

KILMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk – Mrs Ruth Burrows

Email: parishclerk@kilmingtonwiltshire.org

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 8 January 2024 at the Stourton & Kilmington Home Guard Club

Present: Councillors G Cotton (Chairman), A Reeves, C Reeves, G Hunt, R Flower.
Also in attendance, Wiltshire Councillor G Jeans (arrived 19.39hrs) and the Clerk.
The Chairman opened the meeting at 19.31 hrs.

Public Open Session – No members of the public were present.

205. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members present unanimously approved the apologies from Cllr Mrs E Hames (holiday) and Cllr C Webster (business commitments).

206. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS AND TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR NEW DPI DISPENSATIONS (*Councillors are invited to declare disclosable pecuniary interests and other interests in Items on the agenda as required by the Kilmington Parish Council Code of Conduct for Members and by the Localism Act 2011*). **None**

207. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING – 27 NOVEMBER 2023

Cllr Flower spoke and said item 197.1 Speed Indicator Device did not make sense. The words “to be” had been left out of the sentence. The Clerk added these by hand in ink and then all present agreed these were a correct record. The Chairman initialled the addendum and signed the minutes.

208. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE LAST MEETING (not covered by other agenda items)
None.

209. PLANNING (All applications can be viewed on Wiltshire Council’s website [Planning-Wiltshire Council planning-building-control/planning](https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-building-control/planning) and type in the relevant application number)

209.1 Applications to consider at the meeting: None at the date of issue of this Agenda.

209.2 Applications which may have arrived after issue of the Agenda.

209.3 Applications considered/determined and/or awaiting WC decision since last meeting (for info only):

PL/2022/06380 conversion of agricultural workshop/storage building to form a 2-bed dwelling with associated alterations, parking and amenity space, utilising a new vehicular access already granted planning permission under reference PL/2021/10977 at Treoaks, Butts Lane - AN APPEAL HAS BEEN LODGED WITH PLANNING INSPECTORATE. The Clerk said there was nothing to report.

210. HIGHWAYS, RIVERS, FOOTPATHS & TRANSPORT

210.1 Speed Indicator Device – the Chairman reported that the Clerk had been in contact with the suppliers of the SID and quotes of £800.00 to come to site or £150 plus postage to send it back to them for servicing had been received. As the SID is not actually broken it was agreed no further action be taken. Cllr Flower said he had cleaned the unit and this had appeared to make it slightly easier to change over the mph symbols. An instruction manual has been emailed to us but the Chairman thinks it relates to a later model of SID. Cllr Flower was asked to provide the serial number of the SID and Chairman/Clerk will attempt to obtain the correct user manual. **Action: RF/GMC/Clerk**

210.2 B3092 at Norton Ferris – Cllr Jeans had written again to WC asking for this item to be placed on a future Highway Improvement Plan for a total realignment. This would be at considerable cost but was the only option now open as other suggestions to make it a safer junction, had all be rejected. He asked that it remain on future agendas so that he is reminded to continually monitor and chase WC.

Action: GJ/Clerk

210.3 Speed Limit Assessment, Kilmington Common – the Chairman confirmed that he had spoken directly to the WC Highways Cabinet member, Cllr Caroline Thomas prior to the start of the South West Area Board meeting on 30 November. She explained to him that she is concerned about the current Department of Transport recommendations on speed limits and how they should be applied by County Councils. She needed to explore whether the wishes of the local communities were being matched up with those recommendations and unfortunately, she was unable to give any idea as the timeline involved. Since that meeting, the Chairman has spoken again with Paul Shaddock WC Traffic Engineer who has confirmed that Cllr Thomas has requested a report – to be ready by the next LHFIG meeting on 7 February – on which she will base her decision as to whether or not the 30mph speed limit can be introduced through Stourton Lane and with luck, she will have made that decision by the LHFIG meeting in May. Paul Shaddock confirmed that the TROs will be drafted by WC Highways department but they then have to go to Legal department to be signed off before they can be issued. At the current time, the latter department is short staffed and there is a 6-8 week backlog. The Chairman said one of the first things he needed to establish now is if Stourton PC were not involved, would we now have the 30mph limit.

Action: Chairman

It was unanimously agreed that the delays being experienced were in no small part due to Stourton PC “arriving late to the party” and now we are having to suffer the consequences. On a proposal by Cllr A Reeves, seconded by Cllr Hunt and agreed by all, a letter should be written to Stourton PC expressing our huge disappointment in their actions and asking that they either share with us the cost of our contribution towards the Atkins survey (£325.00) or withdraw their request for a 30mph speed limit along Stourton Lane. If Stourton still wanted to have this, they would need to campaign and deal with it on their own as they had been given the opportunity to join with us and they had declined. It was also RESOLVED that a letter should be written to Cllr Thomas pointing out it was her duty, as WC Cabinet Member for Highways, to ensure that the recommendations in Atkins report be implemented at the earliest opportunity; it has been recognised that the road should have a 30mph speed limit imposed and the delays are unacceptable. It was also suggested that a similar letter be sent to the Chairman of the LHFIG.

Action: GC/Clerk

210.4 Parish Steward – the Chairman reported that a new schedule for the whole of 2024 has been issued and that one whole day each month has now been allocated to us. However, last week Fred Winter phoned him to advise the programme had been abandoned until further notice so that all Stewards could help with the impact of the recent flooding. When he does reappear, Cllr Cotton said there would be much for him to be doing especially in regard to potholes. A lengthy discussion took place on the bad state of Church Road and the possible collapse of the pipe under the road. Cote Lane is in a similarly bad state and it seemed incredible that further works are being undertaken in Butts Lane as a priority. Cllr Jeans said he had reported Church Road to David Button WC and it was suggested that all members go into the MyWilts App and report these pot holes.

Action: All

210.5 Kilmington Snow Plough status – Cllr A Reeves said that a fabricated new bracket is a work in progress and he is liaising with Mr Meeker who owns the tractor. When asked about how much the repair/modification is going to cost, he said he was hopeful he would not have to charge the PC but it will depend on how easily the bracket will fit onto the tractor.

Action: AR

210.6 Butts Lane additional surface works (see item 210.4)

210.7 Flood Plan – recruitment of volunteers (item 197.9 November minutes) – the Clerk reported that Denis Jenkins, Chairman of the HGC had willingly agreed for the premises to remain as a Safe Place on the plan. In addition, he had volunteered to be a contact in the case of emergency. The Council is grateful for his offer and the Clerk was requested to amend the plan accordingly and write to Mr Jenkins to thank him. The Clerk asked Cllr A Reeves (Flood Warden) if Jonathan Hames had been asked to have his contact details on the plan. It was unclear but history has shown that he looks after the area from the B3092 and up The Street. The Clerk will write formally to Mr Hames.

Action: Clerk

210.8 LHFIG meeting – the next meeting will be on 7 February 2024 at 2pm and both the Chairman and Clerk will attend.

Action: Cllr Cotton/Clerk

211. PLAYING FIELD

211.1 Zip Wire repairs quote – the Clerk said she had emailed Alvian (the company who had originally installed the zipwire) and given details of the inspectors report to ask if they would come out and see what was needed. They had replied with a quote to replace the trolley, seat and chain which with labour and disposal of removed parts came to £882.00 plus VAT but no offer to come over and look at it. She said that Cllr Reeves and Darren Davis were of the opinion that the trolley was not worn and the brake functions as it always has. She had been over to the playing field herself with the intention of placing a sign on it to say “Do not Use” but the equipment appeared to be working as it should and she could see no worn wire. She has been in contact with another company in Fordingbridge that supplies the same zipwire and the rep is willing to come out and take a look at ours. In addition, she has also written to the manufacturers of the zip wire asking them why ours does not meet current safety standards and why they have made and are selling an item of play equipment that cannot be easily dismantled and inspected – as per the RoSPA requirements which they repeat in their report on an annual basis. To date no reply has been received.

Action: Clerk

211.2 Skate Board new notice – Clerk advised she had reminded Darren Davis about the need for the new sign to be installed and he was hoping it would be done today but she has not had confirmation of this.

Action: Clerk

211.3 New Committee – Cllr C Reeves said that no meeting had yet been arranged with the new Committee Members (Evie Pace and Nomi Miller) but that one would take place before the next meeting in March. He said there was some confusion (Pink Paper) that Evie was to be the new Chairman but that had not been agreed.

Action: Cllr Mrs Hames/Cllr C Reeves

212. DHSC DEFIBRILLATOR SCHEME – details of a grant scheme for a half price defibrillator had been circulated to all members for consideration. There was general agreement that this could be something the PC should look into for placement on an outside wall of the HGC. Cllr Hunt will canvas residents along The Common to find out what the consensus is. However, the lack of any mobile signal in the area does mean that a locked keypad unit would not be suitable. The Clerk will check to see if an unlocked unit can be supplied.

Action: GH/Clerk

Cllr Hunt said that all residents along Kilmington Common were now reliant on digital voice for their landline telephone service and they had been given power packs in case of electricity power cuts which in his view would be rather useless. Cllr Jeans said that applying for a grant via Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks, Resilient Communities Fund to purchase a generator could be a way forward and this could be kept at the HGC which is the village’s place of safety in the Flood Plan. Zeals village hall had done exactly that and they now have an emergency generator. Each year SSEN welcome applications for grants and he is pretty certain that is how Zeals obtained theirs.

Action: Clerk to make enquires

213. FINANCE & RESOURCES

213.1 Receipts & acknowledgements since last meeting: None

213.2 Balance of Lloyds Bank account at 02.01.2024 amounted to £11,727.29 and there have been no further payments since that date. This reconciles with the bank statement of the same date; the Chairman signed the bank reconciliation form.

213.3 Payments to be authorised

We have not yet received the invoice from WC in regard to the new pedestrian signs.

The following Lloyds Bank faster payments were approved:

Authorised at last meeting but not yet paid:		
WC LHFIG	25% contribution towards Pedestrian signage The Street	£ 480.00
For immediate payment:		
SLCC	Annual subscription	£76.00
Mr T J Thornley	Renewal of website domain	£14.38

213.4 To approve PRECEPT on Wiltshire Council for 2024/2025. The Clerk said she had already advised members by email on 2 January, that WC had confirmed a tax base of 142.93 for a Band D charge. The annual budget had been approved at the November meeting but the precept now needed to be formally agreed. RESOLVED approve the precept of £13,498.00 for 2024-2025 on proposal made by Cllr Cotton, seconded by Cllr C Reeves and carried with a unanimous vote. This is £3175 more than the current year. On a Band D property this will equate to a charge of £94.44 compared to £73.09 this year – a 29.2% increase.

213.5 Spend v Budget report to 31.12.2023 (previously circulated) – there were no comments.

214. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Monday, 25 March 2023.

Meeting Closed at 21.10 hrs

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.

Signed:

(Chairman)

Date: