



# Kingshurst Parish Council

C/o 92 Gilson Way, Kingshurst, Birmingham, B37 6JZ  
Tel: 07865 294 345 – Email: kingshurstparishcouncil@gmail.com  
www.kingshurstparishcouncil.org.uk  
Clerk to the Council: Denise Milne

**Minutes of the meeting of  
Kingshurst Parish Council Full Council  
held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 7pm  
at the Seeds of Hope, Overgreen Drive, Kingshurst, B37 6EY**

This meeting was held under strict Covid restrictions

**Council Members:** Cllrs D Cole (Vice Chair), L Cole, S Daly, A Follows (Chair), B Follows, M Frampton, J Kimberley, P Sultana, T Williams, D Woolley, M Dawson

**Council Members Present:** Cllrs D Cole (Vice Chair), L Cole, S Daly, A Follows (Chair), B Follows, M Frampton, J Kimberley, P Sultana, T Williams, D Woolley, M Dawson

**In Attendance:**

Two members of West Midlands Police  
Four members of the public  
Clerk

<u>Item</u>		<u>Action</u>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and Housekeeping:</b>	
1.1	Chair A Follows welcomed everyone to the meeting and pointed out the facilities	
<b>2.</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	
	Cllr J Hamilton, Cllr M Wilson	
<b>3.</b>	<b>Declarations of disclosable (pecuniary and other) interests:</b>	
	None received	
<b>4.</b>	<b>Dispensation requests:</b>	
	None received	
<b>5.</b>	<b>To Receive reports/proposals:</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	<b>Borough Councillors:</b>	
	Cllr D Cole	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Updated members on electrical charging points, SMBC has withdrawn funding offer as residents have more cars than the spaces that were to be provided.</li></ul>	

- Gilson Way and School Close on list to visit following road obstructions, yellow lines have been issued but obstructions still occurring. C French from WMP is aware of a large lorry that causes an obstruction and has already spoke to the resident. Major problems in Cooks Lane due to the volume of traffic and heavy goods vehicles using is as a short cut. Speed bumps have been removed but speeding is still a problem. Traffic officers are required.
- Accidents on Fordbridge Road/Cooks Lane due to no signage on mini roundabout, lots of near misses. To report to SMBC.
- Covid update increasing slowly, mobile/testing vans in Kingshurst and Chelmsley Wood

DC

#### Airport update

- At 3% capacity
- Using RAF to train air traffic controllers
- 43% of staff has been restructured out of the business
- 2-3 flights a day to green destinations
- Euro hub for red passengers – then to self-isolate at their own cost, 5 flights a day

5.2 Cllr T Williams arrived at meeting 19.28

#### **West Midlands Police**

Sergeant Dan Pugh introduced himself as the new Sergeant for Smiths Wood, Kingshurst and Castle Bromwich and gave us a review over the last months crime figures.

Total number of crimes = 126 offences of a wide variety.

Head line crimes:

Burglaries to dwellings 5

street robberies 3

low level properties, no injuries to robberies

Vehicle crime has risen, 5 thefts from vehicle thefts

Rise in assault crime, 15 harassment crimes

Handful of drug crimes and sexual offences

There has been a slight rise in ASB offences – usually on-going/historic cases 126 offences covers the whole of Kingshurst and Fordbridge. Sgt Pugh would address half of these crimes as he doesn't cover Fordbridge. He has 23 years experience. Has great support from staff such as Charlotte.

Advised members that the problems with off-road biking seems to have quietened down.

Members went through a few of the historical but recent problems that have taken place at Babbs Mill recently such as a jet-skier on the lake at Babbs Mill, religious festivals taking place at the lake and river, access points to gates allowing off-road bikers onto the fields, stolen metal chains to the swings, roundabout stolen. C French and D Pugh have advised that the need more intel as to where the off-road bikes are being stored and drones are in operation.

**6. Minutes**

6.1 To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021

That the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 be approved as a true record and accordingly be signed by Chair A Follows.

Cllr D Cole proposed to accept, Cllr A Follows seconded. All agreed.

**7. Remembrance Tree Bench**

7.1 Canvassing completed and no objections received by residents

7.2 Now looking at resin type bench

7.3 Possibility for a Contractor to install bench as a favour to us DC

7.4 Timeline of fitting bench – To be arranged (TBA)

7.5 To carry out an honest Risk Assessment when fitted and installed PS

7.6 Plaque wording has not yet been decided - TBA

7.7 Open day will depend upon when bench is purchased/installed - TBA

**8. Matters arising from the last meeting**

8.1 Quotes for fencing repairs to the Pavilions

One quote has been received, Clerk has requested this to be on their companies headed paper. Two more companies have been requested quotes. MF

8.2 Taps to Allotments

Two taps are now gushing out water. Ten taps need boxing in. Metal fabricator is required. MF

8.3 Allotments Committee

Sheila Daly has agreed to go back on to the Allotments Committee but as she is unable to see the numbers on the electronic lock she will need the lock changed. As we have 24 allotment holders they will all need a new lock. MF

8.4 Email Domains

Decision to keep as we are or to go with Walcs recommendation to change them to .org or to .gov. It is not a legal requirement. The previous acting clerk changed some members emails to one or the other. To contact Clerk with more information and bring to the next meeting. Clerk

8.5 Councillor Vacancy

The Notice expiry date was today, Clerk emailed Democratic Services to see if an Election is required. If not we can advertise the vacancy for co-option and invite any applicants to the next Council meeting in July. Clerk to monitor. Clerk

8.6 Fly Tipping

Cllr Sultana has advised council that some members of litter picking groups have sent letters to Cabinet Members and Council Members as it seems that SMBC are not investing in fly tipping enforcements.

Cllr Sultana updated members and the context of a letter regarding fly tipping has been agreed, Clerk to send to SMBC Councillors, Cllr Ken Hawkins, Cllr Ian Courts, Chelmsley Wood and Bickenhill Town Council's, Cheryl Buxton-Sait, Steve Caudwell & Martin McCarthy. Clerk

See Appendix A for a copy of the letter.

8.7 Jubilee Gardens

A group is currently involved with the running of the Jubilee Garden section of the allotment site, and we will look into arranging a non-binding agreement to allow them to do this for the next five years, so allowing the Council to resume the running of the Jubilee Gardens at any time if the Council so wishes. Cllr D Cole to discuss an arrangement with the Parish Council Solicitor, Richard Holt. DC

Cllr Frampton has requested a copy of KPC's Public Liability Insurance Policy.

It as been reported that the stingers are overgrowing. Clerk

8.8 School Milk

We fund school milk for the local Primary schools, but it was noticed the costs for the three schools during the coronavirus pandemic were very different. Whilst two had costs of approximately £250, the other school, Kingshurst, had costs of approximately £2500. We ask the Clerk to make enquiries to Kingshurst and ask for the relevant documentation for auditing purposes. Clerk

## 9. Finance

- 9.1 Payments for June 2021 approved
- 9.2 Reserves Policy  
To have a look at and bring back at the next meeting for approval.
- 9.3 Clerks pension approved. Cllr Follows proposed, to accept, Cllr Dawson seconded, all agreed

## 10. Progress reports for information/action and make decisions as appropriate

- 10.1 The Big Lunch  
Cllr Sultana advised members on the post lock down celebration now called the "Big Kingshurst Lunch 2021" to be held on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup> at Babbs Mill by the basket ball court or by the boat lake car park. He is hoping for an active, well being society to get involved with a free food van. We are have free shopping donations from Asda. Hire of an ice-cream van. Lawn games, team games, prizes, charity table and more.

We will need permission from SMBC when we have a provisional date.

**11. KPC Website Maintenance**

Former acting Clerk David Hinsley has approached us and has offered us his services to maintain and update our website for a nominal fee of £25.00 per hour. He believes it will take him no longer than an hour a month to maintain and will invoice us as he goes along. This will free up the time of the Clerk.

The Clerk has advised that she has the time to update the website but hasn't got the time to learn how to teach herself how to add new pages and images etc. as this is very time-consuming. Perhaps later on we could pay for David's services to train the Clerk to add new pages and images herself. Members discussed this and have agreed to have David's services for a period of six months and we will revise things then.

Cllr A Follow proposed to accept, Cllr D Cole seconded, all in favour.

**12. Councillors' reports and items for future agenda**

The KPC newsletter is ready to approve at the next meeting.

DC

Cllr Woolley would like to remind everyone that it was agreed in previous meetings that mobile phones should be turned off or on silent before the meeting begins. It was agreed that unless in emergency situations; for example for those with elderly relatives, a reminder will be given by the Chair on item 1. Welcome and Housekeeping section at future meetings.

AF

Cllr Woolley has noticed that Endeavour House staff are no longer parking on Babbs Mill car park, they seem to be parking in the Pavilions car park. Advised this may not be the case as Endeavour House staff hardly have any staff in as they are mostly working from home.

**13. Public Participation**

Member of the public has advised members that he has received online questionnaire training and would be happy to help with our online questionnaire when we have finalised capturing our questions from our councillors.

KPC/  
Clerk

Member of the public is concerned that two bollards have been removed from the pavements on Babbs Mill (near the car park) and cars can now drive onto the fields. To report to SMBC.

DC/  
Clerk

**Private and Confidential**

**14. Allotment – Tenancy Agreement**

A very long-standing allotment tenant has sadly passed away. Her husband and herself have held various allotment tenancies over 40 years as joint tenants. Her husband is in a nursing home and in 2020 Mrs was offered a different allotment and accepted it in her sole name. Now the allotment tenant has passed away her family member has made enquiries to see if she is able to take on the allotment; as her Father is still brought down to the allotment regularly to enjoy it.

Can we make an exception to the rules on this occasion?

Under the current rule it states that if the current tenant passes away and the lease had been paid for the current year then another person can work the plot until the end of the year, then the keys to the gate must be handed in.

After discussion Cllr D Cole has proposed that council revert to the rules since the beginning of the set up of the council as they are for the sake of the KPC residents, to keep it fair for everyone. Cllr A Follows seconded. All in favour.

Meeting closed at 21.07

Signed (Chair)

Date:

## Appendix A



# *Kingshurst Parish Council*

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Clerk to the Council: Denise Milne

To whom it may concern  
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

11<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Dear Councillor

### **Re: Concerns over fly tipping and littering in Solihull – lack of enforcement**

We feel we have to write following some considerable discussions and complaints from our Councillors and numerous members of public who have voiced the following concerns:

- SMBC's seemingly lax and ineffective approach to litter and fly tipping enforcement
- SMBC's failure to publicise or signpost warnings against such anti social behaviour
- SMBC's lack of publicity regarding successful prosecutions
- SMBC's apparent lack of appetite of following up on information provided to them by the public (failure to prosecute offenders caught on CCTV etc)
- SMBC's failure to contain littering (as evidenced by the necessary proliferation of the litter picking voluntary groups across Solihull)
- SMBC's poor visibility of Enforcement Officers, particularly that we never see or hear of Enforcement Officers, other than in Solihull Town Centre or Shirley Town Centres, never in North Solihull
- We have had many concerns referred to us of Solihull's lack of enforcement compared with Birmingham City Council, and particularly well-publicised actions proposed by BCC, which "leaves Solihull at a great risk of fly tipping taking the easiest route", i.e. being dumped in the North Solihull areas bordered by Birmingham.

We do understand that resources are finite but feel that SMBC are failing on some fundamental service deliveries here, and that any additional expense invested in these areas could well be recouped by developing better behaviours by its residents.

In the spirit of trying to find solutions, rather than just relay the complaints, we would like to help, by proposing the following:

- A concerted multi-media campaign against litter and fly tipping
- A far greater enforcement message (signage, threats of naming and shaming, visibility of Enforcement Officers)
- Publicity campaigning/naming and shaming of successful prosecutions, not just large fly-tippers, but of “Joe public” offenders, to act as a deterrent
- Less reliance of volunteers to clean the streets – (maybe closer scrutiny of Amey contract performance? Engage better with volunteer groups, find out which areas they need an increased SMBC/Amey service?)
- Employ more Enforcement Officers (not just part-time in the City Centre) NB: BCC employing 110 EEO’s – how many does SMBC have?)
- An immediate public response similar to those of BCC to send a clear anti-littering/fly tipping message and threatening of robust actions against all offenders, and that SMBC is not a “soft touch” for fly tippers
- Maybe introduce a series of “skip days” or “roadside collections” of household items perhaps in areas designated as regular “hot spots” where those of low income can get free collections? This is particularly recommended whilst it is difficult to access Bickenhill Tip/Recycling Centre and in areas where vehicle ownership is not accessible.

As always Kingshurst Parish Council would be more than happy to work with SMBC in order to address some of these failings and to bring about solutions. We would welcome further dialogue and look forward to your thoughts and comments on each of the issues and solutions put forward.

We thank you in anticipation.

Yours sincerely



Denise Milne (Clerk to Kingshurst Parish Council)  
On behalf of Kingshurst Parish Council Members