

MINUTES OF THE KILMINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT THE STOURTON & KILMINGTON HOME GUARD CLUB ON MONDAY 20 MAY 2024 AT 19.30 HRS

Present: Cllr Graham Cotton (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Elizabeth Hames, Cllr Andrew Reeves, Cllr Christopher Reeves, Cllr Roy Flower, Cllr Giles Hunt, Cllr Jason Moore.

In attendance: Cllr George Jeans (arrived 19.40hrs Wiltshire Unitary Councillor), Mrs Ruth Burrows (Parish Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

Cllr Cotton welcomed all present and opened the meeting at 19.33hrs. He informed those present that the Clerk would be recording proceeding for the assistance of typing up the minutes and once she has completed them, the recording would be deleted.

1. APOLOGIES: None had been received.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22 May 2023, previously circulated as well as displayed on our website and noticeboard, were approved and signed as a correct record.

3. PUBLIC SESSION - The one member of the public present raised the following issues:

Parish Steward – this always appears on the agendas on our PC meetings but she feels that the residents of the village do not know why and what the purpose is. Therefore, at the start of each meeting when the public are allowed to speak, they are unaware of what is going to be said regarding the Steward and, as they are not permitted to speak when that item on the agenda is discussed by the councillors, the public cannot comment or give a viewpoint. Cllr Cotton said this item was on the agenda each month so that he could report what the Steward had done when he visited and it also allowed councillors to inform him of any pressing issues that needed to be addressed on the Steward's next visit. Cllr Cotton explained that although WC issue a schedule of planned visits by the Steward, these have not been kept to and especially this past winter, the Stewards have had to deal with flood issues and have been taken off their regular duties. It was suggested by the Clerk that she prepare a short note for inclusion in the next edition of the Kilmington News, outlining all of the duties that can be performed by the Parish Steward.

Bus Shelter - the MOP said there were residents who were happy to volunteer their time to try to keep the village looking tidy and, in this respect, it had been suggested that the bus shelter at the end of Cote Lane could be painted inside and the graffiti removed. This had been mentioned to Cllr Mrs Hames who had spoken to Cllr Cotton but no one had informed the Clerk so it was not on the May PC meeting agenda. The Clerk reminded all present that in order for items to be discussed and any decisions made, it had to be on the agenda. It was agreed that Bus Shelters would be an item on the July meeting agenda.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - During the year I have participated in the following activities on behalf of the Parish Council:

Flooding: As you are all aware, we have had an unprecedented amount of rainfall this winter, consequently I have spent a considerable amount of time monitoring and liaising with Wiltshire Council in connection with the collection/holding pond at the bottom on the Street. This is potentially very serious because if the bank of that pond collapses into the road, there is no question that the road will be closed and it could be for up to one year, I am reliably informed. The plan, when it is dry enough is to get WC's CCTV equipment to investigate. There are two pipes that go from the pond down under the B3092 and both are blocked. One is completely blocked with masonry which may have come from the entrance to the pipe in the pond this will not be known until it is found what exactly is in it. I am determined to try to get that specialist equipment here

during the summer and then there will be a plan as to how they are going to remove whatever is in the pipes. Several of us were out in pretty unattractive weather conditions during the winter clearing the leaves away from the top of the drains and trying to get the surface water to run through the surface water drains rather than the top of the road and I know various people have had potentially serious problems with water getting into their businesses so it is not something to forget and it does look as though we are going to have more of this kind of weather in the future.

Roads - The additional signage warning pedestrians walking in the road were eventually fitted to poles in The Street during November 2023 and, in fact, 4 new signs were installed rather than the 3 we had originally requested. Sometimes incompetence generates a plus and in this case, we have got 2 signs at the bottom of The Street warning of pedestrians. One was never intended for this village and we have not and we will not be paying of it – it was meant for another village that is waiting for it but WC are not going to move it to the other village as they consider it will be uneconomic.

I am not going to talk about the new 30 mph limit for The Common any more other than to say that we have had to increase our precept considerably to ensure that we have enough cash to contribute towards the cost of that. I will be talking about this subject in our next meeting.

Planning: The PC only considered 2 applications during the year.

Broadband and Mobile phone signal: There is nothing to report on these two items although it is important to note that Giles Hunt has taken over Chris Webster role of trying to get some sense out of the people who are meant to be rolling out Project Gigabit. Again, this is on the agenda of our next meeting.

Kilmington School: (to be renamed Wessex Lodge Primary School)

Good progress is being made there and we had a good presentation from them earlier in the year; I think we may well ask them to come back again before the September term starts when the school will become active.

There has been some discussion about pick up and drop off and how that is going to work but I think it's a question of seeing how it all works. The other thing to understand is that there are six mini buses that will be bringing pupils to the school so it is unlikely there will be streams and streams of individual cars.

Thanks

There are many residents who make a contribution to life in Kilmington and I would like to thank the following for their continuing efforts:

- Ian Cameron – our coordinator for the Public Access Defibrillator who we wish well as he has been very unwell.
- Peter Samson & Georgina Muir need a lot of thanks for their work on the area around the village pump and War Memorial. If it were not for them the area would be a jungle.
- Tony Chubb who is very keen on making his voluntary contribution to the village and he has now taken on the maintenance of the Sheep Cote for which we thank him.
- Darren Davis who contributes to the smooth running of the playing field and our two new committee members Nomi Miller and Evie Pace who are going to be very energetic and willing to fund raise for replacement equipment.
- Eugene Read who has been our internal auditor for more years than I can remember. This is an important role and ensures that our Responsible Financial Officer (the Clerk) is keeping all the required records and accounting details as they should be.

- Cllr George Jeans for his support for the village and for his tenacious pursuit of doing something about the Coombe Barn Lane junction in Norton Ferris; I just hope that we all, live long enough to see something happen.
- I would like to thank Elizabeth Hames, my Vice Chair who does a lot of hard work particularly intelligence at the bottom of the village in addition to organising the fireworks and the bonfire.
- I would like to thank all of you members of the Council for your contributions and turning up for meetings and helping in the various ways that you do.
- Finally, I would like to thank our hard-working Clerk - Ruth Burrows - who works many more hours than she is paid for.

5. COUNCILLOR GEORGE JEANS ANNUAL REPORT –

Cllr Jeans highlighted the parts of his report which were pertinent for Kilmington. His complete annual report is an attachment to these minutes and is available to view on our website.

6. REPORTS AND ACCOUNS FOR THE FOLLOWING PARISH ORGANISATIONS:

Kilmington Amenity Fund: Cllr Mrs Hames reported on behalf of herself and Mrs Elizabeth Reed as follows: The fund currently has 185 members which is the same as last year. It is expected this figure might drop back a few as people have moved and it is getting more difficult to recruit new members. The tickets are sold a 50 pence each, £6.00 annually. The prize money has stayed the same at £50 in total which breaks down £25 1st prize, £15 2nd and £10 for 3rd and this represents over 50% of the monthly income. We feel it balances out with table, chair and gazebo hire throughout the year. Expenditure has been the annual fireworks display in November and the purchase of more new chairs in February which cost £140.

Kilmington News: Cllr Mrs Hames’s report is attached and shows an income of £359.99 and expenditure of £363.45 which represents a shortfall of £3.46. Only one copy of the pink paper is now posted (to our local MP) and 4 copies sent via email.

John Hooper Charity: The Parish Clerk had contacted Neville Meeker who had provided the following statement of accounts to 31 December 2023:

Balance b/f	£31.94
Income	£16.06
Expenses	£16.00
Balance in hand	£32.00

7. The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.10 hrs

Signed.....

Date