

KINGS CAPLE PARISH COUNCIL

Regular Meeting of the Parish Council held via Zoom
at 7.30pm on Thursday 10th December 2020

Present

Parish Cllrs: Adrian Harvey (AH), Pam Apperley (PA), Mark Barry (MB), James Petter (JP)

Also in attendance: Ward Cllr Barry Durkin, Mrs Chris Bucknell (Parish Clerk) and Mr Andrew Eames

1. **To Receive Apologies for Absence** –Julie Brandram-Jones (JBJ), Wendy Harris (WH), Tim Over (TO), Harry Waymouth (Highways). It was confirmed that the meeting was quorate.
2. **Declarations of Interest**
 - a. **To Receive Declarations of Interest**
 - b. **To Approve any Written Requests for Dispensations**
There were no declarations of interest and no requests for dispensations
3. **To Accept Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on 8th October 2020**
Resolved: The Minutes were confirmed, and it was agreed the Clerk could sign these electronically on behalf of the Chair. **Action:** Clerk
4. **To Receive Report from Ward Cllr Barry Durkin**
Cllr Durkin was present at the meeting but there was no report
5. **Open Time – To Note Matters Raised by Local Residents Relevant to the Parish**
There were no issues raised
6. **Encouraging Liaison and Communication with Parishioners**
Cllr Harvey had prepared a report on the 6 issues that had been raised at the 2019 Annual Parish meeting and this had been circulated to all Councillors in advance of the meeting. Cllr Harvey gave a summary of the main points which covered
 - Expenditure and Financial Issues
 - Looking at more supportive relations with The Old School
 - Carrying forward development of the NDP and the National Planning Policy
 - Highways
 - Public Transport
 - Whether to Progress the Conservation Area

The report would now be placed on the website and on Facebook and the link circulated to parishioners via email.

With regard to the progressing of the proposed conservation area, Cllr Harvey had been in conversation with Elizabeth Duberley, Council Service manager for historic building and landscape conservation.

On 11th December the following email was received from her:

Further to our telephone conversation I can confirm I have spoken with Samantha Banks who has advised me that at the time the Principal HBO was keen to progress work on reviewing Conservation Areas however she was not aware of any funding to support this. Unfortunately, we are today in a similar situation we do not currently have the resource to fund this project although it is high on our list of priorities. We do however welcome any knowledge that you may wish to share which could feed into an appraisal, which we will hold in our records until such a time as we can progress a review.

Meantime I mentioned to you about a project funded by HE I believe which we are currently looking into, as this another project we would very much like to undertake if resources allowed. I have attached the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-heritage-list-campaign-call-for-expressions-of-interest/local-heritage-list-campaign-guidance>

7. Financial Matters

a: To Receive a Report from the RFO

Current Account £13,334.60

Income since last meeting

Keeping Connected Grant - £66.66 , **VAT Reclaim** 01/04/20 to 30/09/20 - £125.07

Grant for The Old School – an additional Covid grant of £1,334.00 for The Old School was received and placed in the Community Account, which now totalled £11,334.00

b: To Approve Payments made since October Meeting

Payment		Amount
DD	Plusnet Broadband (November) £28.50 + VAT	£34.20
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BACS	Terry Griffiths invoice TGC1279 Drainage work £350 + VAT	£420.00
BACS	Terry Griffiths invoice 1280 Drainage work £700 + VAT	£840.00

Resolved: Payments Noted and Approved

b: To Approve Payment of Outstanding Invoices

Payment		Amount
BACS	Terry Griffiths invoice 1281 Drainage work £600 + VAT	£720.00

Harry Waymouth was not at the meeting but subsequently reported that the work covered by this invoice had been completed satisfactorily.

Resolved: Payment Approved

c: To Consider and Agree 2021/22 Budget and Precept

A Budget and Precept Proposal had been put together by the Finance Working Group and circulated to all Cllrs in advance of the meeting. This proposed that the precept remain at £8,000 for 2021/22 but there was an acceptance that this would need to incrementally increase in subsequent years in order to maintain services within the Parish. It was also noted that there was now no Lengthsman and P3 grant and much of the work done on the highways and footpaths would have to be funded by the Parish Council from the Precept.

Cllr Barry mentioned the commitment to look after the financial health of The Old School, in terms of loss of income because of Covid, and how this commitment aligned with not lifting the precept because of reduced expenditure. Cllr Harvey replied that the Old School had lost around £1k - £2K of income due to the lockdown. The Clerk, through the Covid Business Grant system, had accessed £11,334 and this would be sufficient to cover the losses in 2020 and some of 2021. The grant would also allow the Old School to carry out building work which would help to make the building more comfortable and sustainable. Cllr Harvey also said that in 2018 the Parish Council covered the full cost of replacing the floor, this and other commitments recognising the fact that The Old School was the principal Community Asset. Cllr Harvey noted that The Old School had a very effective Trustee Board who would keep the funding under review and ensure that the grant money was spent effectively.

Resolved: To set the 2021/22 precept at £8,000 whilst acknowledging that this would need to be raised in subsequent years in order to cover services which may no longer be funded by Herefordshire Council.

d: To Consider Donation to Knife Angel Project

Cllr Apperley had asked for this to be considered following a letter circulated in the HALC Information Corner asking for donations towards the cost of the exhibition and related workshops for young people, highlighting the issues around knife crime. Cllrs were uncertain how to decide which causes should be funded above Regular Meeting of Kings Cople Parish Council Thursday 10th December 2020

others, and whether this was something Parish Councils should be supporting. It was agreed to look further into this and to bring it back to the January meeting. **Action:** Clerk

8. To Consider Planning Matters

a. **To Consider New Planning Applications and Agree Comments** - There were no new applications

b. **To Note any Decisions/Notifications Received**

Reference Number	Application	
202913	School Field Kings Cuple – outline application for erection of 7 dwellings	Awaiting Decision
202335	Land East of Pennoxstone Court, Ruxton Lane, Kings Cuple. Proposed extension to an existing agricultural building	Awaiting Decision
202070	Land Adjacent to Lightfields – outline planning for the erection of up to 15 dwellings, with up to 35% affordable	Awaiting Decision

c: Update on Proposed Changes to Planning System and Implications for NDP

Cllr Harvey gave the following report

The Government White Paper, 'Planning for the Future', was published in August 2020 and proposed the most radical change to the national planning system since the Town and Country Planning Act of 1947.

The Government views the current system as too slow and over-complicated; it believes that there are too many detailed policies, often balanced and contradictory; this gives rise to adversarial processes which frequently delay decisions.

The White Paper proposes a national definition of characteristics which allow areas to be defined as of three types, those suitable for growth, for renewal or for protection. In the first two of these area types there will generally be a presumption in favour of development. In areas defined as being for protection a full application procedure as at present will apply.

Zoning – the identification of which of the three characteristic categories will apply to a particular area – will be carried out by local planning authorities. Their decisions will, however, be determined according to centrally devised criteria. This situation will be similar to the relationship currently between the NPPF and LPA's core strategies, though LPAs will have very much less autonomy. AONBs will be included as areas requiring protection. The Government is proposing that LPAs should complete their zoning exercises in not more than 30 months.

The proposed housing target for an LPA will be determined by the application of a nationally generated algorithm.

This White Paper is open to a number of serious criticisms.

- It fails to recognize that much of the cause of the housing crisis is the result of irresponsible credit booms and financial de-regulation in the last 50 years, coupled with an ongoing neglect of social housing.
- Many experts believe that for such a system to be successful it requires more zoning categories.
- On its past record and taking into account the recent loss of so many experienced staff in HC Planning Services, it seems highly unlikely the Council can successfully accomplish adequate zoning work in 30 months.
- A nationally generated housing target algorithm is likely to be crude, metrocentric and inappropriate to Herefordshire, though it must be admitted the HC Core Strategy of 2015 was a poor piece of work that paid scant attention to local views. *(Post Meeting Note: The proposal of a national housing target algorithm has now been abandoned.)*

d: To Consider any Other Planning Issues and Updates**Update on Access to Cherry Trees, Kings Cagle HR1 4UD**

Cllr Harvey reported that at the October meeting the Parish Council had considered a long email which had been received in response to statements relating to the creation of a new access point at Cherry Trees, which was considered dangerous as it did not have adequate splays. The response from Herefordshire Council had been that there was no requirement to look at access issues on an unclassified road and as such Cherry Trees did not require planning permission. Cllr Harvey had received 5 complaints from residents and had looked into the traffic information relating to U71005 between Clusters and the Crossroads, identifying that according to the most recent traffic survey the mean speed of traffic along the route during the peak hour of the morning was 36 mph and usage at that time was considerable. Cllr Harvey felt this was dangerous. There was also a dispute regarding whether the rear of the premises was being used for commercial activity and Cllr Harvey felt the Enforcement Officers should be doing more to identify whether this was the case.

Ward Cllr Durkin said it was the Enforcement Officer at Balfour Beatty who dealt with Highways issues, not the Officer at Herefordshire Council who dealt with Planning issues.

