

KC Minutes 2012-01-23 nc

Minutes of the meeting of the Village Council of Kings Clipstone held in the Community Room, Sherwood Forest Holiday Park, Gorsethorpe Lane, Kings Clipstone, Nottinghamshire, on **Monday 23rd January 2012**. The meeting commenced at 7.02pm.

Present:

Cllr. M Bradley (Chair of the Village Council) Cllr. J Govan Cllr. J Harbottle Cllr D Maguire
Cllr. S Parkhouse Cllr. M Rowe Cllr. J Smyth

Also Attending

County Cllr. Les Ward District Cllr Sheila Soar
Mr. M Plumb (Acting Clerk to the Council) Four members of the public

89/11 **Apologies for absence** All Councillors being present, no apologies for absence were received.

90/11 **Declaration of interest** No declarations of interest were made by attending Councillors in respect of items of business specified in the agenda notice for this meeting.

The Acting Clerk declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 17 (appointment of permanent Clerk/RFO), because he was a candidate for this position. He would vacate the meeting whilst this item of business was transacted and Cllr M Bradley would record any resolutions passed.

91/11 **Minutes a) Village Council Meeting 28th November 2011**

After a full discussion, the following amendments, put forward by Cllr M Bradley and Cllr J Harbottle were **agreed**.

Minute 73/11 (a) (referring to minute 58/11(c)). Delete (c) replace with (d)

Minute 73/11 2nd bullet point, 3rd line, Delete "bottom" replace with "top" Minute 74/11 1st line. Delete "temporally", replace with "temporarily"

Minute 75/11. (b). 2nd line. Delete "neighborhood" replace with "neighbourhood" 9th line Delete "open", replace with "upon". Minute 78/11. 7th line. Delete "primarily" replace with "probably"

Minute 81/11. 11st Bullet point, 3rd line. Insert after "along"- "main road, between Raunceby and Archway Road junction"

Minute 85/11. 3rd line. Delete "councilors", replace with "Councillors" 6th line. Delete "principal", replace with "principle" 8th line. After "Cllr M Rowe " insert " and the Clerk".

Minute 86/11 line 6. Delete "Goven", replace with "Govan".

Further amendments were proposed by Cllr S Parkhouse. Following a detailed discussion, the following decisions were made by the meeting upon Cllr Parkhouse's proposed amendments.

Minute 77/11 No further change to the minute

Minute 78/11 No further change to the minute. (This matter is considered further, later in the meeting).

Minute 80/11. The need to record the planning reference number in the minutes, whenever the Village Council considers planning consultation was **agreed**.

Minute 81/11. Amendment already **agreed** (above.) relating to name of road. (Also **agreed**, no further changes.)

Minute 84/11. No further change to the minute.

Minute 85/11. No further change to the minute.

The Acting Clerk suggested that in order to help ensure the accuracy of future minutes of meetings, a digital recorder is used. This item could be discussed at the commencement of the next Village Council Meeting and Councillors indicated their agreement to this.

b) **Review of action taken (from previous Council meeting)** The Acting Clerk reported as follows

Minutes 74/11. (Cyclist/traffic lights). Letter sent to Local Police Station. Response received from Local P.C. explaining difficulties in catching culprits. Report noted by Police.

Minute 75/11. Terms of Reference for Safe Neighbourhood Groups obtained. (Later agenda item).

Minute 76/11. Letter to Coop Bank sent confirming Council is considering opening a deposit account (later agenda item).

Minute 77/11. E-mail request sent and acknowledged for opening an account with County Suppliers (Nottinghamshire County Council).

Minute 79/11. Letter sent to County Highways asking that consideration be given to replacing the wooden bus shelter. A response is awaited. (This item is considered again later in the meeting)

Minute 81/11. Letter sent to Local Police Station passing on the Village Council's wishes to Police Constable Coetzee for a speedy recovery from injuries sustained during a road traffic incident

Minute 81/11. Letter of appreciation sent to Alan and Kate Hunt for their help in restoring the shelter on Squires Lane.

Minute 82/11 Letter sent to Newark and Sherwood District Council, advising that the Village Council precept for 2012/13 is unchanged from the current year.

92/11 **Questions/Statements from members of the public** No questions were asked or statement made under the item of business.

93/11 **Reports from County/District Councillors**

a) **County Cllr Les Ward**

County Cllr Les Ward reported that he is continuing to make representations to County Highways to improve the condition of the (main) road surface through the Village. He was also investigating the circumstances of the recent vehicle accidents and what might be done in the future. Warning signs (metal) of icy conditions had been provided but had been subsequently stolen. New non-metal signs were being provided. (This matter is discussed again later in the meeting). Cllr Ward was thanked for his report to the meeting.

b) **District Councillor Sheila Soar**

District Councillor Soar reported that complaints of litter on roads/pathways beyond the Kings Clipstone Parish boundary had been passed onto the Clipstone Parish Council. Cllr Soar also reported that the District Council is holding a meeting at Kelham Hall, Newark for Parish/Town Council's on 22nd February 2012 to discuss the implication of the Localism Bill. She strongly recommended the Village Council be represented, The Acting Clerk had not received details of this event and the meeting **agreed** with Cllr Soar's recommendation. The Village Council Chair, Via Chair and Council Clerk be authorised to attend the meeting. The Acting Clerk to obtain details and register the Council representation. Registration cost of £10 was approved. Cllr Soar was thanked for her report to the meeting.

94/11. **Banking Arrangements**

Cllr M. Bradley referred to minute 76 of the Village Council meeting 28th November 2011, where it was agreed to open a deposit account in order to bank public money, not immediately required, in an interest earning account. Cllr Bradley reported that following a telephone call with the Coop Bank, she had been advised that very little benefit was available at the present time taking it to account the amount of funds involved and the current low level of bank interest. After discussion it was **agreed** that when the new Council Clerk is appointed, verification of the lack of benefit available from opening a deposit account, be obtained, and this being the case, the meeting decided that **no** action be taken to implement the decision recorded under minute 76.

95/11 **Safer Neighbourhood Groups**

The meeting discussed its representation on one group and received helpful comments from County Cllr Les Ward and District Cllr Sheila Soar. It was **AGREED** that Cllr J. Govan and Cllr J. Harbottle become the Village Council representatives on the Edwinstowe Group. The next meeting of the Group takes place at 6pm at the Abbey Road Community Centre, Edwinstowe on Tuesday 6th March 2012. Acting Clerk to make the necessary arrangements.

96/11. **Community Shops**

The Acting Clerk, in noting the absence of any shops in the Village asked the Village Council if there was any interest in exploring the feasibility of setting up a community shop. He had obtained preliminary information from the web in particular, regarding the extent to which a Village Council could support such a proposal from public funds. Councillors debated the pros and cons of the idea bearing in mind local knowledge and past attempts to provide a "farm shop".

After discussion it was **agreed** that the idea whilst having some merit, was not appropriate under the present circumstances, and therefore no further action be taken at present.

97/11. **Community Communications/Village Council Web Site**

a) **Communitycommunications**

The meeting in reviewing its plan to develop community communications, considered the contents of a leaflet produced, printed and circulated by Cllr Steve Parkhouse entitled "Kings Clipstone Village", (January 2012). Whilst this leaflet had been issued under his own name, almost all the contents related to Village Council items of business. Councillors expressed serious concerns about the absence of prior consultation with either the Village Council itself or with individual Councillors mentioned in the paper. The Acting Clerk then referred to one particular item in the leaflet reporting upon Cllr Steve Parkhouse's meeting with an Officer of County Highways to inspect the bus shelter. The Acting Clerk felt that this action was entirely contrary to the official policy of the Council, in that all Council decisions are carried out by the Clerk, unless otherwise stated in the minutes.

A full discussion ensued and it was finally **agreed** that whilst any person is free to produce a newsletter, a Village Councillor should not produce and circulate a public leaflet relating to Council business nor take action upon Council business without the prior and formal agreement of the full Council. If a newsletter is produced concerning Village Council matters it should be published by the Clerk acting after full consultation with the Chair and Councillors, and published as an official Village Council publication.

b) **VillageCouncilWebSite**

The meeting in further reviewing its plan for a separate Village Council web site considered the proposals put forward by Cllr Steve Parkhouse in that he wanted sole control of the Council's website once it is handed over. Cllr Parkhouse explained that the site would be set up under his own name, but access would be allowed to the Clerk as a "participant".

After a full discussion, the meeting **RESOLVED** that, (for the avoidance of future doubt) the Village Council web site is to be developed by the Council in its own name and owned by the Council. This work is to be carried out by the Council Clerk, acting in full consultation with the Council Chair and Village Councillors.

Cllr Sheila Soar mentioned that Andy Love from the District Council is willing to assist Parish Councils in developing their web sites and it was **agreed** that the Clerk makes contact with Mr Love to discuss details and then report back to the Village Council.

98/11. **Newark/Sherwood District Council. Offer of Jubilee Grant**

The Acting Clerk circulated a letter from the District Council offering to grant support local community groups to encourage and enable them to stage Jubilee themed events and activities on the bank Holiday weekend 2-5th June 2012. The meeting considered the current level of interest within the community for these celebrations and it was finally **agreed** to consider this item during the next meeting.

99/11. **Gorsethorpe Lane. Review of road safety**

The meeting gave consideration to the urgent need to improve road safety following four separate accidents (including one fatality), which occurred during 14/18 December 2011. A principal cause was icy road surfaces.

The meeting debated various remedies and useful comments were contributed by Cllr Les Ward and Cllr Sheila Soar. It was finally **agreed** that the Village Council put forward a formal request to the County Highway Authority (copy to police) for a 40 mph speed limit along the

length of road in question. County Cllr Les Ward was willing to be quoted as fully supporting this proposal.

100/11. **Councillors Questions/Statements**

Cllr Joy Harbottle asked if any further progress had been made in negotiating a hire charge for the use of the Community Rooms (Sherwood Forest Holiday Park) for Council meetings. The Acting Clerk had not at this time been able to contact the site manager. He would do this shortly.

101/11. **Frequency of Village Council meetings**

The meeting considered whether the current frequency of meetings was appropriate to the amount of business currently being dealt with by the Council. After discussion, it was **AGREED** that the frequency be increased to a monthly programme, with the exception of December (for Christmas) and August (Holiday period).

102/11. **Register of Electors**

The Acting Clerk reported that the District Council had now provided a register of electors for the Village and this was available to Councillors for reference purposes. The meeting NOTED this report.

103/11. **Nottinghamshire County Council. Local Improvement Scheme Event**

The Acting Clerk reported that the County Council was inviting Local Councils to attend an event which provided practical information upon how to apply for LIS funding, types of schemes which can be delivered and how Local Councils can be more involved in this initiative. The event will take place on Tuesday 15th May 2012, 10.00am to 1.30pm at the Cedric Ford Pavilion, Newark Show Ground.

After discussion it was **agreed** that the Chair and the Clerk be appointed to attend this event. At this point, Cllr S Parkhouse vacated the meeting.

104/11. **Exclusion of the Public/Press**

It was resolved that in view of the confidential nature of the remaining item of business, it is in the public interest that the public and press be excluded from the meeting at this time, and they are accordingly asked to withdraw. For transparency reasons, the item of business to be transacted was:

105/11 **Appointment of permanent Clerk/RFO**