

## KILMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk – Mrs Ruth Burrows

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Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 20 January 2025 at the Stourton & Kilmington Home Guard Club.

**Present:** Councillors G Cotton (Chairman), Mrs E Hames (Vice-Chairman), G Hunt, A Reeves, C Reeves, R Flower, J Moore.

Also in attendance: Ruth Burrows (Clerk), John Harrison Chairman, PFAC and 1 member of the public. The Chairman opened the meeting at 19.30 hrs.

**Public Open Session** – no members of the public wished to speak in the Open Session.

The Chairman reminded all present that the meeting was being recorded purely to assist the Clerk with the minutes and one they had been typed in draft format it would be deleted.

**289. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – none all present

**290. 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.

**291. MATTERS ARISING**

**291.1 Replacement bench under Copper Beech in Harepit Lane** – the Clerk said that she had spoken to the resident who had originally reported the damaged bench, and whose father had offered to make a new one. He did not want to make a bench for elsewhere in the village as the Harepit Lane site had a sentimental connection.

**291.2 Neighbourhood Watch – WhatsApp group** – Cllr Moore reported that information had been included in the January edition of the Pink Paper and he is intending to set up the group during the next week or so and then, further information on how to join etc will be included in the next Pink Paper. Cllr Mrs Hames requested this by the end of the week to meet publication deadline. He said he was unsure how people who did not have access to WhatsApp would be able to be included and more thought on this is required. *Action: Cllrs Moore & Mrs Hames*

**292. MINUTES** – the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday 25 November 2024 were approved and signed as a correct record.

**293. 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)

**293.1 Applications to consider at the meeting:** None

**293.2 Applications which may have arrived after issue of the Agenda:** None

**293.3 Planning Town and Parish Council Forum** – next meeting 11 February\*\* 18.00-20.00 hrs **on line** – the Chairman said he thought that at least one councillor should represent Kilmington. *Action: ALL*  
*\*\* since the meeting the date of the Forum has been changed to Wed 5 February same times*

**294. BROADBAND & MOBILE 'PHONE SIGNAL** – Cllr Hunt said he had contacted EE again and been advised that they are looking at a new microwave as the mole-ploughing option is not going to work. A full assessment of the mast now needs to be undertaken to see if it can accommodate the weight of the huge dish that will need to be installed.

**295. HIGHWAYS, RIVERS, FOOTPATHS & TRANSPORT**

**295.1 Speed Indicator Device** – Cllr Flower said he had only just received the unit from Zeals and that he would be fitting it to the post asap where it will remain until mid-February.

**295.2 B3092 junction improvements at Norton Ferris/Highways Improvement Form** – the Chairman said it looked like from information received back from WC so far that nothing is going to be done at this junction until someone is seriously injured. The Clerk said she had submitted the form to Wiltshire Council (WC) for the LH FIG group and had received a response from Paul Shaddock (PS) which she had distributed to all members. Additionally, she advised that she had given incorrect information at the November meeting in regard to the metro-counter which isn't generally used where there is an existing speed limit of over 40mph so she had not submitted a request form.

**Road Surface** - this was discussed and it was not thought possible for anyone to safely photograph pot holes in this section of the road. Cllrs Hunt and A Reeves said they are not significant or worse than any other major road in the UK. It is a national problem which we cannot hope to solve. However, if there are specific potholes they can still be reported via MyWilts App without photos. The Clerk said that the current future (2025-26) resurfacing programme for the South West Wiltshire community area has already been agreed and the only road in Kilmington which is listed is Butts Lane.

**LED flashing warning lights** – PS had informed us that the use of LED warnings is only considered by WC where there is a recorded collision history and previous interventions have not been effective in reducing their frequency. WC's criteria for a location to be considered to have a road safety issue is that there must have been three or more recorded personal injury collisions within the preceding 3 years and Norton Ferris does not meet this.

**Speed limit assessment** – PS had indicated that, in his professional opinion, Norton Ferris would not meet the criteria for a 40mph speed limit to be introduced. However, the PC agreed to pursue an Assessment via LHFIG and we are hopeful it will be on the agenda for their next meeting on 5 February. If agreed, this would commit the PC to a 25% contribution of the total cost of £3100.

The Clerk was requested to write to both residents of Norton Ferris who had been present at our November meeting to inform them of the information from PS and also what the PC had agreed to at this meeting prior to the publication of the minutes.

*Action: Clerk*

**295.3 Change of speed limit Kilmington Common** - the Chairman said he had been reliably informed that the new speed limit would be operational by the 23 March.

**295.4 Holding Pond by The Street** – the Chairman said he had been to look at the site earlier in the day and was concerned that the concrete that used to be in sacks had been arranged to try and prevent anything getting into the pipe so as to block the outlet pipe. That is fine at the moment but when the water pressure increases after a severe storm, he is worried that the stones themselves will cause a blockage so he is going to try to do something about that tomorrow. David Button is still planning to have the pond dug out again when the JCB resource is available, although no programme date is yet available. However, due to the high levels of recent rainfall and groundwater, WC have had to abandon current plans to dig out those ditches and ponds etc that need “muck away”, as the arisings are just too watery to be transported in a tipper lorry. Therefore, it looks as though it will be the summer before any of that is done.

*Action: Chairman*

**295.5 Church Road pot-holes** – the Chairman said that again, David Button had responded to his enquiry as to what the latest progress was on this issue. Unfortunately, he reported that although he had asked his technician to raise a work ticket for the Vactor at this location on 30 July 24, Milestone did not carry out the works as they claimed they could not get sufficient access due to excessive undergrowth. They wrote a report but did nothing with it. DB has apologised and is raising a new request.

*Action: on-going Chairman*

**295.6 Parish Steward** – the Chairman said he did some standard jobs in January and he had asked him to fill a couple of pot holes. He is due back with us on 3 February and reminded all councillors to send him tasks for the Steward to do.

*Action: All*

**295.7 New Bus Service for Kilmington** – the Clerk said she had received information from Cllr Jeans to the effect that a new additional “on-demand” Wiltshire Connect service was being planned for the village, effective from mid-2025. New vehicles are on order and work is underway on the design of the

service which will serve both Kilmington and Stourton and will enable journeys to be made to Mere, Warminster and Frome.

## **296. PLAYING FIELD**

**296.1 Grass cutting** – new tender for 1 April 2025 – the Clerk said the advert was placed in the Blackmoore Vale magazine twice just before and after Christmas and but we received only two enquires from it so rather disappointing. She gave details of the quotes received and it was **RESOLVED** to appoint Rob Pearce as grass cutting contractor for the next three years. Cllr C Reeves commented perhaps at the end of this contract we should consider an annual quote rather than three years. **Action: Clerk**

It has been brought to the attention of the PC that a van has been parked in front of the gates to the playing field which is totally unacceptable. It is believed to be owned by a new resident of Brookside Terrace. Cllr C Reeves had attempted to try to speak with them today but no one was home. The registration details will be passed to the Clerk tomorrow and she was requested to report the matter to the Wiltshire Police. **Action: Chairman/Clerk**

The issue of parking was again briefly discussed and the problems affecting all users of the road, as well as the residents of Brookside Terrace. The PC has no intention to revisit this matter and it was felt that this is something Wiltshire Council should be asked to resolve and perhaps create a parking area, as we have suggested before on the waste land to the right of Brookside. The Chairman agreed to speak with Cllr Jeans and ask him to take up this matter on our behalf with WC. **Action: Chairman/Cllr Jeans**

## **296.2 Playing Field Advisory Committee – latest information**

a) John Harrison (JH), Chairman – details of replacement/refurbishment of equipment had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting and this would need a sum of around £100,000 to produce. He still has one other quote to come in from another vendor who is focused on wood and preservation of natural resources. He said the intention would be to replace/renew areas on a modular basis. JH said he has been in contact with the Headmistress of Wessex School as well as Broadchalke PC where a similar value playground was installed last year. If it can be fully assessable and inclusive to disabled children, there appears to be a much larger scope for grants and funding from various organisations. He is intending to hold an informal “get together” for residents of the village at the Home Guard Club one Saturday morning in the near future, so that the proposals so far can be viewed and any comments and suggestions from local families can be taken into account. It was **RESOLVED** that JH should proceed to the next stage and start applying for grants and funding.

**Car parking** - JH said the companies that had come out to see the playing field last autumn had all mentioned the lack of parking. (see earlier comments). Cllr Hunt said that with the scope and size of project now being considered, he felt the NT would be far more open and agreeable to helping to resolve this issue.

b) **Quotes for cleaning of wet-pour area.** The Clerk had received two quotes for cleaning of the wet pour and tarmac in the playing field. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the one provided by Tony Chubb, who has done numerous jobs for the PC over the years, not always charging for them. This was for £500 and covered many other jobs in the playing field which had been highlighted in the RoSPA report. Cllr C Reeves said he would be happy to help with the water supply via a tank rather than ask a local resident near the field if their water could be used. **Action: Clerk to contact Mr Chubb**

**297. WESSEX DEVOLUTION** – possible postponement of elections. The Clerk had put this on the agenda as it was still not one hundred percent certain that the elections would go ahead although WC are very much proceeding as if they will be held on 1 May. She said she would be going to a meeting of the Wiltshire Clerks in Warminster on Friday when members of the WC Election Team were going to make a presentation of the timetable. As soon as any information is available, she will pass on to all members. **Action: Clerk**

**298. CLERK’S REPORT**

**298.1 Website** – the Clerk gave details of three quotes she had received in connection with changing the administration and hosting of the website. It was RESOLVED to appoint Websquared as soon as it was practical to change over from existing administrator (TandD productions). Agreement was also given to the Clerk to ask Websquared to make modifications to the website and bring it up to date at a cost of £800, once the transfer is complete. **Action: Clerk**

**299. FINANCE, POLICY & RESOURCES**

**299.1 Receipts & acknowledgements since last meeting** - since our last meeting a cheque for £405.75 representing the cost of fireworks less VAT was paid into our current account.

**299.2 Balance of Lloyds Bank accounts at 31.12.24.** was current account £1535.71 and Instant access saving account £15046.09. A total of £46.09 has been received in interest on this account since opening it in August. The reconciliation statement was signed by the Chairman.

**299.3 The following payments were authorised:**

For immediate payment:		
SLCC	Annual subscription	£80.00
Tim Cook	Website maintenance Q3	£60.00
Tim Cook	Renewal of domain name	£16.00

The Clerk said she had overlooked the invoice from the Blackmore Vale magazine for £72.00 plus VAT (£86.40) which she had paid in December for the grass cutting advertisement but she will submit that for payment in March.

**300. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting of the parish council is scheduled for Monday 17 March

The Chairman closed the meeting at 20.45hrs

*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: .....