

KILMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Monday, 21 July 2025 at the Stourton & Kilmington Home Guard Club.

Present: Councillors G Cotton, J Brooks, R Flower, Mrs E Hames, J Moore, A Reeves.

Also in attendance, Wiltshire Unitary Councillor G Jeans, the Clerk and 4 members of the public.

The meeting opened at 19.30 hrs

Public Open Session – Of the four Members of the Public (MOP) present, one MOP requested to speak and outline his complaints. In error the Clerk, for which she apologises, reminded the MOP he was allowed 3½ minutes but in fact she should have said 3 minutes. He actually spoke for 7 minutes but this can be allowed with the Chairman's approval. In summary, the MOP had complaints concerning the road surfacing works in Butts Lane and New Road, which he listed somewhat vociferously. He also complained about some of the signage, both the redundant signs which had not been removed, and also the new speed limit signs.

The Chairman responded that many approaches had been made to the contractor to remove their signage, and the size and placement of the speed limit signs are subject to the law governing speed limits, particularly 30 mph limits signs

18. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Cllr C Reeves who was on holiday. Approved.

Proposed by Cllr Cotton, Seconded by Cllr Flower with a unanimous vote.

19. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS AND TO CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR NEW DPI DISPENSATIONS: None

20. MINUTES: the minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 12 May 2025 were approved and signed as a correct record.

21. PLANNING – there are no new or outstanding Planning Applications.

22. BROADBAND & MOBILE 'PHONE SIGNAL – Cllr Brookes reported he had been in contact with Wessex Internet and the work is still scheduled for the first half of 2027 although there is a possibility it might be brought forward to 2026. There is currently high-speed fibre all the way along Stourton Lane and New Road to Butts Lane. There are a few houses along this stretch which are not connected and apart from that, it's the rest of the village which is due to be serviced by Wessex under the programme.

It is unclear why new poles have been placed in Butts Lane; Wessex had not mentioned this to Cllr Brooks. Discussion concluded this was probably to do with improving the broadband service to the school.

Cllr Brooks did not have any update on the **mobile signal**.

23. HIGHWAYS, RIVERS, FOOTPATHS & TRANSPORT

23.1 Change of speed limit Kilmington Common. The Chairman had attended the LHFIC meeting held on 25 June where it had been confirmed that Stourton PC have got the funding to extend the 30mph limit through the pinch point at Stourton Lane. The PC now has to decide if it wants to spend £400 requesting a second large sign to be placed at the Stourton Lane end of the Common, bearing in mind that it will have to come down and be replaced with repeater signs once there is a continuous limit. This was likely to happen at the end of the current financial year (March 2026). It was RESOLVED to not pay for an additional sign but to wait until next year when the remainder of Stourton Lane becomes 30mph. The Chairman said we had at least one resident saying that the signing had not been done properly and we have the WC Traffic Engineer telling us it complies with the law, so it is a matter of opinion but the current signage is enforceable.

23.1.1 WC Free Traffic Survey – Cllr Brookes has canvassed and received support from 4-5 people who are willing to volunteer their time for a Speed- watch programme. The first step towards setting up a group is to apply to WC for a Traffic Survey (metro counter). The Clerk had provided all the necessary paperwork to Cllr Brooks which he will

complete, asking for the counter to be placed half way between the Home Guard Club and Cote Lane. The data is passed to Wiltshire Police who will assess and determine if a group can be set up. **Action: Cllr Brooks**

Cllr A Reeves asked if there was actual evidence of upset residents complaining that the 30mph is not being adhered to. Cllr Brooks (who lives along The Common) replied that there is concern that vehicles are exceeding the new limit and the purpose of the Traffic Survey will establish whether or not there is a problem to warrant a Speed-watch. There is no cost for this to the parish council. A discussion took place on SIDs which report data directly to Wiltshire Police, although our current device does not have this facility and would need to be upgraded/replaced.

(post-meeting note from the Clerk: the survey will record 85th percentile speed for each vehicle; for a 30mph speed limit 35.1 to 41.9 mph is the trigger. The 85th percentile is the speed at or below which 85% of the traffic is travelling. In addition, it will record directional speed data, weekly average speed data, percentage of vehicles travelling over speed limit. Traffic volumes are also recorded hourly, split into northbound/southbound and various averages taken. The counter will be in place for a 7 day period although may be in position for up to 2 weeks)

23.2 Parish Steward - Chairman said that the steward's visits continue to be erratic and the printed schedule is not being worked to although no official notification of this had been received from WC. He said he rarely received any jobs for the Parish Steward to complete from the other councillors apart from the Vice Chairman. Cllr A Reeves said that they felt everything they had sent was usually beyond the steward's remit so they do not bother.

A MOP made a comment he had observed on the steward's last visit, when he strimmed the grips on Church Road and the next day, a contractor cut the verge and allowed the cuttings to fill in all the grips. He asked if the Steward had been sent out by WC to do that job or was it just his day in Kilminster as there appeared to be no sort of continuity between who knows what he is doing for our parish. The Chairman replied that there are far too many instances with WC where there was not enough co-ordination between departments.

The same MOP then suggested that a job for the steward on might be for him to go around the village and pick up all the plastic signs he had highlighted in the public session. Cllr A Reeves said it would be far easier if one of the councillors did that job and he volunteered to do it.

Action Cllr A Reeves

23.3 Road repairs to Church Road – The Chairman said WC are trying to find in their archives details of the pipe installed about 10 years. This was placed under the road to take away some of the spring water into the ditch going into the River Wylfe.

23.4 Holding Pond by The Street and to the side of B3092 – The Chairman reported that The Street is being closed from 28th July to 8th August for drainage work. This will be from just above Brookside Terrace down to and under the B3092 - the pipework either side of the collection pond but no work on the pond itself. They will be working to rectify a pipe misconnection, a pipe breakage, a displaced pipe joint and tree roots from the pipeline to increase flow. This work will be carried out by Milestone for WC

23.5 Footpaths – The Clerk put forward a proposal to have a dedicated member of the council to be responsible for making sure all of our public footpaths and rights of way are kept clear and in good order. Alternatively, she had suggested perhaps via the Pink Paper to encourage the formation of a local walking group with a member of the public volunteering to check on the footpaths and regularly report back to the PC. Members were of the opinion that this was not necessary and if there were any problems with any of these areas, the public soon notified either the PC or the local landowner.

Item discharged

23.6 Recent roadworks in New Road, The Common – A lengthy discussion took place on the road surface and the potholes. Cllr A Reeves suggested that it was now time to try to get local residents on board by reporting on the MyWilts App which will trigger action by WC. Cllr Jeans reported on WC's new velocity patcher equipment now being used. He also said that WC had been awarded another £20million this year for roadworks and Kilminster PC needs to write to the newly appointed Cabinet Member to get some of that money spent on the roads in Kilminster. It was RESOLVED that the Chairman would draft a letter for the Clerk to send. Cllr Moore asked if it would be possible to arrange to get David Button, WC Highways out to Kilminster to show him the unsatisfactory works and works that needed to be done. The Chairman replied that he thought he might be able to do that. All were in agreement that if works undertaken by the current contractor are not up to standard, the parish council must complain by every means until they are put right.

Action: Chairman/Clerk

23.7 B3092 junction improvements at Norton Ferris (agreement to request free WC Traffic Survey and an update if any from Cllr Jeans). There was some confusion on this item as the Clerk, instead of making two separate items, had placed "Traffic Survey" and "Junction Improvement" under one heading as she felt the two were interlinked. In future the Clerk will separate out differing issues.

Action: Clerk

Considerable discussion took place on the Coombe Barn Lane junction and the Chairman reported on a conversation he had with one particular resident who had written to Cllr Jeans in connection with quarry lorries on the B3092. Cllr Jeans reiterated his desire to have a junction realignment at Coombe Barn Lane and repeated that he will continue to pursue this. However, all residents were not in favour of such a solution especially farmers who would need to travel further up the road to get onto the B3092 and not all residents felt that speeding or quarry lorries were a problem. The community appears to be divided.

With regard to the placement of a Traffic Survey, at no cost to the Parish Council, it was proposed by Cllr Cotton, seconded by Cllr Flower, a vote taken with 4 four and 2 against. Motion carried.

Action: Clerk

24. WEBSITE & THE USE OF DRONE PHOTOGRAPH – Cllr Jeans had put the Clerk in contact with a resident of Bourton (Mr Ian Rawlings) who was willing to take out his drone over Kilmington and provide some aerial photographs without cost to the PC. These had been emailed to all councillors with a note to say that they would be discussed at this meeting. She had got the impression from their responses that they were, in general, not keen to go ahead with this idea and had informed Mr Rawlings accordingly as he was keen to return to the village and meet up with a councillor to do more shots. However, following discussions it was agreed that two or three especially those of the War Memorial could be used but any, where individual resident's properties could be identified, should not be placed on the website. The Clerk will write to Mr Rawlings and select 2-3 appropriate photos for uploading.

Action: Clerk

25. LIME TREES OWNED BY PC IN GREEN RIDE – Cllr A Reeves said he had looked at the growth at the moment all is good. However, he suggested cutting back/pruning should be undertaken early next year (2026) and it was agreed this should happen. Cllr A Reeves to liaise with the Clerk so that he can obtain quotes January/February.

Action: Clerk

26. PLAYING FIELD

26.1 PFAC update – John Harrison(JH), Chairman of PFAC provided an update on his activities since the last meeting and, for the benefit of the MOP present, a brief summary of what has been achieved so far. There is a second Community Consultation taking place between 10-12pm on **Saturday 9 August** at HGC. In order for him to be able to seek funding and have some "clout" with the organisations he wants to approach, he said it would be beneficial to establish a group to represent the community. He has therefore established "Friends of Kilmington Playground" as an unincorporated association and written a constitution. This will be promoted at the Consultation, as well as publicized in the next edition of the Pink Paper, and he hopes some residents can be recruited to join, stressing that there is no obligation or commitment of time or money and it is basically a means to help obtaining grants and funding.

A third vendor GreenPlay a Bristol based company, has just provided a quote which is competitive with the other two quotes – all these designs, plans and details will be available at the Consultation as well as Evie Pace's Garden design. There is a question mark over whether we should incorporate a new multigames area or if we should just concentrate on replacement of the existing wooden items so a decision will be needed on this.

The Golden Bottle Trust has met with JH at the playing field and we have an "in principle" letter from them to donate £5000 as soon as a bank account has been set up. There is also the possibility of another £5000 from a Wiltshire Community Grant which has just opened and cut off for applications is 10 October with a decision in December. Based on the assumption that we do not go ahead with the multigames area, we are probably going to need around £45,000 in total. JH has identified a further possible 15 organisations that would possibly give us some money. He said that having £10000 in the bank is going to be very helpful as mostly they look for someone else to lead the investment. The Chairman thanked JH for all this work so far.

The Chairman said that we needed to register thanks to Cllr Mrs Hames and her granddaughter for the work they have completed over the last few weeks in repainting all of the skate ramps.

26.2 Car parking at the playing field – The Chairman said that any provision of parking for the residents is reliant on the replacement of the sewage treatment plant for Brookside Terrace and until a decision is made on that, no progress can be made. There is an ongoing discussion between the people responsible for the drainage at Brookside and Highways.

Action: Chairman will continue to pursue but will be removed from Playing field items

JH said that the Chairman had passed to him the previous correspondence in regard to the provision of parking in the playing field and, through ex Cllr Giles Hunt, he has contacted the National Trust. Their initial response to the

idea of parking spaces as part of the playground provision was favourable but he expects it will be a very long discussion. He would prefer to keep this completely separate from parking for residents of Brookside. Cllr A Reeves commented the first hurdle would be to have the NT release the covenants in place on the land.

Cllr A Reeves asked about total funding saying initial thoughts were the amount needed was going to be around £100K, presumably a parking area would be extra to this and are we really going to be able to find that amount of money. JH said £50K should cover the initial designs with any parking an extra cost. He also said the experience of Broadchalke PC for a similar scheme was, once there is an initial investment, it becomes easier and if half of what is needed can be raised, National Lottery funding can be applied for although that would require the PC's input so it would shift from being a community to a council initiative.

26.3 Flooding of the playing field: The Chairman had nothing to report. John Harrison said he had contacted Farming Advice Services and they suggested mitigated the risk in the future by planting maize with rye grass to bind the soil together which makes it less prone to run off and flooding. **Item discharged**

27. DEFIBRILLATOR UNITS – the replacement unit on The Street had been purchased via a Managed Solution package whereas the unit placed outside Home Guard Club had been purchased outright – hence currently they are on different Community Heartbeat (CH) schemes. Both “Guardians” for the units report monthly to CH and this will continue. The British Heart Foundation (BHF) now require both units to be reported on their status quarterly. In order to simplify the procedure, Clerk had been in contact with CH and if the PC will authorise the switching of the Thenford unit to the same scheme as the HGC unit at a cost of £1 it will mean that the Clerk can report on both units to BHF. This was agreed. **Action: Clerk**

28. FINANCE, POLICY & RESOURCES

28.1 Receipts & acknowledgements since last meeting: Since the last meeting we have received the June interest payment on our Lloyds Instant access account of £12.12. No other receipts. All of the annual donations paid out in May have been acknowledged.

28.2 Balance of Lloyds Banks accounts at 30.06.25: Our current account contains £1146.47 and the interest instant access £18224.48 – there are no unpresented cheques so our balance is **£19370.95**. The Chairman duly signed the reconciliation statement prepared by the Clerk.

28.3 Clerk's claim for overtime during Q1 2025-26. Details of the extra 18 hours worked had been sent to all councillors and the Clerk had asked to be paid for 10 of these. It was RESOLVED to approve the claim and payment made in September once the Pay Role person had worked out the details. **Action: Clerk**

28.4 The following Lloyds Bank faster payments were approved:

| <i>Paid since last meeting:</i> | | |
|--|--|--------|
| Lloyds Bank (Direct Debit) | Bank charges (10 May – 9 Jun 25) | 4.25 |
| Lloyds Bank (Direct Debit) | Bank charges (10 Jun – 9 Jul 25) | 4.25 |
| Mrs R Burrows (Amazon) | Purchase of 4 x 1L paint for skate board ramps | £41.30 |
| <i>To be approved:</i> | | |
| Home Guard Club | Hire of Club House for July (this meeting) | £50.00 |

28.5 Clerk's Q1 April-Jun) quarterly report Expenditure v Budget - previously circulated. No comments.

29. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The revised date of Monday 8 September was agreed. The Clerk to update 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.

Signed:
(Chairman)

Date: