

KINGSNORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 17th January, 2008, at Kingsnorth Sports Pavilion

PRESENT: Mr. T. Horsman (Chairman); Mrs. A. Hicks; Mr. R. Gardner; Mrs. L. Ross;
Mr. N. Shorter; Mr. M. Ciccone; Mr. S. Bates; Mr. J. Holland; Mr. J. Wedgbury.
Also present: Cllr. P. Bartlett (for part of meeting).

1. **Apologies** Mr. J. Sheehan (unwell); Cllr. P. Davison; Cllr. Mrs. T. Heyes; Cllr. Angell; Mr. D. Bacon. Mr. Bates and Cllr. Bartlett apologised for arriving late.
2. **Open Forum** There were no parishioners present.
3. **Minutes of the last meeting** JH asked that in the list of those present at the meeting, no distinction should be made for B.Cllrs. who were also Parish Cllrs. Others attending should be listed as also present. This was agreed. It was proposed by AH, seconded by MC and agreed that the minutes of the November 29th meeting should be accepted.
4. **Matters arising**
 - (a) Bell Chapel Close pond On 10.1. Mr. Fry e-mailed that work to Bell Chapel pond was to be completed soon. Biffa were unable to clear the waste from part of the Entrance Park Pond as health and safety regulations prevented them from operating on the water. Mr. Fry still hoped to get the Probation Service to clear both ponds by boat at some stage. RG had reported that several newly-planted trees had been blown over at an angle. ABC will get the contractor to stake these.
 - (b) Toucan crossing, Romney Marsh Rd Highways had confirmed that the Engineer is going to look at the possibility of erecting another barrier at this location to stop children crossing near the roundabout.
 - (c) Mains burst RG had received apologetic responses from the Managing Director of Mid Kent Water to his personal complaint about the performance of the call centre and availability of bottled water.
 - (d) Stubbs Cross bus shelter A quotation had been received for painting this. It was agreed to consider it at the next meeting.
5. **Correspondence**
 - (a) PACT meeting The next meeting is on Wed. 6th Feb in the Pavilion at 7 p.m.
 - (b) Goal post grant The Clerk had heard unofficially through one of the Clubs that the PC will be awarded a grant to finance half the cost of new steel fixed goalposts. However, she was still awaiting notification from the Football Foundation and had e-mailed them to ask about this.
 - (c) Charlton Athletic Community Scheme Solutions Mr. Dennington, CA's Kent Social Inclusion Manager, had written to say that their team of coaches run estate-based, evening team-coaching football sessions. "These sessions are designed to engage young people and are proven to be a great opportunity for our coaches and local youth workers and wardens to develop relationships with young people over the relaxed and fun atmosphere of a football session. The programme also offers a variety of alternative activities and sports such as Street Dance, Boxing Training, Self Defence, Angling and Cricket... The Estates programme shows a decrease in anti-social behaviour and a reduction in youth crime... The programme is a multi-agency approach with Charlton

Athletic at the front with a support network of Kent Police, Kent Fire & Rescue, KCC and the Football Foundation.” He asked whether he could come and discuss with the PC how the parish could benefit from this programme in the future. It was agreed to invite him to attend one of the February meetings.

- (d) Victim Support Kent had made their annual request for a donation. The PC had contributed in previous years. It was agreed to put this on the next agenda.
- (e) Kent Air Ambulance An application had been received from the Kent Air Ambulance Trust for a contribution to their work. This would also be considered at the next meeting.
- (f) Lord Lieutenant’s Civic Service The Lord Lieutenant will be holding his annual Civic Service at Canterbury Cathedral on 4.3. This is to celebrate the contribution made by local authority Mayors, Chairman, etc. during the civic year and to acknowledge the hard work carried out by Parish Councils. TH agreed to attend.
- (g) Planning Info. Day KALC had sent information by e-mail about the Planning Information Day on 15.3. NS would like to attend. The Clerk would make a provisional booking pending further information and confirmation from NS that he was able to go.
- (h) Also received: Info. on Great Chart Youth Club; KAPC Ashford Area Committee minutes of 28.11 (copy enclosed); South East Water Resources Update; Swift Security Nov mobile patrol reports & calendar; ABC consultation on Draft Housing Strategy; ABC Standards Committee minutes of meeting on 4.12; ABC Housing News; Ashford & Shepway Kent Youth Service Newsletter; CPRE report ‘Greater Ashford: a vision in peril’ (circulating); CPRE Fieldwork; notes of North Weald Police Parish Forum meeting of 12.12 (next meeting 26.3); Local Council Review Jan. 08; KAPC Parish News no 329; Groundwork News; Xmas card from Kent Police; KCC ‘Love Food Hate Waste’ campaign; calendar from Swift Security; Clerks & Councils Direct; Bulletin of the English Rural Housing Association; ACRK Oast to Coast; Communities & Local Govt Consultation on Orders & Regulations relating to the Conduct of Local Authority members in England.

6. **Finance** (a) to approve payments and accounts since the last meeting:

1463	Mr. G. Blackmer, Nov. salary & reimburse for 50kg salt for softener	333.92
1464	Gibbs & Son. Mowing of football pitch (VAT £1.75)	11.75
1465	Ashford Borough Council, 2 nd qtr. Rec. Centre subsidy	5768.08*
1466	D.R. Thompson, install bench, purchase/install railings (VAT £90.82)	609.78
1467	Chart Glass, repair Park Farm notice board (VAT £13.65)	91.65
1468	Weald NHW Assoc. 3 signs for Constantine Rd. neighbourhood watch	45.00
1469	Kingsnorth PCC, churchyard maintenance grant Oct 06-July 07	660.50
1470	Weald NHW Assoc. 2 signs for Caesar Rd. neighbourhood watch	30.00
1471	Gibbs & Son, mowing football pitch (unscheduled) (VAT £7.00)	47.00
1472	Mr. P. Cleave, salary from 17.11. – 14.12.	359.61
1473	Mr. G. Blackmer, December salary	318.27
1474	BT Payment Services, line for pavilion alarm	55.92
1475	British Gas, supply to pavilion 13.9. – 9.11.	52.83
1476	Mr. W. Hollands, cutting vegetation behind Stubbs X bus shelter	30.00
1477	Mr. P. Cleave, salary from 15.12. – 11.1.	359.61
1478	Siemens Financial Services Ltd., qtr’s rental for copier (VAT £29.66)	199.20
1479	HSBC Invoice Finance, Swift patrols for Dec.	329.59
		<u>9,302.71</u>

*inc. VAT which was claimed back last year.

Receipts

ABC, street cleansing grant for 2007/8	1,696.00
Lloyds TSB, interest on 30 day a/c Sept. – Nov.	476.65
Bank of Ireland, interest for Oct. & Nov.	<u>626.36</u>
	2,799.01

Transfers

29.11. From 30D to Treasurer's account	7,000.00
4.1.08 " " " " "	1,000.00

Reconciliation of bank balances with receipts and payments accounts – 1.4.07 to 11.1.08

Lloyds TSB Treasurer's account at 31.12.07	669.24
Lloyds TSB 30 day account at 31.12.07	54,809.74
Bank of Ireland account at 31.12.07	<u>71,859.49</u>
	127,338.47
Less uncleared cheques nos.1470, 1472, 1476-9	<u>-1,308.01</u>
Balance at 11.1.08	126,030.46
Add expenditure 1.4.07 – 11.1.08	<u>57,376.24</u>
	<u>183,406.70</u>

Balance brought forward from 2006-2007	106,938.21
Add income 1.4.07 – 11.1.08	<u>76,468.49</u>
	<u>183,406.70</u>

It was proposed by RG, seconded by NS and agreed that the above accounts should be accepted.

Forthcoming commitments

Mr. G. Blackmer, Jan. salary	318.27
Miss J. Mills, salary from Oct-Dec, tel. allow, petty cash reimbursed, travel	1,544.96
Mr. P. Cleave, salary from 12.1. – 8.2.	359.11
ABC, Rec. Centre subsidy Oct - Dec. (VAT £859.08 already claimed)	5,768.08
ABC, ID badges	40.00
HSBC (Swift Security), security patrols for Jan.	239.70
Trans-Fire Protection, annual check pavilion extinguishers	94.06
Kingsnorth PCC, grant towards copying cost of Parish Magazine	500.00
CJA Consulting, website hosting, search engine sub; stats. (VAT £26.25)	176.25
KRNM (Adscene), advert for Parish Clerk (VAT £48.41)	325.01

Income expected

HM Revenue & Customs, VAT reimbursement	1,052.62
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- (b) To consider the revised Financial Business Plan for the Recreation Centre for 2008/9 and review the subsidy required from the Parish AH reported that TH, RG, NS and herself had attended a meeting of the Rec. Centre Trustees on 15.1. The PC members were there as observers but were drawn into the discussion. Mrs. Fuller of ABC and Mrs. Wood and Mrs. Collard-Woolmer of Ashford Leisure Trust had also attended. The outcome was that the Trustees would be meeting to draft a letter to ABC explaining why they do not wish the sd.106 sum of £40,000 to be used for asset management at the Centre. A further sum of £50,000 will become available in due course as part of the s.106 agreement for Park Farm South and East. The Trustees wish to use the combined sum of £90,000 to fund an extension to the Centre.

MC, who had been at the meeting as a Trustee and declared a personal interest, explained that ALT will not sign any new agreement under the current lease as they would not have the funds to replace major items such as the boiler. The Trustees were in the same position and therefore wished to start the process of re-negotiating a non-repairing/replacement lease with ABC. ABC wanted the Trustees to use the £40,000 for new equipment, but the Trustees saw this as a short-term solution which would not increase the income stream. The Centre needed to generate sufficient additional revenue in the next few years to break even or make a profit so that ABC and the PC no longer needed to give an annual subsidy. Buying new equipment now would not create additional revenue and in 4 years time, it would be worn out. MC said that Mrs. Wood would be discussing further possibilities for joint development of nursery facilities with Little Acorns. He hoped that the Executive Committee meeting on 7.2. would give an informal agreement to go ahead with a non-repairing/replacement lease. He felt that ABC should be more flexible for another year while the possibilities for an extension of the building and opportunities for development were considered.

The PC had agreed to an increase in the amount requested by ALT to £16,000 in order that some equipment could be leased next year provided ABC gave the same amount. However, it was not known at this stage whether ABC would agree to give the additional amount for this purpose.

AH felt that the PC should write to ABC backing the Trustees and requesting that the £40,000 be paid over to it so that interest could be accrued on the sum. Also that the PC should also ask ABC to renegotiate to a non-repairing/replacement lease. JH felt that a request should be made to put the matter before one of the ABC PAG committees. However, it was felt that as Custodian Trustees, the PC should leave negotiations to the Trustees and not comment directly to ABC at present. The letter which was to be drafted by the Trustees on 18.1. should be sent to ABC first without any comments from the PC, at least during this preliminary stage of the negotiations.

NS requested that ABC Cllrs. at the PC meeting should recognise and explain to ABC why the Trustees do not want to spend the £40,000 on short-term maintenance and running costs but rather want to achieve long-term sustainability for the Recreation Centre so that there would be no call on ABC or the PC for funding in a few years time.

RG asked whether there was time to answer Mrs. Wood's concerns before the new financial year commenced. MC said that Mrs. Fuller had asked the Trustees to write a letter with their views to Mr. Carty before anything could be taken further in a meeting with ABC. The PC's offer of £16,000 for next year, allowing a contingency for equipment leasing over and above the £12,875 requested, was still on the table. Mrs. Wood thought that the current equipment would last a while longer. She would be getting an expert from ABC to look at the boiler to assess its condition. The Trustees would come back to the PC for help with the negotiations if necessary. It was agreed that the PC would discuss the matter further at the mid-February meeting when the outcome of the Executive Meeting was known.

- (c) Request for donation from Kingsnorth School NS and AH declared a personal interest in this item as they are both Governors of the School. The Head Teacher had written to ask if the PC would consider donating £500 towards the purchase of an additional 'gazova' to create more areas of shade and seating accommodation in the playground. There were sufficient funds left in the s.137 budget for 2007/8 to make this donation. The School had not been given a donation by the PC since the 2005/6 financial year. It was proposed by JH, seconded by MC and agreed that the Council in accordance with its powers under

sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should donate £500 to Kingsnorth CE Primary School to purchase a 'gazova' as, in the opinion of the Council, this is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure.

7. **Recreational matters**

- (a) To report on progress with proposed new playing field/football pitch There was no progress to report. The Clerk had contacted Legal Services to ask them to proceed with the preliminary matters concerning the lease. Mrs. Jones said that she would speak to Property Services about this. The Clerk was asked to write to Mrs. Fuller to ask if she could expedite the matter.

8. **Planning matters**

- (a) To report any applications dealt with under delegated powers
- Lydd Airport* Further information on application for construction of 294m runway & additional 150m starter extension. (NC)
- 45 Tally Ho Rd. (St.X)* Erect a wind-save micro-turbine on gable end. (S)
- 7 Hawthorn Rd (PFS)* PVCu conservatory to rear. (S)
- 60 Lucilla Ave (WkF)* T1 oak. 25-30% reduction, crown pruning, general thinning & deadwood removal. (Support Tree Officer's recommendations) Application now granted.
- 7 Hadrian Gds (WkF)* Conversion of integral garage to habitable room & rear conservatory. (S provided an extra parking space is provided on site to compensate for the loss of garage space.)
- Cranbrook Rd to Stubbs Cross* Installation of new potable water main pipeline (subject to Environmental Impact Assessment) (NC)
- (b) To consider any new applications
- Unit 2, Travel Care, Moatfield Meadow (PFN)* Three vinyl window graphics. (S)
- 25 Vespasian Way (WkF)* Loft conversion with dormer to rear. (S)
- 40 Shipley Mill Close (PFN)* Two-storey side extension (S as long as not taking light from adjacent property.)
- Houghton Farm House, Magpie Hall Rd. (StX)* Two-storey rear extension + Listed Building application for extension & internal alterations (S)
- Land at Park Farm East* Layout, access, scale, landscaping & appearance of Phase 2 of development at Park Farm East for the first 202 dwellings inc. affordable & mixed-used units. (Queried who will be responsible for landscaping after Developer's responsibility ends.)
- Land south of Park Farm East* Outline planning application for mixed-use development for a maximum of 500 house, site for a primary school, community & recreational centre, retail & commercial unit, associated public open space, landscaping & access improvements. The applicants have appealed and have asked for a public enquiry. (O, land not included in the LDF Core Strategy; premature; CS states no further development in Kingsnorth before 2021; Inspector has not yet decided whether the CS is sound)
- (c) To report decisions on applications by ABC received since the meeting on 29.11:
- Granted
- Humberland, Cheesemans Green Lane* Two storey side extension inc. 1 front dormer window & single-storey rear extension. (O, house extension to boundary; no rear access)
- Tesco Stores Ltd* Temporary storage marquee (S)

Long Barn, Ashford Rd. Replacement dwelling, annexe & double garage with secure store. (PC queried siting with regard to privacy of neighbours)
60 Lucilla Ave. Erection of a single-storey rear extension. (S)
32 Langney Drive Erection of 1.8m shiplap fence to boundary (retrospective) (S)
37 Brisley Court PVCU conservatory to side of property (S)
10 Penn Hill Single-storey side & rear extension (S)

Withdrawn at applicant's request

40 Shipley Mill Close Two-storey side extension. (S) (Now re-submitted)
65 Tally Ho Rd. Raising roof height to enlarge loft conversion together with the enlargement of 3 existing dormers to the front and one to the rear, insertion of 2 new dormers to the rear & increased pitch to existing porch.

Result of appeal

Hedge End, Stumble Lane First-floor extension to form a two-storey dwelling. (S)
 Appeal allowed.

- (d) To report on LDF Core Strategy Independent Examination The Inspector has sent out a Note dated 7.1. with further queries for ABC on the adequacy and location of employment land, transportation matters, and rural areas. The Inspector is not inviting comments at this stage from anyone other than ABC but everyone will have a chance to comment on ABC's response. The Inspector does not envisage there being any further hearing sessions, but will review his position on this matter when he has received ABC's response and written submissions by other parties on this.

9. **Highway and footpath matters**

- (a) Delays to Park Farm South & East Traffic calming scheme

A reply dated 21.12. had been received from Mr. Behdad Haratbar, Acting Divisional Manager of Kent Highway Services on behalf of Cllr. Ferrin responding to the letter approved at the last PC meeting asking for details of a committed start date for the traffic calming installation by 15.1. He said that: "Given the importance of the above scheme to the local community we wanted to deliver it at the earliest opportunity. However, we have had a significant number of priority schemes developed to reduce existing crash injury problems and it is important that we address these first. It has not been possible to deliver these as well as your traffic calming scheme as we had hoped. This is regrettable and I am sorry about the concern this has caused.

I know that Alun Jones, Programme Delivery manager for Mid Kent Division, wrote to you on 5 December informing you of the delay and that the works would be done in the next (2008/09) financial year. The programme for the next financial year is currently being developed and I have asked Alun to consider whether it would be possible to start the scheme early in the next financial year. Alun will contact you when sufficient progress has been made to give you an update. Alun can be contacted on 01622 798306 or alun.jones@kent.gov.uk."

Damian Green MP acknowledged the copy of the PC's letter on 13.12. and asked to be kept in touch with the progress of our dispute with KCC.

RG proposed that the lack of a planned timetable at this time is unacceptable nor is it acceptable to tell mothers running their children across Bluebell Rd. every morning that they "must be patient". In view of this RG had drafted a letter to be sent to Mr. Jones. This had been circulated to Cllrs. prior to the meeting. It was unanimously agreed that

the letter should be sent to Mr. Jones and copies sent to all on the original distribution list together with a copy of Mr. Haratbar's letter. MC proposed that a letter also be sent to Mr. Paul Carter, Chief Executive of KCC, drawing his attention to this unacceptable situation, expressing disappointment in the service from Highways, and saying that if KCC had insufficient Highway staff at present to fulfil its obligations that they should sub-contract the work. This was agreed as also was JH's suggestion that a copy should be sent to Cllr. Burgess, Chairman of the Joint Transport Board

- (b) Other highway matters JW reported that there was an adverse camber problem which was resulting in water running-off into Shipley Mill Close. This would be reported to Highways. The culverts in Park Wood were flooding onto the road and into Reid Crescent. JW and ABC had contacted Persimmon about this.
10. **County Councillor's report** Cllr. Angell was unable to attend.
11. **Borough Councillors' reports**
- (a) Weald East Cllr. Bartlett gave a report concerning progress, or the lack of it, in the LDF Core Strategy Inspector's Enquiry and on the appeal by the applicants of a proposed development at Park Farm South East.
 - (b) Weald South AH reported on her visit to the Contact Centre to see how the town's security camera surveillance is carried out. AH was trying to make some progress on managing the open land over the Roman site at Westhawk Farm.
 - (c) Park Farm North No report.
 - (d) Park Farm South JW reported that the allocation from the Govt. to Ashford for concessionary fares would not be sufficient to cover these and the difference would have to be paid out of the community charge which was unfair for those who were unable to access a bus service in their area. JW mentioned Local Area Agreements where the Govt was expecting PCs to take on more powers, which would be beyond the ability of most of them.
 - (e) Washford Farm JH gave a report on outstanding problems on Brisley Farm. He had spoken to Mr. Carty about the need for a MUGA at the Kingsnorth village side of the parish and he had agreed to review the situation.

NS queried whether ABC provided residents with sandbags when they were threatened with flooding. One resident had requested them recently and had been refused. JH agreed to make enquiries about this.

12. **Reports**

- (a) Kingsnorth Recreation Centre Management Committee Nothing further to report.
- (b) Kingsnorth Village Hall Committee Nothing to report.
- (c) Kingsnorth School Governors' Meeting AH reported that as from 7.12. she is a governor appointed by KCC. She thought that the School will now appoint a new community governor. There had been no recent Governors' meeting. Someone had asked if they could distribute catalogues to parents from the playing field. Cllrs. did not agree to this.

- (d) Furley Park School Governors' Meeting There had been no recent meeting but TH reported that the School was in the top 10 in the country for its SATS results.
- (e) Police Parish Forum meeting of 12.12. LR attended. The notes had been circulated. RG commented on the high crime numbers for Kingsnorth. This was due mainly to problems experienced at Tescos. It was agreed that this was damaging to the image of the parish and that the Police should be asked to separate the Tesco-related figures from those for the rest of the Kingsnorth so that a realistic comparison could be made with other parishes. It was agreed that this should also be raised at the next PACT meeting.

13. **Dates of meetings in 2008**

January 17th; January 31st; February 14th; February 28th; March 13th; March 27th; April 10th; April 24th; May 15th; May 29th; June 12th; June 26th; July 17th; July 31st; September 11th; September 25th; October 16th; October 30th; November 13th; November 27th. JH proposed that there should be one meeting in December. This was agreed and would be on the 11th.

The Clerk had suggested that as there are now two meetings a month, the Annual Parish Meeting should take place on the same evening as the mid-May meeting instead of having 3 meetings in May. This was agreed but B.Cllrs. were ask to check whether they had any conflicting Borough meetings on this date. It was also agreed that the Budget/Precept meeting should be on the same night as the mid-November meeting. Any adjustments or changes suggested could then be approved at the meeting on 27th November.

14. **Village responsibilities**

- (a) Chicane near Finn Farm NS reported that as there is no lighting yet near the new chicane, it was impossible to see the posts at night when a car was coming in the other direction. The Clerk would report this to Highways.
- (b) Tree for Village Sign Green Mr. Sam Jarvis wished to discuss the location for the oak tree. It was agreed to delegate NS to speak to him about this.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

Chairman