

KILMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk – Mrs Ruth Burrows Email: parishclerk@kilmingtonwiltshire.org

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 5 September 2022 at the Stourton & Kilmington Home Guard Club commencing at 7.30 pm

Present: Councillors G Cotton, R Flower, Mrs E Hames, A Reeves, C Reeves, C Webster
Also in attendance, the Clerk (Mrs Ruth Burrows) and 7 members of the public.

Public Open Session

The Chairman invited members of the public present to make statements on any agenda items and asked that if they wanted to speak, to stand up, announce their name and speak for no more than 3 minutes. He said he had some important information regarding HVG traffic on Kilmington Common to convey when that item was discussed by the Parish Council.

No members of the public asked to speak at this time.

91. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr G Hunt who was working. Cllr G Jeans hoped to get to the meeting later due to a clash of dates with Mere Town Council. (*Cllr Jeans arrived at the meeting at approximately 21.15 hrs when the meeting was ending.*)

92. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS & DISPENSATIONS

Any Parish Councillor wishing to declare interests should do so at this point:

1. declarations of disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests already declared in the Register of Interests.
2. declarations of disclosable pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests not previously declared in the Register of Interests.
3. dispensations: if required.

None.

93. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the Extra Parish Council meeting held on Monday 4 July 2022 were approved without amendment and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

94. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MAY & JULY MINUTES (not covered by other Agenda items)

None.

95. PLANNING

(All applications can be viewed on Wiltshire Council's website [Planning – Wiltshire Council](#) – and type in the relevant application number)

95.1 Applications to consider at the meeting:

PL/2022/06380 conversion of agricultural workshop/storage building to form a 2-bed dwelling at Treoaks, Butts Lane
The Chairman said this is a resubmission of the planning application (PL/2022/03410) which had been discussed at the PC meeting in May when the decision was reached to 'object' on the grounds that the barn is in too close proximity to the neighbouring property and land. From Wiltshire Council's **Refusal** decision notice on that application (issued on 23 June), it would seem that this was based on two main reasons:

- i) detrimental to the special character and appearance of the AONB
- ii) the land comes within the River Avon catchment area and there were no proposals in the application for mitigation of the possible increase in phosphates entering the river.

He reminded the meeting that the PC's objection had not appeared to have been taken into consideration by WC.

Cllr Webster said the new plans on the current application now include the planting of hedging and trees between the barn and neighbouring property but little else has changed. However, he had noticed on the previous application that after our PC meeting on the 23 May, out of the 10 comments submitted, there were 9 in favour of the application and this is an important factor which the PC should not ignore; the applicants – a local couple - have

much local support. Cllr Cotton said he had spoken to Matthew Hollands Associates Ltd who are the applicant's architects and they confirmed that some excavation to lower the floor level at the lowest point of the existing roof line would be carried out to achieve standing room height, but with regard to the River Avon, specific drawings for drains would be part of the technical work to be undertaken later on.

The Chairman asked Mrs Stokes if she wanted to say anything in regard to this application. She accepted his offer to speak and said that in her opinion the barn for conversion into a dwelling is too close to her property. She understands that the applicant has much local support but feels the planning laws are to protect everyone's rights. If it is approved, it will take away the beautiful view they now have.

After much discussion, with one abstention, the PC agreed to "Support" the application but it would again reiterate to WC that there is concern over the close proximity to the neighbouring property and land. In addition, there should be conditions placed to limit any future development/expansion of the site to the existing footprint and to be for domestic and recreation use only.

95.2 Applications considered determined since last meeting:

PL/2021/09744 erection of single unit of holiday accommodation at Street Farm, The Street.

PC Response: No objection subject to conditions

LPA: Not yet determined

PL/2022/03410 conversion of agricultural workshop/storage building to form a 2-bed dwelling at Treoaks, Butts Lane

PC Response: Object

LPA: Refused (23.06.22)

PL/2022/03128 application from Church Farm, Kilmington for crown lifting on 6 lime trees at Green Ride owned by the Parish Council

PC Response: Object

LPA: Approved with conditions 23.06.22

PL/2022/03915 erection of a workshop building and provision of an extended service yard for A R Diesels Ltd, Cote Lane

PC Response: Object

LPA: Not yet determined

PL/2022/04120 application to crown lift 6 x lime trees to 5.5 metres over track and adjacent fields at Green Ride.

PC Response: Support

LPA: Approve with conditions 16.08.22

96. HVG TRAFFIC ON KILMINGTON COMMON

The Chairman reported he had spoken to Paul Shaddock, the WC Traffic Engineer covering our area who has now had the opportunity to drive down New Road himself and he thinks that the criteria of 20 or more properties fronting onto a road over a distance of 600 metres could be boarder line for consideration of a reduction in speed limit. Mr Shaddock has therefore suggested that we apply for a more comprehensive traffic survey to be undertaken. These surveys are undertaken on behalf of WC by Atkins and are compiled over a number of weeks. The cost is considerable - £2500 but if we ask for this to be done on our behalf via the LHFIG group, we would only have to make a contribution of £625. The down side is that the outcome could recommend there is no need for a 30mph limit.

Members of the public were allowed to speak at this point and whilst the overall response to this news was positive, one person thought it would be a waste of precept money. Several questions were asked as to exactly what the new traffic survey would entail and if individual residents would be allowed to comment on all aspects which they feel are a concern and not just speeding vehicles. The Chairman said he would endeavour to obtain a copy of the Atkins brief so that we had more details of what the survey covered.

It was RESOLVED that the PC would contribute the sum of £625.00 towards the cost of a survey and this item will go to the next meeting of the LHFIG in November.

Action: Chairman

97. BROADBAND – Rural Partnership & Project Gigabit: For the benefit of the members of the public present, Cllr Webster gave a brief outline of what he has been trying to achieve in regard to a Community Fibre Partnership with Openreach in order to level up the broadband service throughout the village. As reported at the Annual Meeting in May, the addition of 3-4 extra properties with differing infrastructure have now been included and these

have added another level of complexity and still no formal instruction for the project or cost has been provided. He said it is still not clear if the government backed voucher scheme will cover enough of the Openreach build costs and there may be a shortfall. He will continue to progress and hopefully will have more information at the next meeting in November.

98. VoIP and MOBILE PHONE SIGNAL – Cllr Webster said that as previously reported, a new radio mast has been erected on the Deverell's but there have been delays in connection to the fibre network. This is now expected to be ready in October and the timescale has been rescheduled. He has been asked to take part in testing which is due to start w/c 11 September. He is in regular contact with the EE Project Development Manager and is quietly confident that once the mast is turned on it should give good mobile coverage for most of the village.

99. HIGHWAYS, RIVERS, FOOTPATHS & TRANSPORT

99.1 Traffic Survey June 2022 –this was only briefly touched on under item 96. but for the sake of good order the and future reference the results are set out here.

A total of 7539 vehicles were checked (both directions) and that the average speed was 36.2-mph. The 85th percentile was 44.83-mph (the 85th percentile is the speed at which 85% of the traffic is traveling at or below). These results fall within the permitted criteria so this data will not enable a 30-mph speed limit to be considered.

99.2 Extension of Somerset Quarries - the Chairman said that Somerset Council had received various planning applications to extend the quarry operations near Frome. We were not consultees so it is out of our control. However, in view of the threat of more heavy HVG stone lorry traffic coming through both the B3092 and The Common, he has written to a WC executive asking whether a plan first outlined back in 2005, to weight restrict HVG's on our local roads, could be resurrected. He had not received any response but hoped to report back at our next meeting in November. **Action: Cllr Cotton**

99.3 Speed Indicator Device - Cllr Flower said the SID was due to be returned to Kilmington for 1 October.

99.4 Road Repairs – the Chairman said patching work had been done in Butts Lane but there was nothing further report regarding The Street. WC are trying to group workloads together to reduce costs.

99.5 Additional signage for The Street – the Chairman reported that the signage is with the Team responsible for this work but there is no telephone number on which to contact them available and they are almost like a secret society! It is hoped they will be available shortly. **Action: Chairman**

99.6 Extra safety measures on B3092 at Norton Ferris - the Chairman reported the new signs and rumble strips had been approved by LHFIG but there is no exact date available for when the work will be completed. It will be grouped together with other similar jobs in the area to save on costs.

99.7 Parish Steward - the Chairman said that our Steward regularly calls into see him. He requested that all members contact him with jobs for the Steward to do. Cllr Mrs Hames asked if the PS could cut back the grass verge on The Street on his next visit. Once the new schedule has been received, the Clerk will forward the dates for his visits and remind all when he is due. **Action: All/Clerk**

99.8 WC Winter Weather preparations – the Clerk advised that an email from the Winter Weather team had been received requesting to know if our grit bin needed to be refilled with salt for the coming winter. She had asked Cllr C Reeves to check the bin but Cllr A Reeves informed her that it needed to be refilled. The Clerk confirmed nothing had been received about ordering more salt on pallets from the Wilton Depot but she would make enquires. **Action: Clerk**

100. TREE MAINTENANCE – the Clerk said quotes had been obtained from two local tree surgeons and full details had been sent to all Councilors prior to the meeting. It was RESOLVED accept Nick Gatehouse's quotes (amounts given under 104.4) for the additional works on the 6 x lime trees in Green Ride and to crown lift to 2.5m, shorten/selective removal of lateral limbs on the Copper Beech in Church Road/Harepit Lane. **Action: Clerk**

101. PLAYING FIELD – Cllr Mrs Hames said the Committee, including D. Davies and the Clerk, had met on 25 August in the playing field. All of the equipment had been looked at in advance of the RoSPA inspection sometime this month (exact date unknown). No major faults or problems were found although the splitting of timbers in the wooden structures of equipment seem to have noticeably increased. Last year the Inspector had made comment that the little springer horse should be replaced so it was agreed it would be dismantled and covered up so that it could not be used. The clerk said she had a quote for a replacement top of £690 and another in the pipeline. Cllr Reeves said he had it in hand for the old top part of the horse to be remade/repared so it would not be necessary to buy a replacement. D Davies had asked if a goal post could be fitted on the field. Cllr C Reeves agreed to organize this with the Parish Council being responsible only for the cost of the materials which should not be more than £100. This was agreed.

Action: Cllrs Hames/C Reeves/Clerk

102. ANNUAL FIREWORK DISPLAY – Cllr Mrs Hames said the event had been extremely successful last year and provided the PC were in agreement, she proposed that it go ahead as usual on 5 November. Cllr C Reeves seconded the proposal and it was agreed to go ahead on a vote of 4 for and 2 against. Cllr Mrs Hames will purchase the fireworks and arrange payment by a Parish Council cheque. Cllr Mrs Hames said she understood that Darren Davis is still covered with his certificate of safe operation of category 3 fireworks and special clothing had been supplied to him for use when lighting the fireworks. The Clerk said she had a copy of the certificate and there was no expiry date on it. This together with the risk assessment would be supplied to our insurance company asap so that confirmation the event can go ahead can be provided before the fireworks are purchased.

Action: Cllr Mrs Hames/Clerk

103. SITE OF CLOSED WHITESHEET SCHOOL – the Chairman said there had been no real progress since the report he had provided at the Annual meeting in May. Outcomes First Group are very keen to purchase the site and reopen as a special needs school and negotiations are on-going. The Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust (DSAT) need to agree a value with Wiltshire Council (who own the playing field) so that the site can be sold as one lot.

104. FINANCE, POLICY & RESOURCES

104.1 Receipts and acknowledgements – the Clerk reported that there had been no receipts since the May meeting. Acknowledgement and thanks for the PC's annual donations had been received from the Kilmington News, Seeds4Success, St Mary's Church (churtyard maintenance), Mere Link Scheme and the Upper Stour magazine.

104.2 Balance of Lloyds Bank account at 31 August 2022 was £13,464.88 with no outstanding payments or cheques. This reconciles with the bank statement of that date and the Chairman duly signed he bank reconciliation form.

104.3 Spend v Budget report Q1 – the Clerk had already circulated the Q1 spreadsheet detailing expenditure against budget and confirmed she would prepare the Q2 figures early in October and circulate prior to the next meeting.

Action: Clerk

104.4 It was RESOLVED to make the following Faster Payment transactions:

Payments already made and authorised:		
Community Heartbeat	Replacement defibrillator pads	£98.40
To approve for immediate payment:		
Stourton & Kilmington Home Guard Club	Hire of venue for meeting	£50.00
Mr T J Thornley	Q2 2022-23 website maintenance	£60.00
Citizens Advice Wiltshire	Section 137 donation	£50.00
Mrs R Burrows	Paper and Inkjet printing April – Aug 2022	£25.28
To approve upon receipt of invoice:		
N. Gatehouse Tree Surgeon	Green Ride additional works	£220.00
N. Gatehouse Tree Surgeon	Copper Beech Harepit Lane/Church Road	£150.00
Playsafety Ltd	Annual RoSPA Play Area inspection	*TBA
To approve payments for 30.09.22:		
D L Davis	Play Area Inspections Q2 2022-23	£175.50

Mrs R K Burrows	Salary and allowance Q2 2022-23 & back dated pay award (after deductions)	£390.00
HMRC	PAYE Q2 2022-23	£90.00
To approve payment due before next meeting		
P M Cowell Garden Services	Annual payment for Playing Field grass cutting	£1260.00

*exact amount will be confirmed at the next meeting – this is a budgeted item.

105. MEETING DATES FOR REMAINDER OF THIS FINANCIAL YEAR

The confirmed dates are now 14 November 2022 (Precept setting), 9 January 2023, 20 March 2023 – all dates are Monday, will commence at 7.30 pm and will take place at the Stourton & Kilmington Home Guard Club. The Clerk will confirm to all members and upload details to the website.

Action: Clerk

Members are reminded that the Parish Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime and Disorder, Health & Safety and Human Rights.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm

Signed 
(Chairman)

Date 24/10/22