

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

www.kingston-pc.gov.uk

Julie O'Donnell
Clerk to Kingston Parish Council
Kingston Community Pavilion
St Pancras Green
Church Lane
Kingston
BN7 3LN
e-mail: clerk@kingston-pc.gov.uk

16th March 2024

Minutes of the Kingston Parish Council meeting held on 13th March 2024 at 1900 hours in Kingston Community Pavilion.

Present: Cllr Douglas, Cllr Bewick, Cllr Hoare, Julie O'Donnell (Parish Clerk)

16 members of the public was present.

Minutes

1. Apologies and reasons for absence

The clerk reported that she had received the resignation of Cllr Louisa Adams. The clerk will inform Lewes District Council.

2. The Chairman will invite Councillors to declare any interest they may have in the following agenda items.

None

3. Minutes of 17th January 2024 Parish Council Meeting to be agreed and signed as a true record.

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting of 17th January 2024 were agreed and signed as a true record.

4. KNRG – Presentation of the Nature Recovery Proposal for changes to the management of Parish Council owned land to increase bio-diversity.

The KNRG presented their proposal for management changes to the parish owned land with the presentation focussing on the plan for St Pancras Green. The presentation is available on the parish council website here [Proposed changes in land management practices to enhance biodiversity in the parish \(kingston-pc.org.uk\)](http://Proposed%20changes%20in%20land%20management%20practices%20to%20enhance%20biodiversity%20in%20the%20parish%20(kingston-pc.org.uk))

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Date

5. Public Forum: A period not exceeding 30 minutes is available for the public to express a view or ask a question on relevant matters on the following agenda.

A resident of the green wished to express his concern at the plan for St Pancras. He thought the plan was very thorough and the group should be congratulated on the hard work that has gone into the plan. However his concerns were the use of the field, it is a dedicated sports field. He didn't want the area destroyed by the planting and had concerns over the village fete and the placement of various games/stalls.

Steve Berry from the Action Group read a brief report detailing all the reasons why the green should be managed in a way to increase the biodiversity. The wildlife population is in significant decline and by managing the green in a more bio-diverse way we will increase the flowers, fauna, insects and wildlife in the area.

One resident wished to raise the point that although we are surrounded by the Downs it is not as biodiverse as it could be. As mostly used as farmland, the use of pesticides and various farming methods have made the Downs less diverse than it has been in the past.

A resident stated that he fully supports the objectives of the group and the planting on the green. He felt it was actually a pitiful proposal and didn't go far enough to increase the biodiversity.

One resident wished to raise the condition of the Beech hedge and advise that there was a large tree growing near the pavilion which could cause problems.

6. KNRG – Council to discuss and approve the KNRG proposal.

Resolved: The council unanimously agreed to the plan as outlined in the KNRG proposal and presentation.

The trial agreement for St Pancras Green is as follows –

- Trial 2 patches of uncut grass (approx. 20m x 15m each). Patches unmown from early spring until mid-August (or just prior to the village fete if sooner). These are located underneath the line of trees as shown on the map.
- Reduce the frequency of cut of the green, except for the football pitch, its immediate surround, around the new sports equipment and paths across the green. Cuts to be reduced from 16 per year to 12 in 2024 as a trial. The football pitch, paths etc will continue to be cut at the current frequency of 16 cuts per year. One of the full cuts (except for the wildflower patches) to be timed for just prior to the village fete.
- Leaving a 3m wide strip unmown along the SE boundary by the woodland area. Paths mowed through all usual access points.
- Collecting the longer grass cuttings and remove from the green.

7. Clerk and Councillor reports arising from the minutes of 17th January 2024 not covered elsewhere in the agenda:

Changes to bin collections in Lewes district from 4 March 2024

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Lewes District Council is making some changes to its bin collection days from Monday 4 March. Residents are encouraged to look out for their new refuse, food waste and recycling calendar which will arrive in the post by the end of February. This will come with a letter explaining the changes.

The council is also introducing wheeled bin refuse collections across Lewes district. This is happening in phases: rural areas – including Barcombe, Ditchling, Ringmer and Chailey – are first, followed by coastal areas, starting from Newhaven to Saltdean, in the spring. South Heighton, Bishopstone and Seaford will come next, followed by central parts of the district, including Lewes town and remaining villages in the summer.

The new refuse bins are free to Lewes district residents and people have a choice of three different bin options, including an easier to move 140-litre slim-line bin or a gull-proof sack for those with limited space to store a bin or narrow pavements outside their home.

If you have bought a refuse wheelie bin from us previously, you're welcome to keep using it and do not need to do anything – you won't be delivered another bin unless you request like a replacement.

If you don't have an LDC-issued refuse bin, the council will deliver you one for free. Just let them know what size bin you would prefer by visiting the council's wheelie bins web page .

If you don't request a particular type of bin, don't worry, you will be delivered one appropriate for your home during your phase of the roll-out.

To find out more, check the roll-out schedule or request a particular type of bin, visit www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/wheeliebins

8. Reports from other bodies: Written reports to be taken as read. The council can raise questions.

8.1. District Councillor Stella Spiteri

The written report was noted, and no questions were raised.

8.2. County Councillor Sarah Osborne

The written report was noted, and no questions were raised.

8.3. Shelaine Siepel – Kingston Community Pavilion

The written report was noted, and no questions were raised.

8.4. KNRG – Helen Sida

The group met on the 20th February 2024. A member of the group organised a toad safari with over 200 toads being moved safely. The details can be found on the parish website. There is a regional nature recovery program organised by Weald to Waves which KNRG are involved in.

The Wildlife Garden Forum talk by Michael Blencow will take place on Saturday 17th March at the Parish Hall and all are welcome.

Helen asked the clerk to chase LDC regarding the management of Snednore. Lewes District Council own the area and we would like to discuss the management of the site.

9. Report back from meetings attended by councillors on behalf of KPC:

- Kingston Action Group
- LDALC
- POLO
- KNRG
- Parish Hall

Reports noted and detailed on the parish website. No questions were raised.

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- 10.** To agree the date and format of the Parish Assembly and suggest speakers who may wish to present to the parish.
Resolved: The council agreed to hold the meeting on **Friday 31st May, 7pm** start at the Parish Hall. The council suggested the following speakers –
Jo Attwood – Safer C7 project
Peter King & Tim Bartlett – Cockshut Restoration Project
The clerk will contact them and invite them to present a short report. Refreshments will be provided, clerk to organise.
- 11.** Traffic and Highways: To receive updates from Cllr Bewick
- 11.1.** To note the report from Cllr Bewick regarding the Traffic Steering Group
Resolved: The report was noted.
Cllr Bewick has also attended a meeting with National Highways regarding improvements to the bus stops along the A27. Both bus stops for Kingston are included in the upgrades. Details of this report are available on the website.
- 11.2.** To agree to the proposal to change the Traffic Consultancy firm.
Following consideration of the draft report from the appointed consultant the TSG unanimously agreed that the report did not address the brief in the manner expected and was in need of much redrafting. The group concluded that it did not have confidence in continuing with the consultant and recommended that the contract should be terminated and that another consultant should be appointed to deliver the brief.
Resolved: Although further costs will be incurred the council agreed that the report needed to be good enough to influence ESCC and ensure that any match funding available is awarded to Kingston. The council unanimously agreed to change the consultancy firm and will be led by the Traffic Steering Group.
- 12.** Affordable Housing – Report from Cllr Hoare and Cllr Douglas following a meeting with Graham Maunders, Community Led Housing Advisor, from Action in Rural Sussex. Council to decide on the advice received and agree the next steps.
Action: A meeting was held with Graham Maunders to discuss the options available to provide affordable housing in the parish. It will be a long procedure and the council would need to assess whether the village had an appetite to start the process. The first step would be to survey the parish and look at setting up a CLT (Community Land Trust) this is separate to the parish council and would require volunteers to establish an independent group or join up with a local CLT.
It was suggested Cllr Douglas touches on this at the parish assembly, if there is an interest Graham Maunders could be invited to give a presentation on the various options.
- 13.** Village green play area
- 13.1.** To acknowledge receipt of the Play Park Inspection report for February and agree any actions.
Resolved: The report was noted. The clerk to contact the contractor and ask for a cost of repairs.

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14. Rights of Way –

14.1. To receive any updates from Cllr Hoare

Resolved: RWO 198-Definitive Map Modification Order, Kingston Near Lewes 21

A modification order has been received from the Planning Inspectorate in relation to footpath 37.

This is available on the parish website. Once the order is open for comment the parish council will discuss their response if any.

15. Planning:

15.1. To receive a planning update report on ongoing planning applications from Cllr Hoare and to note applications received and discuss any outstanding applications.

Resolved: The council agreed the following responses to the applications listed below –

SDNP/24/00579/HOUS Juggs Corner Cottage Ashcombe Lane Kingston East Sussex BN7 3JY	Demolition of an existing shed and erection of replacement outbuilding, to include solar panels.	The parish council has no comment to make on this application.
SDNP/24/00398/HOUS 2 The Old Stables Church Lane Kingston East Sussex BN7 3LN	Erection of garden outbuilding/office	The parish council has no comment to make on this application.
SDNP/24/00376/HOUS Miramonte Kingston Ridge Kingston East Sussex BN7 3JU	Demolish existing rear conservatory and erection of new single storey rear extension	The parish council has no comment to make on this application.
SDNP/24/00269/LIS Hyde Manor The Street Kingston East Sussex BN7 3PB	Replacement of 3no rear windows with double glazed windows of like-for-like appearance	The parish council has no comment to make on this application.

16. Financial Matters

16.1. To approve the Bank reconciliations for February 2024.

Resolved: The bank reconciliation for the current and savings account for February 2024 were approved.

16.2. To approve and authorise accounts payable for March 2024 (as detailed on the payment list).

Resolved: The accounts payable were approved and authorised. A total of £17,389.88 which includes the payment for part of the tennis court resurfacing by electronic banking for March 2024.

16.3. To acknowledge the RBS reports circulated by the Clerk – Summary Receipts and Payments and Cash and Investment Reconciliation.

Resolved: The parish council acknowledged the reports circulated by the clerk and no questions were raised.

- The annual parish council meeting is 8th May 2024 at 7.00pm Kingston Community Pavilion

Name

Signed

Date