

# KINGSKERSWELL PARISH COUNCIL



Meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 at 7pm via Zoom

## MINUTES

**Present:** Cllr N Penman (Chair), Cllr A Hartley, Cllr P Hartley, Cllr W Dixon, Cllr S Stone, Cllr R Jones

**Attending:** Mr P Marsden and Mr R Williams - Planning Potential  
Mrs J Thompson – Clerk, and six members of the public

### Part One (open to public and press)

**3125: Welcome and apologies of absence:**

The Chair opened the meeting at 7.00pm. Apologies were received from Cllr A Dewhirst (DCC)

**3126: Public participation:**

**3126.1** The Chairman welcomed Phil Marsden (planning team) and Rob Williams (transport consultant), who were attending the meeting to answer questions on the Aldi/DGM planning proposal. A summary of comments and concerns, largely centred on traffic and litter, was read out by Cllr P Hartley.

A retail impact assessment, that had been carried out by the planning consultants, anticipated there would be little extra traffic coming through Kingskerswell, this was disputed and discussed at length. The consultants admitted that there was no data available on the Riviera Way/Torquay Road junction use for an accurate picture to be established. DCC Highways comments on the planning proposal stated that it would investigate extra traffic calming measures if planning permission was granted.

In summing up, the consultants said that planning conditions for HGV movement and a litter management plan could be implemented to help alleviate concerns.

**3126.2** KKAG to submit a proposal form for a planting scheme at Water Lane.

**3126.3** The positioning of the trees for the KKAG planting scheme at Coles Lane Gardens was questioned by Cllrs, so a site visit will be undertaken to discuss a better layout.

**3126.4** KKAG planting scheme at Newton Road has started consulting with residents; residents on both sides of the road need to be informed and all replies put in writing. Cllr R Jones and Cllr A Hartley to meet on site to mark out positioning of the trees.

Clerk confirmed that maps for the three schemes had been submitted to DCC Highways and were awaiting approval. Once the pc agrees with the proposals then the schemes can go ahead.

**3127: Declarations of Interest from members:**

Cllr N Penman regarding the part two meeting, as one of the quotes may be from the provider of his business website.

**3128: To agree the minutes of the previous meetings:**

It was proposed by Cllr N Penman, seconded by Cllr R Jones, and agreed by the majority to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2021, as a true and accurate record.

It was proposed by Cllr R Jones, seconded by Cllr N Penman, and agreed by the majority to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021, as a true and accurate record.

**3129: Questions from Cllrs regarding County Councillors written report:** attached. No questions.

**3130: Questions from Cllrs regarding District Councillors written report:**

There is Full Council on Monday morning, so the Council Tax will be set. The proposal is that the Teignbridge band D council tax for 2021/22 is increased by 2.85% or £5 to £180.17 per annum. Nothing else specific to Kingskerswell to report. No questions.

**3131: Chair's update**

**3131.1** The Chairman noted the resignation of Michael Braund. Michael was a strong member of the parish council, doing a lot behind the scenes and attending meetings on behalf of the council. This is a big loss for the council and Michael will be missed and welcomed back at any time. Cllr R Jones reiterated these comments.

# KINGSKERSWELL PARISH COUNCIL



Meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 at 7pm via Zoom

## MINUTES

**3131.2** The recent FOI requests were noted. The Chairman reported that he had spent 2 ½ days (unpaid) investigating, only to discover that the questions had already been answered in previous FOI requests.

**3131.3** KKAG planting schemes are not yet ready for approval.

### **3132: Clerk's financial report**

**3132.1** It was proposed by Cllr N Penman, seconded by Cllr W Dixon, and agreed by all to approve the monthly bank reconciliation.

**3132.2** It was proposed by Cllr R Jones, seconded by Cllr S Stone, and agreed by all to approve the payments required (attached). The Chairman noted that 5 ½ hours of overtime had been paid to the Clerk for work on the recent FOI requests.

### **3133: Financial Management**

**3133.1** The clerk presented the monthly budget update showing a year to date spend of £81,001.68; a copy of which will be available on the website.

### **3134: Asset Management Committee (AMC) (currently suspended)**

**3134.1** Lease agreement to be drawn up for renting the field at Church Way, with a commencement date of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

### **3135: Planning sub-group report**

**3135.1** There were no planning committee minutes due to the members not having submitted their comments. The Chairman had to request that applications were discussed during this meeting due to the time limits placed on applications – minutes to be put on the website.

**3135.2** There was no report submitted regarding planning application 21/00227/FUL – Kingskerswell Sports Pavilion for a timber portal framed store.

### **3136: Ash dieback sub-group report**

**3136.1** The tender document to map and survey ash trees and green spaces has been circulated ready for approval at the next meeting.

### **3137: Reserve Agenda Items:**

Standing Orders state that Parish Council meetings should not exceed two hours. To enable this the following items will only be discussed if time permits. Cllrs chose to discuss all reserve agenda items.

### **3138: Asset Management Committee (AMC) (currently suspended)**

Currently reporting on individual assets:

**3138.1** It was agreed by all to keep the AMC suspended until such time there are enough Cllrs to drive the committee forward.

**3138.2** Cllr A Hartley has met David Poole (Kerswell Natural History Society) to prepare a work strategy for the downs for the rest of the year.

**3138.3** Cllr S Stone and Cllr W Dixon to take on the lead for the pavilion. The Chairman suggested that the path surrounding the pavilion could be widened and made diagonal at the corners to improve its layout.

**3138.4** Cllr A Hartley is looking into moss removal in the muga. The new Covid-19 signs for the playground are ready to be put up.

**3138.5** Cllr R Jones to take on the lead for Water Lane toilets. The current contract for cleaning the toilets runs out on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and the tender details for renewal are on the website.

**3138.6** Cllr R Jones has liaised with Princes Groundcare and all is running well with the playing fields contract. Tree Care South West will be working at Jubilee Woods. The current contract for grass cutting, hedge maintenance and weeding in the village runs out on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and the tender details for renewal are on the website.

**3138.7** Nothing to report about waste collection and all is running smoothly.

# KINGSKERSWELL PARISH COUNCIL



Meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 at 7pm via Zoom

## MINUTES

### **3139: Community Engagement Committee (CEC):**

**3139.1** It was agreed by all to keep the CEC suspended for the time being.

### **3140: Remaining Councillors reports:**

**3140.1** Cllr W Dixon to produce drawings with suggested positioning for vehicle activation signs.

**3140.2** Cllr A Dewhirst and KKAG to fund a graffiti removal company to visit the area.

**3140.3** Cllr P Hartley has produced quote information for the fence repairs at the land exchange site, and all agreed for the quote to be placed on the website.

**3140.4** Cllr P Hartley is looking at prices for enclosed bins, to be placed in the playparks, and purchased with S106 money.

**3140.5** Cllr P Hartley has investigated the condition of the war memorial, and as it is listed as good condition it is not eligible for a repair grant this year. It was also discovered that the war memorial should be inspected every year by a qualified war memorial stonemason, and the cost for its replacement needs to be established for insurance purposes.

**3140.6** Cllr W Dixon to look at furthering the Community Emergency Plan.

**3140.7** The legislation permitting parish councils to meet remotely will come to an end on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021, and at present there is no plan to change this legislation. The pavilion may be too small to enable face to face meetings and it was suggested that the parish centre may be suitable.

### **3141: Clerks Report:**

**3141.1** Update on the DAAT night landing proposal: As suggested at a recent meeting we have registered on the Charities Commission forum, but the forum will not be up and running until later this year. The question of whether we can allow a night landing site has been published on a newsletter, but no replies yet. The other suggestion received was to get legal advice, so we have sent the deed of gift and land registry documents to DALC, who have said they can get NALC's solicitors to have a look and see if we can go ahead with the night landing proposal. This will not cost us anything as it is included in our yearly subscription.

**3141.2** To note submission of the charities commission annual return: It was noted that the previous years' accounts submitted, were not the correct ones – what appears to have been submitted is the sports club accounts. Having spent a lot of time looking through records and getting advice from DALC's charity specialist to find out what should be submitted, the correct accounts have now been submitted – in as far as they can be (covered in 3141.3).

**3141.3** To discuss the recreation ground charity: Clerk to contact the current trustees to confirm if they wish to carry on the role. The parish council, as sole trustee, should be governed on the day to day running of the charity by a committee. Regarding the submission of the accounts, the charities income does not cover the running costs – grants should be obtained to cover all costs.

### **3142: Public participation: None**

### **3143: To propose and agree to hold a part two meeting:**

It was proposed by Cllr N Penman, seconded by Cllr S Stone, and agreed by all to hold a part two meeting.

### **3144: Meeting round up:**

The Chair asked the planning sub-committee to work out how best to communicate with each other. He also reminded all Cllrs to be transparent in everything they do.

Cllr R Jones questioned the decision to not pay for nets for the cricket club but was reminded that the decision made cannot be changed until six months has passed.

### **3145: Date of next meeting:**

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021. This part of the meeting finished at 9:11pm.

# KINGSKERSWELL PARISH COUNCIL



Meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 at 7pm via Zoom

## MINUTES

### 3146: Part Two Meeting (closed to public and press)

**3146.1** It was agreed by the majority (Cllr N Penman abstained from the voting due to declaring an interest), to approach [parishcouncilwebsites.org.uk](http://parishcouncilwebsites.org.uk) to host the new parish council website. The costs of all the quotes received can be viewed on the minutes of 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2021.  
The meeting finished at 9:22pm

Chairman .....

Date.....

### County Councillor's Report 22<sup>nd</sup> February – Abbotskerswell Kingskerswell

The Local Restrictions Support Grant scheme for businesses severely impacted by the Tier 2 restrictions is now open for applications. Both rated and non-rated Teignbridge businesses (in any sector) can apply, including businesses that work from home or on a mobile basis. Those who applied for an LRSG for the November 2020 lockdown are welcome to apply for this scheme too.

Grants for the new lockdown period will go live in early February. TDC are also working on a new 'grant checker' that will allow businesses to work out which schemes they are eligible for. In the meantime, TDC are asking members and officers to signpost businesses to our grant summary table on the website under Business.

<https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/business/business-support-and-advice/business-help-and-support-during-coronavirus/>

<https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

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Case numbers are continuing to fall in Devon, but they are still around the same levels now as they were at the beginning of December. Cases are highest among the 20 to 39 year old age group.

Steve Brown, Director of Public Health Devon, said that while the fall in cases is good, we are still seeing the virus spreading in some workplaces, often attributed to car sharing. If car sharing is essential, please follow the recommended guidance about reducing risk to yourselves and fellow passengers.

Mr Brown also urged critical workers and people who care for others who are vulnerable to use the new Community Testing Centres opening in Devon.

Climate conscious Devon residents are being urged to reduce their carbon footprint by cutting down on the clothes they buy and instead get the most out of what they have. And if residents do have to buy new clothes, they are encouraged to buy better-quality, ethically sourced items, preferably from a local retailer.

The 'fast fashion' industry is the second highest carbon-creating industry in the world\* and emissions from textile production outweigh the total carbon footprint of international flights and shipping combined. Producing the clothes we wear creates 1.2 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e each year, accounting for over 10 per cent of all global carbon emissions.

The production of a single t-shirt creates the same amount of emissions as driving from Exeter to Plymouth, and in Devon around 6,500 tonnes of textiles are still ending up in waste bins each year.

If re-used instead of binned, this would save 33,800 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>.

# KINGSKERSWELL PARISH COUNCIL



Meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 at 7pm via Zoom

## MINUTES

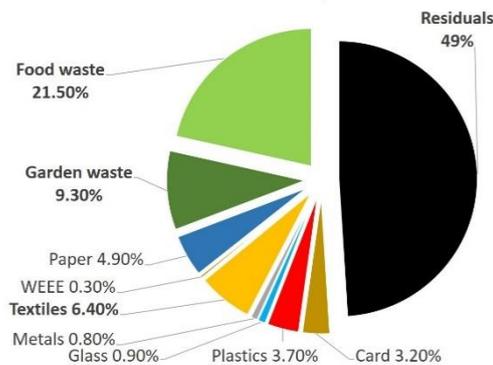
Vice Chair of Devon Authorities Strategic Waste Committee, Councillor David Harvey, said: “Given that £30 billion of unworn clothing is sitting in UK wardrobes, do we really need to be buying even more?”

“The highest contributor to the carbon footprint of clothing is the production and processing of fibre, whether natural or synthetic. This can be reduced by making the most of the clothes we already have, buying second-hand items online or when charity shops are open, and swapping with friends and family. “If we do need to buy brand new clothes, buying good quality, long lasting garments from local retailers made from sustainably, and ethically sourced fibres will help to reduce our carbon footprints. If residents avoided buying new clothes for a whole year, it would save a staggering 132,860 tonnes of CO2.”

For more information about reducing and reusing clothing, please follow Recycle Devon on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram or visit [www.recycledevon.org](http://www.recycledevon.org).

### Reducing waste and increasing recycling

TDC Residual Waste Bin Analysis



Three weeks ago saw the start of Devon’s £578.5 million Budget process. Monday saw the Children’s Scrutiny Committee looking at their £158.3 million budget. Members heard that this was a 7.8% increase on the year before, however even with this increase there was over £1/2 million of savings to be achieved in the disabled Children’s service. What is really terrifying is the High Needs Block negative reserve will reach £78 million by the end of 2022 – at this rate it will consume the Council in a couple more years.

On Tuesday, the £282.5 million budget for Adult services had an 8.3% increase taking to nearly half the total budget. £26.2 million of this was to fund increases in demand and inflation. We heard that the Public Health budget had been held at last year’s rates because we still have not received the Government grant for this part of the service.

Finally, on Thursday at a 7 ½ hour marathon session the CIRS Scrutiny Committee looked at £39.9 million Communities budget (a 0.2% increase), the £40.4 million Corporate budget (a 7.5% increase) and the Highways £57.5 million budget (a 0.5 % decrease). We were staggered that there were to be cuts to winter operations and Highway Network management. We then brought the whole budget together including the Capital budget.

Following representations made by my Party and the recommendations made by Scrutiny the Leader announced an extra £600,000 would be added to the county council’s roads budget under a new plan announced at Cabinet the Friday before last.

At Council last Thursday surprisingly, there was no amendment to the Budget from Labour who abstained from voting on the Budget or its proposed Amendments but spoke for the Conservative Budget!

The Lib Dem Budget amendment which comprised investing £3.4 million on fixing Devon’s roads (filling potholes, routine maintenance, repainting white lines and investing in cycling and walking); £1/2 million on supporting

# KINGSKERSWELL PARISH COUNCIL



Meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 at 7pm via Zoom

## MINUTES

communities who want 20 mph zones; £1/2 million on Green Devon schemes (Bee corridors, wildflower verges; £1 million supporting “Made in Devon” and “Bought in Devon” schemes and £3/4 million for mental health support for children.

This all to be paid for by a draw down from the £64.4 million Budget Management Reserve set up to support this very type of thing.

Finally, this amendment sought to end the tax loophole whereby second homeowners can switch from Council Tax to Business rates and then claiming small business exemptions.

You won't be surprised to know that many Conservative Councillors echoed the North Devon MP's call for Highway improvements but failed to vote for the amendment that would have actually given them those improvements!

After 4 hours of debate the Council voted for a 4.99% increase in Council tax which comes down to £1,511.28 per Council Tax band D property for 2021/22.

Alistair Dewhirst

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# KINGSKERSWELL PARISH COUNCIL



Meeting held on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 at 7pm via Zoom

## MINUTES

### **BACS payments to be agreed 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021**

£567.01	Princes Ground Care	December Playing Field Maintenance
£3099.98	Tree Care South West	December and January Maintenance
£259.20	SJB Signs	Covid Signs
£942.67	Mrs J Thompson	Salary & Expenses
£14.23	HMRC	PAYE

### **Cheques required to be agreed 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021**

None

### **Paid since last meeting up to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021**

£17.44	Mrs L Tozer	Cleaning Pavilion
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### **Direct Debits to be noted up to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021 (since last meeting)**

£10.71	British Gas	Water Lane Toilets Electricity
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### **Income up to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021 (since last meeting)**

None

### **Petty Cash Balance on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021**

£150.00	Total in hand
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### **Bank Balance on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2021**

Bank Current Account - £75,260.11

Bank Savings Account - £3,366.33