

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES: of the virtual Meeting of Council on 18 March, 2021 commencing at 7.40 pm.

PRESENT: Councillors Walker (Chairman), Buckenham, Jolly, Joyce, Kenning, Masson and Wetherell.
County Cllr Elkins. District Cllrs Bower and Chapman.

- 17/21 **Welcome** – Cllr Walker welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 18/21 **Apologies for Absence** – None.
- 19/21 **Urgent Matters Arising** - There were no urgent matters.
- 20/21 **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.
- 21/21 **Public Opportunity** – No members of the public were present.
- 22/21 **Minutes** - The Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 21 January, 2021 were approved by Council and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- 23/21 **Matters Arising from the Minutes** – There were no matters arising.
It was agreed to defer items 8 and 9 until the County Councillor and District Councillors had joined the meeting.
- 24/21 **Policing** – Cllr Jolly reported on the low crime statistics that PCSO Houston had advised him of, and thanks were recorded to the PCSO for keeping in touch.
- 25/21 **Planning Committee** – Council noted the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January, 2021 and a verbal report of the meeting of the Committee held on 18 March 2021 and agreed the recommendations contained therein.
- 26/21 **Finance and General Purposes Committee** - Council noted the minutes of the meeting held on 21 January, 2021 and a verbal report of the meeting of the Committee held on 18 March 2021 and agreed the recommendations contained therein.
- 27/21 **West Sussex Association of Local Councils (WSALC)** – Council noted that following the AGM held on held on 25 February, 2021 and a meeting of the new Board on 11th March, 2021, Trevor Leggo was formally appointed CEO & County Officer and Mulberry & Co were formally appointed as service provider (replacing SSALC). In the light of this it was agreed to pay in April the annual subscription invoice for 2021-22 of £205.36 (WSALC £165.29 + NALC £40.07). Further to this, Council noted the meeting of the Arun District Association of Local Councils (ADALC) held on 5 March, 2021 and to agree to renew Council’s annual subscription for £15 when invoiced
- 28/21 **Census 2021** – Council noted that census day is imminent - the 21 March, 2021.
- 29/21 **No Parking Signage** – Council noted that when workmen for the West Kingston Residents Association (WKRA) were looking for a position for a ‘no parking’ sign in Coastal Road in the vicinity of Thatched Corners, Cllr Jolly had suggested they attach it to the wooden support legs of Council’s noticeboard. The Clerk was asked to write to WKRA to say that Council is happy for the sign to stay there but cannot take responsibility for it as the sign could be at risk of damage during refurbishment or repair works and may also occasionally need to be temporarily removed whilst these are carried out.
- 30/21 **Working Party re the Environment** – Correspondence with the Environment Agency (EA) was considered. The Clerk to clarify with the EA that the extra no dog fouling signs have not yet been put in place by the EA as previously discussed. The EA had given permission for Council to put up some posters politely requesting that dogs be kept on leads to protect nesting birds during between April – June as long as it is made clear that the posters have

been put up by Council. The Working Party has not met yet but would meet to discuss the best locations for the posters.

31/21 **West Sussex County Council:**

- a) **County Cllr Elkins** reported on various County Council matters including:
 - **Recycling Centres** – to address the congestion arising from COVID-19 restrictions the summer opening hours have been brought forward and residents will need to book a time slot with visits limited to one per week from 29 March,2021. Members asked whether this would lead to more fly-tipping. Cllr Elkins said that District would have the statistics on fly tipping and he is sure that the effect of the booking system will be reviewed.
 - **COVID-19** - Numbers of those contracting COVID-19 have been coming down. It is now possible to book a COVID test without showing any symptoms.
 - **Consultation** – Residents can visit the County website to contribute to a review of Early Help Services for Children and Families.
- b) **Operation Watershed:** The Clerk reported County had said “As the quote is showing contingency costs that is almost half of the total quote the Parish Council can appreciate that Operation Watershed would need to have further information before considering allocating public money” and suggested that perhaps the actual costed items could be part of a first funding application and contingency items once investigated and costed could be part of a second application for funding.
- c) **Highways and Footpaths:**
 - Kingston Lane** – Members raised concerns about the potholes and verge erosion along Kingston Lane and queried what the actual width of the tarmac carriageway should be. County Cllr Elkins said he would find out about the width and when assessments of the surface of the Lane would take place.
 - Footpath 2111** – Three damaged finger posts along the footpath have been reported to County. Cllr Joyce said that he would like to join the County Access Ranger when she next inspects the footpaths.

32/21 **Arun District Council:**

- a) **Report of District Councillors**

District Cllr Chapman referred to County Cllr Elkins mention of a review of Early Help Services for Children and Families and hoped this would result in the Family Centre in East Preston remaining open as it provides important services to residents. County Cllr Elkins responded that County have been talking with the business owners of the Family Centre to advise them on the help available to them.

District Cllr Chapman also drew attention to a local initiative to press to have fibre broadband installed to households rather than relying on street cabinets.

District Cllr Bower said he had been disappointed that Arun’s Council Tax had risen as he had hoped there would be no increase. He had supported Council’s objection to Planning application K/55/20/PL when it had been refused by the Development Control Committee based on the facts presented.
- b) **Litter** – Council noted a further report of litter problems along the Kingston Gorse greensward and that Kingston Gorse Estate are reviewing the size and number of bins along the greensward. The Clerk advised that those reporting litter problems should be encouraged to do this promptly on the District website as that is the quickest way of getting the litter cleared and bins emptied.
- c) **New Code of Conduct** – Consideration deferred.
- d) **Procedures at District Council Meetings** – Council noted a response from the Arun Chief Executive Officer to the Chairman’s letter about delays and disruption at District Council Meetings.

33/21 **Future Projects** – Council agreed that:

- a) Consideration of replacing the flagpole would be deferred until Kingston Gorse Estate had felled the adjacent tree,
- b) The noticeboard in Coastal Road should be refurbished. Kingston Gorse Estate have recently refurbished the noticeboard in Gorse Avenue and Cllr Masson would obtain some

quotes. Thanks were recorded for the works carried out to the noticeboard by Cllr Buckenham over the past year to maintain the noticeboard.

34/21 **Correspondence** – The Chairman reported on correspondence with a member of the public wondering if they should suggest to Ordnance Survey that the Chapel Marker be recorded as an Ancient Monument (marker of). It was agreed that the Chairman would respond that Council does not support the proposal.

35/21 **Next scheduled meeting of Council and its Committees:** Thursday 20 May, 2021 following the Annual Meeting of the Parish that commences at 7pm. However, this could change if virtual meetings could not be held and the Clerk would liaise with Members on this.

The meeting concluded at 9.16 pm.

Chairman:

Date: