

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES: of the virtual Meeting of Council on 21 January, 2021 commencing at 8.20 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Walker (Chairman), Buckenham, Jolly, Joyce, Kenning, Masson and Wetherell.

- 01/21 **Welcome** – Cllr Walker welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 02/21 **Apologies for Absence** – District Cllrs Bower and Chapman and County Cllr Elkins who had attended earlier in the evening to give their reports.
- 03/21 **Urgent Matters Arising** - There were no urgent matters.
- 04/21 **Declarations and Dispensations of Interests** - Further to declarations held in the Register of Members Interests, in the interest of openness, Cllrs Kenning, Masson and Walker declared membership of Kingston Gorse Estate and Cllr Jolly declared membership of West Kingston Residents Association.
- 05/21 **Public Opportunity** – One member of the public was present and spoke of her concerns about overflowing litter bins and dropped litter around the Blue Bird café and along Kingston Gorse Greensward and raised her suggestions for how the litter problem could be tackled:
- could Council ask Arun District Council (ADC) for more varied recycling bins to separate types of litter
 - a meeting with the Bluebird Cafe owner with Council, ADC, Ferring Parish Council (FPC), and Kingston Gorse Estate (KGE) representatives attending to discuss tackling the problem at source: signage and bins and their location; reduce amount of waste from the cafe by using more environmentally friendly materials in cartons/cups and encouraging customers to refill their own containers.
- Cllr Masson who is also on the Board of KGE advised:
- KGE had met several times with the Bluebird Cafe owner regarding litter management but without success so would not be keen for another meeting.
 - KGE would not want any additional bins as the existing are not used properly and also regularly overflow leading to litter being scattered over the greensward and this problem could then increase There has even been a thought that there should be no bins as on National Trust properties.
- Council discussed this and then agreed to:
- Keep a dialogue going with FPC and ADC
 - wait until lockdown ends and cafe reopens as this would also allow the latest proposals from ADC on signage and bins to take effect
 - and then monitor the litter problem and discuss with FPC and ADC.
- The resident thanked Council for listening and left the meeting.
- 06/21 **Minutes** - The Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 19 November, 2020 were approved by Council and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- 07/21 **Matters Arising from the Minutes** – There were no matters arising.
- 08/21 **West Sussex County Council:**
- a) **County Cllr Elkins** had given his report to Members prior to the start of the meeting. Key points were:
 - COVID-19** – Numbers of those contracting COVID-19 have recently shot up. County is still giving support to residents and carers and help line number are available on the County website. GPs and the NHS are responsible for rolling out vaccinations not County although County is providing support for ‘Test and Trace’ (nearest site for Kingston is in St Martin’s car park, Littlehampton).
 - Budget** – Proposals are for a 1.99% increase on Council Tax plus a further 3% specifically for adult social care making a total increase of 4.99%. This would be considered by the County Cabinet on 22 January 2021.
 - Exercise** – County have refurbished the footbridge over the A280 so that the footpath route between Angmering and Highdown is again accessible.

In response to questions from members County Cllr Elkins said:

- There is no mention of complete resurfacing works in Kingston Lane in the future programme but he would ask the local Highways Manager to check on works required to fill existing potholes.

- b) **Operation Watershed:** The Clerk advised that only one quote had been received to date for the revised scheme in Peak Lane (£27,500 + contingency £22,000). Three quotes are required before the application for funding can be progressed. There are 9 houses directly affected by the scheme and the Clerk would ask County for advice on the criteria for the funding to be awarded.
- c) **Highways and Footpaths:** Council noted that the wall part built along Peak Lane that impinged on BOAT 3623 has been removed by the resident.

09/21 **Arun District Council:**

- a) **Report of District Councillors** – District Cllrs Bower and Chapman had given their reports to Members prior to the start of the meeting. Key points were:
 - Budget** – The aim is to produce a balanced budget
 - COVID-19** – Residents had raised concerns about the slow roll out of the vaccinations in the area. There is still uncertainty but this is expected to improve as more GP surgeries, including the Westcourt Surgery begin to administer the vaccinations.
 - Planning** – Decisions in parliament indicate that if Housing Delivery numbers are too high they can be challenged locally. Arun Planning Finder is a new App for residents to receive information on new planning applications in their area – details on the Arun website. There is a planning briefing meeting coming up where K/54/20/PL re New Stables will be discussed so this could not be commented on at this time (pre-determination rules). In response to questions from members Cllr Bower responded that despite recent lost appeals he would continue to urge the Development Control Committee to take the best decisions for the community and that the new Parking Standards policy aims to increase the number of parking spaces on development sites (details on the Arun website).
- b) **Litter** – See minute 05/21
- c) **Model Code of Conduct** – Council noted that District are considering adoption of the new Code developed by the Local Government Association and that Members had been given the opportunity to comment on this by 20 January (information circulated).
- d) **Procedures at District Council Meetings** – Council noted that the Chairman has written to the Arun Chief Executive following press reports about delays and disruption at District Council Meetings.

10/21 **Policing** – Cllr Jolly reported that despite warnings at the last meeting of Council about security of vehicles there had been recent incidents of break-ins to cars and vans in the Parish.

11/21 **Planning Committee** – Council noted the Minutes of meetings held on 19 November, 2020 and a verbal report of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 January, 2021 and agreed the recommendations contained therein.

It was agreed to suspend the meeting of Council at 8.53 pm to allow the meeting of the Finance Committee to be held. The meeting recommenced at 8.58 pm.

12/21 **Finance and General Purposes Committee** - Council noted the minutes of the meeting held on 19 November, 2020 and a verbal report of the meeting of the Committee held on 21 January, 2021 and agreed the recommendations contained therein, including setting the Precept for 2021/22 at £9,000 (no increase from the previous year).

13/21 **West Sussex Association of Local Councils (WSALC)** – Council noted that the AGM would now be held on 25 February, 2021.

14/21 **Census 2021** – Council noted that the Office for National Statistics is carrying out its ten yearly census and that census day is the 21 March, 2021.

15/21 **Additional Matters:**

Cllr Buckenham gave a report on the South Strand Community Toilets and advised that all was progressing well.

Cllr Buckenham raised concerns that dogs should be on leads on the beach and along the Rife banks and lagoons from April - June to protect ground nesting birds. It was agreed that a Working Group open to all members should be set up to discuss this further and Cllr Buckenham offered to set up a zoom meeting. In the meantime, the Clerk to ask the Environment Agency if they would put up signs along the Rife and Cllr Masson to ask KGE if they would put up signs along the beach.

16/21 **Next scheduled meeting of Council and its Committees:** Council noted the next virtual meetings would be held on Thursday 18 March, 2021 commencing at 7pm and that Agenda are published 3 days before Meetings on Council's website <https://kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk/>

The meeting concluded at 9.16 pm.

Chairman:

Date: