



# Kingshurst Parish Council

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## Minutes of the Meeting of Kingshurst Parish Council held on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2010 In The Church Hall of St. Barnabas

Cllrs. present: D. Cole Chair  
D. Davis  
T. Williams  
B. Mulready  
D. Woolley  
J. Milne  
L. Brunger

In Attendance : David Wheeler and Mrs. J. Aske (Clerk)  
Mr. Hampton, Mr. Hatfield Mr. & Mrs. Scarlett, Mrs. Stout, Mrs.  
Platt and Mr. & Mrs. Kimberly.

**1. Apologies:** Cllrs. S. Daly, A. Follows and B. Follows

### **2. Declarations of Interest:**

- (a) Councillors are reminded of the need to update their register of interests
  - (b) To declare any personal interests in items on the agenda and their nature
  - (c) To declare any prejudicial interests in items on the agenda and their nature
- Events: Cllrs. T. Williams, J. Milne, D Davis, B. Mulready  
Allotments: Cllrs. T. Williams, B. Mulready and J. Milne.  
Grant Aid: Cllrs. B. Mulready, T. Williams, D. Davis  
Community Gardens: T. Williams.

**3. Minutes:** To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2009. Amendments to the minutes were Cllr. Davis was put in as stating she declared an interest when she was not present at the meeting. In the amendments of the amendments of item 3 the word 'work' was supposed to be the word 'word' and in item 7.2 the word 'is' was missed out completely in the third line down it should read 'It is the first time some...' After the minutes were amended by Chair Cole they were passed and signed. I was noted here that any Precept meeting should be a public notice if it is not included in the Full Council Meeting.

**4. To receive reports from Borough Councillors - Cllr. Hall and Cllr. Evans.** Chair invited the Borough Councillors to speak. Cllr. D. Evans took the floor. She wanted to first report that the Texaco was not going to be able to sell alcohol 24 hrs it would in fact be 11 am until 10 pm. She then went on to report the plain facts regarding the Fair at Babbs Mill, Kingshurst. How the residents have had enough of the noise smell anti-social behaviour and damage it creates. She has appealed to Chris Barr to take note of what the residents are saying and stop the fair once and for all. Cllr. Evans asked the KPC to put a letter in

agreeing with its residents. Chair Cole said he agreed a letter should be written on behalf of the KPC to Chris Barr. Clerk to action. Borough Cllr. R. Hall then took the floor and reported a recent incident with the bus shelter by Redwood house had been re constructed after it had been vandalised. He went on to say that the residents in Redwood House were generally feeling a sense of abandonment from outside bodies. Cllr. Evans and himself had been to see them. Not all the residents can get out and the isolation is apparent when the community room is vacated after meals as they have no TV licence, which prevents them from sitting with company for the rest of the evening. Cllr. Hall then went on to report huge problems with anti-social behaviour at Fordbridge. He had noticed that two community Police Officers had come to the KPC meeting but they have not attended the meeting at Fordbridge. There is a huge problem with drug taking outside the school. He met with Police and local residents to no avail. With the current cut backs we are failing to look after what we have got. He went on to talk about the recent weather conditions and the fact that it was impossible for the SMBC to grit and salt everywhere. But there was plenty of grit and salt to last until the end of January. The workers doing the gritting should be congratulated. At this point it was mentioned by D. Cole that the refuse collections had not been able to take place and in some instances residents had not had a collection for six weeks. This could not be helped as it was too dangerous for wagons to be driven on the icy roads. Chair Cole thanked the borough councillors for their input.

## **5. To receive and approve reports from KPC Committees:**

5.1 Finance: It was reported that the Current account stood at £2603.11 and the deposit account was at £59,238.24 at the end of December 2009. A transfer of £2000 would need to be transferred. An approval was needed to give a £50 donation to the British Legion and the Curdworth St. Nicholas Choir for singing at the Christmas Event. The Finance committee had provisionally booked a Precept meeting for the 19<sup>th</sup> January in the Office at 7pm, which would be posted up in the box. These items were approved and passed by the Full Council.

5.2 Events: Cllr T. Williams thanked everyone who helped with the Christmas event especially Faith Platt who worked her socks off. The minces pies that were left over (6 boxes) were donated to Jean Johnson at Seeds of Hope for her community Christmas Lunch on Christmas Day along with 35 Cadbury selection boxes. The rest of the Selection boxes were donated to The Father Hudson's Society to be distributed to the needy. A Richard Wallwork had contacted Cllr. Williams in connection with putting on Events. She would like him to come to one of the meetings. She would get more information as to who he represents and then invite him to one of the Events meetings.

5.3 Allotments: Cllr. Mulready reported he would like permission to get a quote for the corrugated sheeting to be fitted to the gates to help prevent leaves etc from coming in to the allotment area. Cllr. Brunger said he did not think this would help as leaves could blow over the top of the gates, and he thought the allotment holders should welcome the leaves. Cllr. T. Williams pointed out that it was not just leaves that were a nuisance it was also rubbish. The leaves and rubbish coming from under the gate were gathering onto the sloped drive way, making it slippery when wet. The holders are always trying to keep it clear as it is dangerous underfoot at times. It was decided that a quote should be presented. Cllr. Mulready mentioned the recent problems with the standpipes, leaks are occurring. Lagging is an issue. The recent leak was reported to Severn Trent. Mr. McCann who fitted the pipes some time ago was called in to fix them. Cllr. Mulready asked the Clerk to read a letter from Clive Birch representing the allotment tenants whose tenancy was not going to be renewed by the KPC. After the Clerk read out the letter, Cllr. Mulready stated some facts, the tenants had admitted taking property, the full council agreed to not renewing their tenancy and Mr. Birch says he wants to involve the press, he is welcome to do this. Cllr. Brunger began to question the Full Councils decision as to whether all councillors voted. Cllr. Mulready said it went with the majority. Cllr. Brunger wanted to know if the complaints procedure had took place. Cllr. Mulready replied that it did. Chair David Cole intervened and said the Council took the decision to expel the

tenants. Cllr. Brunger could not remember voting and said that the minutes do not say 'passed' or 'seconded' they just say a decision was made. Cllr. Mulready said that after a crime report number was received it went to the Full Council. He asked the Clerk to write again to the tenants and ask for the keys to be returned.

#### **6. Progress reports for information/action:**

6.1 The Pavilions. Chair David Cole had received correspondence from the Solicitor he had had a recent meeting with and said he would arrange for each member of the council to have a copy. It would then go on the agenda after each member has read the letter as to a way forward with the Pavilions.

#### **7. To receive reports from members representing KPC on outside bodies**

7.1 Airport Consultative Committee: Cllr. Mulready had nothing to report. There would be no new run way at the moment.

7.2 CARA: Chair D. Cole said the meeting of the 20<sup>th</sup> December was cancelled, so he had nothing to report.

7.3 WALC/SAC: No report owing to Cllr. A. Follows not present.

7.4 Sustain: No representative.

#### **8. Information items:** To receive and discuss items for information and comment/action if appropriate.

8.1 Correspondence and emails: The Clerk read out four letters relating to the allotments and a thank you letter. Letter one from Mr. Maurice Lander, letter two from Helen Pitt Letter three from Mrs. Stout letter four was from Cllr. Tina Williams, before the Clerk read the letter Cllr. T. Williams declared an interest and left the meeting. A Letter from Jean Johnson, thanking the council for their generous donation to their Christmas community Luncheon. See attached letters Chair D Cole said he would reply to them. Cllr. T. Williams was called back into the room.

8.2 Planning; One letter from Mr. Pittam North Solihull Partnership asking the KPC to adopt 6 parking bays built by Bellway Homes in the new Kingswood residential development. The Full Council made a unanimous decision not to adopt the parking bays. The Clerk would write a reply stating the decision of the full Council, that they do not want to take on the responsibility of the parking bays.

**9. Public Participation:** To adjourn to allow public participation for 15 minutes. Residents are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on issues On this agenda, or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Chairman. Members of the public may not take part in the Parish Council meeting itself.

Mr. John Kimberly of Meriden drive queried the Pavilions and was unclear as to what had been decided. Chair Cole said that legal advice had been sort after and there is a way forward and a decision will be made soon. His second point was one raised by Cllr. Robert hall with reference to the Enterprise refuse collections. He had been informed that agency staff had been laid off from work without pay in the very bad weather recently. He said this seemed an unwise decision as collections of refuse had not been done since before Christmas. Residents were unaware of when collections would be made and a method of communication should have been put into action. The agency workers could of delivered leaflets. Chair Cole said Solihull Council had taken decisions to only let the wagons go on the gritted roads, the Union had said it was too dangerous. Mr. Kimberly said this was not the point he was making he said he thought that it would have been sensible for Enterprise to usefully employ workers. He hoped it was not about saving money. Cllr. Hall assured

Mr. Kimberly that all workers would have paid and health and safety came first. Mr. Kimberly thought this was not correct and said not all the workers were paid and he certainly would not want people to be at risk. Enterprise would still receive the money, so Agency staff should be paid. Cllr. Brunger asked Cllr. Hall has not SMBC got a press officer to say what is happening. Cllr. Hall said they do not use methods like they do with the school closure as circumstances change constantly. Residents did phone in and listened to the messages. Cllr. Brunger said we should know when the refuse is being collected. Cllr. Hall replied people only had to look at the TV to see the problems with the gritting of the roads.

Mr. Hampton took the floor, he wanted to refer to the subject of the Fair that Cllr. Evans had put in her report to the Council. He asked for the KPC to give the residents full backing. Chair Cole said a letter will go out to say the KPC are against it. Mr. Hampton said he would be writing to MP Caroline Spelman. Cllr. Evans said Mr. Chris Barr assured her it would go to cabinet. Cllr. Mulready said lets vote to say we do not want it. A show of hands that all were in favour of writing letters to stop the fair from coming to Babbs Mill.

Suggestions of other organised events such as the KPC fun day should be considered said Mr. Hampton.

A Mr. Hatfield took the floor to say what he had witnessed when he went to the Fair ground. He had been told of discarded needles, blooded clothing anti social behaviour, disgusting smells and constant noise. He knew of one sensible mother who works for the NHS who took her child away within 5 minutes of arriving after witnessing drug addicts taking drugs. Another child found a needle on her way to church the following day.

It was established that other areas could be offered to the Fair.

## **10. Standing Orders**

All members received a copy of the Chairman's standing orders. Cllr. Brunger said we cannot adopt them until we have all read them. He pointed out there were still some items that needed to be added to them. For example the addition of keeping telephone calls to the clerk to a minimum. The Clerk asked Cllr. Brunger if he could offer any help with the preparing of the standing orders as she felt out of her depth with them. Cllr. Brunger may be able to offer help but has a lot of commitments at home at the moment. Chair Cole said he would help the Clerk.

**11. Grant Aid.** A meeting will be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> January after the Precept meeting.

**12. Precept Meeting:** A meeting will be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> January at 7 pm in the Office of the KPC

**13. Complaints Officer:** Cllr Mulready said he did not think we need one. Chair Cole said it should be an independent person. Cllr. Brunger said the complaints officer could be the Clerk the Chairman or a councillor. Cllr. Davis proposed that the Clerk become the Complaints Officer, Cllr. T. Williams seconded this and Chair Cole said the Clerk is now the Complaints Officer.

**14. SMBC Mr. Philip Lloyd-Williams Monitoring Officer:** a letter was received from Philip offering to come to one of the meetings. Clerk would send him our dates of future meetings.

## **15. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda:**

Councillors are requested to use this opportunity to report minor matters of information not included elsewhere on the agenda and to raise items for future Agendas. Councillors are respectfully reminded that this is not an opportunity for debate or decision making.

Cllr. Milne wanted a full review of the recent allotment matters. He requires all the facts and figures in date order.

**16. Date of next meeting:** To confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at The pavilions Sporting Club at 7.15 pm. Items for agenda to be in by Tuesday 2nd February 2010.

Meeting Closed at 8.50 pm

Signed ..... Date .....