

KINGSWEAR PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the Full Council Meeting held in the Village Hall (Lower Room)
on Wednesday 9th February 2022 at 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs L Maurer (Chairman), B Longland, J Hawkins, P Burnell, H Newcombe, E Jones, S Pearson.

In Attendance: Sue Balsdon – Clerk to the Council.

Members of public present: 3

C/094/21 – Welcome from the Chairman

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

C/095/21 – To receive any apologies for absence from the Meeting.

Cllrs J Hacking, P Pudduck, G Webber.

C/096/21 - To receive any Declaration of Interest. [Councillors are also reminded that they must register any new interest or change in any interest already registered within 28 days of that new interest or change].

There were no declarations of interest noted.

The Council Meeting was suspended to allow members of the public to ask questions and make representations to the Council:

An enquiry was made regarding the Fore Street lights and when they were due to be installed and Cllr Hawkins advised that Devon County Council have said they are due to be replaced in March.

The Council will receive the following reports if available:

i) Devon County Councillor - Jonathan Hawkins:

Cllr Hawkins advised that he had met with Alison Hernandez, Police Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall and concerns were raised regarding the lack of policing in Dartmouth and Kingswear and also the surrounding parishes. The issue of the new Police office on College Way was also raised – It is currently being built and should hopefully be opening in the not too distant future. The officers who are currently located in Townstall, will then move to the College Way location. District Cllrs Bastone and Rowe attended a meeting with Cllr Hawkins about Neighbourhood Policing in the area and the main issues discussed were anti-social behaviour and small business crime.

South Hams District Council are setting their budget tomorrow and the County Council will set their budget next week. Devon County Council's budget for 22/23 is challenging - The pandemic has placed immense strain on the health and social care system over the last two years.

South Hams District Council has launched its Covid Recovery grant for organisations, charities etc that have been helping community groups with Covid. This scheme is available to groups and bids of up to £2500 can be bid for.

Dartmouth Youth Group held their first leisure night at the Dartmouth leisure centre just over a month ago and 43 young people attended. The group's second night will be held on 11th February. The Ivy Lane Youth Centre in Dartmouth is due to open every Tuesday from March.

Dartmouth Foodbank have relocated to Townstall and if anybody should require help, please let them know.

It is hoped the Green Waste collection will be starting again next month.

ii) South Hams District Councillors: -

Please see Kingswear Parish Council website (Full Council Minutes) for District Councillor reports.

iii) Police: None.

iv) Residents Parking Working Group:

Please see agenda Item C/097/21.

v) Sustainable Kingswear:

Freehoming is here! Freehoming identifies unwanted items in Kingswear, makes them available free of charge to residents and reduces waste to landfill. Details of all items can be found on the three Sustainable Kingswear notice boards. If you are interested in any of the items then email freehomingsk@gmail.com and further details will be provided. All items are Free to the collector. If you have any items that need a new home and are in good condition and working order (where relevant), please email freehomingsk@gmail.com with a description, photos and contact details. Items will be advertised on the Sustainable Kingswear notice boards - subject to approval.

Western Power Distribution Community Matters Fund Sustainable Kingswear is really pleased to have worked

with Kingswear Parish Council to have been awarded a grant from this fund. The grant is to help homes in the parish with improved heating and draught proofing. The closing date was 24th Jan '22 and all applications are being considered with the help of South Dartmoor Community Energy, a local charity working as our referral partner.

More good news! Electric Vehicle Charging Points - Darthaven have installed four EV charging points, and charging is available through the 'Charge Assist' app.

The Council will reconvene to discuss the following items:

Standing Orders were suspended to allow members of the Residents Parking Working to take part in the next agenda item.

C/097/21 - In regard to Residents Parking, to consider whether to ask Devon County Council to initiate the formal advertisement of a traffic regulation order and go out to consultation (Jonathan).

Report from the Residents Parking Working Group:

'We believe Kingswear Village Residents have clearly stated to KPC in two surveys (over 70%) that they want the Residents Parking Scheme without Guest House permits (66% voted against GH permits.) We hope you will speedily go to DCC and ask them to proceed the scheme, without Guest House Permits.

A parking scheme is to enable residents to find parking places. Even this weekend, mid-winter a resident had to circulate the village three times to find a suitable parking place. In his response to Cllr Longland questions (Dec 21 minutes) Chris Rook said there are 963 dwellings in Kingswear Village, where the scheme is proposed. There are in fact about 350 dwellings of which about 60 are guest houses which gives 17% guest houses not the 6.6% he is suggesting. No wonder the village is suffering from guest house visitors. Times are changing. It is accepted by many that Staycation in other places often involve not parking nearby the guest house and paying large fees for public car parks. We are lucky to have a reasonably priced car park at the Marina. In the proposed scheme Guest House visitors to Kingswear who arrive after 6pm can park by the guest house and have until 10am to leave the next morning. They have a four-hour slot in the day as well.

There are at least 40 guesthouses near the marina who send their visitors there – just imagine the chaos with 30-50 extra cars, every day trying to cram into Lower Contour Road. We would love to support holiday let businesses in Kingswear, however they have increased at least by 600% in the last ten years. Kingswear Residents are suffering now and it will only get worse.'

Councillors queried the 70% figure quoted in the report above. Only 31% of the Parish voted in the last consultation and 62% of those supported an extended residents parking scheme.

Councillors also advised that Devon County Council have previously said that it is their policy to consider the provision of guesthouse permits within their resident parking schemes. The representatives from the Residents Parking Working Group were asked, that if DCC insist that guest house permits be included within our residents parking scheme, would they be happy to proceed, but it was felt that this would not be workable.

Cllr Longland discussed the financing of the extended residents parking scheme and proposed that we ask Devon County Council to fund the implementation of the scheme rather than the Parish Council. Cllr Hawkins agreed and proposed the Parish Council ask Devon County Council to go out to consultation with a scheme at their cost and at their earliest convenience, which excludes guest house permits. This will give DCC the opportunity to again say whether they would allow a scheme which excludes guest house permits. This proposal was seconded by Cllr Longland. Six Councillors supported the proposal and one Councillor abstained.

Standing Orders were re-instated.

C/098/21 - To note correspondence received in respect of the Land Registration application for the strip of land, Higher Contour Road (Clerk).

The Clerk read out a letter received in connection with the Land Registry application for the strip of land on Higher Contour Road:

'Following an objection to our application the Land Registry gave a 6 month 'negotiation' period for objectors and the applicant to discuss the objection, and hopefully reach an amicable solution. We are now nearing the end of this 6 month period and to date there has been no communication between the objectors and applicant. Should the issue not be resolved within 6 months the Land Registry pass the case to an independent Tribunal, the costs of which are unlimited and in our Solicitors experience, often run well into the tens of thousands of pounds. The costs are covered by both the applicant and the objectors. In the interests of not wishing anyone to incur what we feel would be an unnecessary cost we have regrettably withdrawn our application for the time being to give those wishing to negotiate further time to do so. Our intention is to resubmit our application at a later date once any negotiations have taken place.'

C/099/21 - To make comment to the Planning Authority with regards to the following planning applications (Hector).

- i) **Ref:** 4564/21/FUL **Proposal:** Extensions & Alterations to dwelling, replacement roof and creation of Annexe for short term letting with parking and stepped access **Site Address:** The Lane House, Upper Wood Lane, Kingswear, TQ6 0DF
SUPPORT
- ii) **Ref:** 4675/21/HHO **Proposal:** Householder application for rear conservatory **Site Address:** 24 Hillhead Park, Hillhead, TQ5 0HG
SUPPORT

C/100/21 - To resolve to approve the following minutes subject to any amendments:

- i) **Full Council Meeting – 15th December 2021.**
- ii) **Full Council Meeting – 12th January 2022.**

The minutes were approved without amendment.

C/101/21 - Financial Matters (Clerk).

- i) **To resolve to approve the expenditure of the Council for the period 01/12/21 – 31/01/22.**

It was resolved to approve the expenditure of the Council for the period 1st December 2021 to 31st January 2022.

- ii) **To present for review the month end finance report and bank reconciliation as at 31/01/22.**

The month end finance report and bank reconciliation for month ending 31st January 22 was reviewed by Councillors.

- iii) **To review schedule of Direct Debits and Standing Order.**

The schedule of Direct Debits and Standing Orders was approved by the Council.

C/102/21 - With regards to the 21/22 Internal Audit (Clerk):

- i) **To approve the continued appointment of Kevin Rose (IAC Ltd) as the Council's Internal Auditor.**

Councillors voted to support the continued appointment of IAC Ltd as their Internal Auditor.

- ii) **To approve quote received for the 21/22 Internal Audit.**

A quote in the sum of £285 + VAT, received from IAC Ltd to provide an Internal Audit Service was approved by the Council.

C/103/21 - To receive the Chairman's report.

The Chairman is in the process of gathering information in regard to a complaint received concerning felling of trees at Longwood. A report will be given at a future meeting.

C/104/21 - In regard to the Scheme of Delegation (Clerk):

- i) **To resolve to approve decisions made via the Scheme of Delegation – 16/12/21 to 8/2/22.**

The schedule of 'Scheme of Delegation' decisions made during the period 16/12/21 to 8/02/22 was approved by the Council.

- ii) **To consider a return to monthly Full Council meetings from March 2022.**

In line with the Governments planned lifting of Covid restrictions from the end of February, it was agreed to return to monthly Full Council meetings from March 22.

- iii) **To consider a Scheme of Delegation for urgent items to be agreed outside of a Full Council Meeting, post Covid.**

The Clerk advised that section 101 of the Local Government act 1972, allows for a scheme of delegation to be in place, regardless of whether Covid restrictions are in place. Councillors agreed for the Clerk to produce a revised Scheme of Delegation for approval at the next meeting, which could be utilised for urgent items in between Council Meetings.

C/105/21 - To agree a date for the Annual Parish Meeting and agree speakers (Clerk).

It was agreed for the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on Wednesday 18th May 2022. The Clerk to invite the following speakers – District Councillors, Dart Harbour, Stephen Yates, Alex Rehaag.

C/106/21 - In regard to the Cemetery, to consider (Lynne):

- i) **The removal of the waste bins.**

Cllrs Maurer and Webber empty the bins in the Cemetery and regularly find that they are being used for broken glass, plastics etc. which is a health and safety hazard. It was agreed for the bins along the path be removed and their metal frames used as planters.

- ii) **The siting of a compost area.**

The Council agreed for Cllr Jones to install a compost bin in the Cemetery for used florals.

C/107/21 - In regard to the 22/23 Mooring Renewals, to consider (Clerk):

i) Mooring fees / Slip Fee

Councillors approved the following mooring fees for 22/23:

Mooring Location	Mooring Fee (Incl. VAT)
Pontoon Riverside (Mooring No. 6 to 16)	£250.61
Pontoon Creekside (Mooring No. 1 to 5 & 17 to 21)	£206.03
Waterhead Creek	£127.72
Jubilee Park	£179.53

It was agreed that a charge should not be made for those wishing to use the Jubilee Park slipway.

ii) Early Payment Discount.

It was agreed that an early payment discount would no longer be available to Mooring Holders, due to the complexity of administering this offer, following the Council's VAT registration.

iii) Insurance.

In line with the mooring renewal process at Dart Haven, Councillors agreed that it would no longer be necessary for permit holders to produce their insurance certificate each year. A tick box will be provided on the renewal form, for permit holders to confirm their boat is covered by third party insurance.

iv) Reduction in Number of Waterhead Creek moorings available.

The Council agreed that mooring numbers 17 to 27 would no longer be available to let, due to their inaccessibility.

v) Availability of Moorings – Resident / Part Time Residents Only.

It was agreed that Parish Council moorings will now only be available for Kingswear/Hillhead residents.

vi) Resident Request - Storage of Inflatable (Jubilee Park).

Councillors agreed that it would not be feasible to allow the storage of an inflatable boat on Jubilee Park, without a permit for one of the marked boat/trailer storage spaces.

C/108/21 - To receive an update in regard to the Platinum Jubilee and agree schedule of costs (Jonathan/Clerk).

The Jubilee working group met again on 1st February. The Council have had lots of offers of help, including from the Steam Railway and are also working with Dartmouth Town Council Jubilee Committee. Events will be held on each day of the extended bank holiday weekend, culminating in a 'Platinum Party in the Park' on Sunday 5th June. The Council's other events include a Beacon Lighting Ceremony, Live Stream Events (St Paul's Cathedral Service of Thanksgiving / Platinum Party at the Palace), Cream Team and an Evening Cruise (Paddle Steamer).

Children from the Primary School have been designing a logo, which will be used on the Council's Jubilee Mugs and Posters and Anthony Mangnall MP will be choosing the winning design.

The following Jubilee costs were agreed by the Council:

£224 - Village Decoration Flags, Flag Poles & Brackets

£500 - Dartmouth Fire Work

£490 - Gas Fuelled Beacon

£847 - Platinum Party in the Park (Children's Entertainers, Brass Band, Morris Dancers, Portaloo)

£120 - Village Hall Booking

It was agreed for the Clerk to apply to the National Lottery Community Fund for a grant towards the Jubilee costs.

The Parish Council would like to thank all those who have helped plan and organise the events over the last few months.

C/109/21 - To consider and approve quote - Half Day drain clean (Clerk).

A quote received from Glanville Environmental Ltd in the sum of £575 (plus £120 per tonne disposal) was approved by Councillors.

C/110/21 - To approve membership 22/23 Devon Communities Together (Clerk).

It was agreed to renew the Devon Communities Membership at a cost of £50.

C/111/21 - To propose agenda items for the next Full Council meeting.

Councillors to notify the Clerk, if they wish to add items to the March agenda.

C/112/21 - Urgent Items for information.

Councillors agreed for a letter of welcome to be sent to the new leaseholders of the Village Stores.

C/113/21 - To approve the Clerk's pay increment January 21.

Following the Clerk's annual review, it was agreed to award the Clerk one additional pay increment (Pt 18 £20,256 to Pt 19 20,660 Local Government Services Pay Scale (Payment to be backdated to the Clerk's annual review date – 1st January 2021.

C/114/21 - To receive an update in regard to the inflationary pay award 21/22.

A 1.75% annual inflationary pay award for 21/22 has been offered, but not yet accepted by the Unions. When agreed, payment of the increased salary will be backdated to 1st April 2021.

By Order of the Council

Sue Balsdon

Sue Balsdon
Clerk to the Council

The Meeting ended at 9.00 pm.

Minutes Approved: Councillor L Maurer – Chairman