



Kings Worthy Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Tuesday, 30 August 2022 at 19:30 held in Kings Worthy Community Centre, Fraser Road

Attendees

Councillors Matthew Miller-Hall (Chair), Julia Archer, Signe Biddle, Colin Cossburn, Emily Fish, Ian Gordon, Mandy Hallisey, Dorry Lawlor, Charlotte Smith, Tom Stannard & Steve Waters.

Clerk(s)

Parish Clerk (Christopher Read)

Apologies

None.

County & City Councillor(s)

None.

Members of the public

One.

PC/22/146 – Co-option to fill vacancy on the Parish Council (including the signing of the declaration of acceptance of office forms)

No applications had been received for this vacancy. It was agreed to re-advertise the vacancy for co-option at the next full council meeting.

PC/22/147 – Appointment of Councillor(s) to committee(s)

None.

PC/22/148 – Public Question Time [Please note that this is the only time that the public are able to speak and is limited to 5 minutes per subject]

A member of the public asked if the Parish Council had any plans to help parishioners with the distress resulting from the cost of living crisis.

Cllr Smith stated that the Parish Council does make grants to local organisations and there are local organisations already in place, such as the Community Pantry at Winnall.

Cllr Gordon noted that the Winchester Villages Trust can help people in need, including individual items such as replacement of white goods.

Cllr Cossburn noted that a lot of councils are opening up leisure centres and libraries to provide warm spaces over the winter. Perhaps Tubbs Hall could be opened when it is not booked out. Perhaps this could be run by Parish Councillors on a rota.

Action – It was agreed for this to be considered at the next council meeting.

It was also agreed for the communications group to publicise the grants available from various organisations.

(The member of the public left at this point)

PC/22/149 – S106 agreement for the land at Lovedon Fields – including information received from Winchester City Council

The Chair, Cllr Smith and the Clerk had met with representatives of Winchester City Council (WCC) including Cllr porter. Unfortunately, most of the costings that WCC were going to provide to the Parish Council have not been received. The costings were not accurate enough to enable any decision to be made.

Cllr Smith noted that the topsoil on the allotments had previously been signed off by WCC; Cllr Cossburn agreed.

PC/22/150 – Recruitment of Assistant/Deputy Clerk – including hours and duties

Cllr Miller-Hall proposed that the new staff member be called Deputy Clerk, not Assistant Clerk and that due to the work required, they are employed on the full-time basis (37-hours per week). This includes work related to tenders, the Neighbourhood Plan, Local Plan revision and the maintenance of Tubbs Hall.

Cllr Miller-Hall stated that the Parish Council is understaffed compared to other councils of a similar size. Cllrs Lawlor and Hallisey both agreed that if that is what is required, we need a full-time staff member. Cllr Fish stated that it would also allow the four monthly meetings to be split between the clerks evenly.

A vote was held on whether to proceed on the basis of employing a full-time staff member with 10 for, 0 against and 1 abstention.

A final proposal including costings will be sent before the Finance committee, and then to the next full council meeting for agreement.

PC/22/151 – Parish Council Maintenance arrangements

It was agreed to send this back to the Recreation & Amenities committee for discussion before it comes back to full council.

PC/22/152 – Parish Council VAT advice

The Clerk has obtained a quotation, as agreed by the Finance committee, for VAT advice on the Parish Council's VAT position. The threshold for registration for Parish Council is different to companies with any taxable supply requiring registration. However, HMRC now publish the de-facto threshold of £1,000 of VAT for administrative purposes before registration is required.

The advice requested includes advice on whether we can de-register for VAT, the impacts (if any) of de-registration, a review of sports pitch VAT and the revised sub-lease for Tubbs Hall.

After discussion, a vote was held on whether to proceed with this quotation from The Parkinson Partnership, who the Council had used previously, at a cost £700.00. This was agreed unanimously.

PC/22/153 – Speed Sign deployment scheme including costs

Cllr Cossburn stated that this money was agreed in March and as it was less than the previous allocation, we do not need to agree it.

Cllr Miller-Hall stated that the previous agreement was subject to formal quotation which has still not been forthcoming, but a formal written costing has now been received from Hampshire County Council.

It was agreed to proceed with the procurement of the 6x speed sign sockets and mounting post, at a cost of £3,700.00.

PC/22/154 – Hampshire County Council 20 mph consultation

Cllr Miller-Hall stated that he wished to abstain from the vote on this item as he has previously stated that he does not wish to proceed with a 20mph limit in the parish.

Cllr Biddle asked if Councillors wish to give a council response to this consultation.

Cllr Waters stated that 20 mph limits do not work and are ineffective in preventing speeding. Cllr Cossburn agreed and stated that with a signed posted only 20 mph zone, it only works where the traffic is already drives below 30mph.

Cllr Waters added that this consultation covers more than just the proposal for 20 mph speed limits.

A vote was held on whether to respond to this consultation as a Council, with 5 for, 3 against and 3 abstentions.

Action – It was agreed that the Planning & Highways committee would agree a response to this consultation.

Action – It was agreed for communications to publicise this consultation.

PC/22/155 – Clear out of Parish Council office and shed

Cllr Fish stated that the storage shed is currently holding stuff, such as sports/leisure items, which should be stored elsewhere. The shed needs clearing out to establish what spare space is available.

Councillors discussed the current storage situation including the office and meeting room.

After discussion, it was agreed for a working party made up of Cllrs Lawlor, Fish, Waters, Archer, Gordon and Miller-Hall, to review the items currently stored in the office and shed, including any for disposal.

Action – Look at items for disposal as above.

PC/22/156 – Communications [incl. Website / Facebook / Newsletter Monthly Comms. Etc.]

Cllr Hallisey asked why the newsletter did not include reference to Cllr Waters. Cllr Smith stated that this had been removed at Cllr Water's request.

Thanks were expressed to Cllr Smith for her work on the newsletter.

Cllr Miller-Hall suggested that the communications group look at publicising something regarding the recent graffiti at Fraser Road play area.

PC/22/157 – Clerk’s Notices

None.

PC/22/158 – Chairman’s Notices

Cllr Miller-Hall stated that the Vice-Chair was perturbed by the amount of work she had to put in whilst he was away. Cllr Miller-Hall felt that the Council was not gelling and that whilst they can be frustrating for all, we must be mindful to work within the rules and regulations that we all must negotiate.

He also stated we are elected to represent the parish as a whole, not just small groups.

Cllr Lawlor expressed her concern of the number of things that are being regurgitated and that we are spending more time dealing with things that people are doing, rather than what we should be dealing with.

Cllr Miller-Hall closed by stating that the Council needs to work together within the rules and regulations.

PC/22/159 – Items for discussion at the next meeting on 26 September 2022

Review of CCTV at Tubbs Hall play area – including the cost for a better camera.

Meeting Closed at 20:40.

Signed:

Date: