



Kewstoke Parish Council

“Here to protect the Rural Character and Environment of the Village and to promote Kewstoke as a pleasant place to live”

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Chairman Councillor J.MacDonald

Minutes of the of the Kewstoke Parish Council meeting held on Monday 2nd September 2024, which commenced at 7pm.

Present:- Cllrs, K.Harper, J.MacDonald (Chairman), R.Adams, T.Morris.(Vice Chairman), R.Cunningham ,G.Vearncombe, S.Baxter T.Horry, K.Jenkins & N.Whyte .

In attendance

Parish Clerk

M.Hardwick

Unitary Members

Cllr Pilgrim

Cllr Williams

Public Participation

There was one member of the public in attendance.

.1.Opening of the meeting

The meeting opened at 7pm

2. Apologies for absence

N.Richards **Liaison Officer**

3. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of Interest

4. Adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 5th August 2024

Proposed Cllr Vearncombe
Seconded Cllr Cunningham

The Chairman called for a show of hands by the Councillors in attendance at the meeting on 5th August 2024 to indicate their support for the adoption. This was indicated unanimously.

Agreed Unanimously

5. O/S Actions/Updates from previous meeting.

Signage Toilets & Crookes Lane Footpath

It was agreed that Cllr MacDonald would further progress obtaining signage relating to the fact that the Parish Council maintained both the above facilities.

Cllr Harper confirmed that existing signage had now been installed at the Toilet Block

It was proposed that a sign prepared by Cllr MacDonald be sited at the Footpath entrance on Crookes Lane indicating that the path was provided and maintained by the Parish Council.

Proposed Cllr Morris

Seconded Cllr Vearncombe

Agreed by a Majority decision of 7-1

Action: - Cllr MacDonald- ongoing – It was agreed to wait until the fencing had been repaired before installing the signage. This was expected September 2024

Book Swap

Cllr MacDonald also raised the possibility of setting up a book swap facility in the Telephone Kiosk currently housing the defibrillator unit. Following some discussion it was agreed that this would be progressed noting some matters of detail needed to be agreed and resolved.

Action: - Cllr MacDonald ongoing

The Chairman of the Birnbeck Pier Trust had offered to come to a Parish Council meeting and update Councillors on progress.

It was agreed to take up this offer

Action: - [Cllr Williams - ongoing](#)

Cllr Adams requested that Cllr Pilgrim contact North Somerset Council as he was concerned of reports that the BMX park had been again expanding.

[Cllr Pilgrim reported that a hole had been excavated for a new water container which may have given the impression that the site was expanding. Nevertheless, this excavation appeared to be dangerous and Cllr Pilgrim agreed to follow up the concerns.](#)

Action; - [Cllr Pilgrim ongoing](#)

Village Green Maintenance

Cllr MacDonald referred to a letter and photographs received from a resident adjacent to the village Green requesting that some of the trees and brash was cut back.

It was agreed to a site visit on Tuesday 6th August to undertake a review.

Action; - Cllr Harper, Cllr Morris, Cllr Adams and the Clerk

[The Clerk reported that following the site visit it had been agreed at the Finance and Policy meeting a new contractor would be requested to undertake the work at a cost of £695, significantly less than our current contractor.](#)

Cllr Morris

.It was also agreed that the cast Iron signage in and around the Village required repainting.

Action; - [Cllr Morris & Cllr Vearncombe ongoing](#)

6. Police Beat Report

Cllr MacDonald read out the Police Neighbourhood report for August 2024

Call Received 56

Crimes Recorded 21

Cygnets 31

Sand Piper Care Home 1

Theft 1

Concern for Welfare 7

Road Related 1

Abandoned 999 5

Assault 2

Suspicious 3

ASB 1

Others 4

It was noted that reported crimes were at the lowest level for some time

7. Unitary Members Report

Cllr Pilgrim

Cllr Pilgrim reported that a meeting arranged with the Chief Executive of North Somerset Council concerning issues at the Car Park opposite South Sands Hotel and anti social driving in and around the Village had yet to take place.

Cllr Pilgrim suggested that a member of the Parish Council attend the next North Somerset Council meeting and address the members outlining the concerns of the Parish Council.

After some discussion it was agreed Cllr Williams raised the issue on behalf of the Parish Council at the September meeting and that the October meeting may be more appropriate for attendance by the Parish Council Chairman.

Action: - Cllr Williams

There appeared to be issues whereby North Somerset Councils elected Councillors had been instructed not to contact NSC Officers directly.

Cllr Pilgrim reported that no further information regarding the application to build houses near Lyefield Road was available.

Cllr Williams agreed to follow up the concerns of the Parish Council regarding the surface of Collum lane following extensive building work and damage caused by heavy vehicles using the lane.

8. Other Issues

LED Lights

The Clerk confirmed that after a recent audit by Cllr Harper and the Clerk it was confirmed that most of the Village Streetlights owned by the Parish Council were in fact LED, and that a programme to replace existing street lights with Led lights was not required, as remaining non LED lights would be automatically replaced by LED lights as they reached the end of their lifespan.

Memorial Benches

The Clerk reported that after an audit of the benches by himself and Cllr Harper it was found that 6 were in need of repair, with at least 2 possibly requiring replacement shortly and the others within the next couple of years.

The benches in the two shelters also required attention.

Another 18 benches required varnishing and or repainting.

It was agreed to a replacement programme of benches to be considered at the Precept/Budget meeting in January, noting that if possible any replacement bench in the first instance should be financed by anyone wishing to have a plaque installed, whether existing or a new sponsor.

A quote for the cost of identified repairs would be sought as would a quote for repainting /varnishing the others. This would allow for an informed opinion of whether to repair or replace.

Action: - Cllr Harper

It was also noted that following a site visit to the bench damaged during the cutting of the grass on the dunes by Cllr MacDonald, Cllr Harper, Cllr Morris and the Clerk it was proposed that the bench be replaced and moved to a more suitable location nearer the South Sands Hotel. The cost of a replacement bench was £1200 plus £300-£400 to install and remove the existing damaged bench.

Proposed Cllr Morris

Seconded Cllr Vearncombe

Agreed Unanimously

Action: - Parish Clerk

Recycling

The Clerk confirmed that a trial period had produced 10 large bags collected by our orderlies of rubbish that could be recycled. These have been taken to the recycling centre.

Statistics recorded as a result of this trial suggested that it was worth further discussion and it was agreed to set up a steering group be set up to discuss moving this forward.

Date of meeting agreed Wednesday 25th September in the Village Hall to follow 2nd Interview of potential Co-opted Councillor. Approx 7.30pm

Action: - Cllr Baxter, Cllr Cunningham, Cllr Morris, Cllr MacDonald ,Cllr Harper and the Clerk

Annual Playground report

Work on the recommendations of the report was ongoing, noting all remedial works were considered low risk.

Action: - Cllr Vearncombe & Cllr Morris

NSC Local Plan

The Clerk referred to a communication received from NSC regarding the review of the Local Plan as a result of the change in Central Government.

This has resulted in Government reforms having major implications on the current proposed Local Plan, in particular an additional 9000 dwellings required more than the current proposed Local Plan target of 14,805.

This was noted by the Councillors.

KPC017 Sickness & Absence Policy Amendment.

Following a recent Policy & Finance meeting it was proposed to amend KPC017 to allow for up to two months full pay to staff that were not entitled to Statutory Sick Pay,

and 1 full month followed by up to 28 weeks SSP for those that do qualify, should they suffer long term sickness. (Subject to appropriate Sickness documentation)

Proposed Cllr Morris

Seconded Cllr Cunningham

Agreed Unanimously

Sea Bank Maintenance

The Clerk reported a meeting with representatives of the Environment Agency Natural England, Cllr Adams and the Clerk regarding the maintenance of the Dunes and in particular the control of Sea Buckthorn and other invasive species.

Natural England proposed that the Parish Council applied for occupancy of the Dunes which would allow the formation of a formal agreed maintenance plan and ability for the Parish Council to apply for funding from the Rural Payment agency.

Full details are awaited and possibly a further visit from a representative of Natural England to explain the implications.

The Environment Agency has agreed to replace the Chestnut fencing that was removed during the summer, early in the New Year.

It was also agreed with both agencies that the memorials that have started to appear in and around the Chestnut fencing should be removed. A notice indicating this would be placed on the fencing and then items subsequently removed.

Action: - Parish clerk

Document Storage

The Clerk raised the issue of storing Parish Council documents which have now built up over a number of years and currently stored at the Clerks residence.

It was agreed to set up a steering group to look at scanning and indexing the documents alongside obtaining a quote for a fireproof safe to site in the Village Hall.

Action; - Cllr Baxter, Cllr Horry, Cllr Jenkins & the Clerk

Clerks Report

The Clerk referred to an email received from Cllr Mike Bell (Leader of North Somerset District Council) indicating a anticipated budget gap in North Somersets Finances between 2025 and 2028 of some £30 Million.

It was requested that the Parish Council explored the possibility of shared service models or devolution of services to Town and Parish Councils with or without funding,

It was generally felt that sufficient services had already been devolved.

9.Financial Update

Payments for August have been approved outside of this meeting to allow payment in the appropriate calendar month. See below.

Payments for Approval August 2024

Salaries & Reimbursements	£2,904.21
HM Revenue and Customs	£360.03
Foremostsigns	£234.00
K.Harper Reimbursements	£61.95
Nathan Kelly	£913.60
J.K.Gardening	£965.00
Weston Support services	£181.29
BDO LLP	£378.00

Total **£5,998.08**

Additional Payments for August paid by DD

Water2Business	£40.50
Water2 Business	£93.00
British Gas	£24.70
SSE	£307.27

AJG Community Schemes Insurance Policy

Following some detailed discussion regarding the details of the policy and current perceived risk it was agreed to extend the Councils current AJG Community Schemes Insurance Policy for a fixed period of 3 years at a cost of £1,805.60.p.a.

Proposed Cllr Whyte

Seconded Cllr Adams

Agreed Unanimously

The clerk reported that following a review at the Policy & Finance Committee meeting it had been agreed to extend the current electricity contract with SSE for a fixed period of 1 year in respect of the Kiosk and Toilet Block and with EDF for a fixed period of 3 years for Street lighting.

11. **Councillors Report**

Cllr Vearncombe

Cllr Vearncombe referred to Monks Hill where the trees and verges required attention.

The Clerk reported that this had been reported to NSC with work anticipated to commence after 1/9/2024.

Cllr Vearncombe also reported a water leak at Rock House

Cllr Morris

Cllr Morris reminded the meeting that Volunteers were required on Saturday 7th September at 9 am to paint the Shelter at the Bus Terminus Car Park.

Cllr Whyte

Cllr Whyte reported that work had now taken place by NSC to remove a number of dead trees from along Kewstoke Road and Anson Road.

There was some concern that their removal had reduced the protection afforded by these trees from the wind and others could now become vulnerable to falling.

It was agreed to monitor the situation.

Cllr Baxter

Cllr Baxter requested a copy of the Councils Memorial Bench Policy

Action: - Parish Clerk

Cllr MacDonald

Cllr MacDonald suggested a second interview for one of the candidates for the position of Co-opted Councillor.

This was agreed to be held at 7pm on Wednesday 25th September at the Village Hall.

Action; - Cllr Cunningham, Cllr Morris and Cllr MacDonald

Meeting closed at 8.15pm

12. Date of next meeting Monday 7th October 2024.

