

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Kewstoke Parish held on Thursday the 12th
April 2012 Kewstoke Village Hall.
Draft**

Present Cllrs N Whyte (Chairman), R Adams, (Vice-Chairman), T Horry, R Pearson, K.Harper, C Bates, D Jolley, C Thomas and M Ray
Clerk Colin Hill
3 Members of the Public

1. Chairman's Opening Address

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2. Apologies for Absence

Cllrs T Morris J MacDonald

3. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

4. The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of the 14th of April 2011 were approved with no changes.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman read out her report which is attached to these minutes.

5. Financial Report.

The Clerk produced the legal accounts for 2010-11 and his end of year 2011 accounts which will go to audit.-The accounts for 2010-2011 have been audited

The accounts for 2011-2012 are now due for audit

2011-2012 has been a tough year mainly taken up in planning for the future.

The accounts will be fine with no overspends of any nature to worry about.

A full version of his report is attached to the minutes

Process for meeting

As a change to the normal procedure the Clerk had produced a Power Point display covering all the points of the Agenda

The slides are available on request

Questions were taken at the end of each slide

5 Finance

The Clerk showed two slides in essence to show where the Council's position was at the end of this year and where it is likely to be at the end of 2012/13. The reserves will be back to a standard level if the present projects are completed.

6. Cygnet Liaison Meetings

Generally it has been seen as a quiet year although there had been some noise and light problems. The hospital for some time had wards under refurbishment. The Liaison Committee had met but had little to report and its future will be discussed as to whether it is worth keeping up

Mr Templeman asked several questions which turned into a debate

1. He was concerned that no minutes were produced from the Liaison Committee
2. Although he contended the hospital do respond directly to him better than the past there was still noise etc

The Clerk responded to question one informing Mr Templeman that the Liaison Committee was an informal Voluntary Body. It was decided from day one that there would be no minutes. Notes are taken purely for purposes of possible actions. The Parish has no powers to make the hospital do anything.

On question 2 the noise issue, The Chairman responded to Mr Templeman that the Parish did deal with his complaint last year and he chose to go direct to the hospital and not inform the Parish. The Chairman and other Councillors made the same point.

Mr Quick raised the point of the wall around the perimeter of the hospital which had fallen in places

The Chairman confirmed that the Parish had raised this with the hospital and were told as funds come available the wall would be rebuilt.

The Chairman made the point that the future of the Liaison Committee would be an Agenda item at the next Parish Council Meeting.

7. Sand Bay Management Team

Car Parks, Toilets, Sea Defences, Dog Fouling, bin emptying costs, bonfires, and Bus Stops

Cllr Horry and the Clerk covered the main points.

They were:- dog fouling was still a major problem

The toilets at Sand Point will not be replaced

Damage to the dunes comes about by people removing the paling fences to have bonfires

English Nature and the Environment Agency are discussing whether to replace the buckthorn with a type of lemon grass.

The cost to the Parish of emptying dog bins has trebled

There have been accidents at the Sand Bay holiday Centre bus stop and the NSDC are to review the stop with a possible intention of an upgrade.

8. Toll Road

The Clerk reported that the Weston Sea Front was completed last Autumn and the road was now becoming busy again

The Council is considering reviewing its business plan this year but noted that work will be starting on Junction 21 in the Autumn which again could influence traffic patterns. The Clerk and Councillor Horry will be attending a meeting at NSDC to discuss the work and will report back to Council. A decision will then be made as to whether to review the plan this year

Mr Evely wanted to know what was going to happen and what effect it would have on the village

The Clerk responded that it was a wait and see exercise.

A short debate took place about instances of log- jams etc on Kewstoke Road and the new bus services causing some congestion

9. Grass Cutting Contract

The Parish has taken over control of all hedge, verge and grass cutting operations within the village. The way the contract has been let was explained as well as reporting that the contract were all local businesses. A grant would be received from NSDC but would not cover the full costs as the specification of work was much higher than the NSDC contract.

A short debate about certain instances relating to high trees or peoples hedges in ownership took place and the Clerk and Cllr Horry answered how the issues could be dealt with

Extra item

Churchyard Grave stones Project

Cllr Horry explained the background to the project. Any (so called) headstones that were deemed unsafe were lain flat in graveyards all over the Country. Litigation by some Councils has been successful however no funds have been made available to put the graveyards back in order. Kewstoke Parish along with grants from Kewstoke Relief in Need and the Church have funded the first phase of several phases. The slide showed the progress so far. Generally the project had been well received and **Cllrs Adams and Bates** thought it was good for the village. Mr Templeman supported the venture.

Mr Evely as an aesthiet and a humanist registered his objection as he felt it was up to the grave stone owners and the Church to rectify the matter or simply put the stones up around the perimeter.

10. Play Area

The slides produced by the Clerk highlighted the wet rot in the base of the equipment. The recent safety report confirmed the rot as being medium risk.

The Parish was aware the situation was getting worse and precepted for a new play area from its built up reserves. This is now on order following a tendering process.

11. Youth Club

The Youth Club and its future is proving a major challenge to this community and others as any funding for youth was virtually withdrawn in the NSDC .Council budgets.

The Parish is funding the rent of the Church Hall for the youth club during the financial year 2012-2013 and will continue to make efforts to support the future of youth facilities in the village. Little help is being offered to the youth worker leader and unless the community responds more favourably the Parish Council cannot solve this alone.

12. Questions and Answer Session

Other issues Raised

Mr Templeman was concerned that the web site was still poor and although some effort had been made it should be better.

The Clerk and Cllr Horry responded by informing Mr Templeman that work was ongoing but time was of the essence and it had to be fitted in with other Council business. Mr Templeman was of the opinion that this was very important and he was glad that the Council had registered with the Information Commissioner

The Clerk responded by informing Mr Templeman that to expect from the Parish a very modern acting website bearing in mind that every Councillor gives their time free and the Clerk was already juggling with a major workload was never going to happen.

The Council as a whole accepts the website needs attention and it is improving it, slower perhaps than some residents like.

The Meeting Closed at 8-50pm