expressed regret at the closure of Kimpton Pre-School. The Pre-School Trustees, Committee members and management of Kimpton Primary School have all worked extremely hard over the past 12 months to find a financially viable option when pupil numbers are falling. Although the community had promised funding to assist in the immediate future, sadly the Trustees made the difficult decision to close as forecasting demonstrates that the Pre-School would not be independently financially viable after the summer 2024. Kimpton Primary School Governing Board has met and, due to the closure of the Pre-School, it has been agreed to offer 3-year-olds the opportunity to join the nursery class from January 2024. The Pre-School building is owned by Hertfordshire County Council with a future re-use for SEND provision being explored as there is significant need for a local SEND resource base. Pupil numbers are low across primary schools in Hertfordshire.

**23/122**

### **Public Issues**

Members of the public and councillors can raise matters of concern. Residents from the High Street that back onto Public Bridlepath 34 raised their concerns about the lighting scheme from Claggy Road to Wrens Close and the impact on their garden and living space. Kimpton Parish Councillors were sympathetic to the views of residents that the installed scheme is not in keeping with a rural village regarding the height of the lamp columns and the length of time that the lights will be on. The connected tall lamp posts are significantly higher than other lamp columns found in the village, for example in Dacre Crescent, and these create a permanent eyesore for residents. They are imposing on the outlook for some residents. Councillors consider that the installed lighting scheme is urban in design and does not fit in with the characteristics of an historic village. Although the power has not been switched on, residents are anxious that their gardens will be 'floodlight' due to the 6m high street posts. The timing of the lights being on was raised as Budgens closes at 9pm and therefore this footpath will have very limited use after this time. Councillors expressed support of actions/mechanisms taken to ameliorate the impact of the scheme for neighbouring properties. Suggestions put forward include replacing the light columns with smaller posts, the use of up lights rather than tall lamp posts or the use of external light shields to stop the back spill of light into houses. Councillors requested that the Highways Authority conduct an investigation into the evidence for installing such a scheme takes place, that actions available to ameliorate the environmental harm of the scheme are investigated and that the lights are not connected to the power until satisfactory completion of these investigations. The Parish Clerk will write to County Cllr R Thake to request that this matter be investigated. This item will be on the agenda for the next council meeting being held on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January,

**23/123**

### **Planning**

To receive a planning report on applications and decisions. Noted.

**23/124**

### **Reports from Working Parties and Committees**

- a) Kimpton Bench Working Party – Cllr G Durrant  
To receive a report on activities, noted see attached.
- b) Kimpton Christmas Market  
To receive a report, noted see attached.

**23/125**

### **Reports to the Council**

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

County Cllr Thake has listened to the concerns of residents regarding the lighting scheme and agreed to make representations to the relevant officers to obtain further information about the scheme and for mitigation measures to be examined. A request to delay the switching on of the lights until investigations are completed will be made.

Hertfordshire County Council members are looking carefully at the budget for 2024/2025.

23/126

### Finance

- a) To authorise payments made in accordance with the budget
- b) To note receipts
- c) To receive summary report of receipts and payments against budget
- d) To receive bank reconciliation

**Resolved**, proposed Cllr S O'Brien, seconded Cllr S Amexheta to note/approve agenda items a) to d). Unanimously agreed.

- e) To consider price quotations, charges and grant requests
  - i) Kimpton Primary School

The Headteacher gave a presentation on the benefits for the pupils of using outside space for learning for both the forest school initiative and the newly created science space around the pond rather than always inside with interactive whiteboards. The grant would enable a large shed to be purchased that would store items, such as wellies, required for outside teaching as this goes ahead in adverse weather conditions. The forest school initiative has been supported from other external funding bodies including the Lions Harpenden and their own PTA. £2,000 will be allocated to staff training. It is planned that this new teaching opportunity will operate from September 2024.

**Resolved** proposed Cllr S Amexheta, seconded Cllr I Pegrum to approve a grant of £2,000. Unanimously agreed.

- ii) Kimpton Players  
This item was deferred.

- f) To consider the draft budget for 2024/25 and approve the precept for 2024/25

**Resolved**, proposed Cllr A Firth, seconded Cllr S O'Brien to approve the budget 2024/25 as attached. Unanimously agreed.

**Resolved**, proposed Cllr S O'Brien, seconded Cllr G Durrant to approve a precept for 2024/25 of £86,550. Unanimously agreed.

23/127

### Clerk's Report

Items for information only

23/128

### Date of next Kimpton Parish Council Meeting and items for the agenda

To note that the next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd November 2023

- Update on Claggy Road/Wren Close lighting scheme

Christmas Market WP

11<sup>th</sup> December

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

Chairman .....

Date Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024