

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES: of the virtual Meeting of Council on 23 July, 2020 commencing at 7.43 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Walker (Chairman), Buckenham, Jolly, Joyce, Masson and Wetherell.
Cllr Kenning attended the meeting intermittently due to problems with connecting to the meeting remotely.

48/20 **Welcome** – Cllr Walker welcomed everyone to the meeting.

49/20 **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr Masson. District Cllrs Chapman and Kelly.

Note: County Cllr Elkins and District Cllr Bower had given their reports remotely earlier in the evening before this meeting of Council commenced.

50/20 **Urgent Matters Arising** - There were no urgent matters.

51/20 **Declarations and Dispensations of Interests** - Further to declarations held in the Register of Members Interests, in the interest of openness, Cllrs Kenning and Walker declared membership of Kingston Gorse Estate and Cllr Jolly declared membership of West Kingston Residents Association.

52/20 **Public Opportunity** – No members of the public were present.

53/20 **Minutes** - The Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 21 May, 2020 were approved by Council and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

54/20 **Matters Arising from the Minutes** – There were no matters arising.

55/20 **West Sussex County Council:**

- a) **County Cllr Elkins** had given his report on County matters prior to the start of the meeting, including the following:
 - Re COVID-19: Waste disposal sites are beginning to accept different categories of waste again, libraries have opened for a ‘select and collect’ service, additional support has enabled care homes to more regularly test staff and residents, and the Community Hub is to continue to operate to provide support for vulnerable residents for the foreseeable future.
 - Re the A259: Preparations for the improvement works are due to begin in August with the works commencing in the Autumn.
 - Re the Roundstone Crossing: Highways officers are willing to meet with Council to discuss this and County Cllr Elkins will send County notes from previous meetings to the Clerk for background information.
- b) **Operation Watershed:** Council noted that County had suggested a revision to the scheme to avoid the most northern section where landowner agreement had not been reached and include the pond area to the south. The Clerk and Members to finalise the new scheme so that fresh quotes could be obtained.
- c) **Highways and Footpaths:**
 - i. Council noted complaints had been received from various members of the public relating to a wall being erected around land along Peak Lane and impinging on BOAT 3623, and the Clerk has referred these on to County Public Rights of Way and to Planning Compliance. Council agreed to make its own representations to County regarding the impingement on BOAT 3623 and to District re the enclosure of countryside/land in the Strategic Gap (Clerk to progress).
 - ii. Council noted a complaint from a member of the public about cyclists using Footpath 2110 along the greensward (the complaint had also been made direct to County by the member of the public). The Clerk to ask the PCSO if he can patrol along the greensward and County whether they can advise about appropriate signage.
- d) **Grass cutting** – Council noted that the cost of the County contractor carrying out a 1 metre swathe verge cut on highways land along Kingston Lane is £280 and the equivalent of this (cut 2 on the County schedule) is due to be carried out in late August. Council agreed not to pay for an additional cut this year but to consider making a budget

provision for this in 2021-22 with a view to the additional cut being carried out earlier in the year.

56/20 Arun District Council:

- a) **Report of District Councillors** – District Cllr Bower had given his report on District matters prior to the start of the meeting. In response to questions from members he said:
 - Problems with drones flying too close to houses/people should be reported to the police
 - Regarding the PSPO consultation (on the agenda) he had no information at the moment and asked to be sent a copy of Council’s response.
- b) **Consultation** – Council noted that District is reviewing the rules for dogs in public and is seeking views on plans to amend and continue the current Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for dogs in open spaces. It was agreed to ask whether District would consider extending the scheme to cover areas in Kingston.

57/20 Policing – Cllr Jolly reported on crime statistics in Sussex. Regarding concerns raised by Cllr Walker about low flying drones he asked if there were any witnesses and Cllr Walker suggested he speak with Cllr Masson.

58/20 Planning Committee – Council noted the Minutes of meetings held on 21 May, 2020 and a verbal report of the meeting of the Committee held on 23 July, 2020 and agreed the recommendations contained therein.

59/20 Finance and General Purposes Committee - Council noted the minutes of the meeting held on the on 21 May, 2020 and a verbal report of the meeting of the Committee held on 23 July, 2020 and agreed the recommendations contained therein, including the approval of the Accounts and Annual Return for 2019-20.

60/20 Lost Kingston Chapel Commemorative Seating Stone:

- a) Council noted that the letter of agreement for the placing of the base and the Seating Stone on West Kingston greensward has still not been finalised which is delaying progress and that works once this is in place and Arun have agreed that COVID-19 restrictions do not prevent it being carried out. The Clerk was asked to send copy correspondence relating to the delay to the Chairman so that she could follow up on this.
- b) Council noted that: Mid-Wales Stone asked to deliver the Seating Stone on 17 June as they were co-ordinating deliveries in the area. This was only made possible by Mr Andrew arranging for a fork lift to be available and storing the Seating Stone until it can be positioned on the greensward. Mid-Wales Stone have now expressed their thanks for this and sent a credit note for £50 against the original invoice for the Seating Stone. Mr Andrew has been approached about accepting this amount in appreciation of his help and has suggested that instead, if Council is so minded, a donation be made to a charity such as St Barnabas House. Council further noted that the Finance and General purposes Committee had agreed to make a grant of £50 to St Barnabas House earlier in the evening.
- c) Council agreed: that any reasonable additional costs associated with positioning the Seating Stone e.g. roping off an area for health and safety reasons, may be agreed by the Clerk in liaison with Members.

61/20 E-mail Address – Council noted that a .gov.uk email address is now available for the Clerk to use and there will be a gradual change over from the existing email address.

62/20 Scheme of Delegation – Council agreed to adopt a detailed scheme of delegation to the Clerk as circulated to Members. The scheme of delegation to Committees would be reviewed when Standing Orders are reviewed.

63/20 Coronavirus COVID-19

Council noted that

- a) current advice from the Sussex Association of Local Councils is to refrain from face to face meetings unless essential and government social distancing measures are in place.

- b) the Clerk has taken advantage of a Zoom discount offer to allow for virtual meetings until May 2021. Half the cost to be met by this Council (remainder to be met by another Council).

Arising from this Council agreed to keep the option of holding a face to face meeting instead of a remote meeting of Council in September under consideration. This would be dependent on latest advice nearer the time of the meeting.

64/20 **Code of Conduct** – Council noted that The Local Government Association (LGA) has launched a consultation on a new model member code of conduct. The online consultation is available to all members to complete by 17 August, 2020.

65/20 **Next scheduled meeting of Council and its Committees:** Thursday 17 September, 2020 at 7pm. Agenda are published 3 days before Meetings on Council’s website <https://kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk/>

The meeting concluded at 8.34 pm.

Chairman:

Date: