



Kingshurst Parish Council

18 The Parade, Kingshurst Shopping Centre,
Birmingham, B37 6BA

☎ 0121 770 3017 - FAX: 0121 779 7948

Clerk to the Council: Joanne Aske kingshurstpc@btconnect.com

Minutes of Kingshurst Parish Council Full Council Meeting held on the 14th February, 2012 In The Pavilions Sporting Club, Meriden Drive, Kingshurst.

Cllrs. present: Chair - D. Cole
D. Davis
T. Williams
J. Milne
P. Whyte
M. Dawson
A. Follows
B. Follows
B. Mulready
R. Webber

In Attendance : B. Cllrs. A. Nash, D. Evans, I. Courts and Ms. J. Aske (Clerk)
Members of the Public: about 60 to 70 members of the public attended.

Owing to the amount of public the Agenda items were discussed out of sequence.

1. Apologies: Cllr. E. Muluka – working away, D. Woolley – ill.

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

Personal interest:

Events: Cllrs. D. Davis, T. Williams associated with companies that supply a service for the Events that are organised.

Vice Chair B. Mulready - Allotment Holder and A member of the Pavilions Bowling Club.

3. Minutes: To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on the 10th January 2012 Minutes approved and signed.

11. Planning: To consider and comment and take action if appropriate on any planning that is being proposed for the future:

11.1 214 Cooks Lane: it has been proposed that 8 bungalows are being planned for the site.

11.2 Babbs Mill: Chair asked Cllr. Ian Courts to address the members of the public. Cllr. Courts took the floor and began to explain that the proposed site to build 200 homes is part of SMBC Urban development Plan. The Council he said had approved the local plan in December and now it is available for public representation. He would welcome the feedback. The Council need to build new and better housing in the local area. At this point members of the public wanted answers to their questions. A member of the public residing in Cooks Lane wanted to know why would they propose to build homes on a nature reserve. Kingshurst has next no green belt left. She pointed out there are derelict homes in Kingshurst that could be re-developed.

Other members of the public said of where empty properties and an old petrol station have been left to fall down, making the area an eyesore and not pleasant for those living close to.

Cllr. Courts said if there were alternative sites to send them in to the Council and they will be looked at. The River Cole was mentioned and Cllr. Courts said they could improve the Field and the Brook with funding.

A member of the Public spoke out to say you will be destroying it not improving it. The River is natural and if it floods the field it is all part of it being a nature reserve.

Another member of the public asked why would the Council want to deprive the residents of the only recreational area they have in this highly deprived area. Where in Solihull there are figures to prove that the residents live longer where they have green space and recreational facilities. The same gentlemen referred to the 76 page document produced by the council for the proposals and referred to the number of dwellings that have been proposed on the sites per hectare. He said it reads that 45 homes per hectare will be build in Kingshurst where as on 20 in other areas.

Cllr. Courts response to this was that the area needs affordable housing and there are not enough sites.

A Member of the Public commented to knock the Mountford Pub down and build on that site. Other members said again about sites that have become derelict and need refurbishing.

Cllr. Courts replied that it is usually too expensive to refurbish and better to knock the old down to build the new.

Flooding of the River Cole was mentioned and that some residents cannot get insurance because of the nature of the river.

Cllr. B. Follows asked why if it had been a potential planning site for new homes 2 or 3 years ago why had we not been informed before now. It had been a nature reserve for many years. She went on to say that in her opinion the Council were trying to keep Kingshurst residents down by making the area even more densely populated where in Solihull itself they built big executive homes.

Cllr. Courts said he disagreed with Cllr. B. Follows. He said it was about indicative sites and affordable housing. He apologised for being overzealous in the way he came across with his mannerisms.

A member of the public shouted 'Change your plans right now'. This was the general feeling within the room. Cllr. Courts told the residents to write in an object to the proposals.

Members of the public were listing the problems referring to school places, parking and the general infrastructure of having another two hundred families in the area.

Chair Cole said the Kingshurst Parish Council will be objecting to the proposal and if necessary have another meeting with the residents. Parish Cllr. John Milne mentioned that the Council website identifies areas referring to the development plans and should be kept an eye on.

B. Cllr. D. Evans said in the proposal there are 24 sites and only 8 are in the north.

Chair Cole said that the Field and the nature reserve need to be preserved. Yardley's previous sewage works is up for redevelopment and will encroach on our boarder. B. Cllr. Evans said Birmingham will be developing Mill Cottage which also comes up to our boundary.

Cllr. T. Williams told B. Cllr. Courts that a similar situation occurred in Smiths Wood and the residents objected. Two schools were put into one and then when all the homes were built the children had to be educated elsewhere. She said there doesn't seem to be any forward thinking.

Cllr. Courts said again to make all the objections known by writing into the Council and he mentioned the Chief Executive Mark Rogers.

More members of the public said they feel very angry and upset and most felt the proposals are being railroaded through without consideration. Some did not use the internet to find out future plans and one member of the public said why didn't the information come with the Council tax bill.

Cllr. Courts said residents should object within six weeks to the proposals.

Chair thanked Councillor Courts and he sat down.

Chair asked B. Cllr. Nash to take the floor.

He addressed the members of the public and began to tell the residents that instead of improvements in housing the government wanted to step backwards and build back to back houses with no gardens. He said that Cllr. Courts had neglected to say that the residents have only to the 5th March to put in their objections to the proposals. He went on to say that in privileged areas they gardens to sell off and build on. Here in Kingshurst he went on are boarded up homes purchased by Regen and left empty. He urged the residents the write letters regarding schools parking and the problems already with Cooks Lane. He said not a lot of thought has gone into this proposals. He urged the Parish Council to put a very strong letter together. The residents clapped as this point. Some comments were made by members of the public regarding the way they will vote in the future. Chair advised the room not to make the discussions political.

Cllr. Debbie Evans then took the floor. She wanted to say that the residents of Kingshurst had petition in the past and been successful. She mentioned the 214 Cooks Lane planning and said it would now be 8 bungalows for the over 55's so will not have an impact on schools and road traffic.

She said that Regen had got a lot to answer for as homes have been demolished and not been replaced. The fact is there is a shortage of homes, and Ian Cox has not got the answers.

Resident L. Brunger asked to speak and mentioned the amount of empty homes that the Council paid for residents to leave and have not re-developed. He had used the Freedom of Information to obtain figures and he said the Council lost £772,386 up to 7th April last year. He had researched more figures of the Council payments to each resident they moved out. He had figures of 50 flat and 12 maisonettes that were empty.

Members of the public were over speaking each other but one did ask the Chair if the Kingshurst Parish Council is going to back them. The Chair David Cole asked the Parish Councillors to take a vote that we object to any proposals to build on Babbs Mill. All present agreed.

Chair Cole looked at the time (8.30pm) he thanked the members of the public and the borough Councillors. Chair Cole said that other agenda items were now to take place. The residents and the

Borough Councillors all left the meeting at this point. The Cllrs. had a short break and then came back to the table.

At this point the Clerk notices that Cllr. R. Webber was absent.

11.3 Parking in Cooks Lane- Deferred.

4. To receive reports from Borough Councillors: Part of the above minutes.

5. Finance: To receive and approve reports from KPC Finance Committee and make decisions as appropriate.

5.1 Finance: All payments were approved by Council. RFO had sent in a short report as he was on holiday. A payment may go out for the WALC work shop depending who will attend. This was proposed and agreed that it would be no more than £350. Chair of Finance also mentioned that next month Cllr. Dawson would like to come on to the Finance committee.

5.2 Letter from Alison O'Connell requesting a donation of funds to the Pavilions Sporting Club to help secure a Grant from outside bodies. DEFFERED

5.3 Christmas Tree expenditure: JM - DEFFERED

5.4 WALC Workshop - Cllrs who wish to attend Cllr. would let the Clerk know as soon as possible.

5.5 A Cllr. to be elected to take on doing a bank reconciliation each month as well as the RFO. As advised by WALC to avoid fraud occurring. DEFFERED

5.6 CCTV monitor in Office may need replacing. DEFFERED

6. Events: To receive and approve reports from KPC Events Committee and make decisions as appropriate. Chair of Events John Milne asked the Council to take a vote on ordering 250 commemorative coins for the children at the Queen's Diamond Fun Day. Yes they all agreed to purchase 250 medals at a cost of 98p each. Clerk would order the medal/coins. It was also agreed that the Tuesday evening meetings would start at 6.30pm in the office then the Allotment meeting after at 7pm.

7. Allotments: To receive and approve reports from KPC Allotments Committee and make decisions as appropriate.

7.1 To also include discussion of Yorkswold Allotments and registry update. DEFFERED

8. Progress reports for information/action and make decisions as appropriate:

8.1 Pavilions: Update on extraordinary meeting regarding tenants. DEFFERED

8.2 School Plaques.AF- DEFFERED

8.3 Localism Bill.AF - DEFFERED

8.4 Youth Council - DEFFERED

8.5 Freedom of Information Act and Data Protection Policy: Website and antivirus software. AF - DEFFERED

9. To receive reports from members representing KPC on outside bodies

9.1 Airport Consultative Committee - DEFFERED

9.2 CARA - DEFFERED

9.3 WALC/SAC- DEFFERED

9.4 School Governors Reports - DEFFERED

10. Planning: To consider and comment on any planning applications Received: None received.

11. Planning: To consider and comment and take action if appropriate on any planning that is being proposed for the future:

- 11.1 214 Cooks Lane. See above minutes
- 11.2 Babbs Mill – see above minutes
- 11.3 Parking in Cooks Lane - DEFFERED

12. Information items: To receive and discuss items for information and comment/action if appropriate.

- 12.1 Correspondence and emails: - DEFFERED
- 12.2 Information concerning the Parish Council is to go through the Clerk: Cllr. DD. A recent example of the Clerk not being informed on important meetings taking place has caused concern with parish Councillors and residents. - DEFFERED
- 12.3 Parade Competition. Recent information from Housing Minister Grant Shapps. - DEFFERED
- 12.4 John Gallagher Special Needs football teams: BM
- 12.5 HGV Lorries: DC - DEFFERED
- 12.6 Busses: DC - DEFFERED

13. 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.

Please see above minutes.

14. 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. Nothing added.

15. Date of next meeting: To confirm the date of the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday March 13th 2012 at The Pavilions Sporting Club, Meriden Drive, Kingshurst at 7.00 pm. Items for agenda to be in by Tuesday 6th March 2012

Meeting closed at 8.35 pm

Signed Date