The Clerk had spoken to Neil James, Locality Steward and he reported that Sue White, who used to deal with Highways Enforcement had left Balfour Beatty, suggesting that any further correspondence be carried out through her line manager, Anthony Agate. It was agreed that the Clerk should make contact with Anthony Agate and then pass it over to Cllr Harvey to discuss the detail. **Action:** Clerk/AH

9. Highway and Public Rights of Way

The topics under agenda Item 9a were deferred as Harry Waymouth was not present

b. Update on Common Land and Management

At the time of the meeting no further information was available. On 11th December the following email was received from Liz Duberley, Service Manager Built and Natural Environment, Herefordshire Council.

Further to our telephone conversation I can confirm I have spoken with Samantha Banks who has advised me that at the time the Principal HBO was keen to progress work on reviewing Conservation Areas however she was not aware of any funding to support this. Unfortunately, we are today in a similar situation we do not currently have the resource to fund this project although it is high on our list of priorities. We do however welcome any knowledge that you may wish to share which could feed into an appraisal, which we will hold in our records until such a time as we can progress a review.

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c. To Receive a Report on Footpath Maintenance

Cllr Apperley reported on the 3 issues identified at the October meeting.

- The gate which had been taken out of Cllr Apperley's garage had not yet been fitted despite an email from Elwyn Brooke on 11th October indicating the location where he intended to install the gate. Cllr Apperley explained that the Parish Council had bought 2 metal gates, one to be put in at the bottom of KC11 and one at the top. Elwyn Brooke said he wanted a gate that would prevent the stock getting out of the field and had purchased a kissing gate which the Parish Council arranged to have installed by Enviroability two years ago. In terms of the gates originally purchased by the Parish Council, one had been installed at the bottom of the path and the second one had been stored in Cllr Apperley's garage with the intention that it would be put in by Seven Acres. This had never happened, and it was this gate that Elwyn Brooke had taken.
- The Pallett which was blocking access to the Bridle Path KC9 had been referred to the Enforcement Team for action.
- Footpath KC8 which ran behind the School to Penault had now been ploughed and Cllr Apperley did not feel any further action was required at this stage.

Balfour Beatty Public Footpath Officer Pilot Scheme – Cllr Apperley had applied to be part of this pilot and had been accepted. The processed did not seem very different to those what were currently used except that Balfour Beatty were producing a monthly report of minor issues which would be sent to Cllr Apperley for action.

To Consider any Actions and Expenditure

It was noted that funding could be made available from the Section 106 scheme at Lightfields. It was not known how much this would be and once this was known the type of project to be funded could be considered. Cllr Apperley said there was a long footpath that ran at the rear of the properties extending south from Lightfields; the stiles along this path urgently needed improvement or replacing.

d. To Note Any Defects to be reported to BBLP and any other updates - None

10. Liaison with Agricultural Holdings

Cllr Harvey introduced the item by saying there was now an effective liaison system in place with the two substantial agricultural enterprises.

a. Pennoxstone Court

Mr Andrew Eames was in attendance to discuss the issues that could be taken to the next Pennoxstone Liaison meeting. There had been no meeting since the end of the season and one was expected shortly. Cllrs expressed the view that things had been quieter in 2020 and few issues had been noticed. Mr Eames reported that workforce levels had been around the same as in previous years and there had been no Covid issues, and this he felt was down to good management.

The only issue seemed to be noise from the sprayer which had generated some complaints from houses between Lightfields and the access track by Kingslea and to the west of the church. There had been 2 formal complaints from residents who wished to remain anonymous. It was felt the issue was partly down to timing which was not easy to address and Cllr Harvey felt there may be a move to investigate quieter machinery. The issue of lorries entering and exiting the site had seemed to be improved; there had apparently been fewer vehicles and those there were had gone slower and seemed to understand the correct routes to take. The only issue was the tendency for some to enter from the right direction but then exit along the wrong route, which could be dangerous and damage the road surface. It was felt this was a Sat Nav issue with the quickest way to Hoarwithy Bridge being identified rather than the most appropriate route for vehicles with large trailers. It was felt a map issued to the drivers may help alleviate this.

Mr Eames agreed to relay these issues at the next Pennoxstone Liaison Group Meeting.

b. S & A Produce

It was expected that a pre-season meeting would be held towards the end of February. There had been few issues and these could be dealt with at the January meeting.

11. National Tree Council Tree Planting Project Funding

The Branching Out Tree Planting Project was offering to fund trees which could be planted and looked after by children and young people in the Parish. The Head of the Primary Academy, Jamie Gittins was supportive of the project and said it would be nice if trees could be planted and tended by young people on a piece of ground yet to be identified. It was suggested that there may be a suitable piece of land on the School Fields development. It was proposed that something be put on Facebook and on the website encouraging people to identify a piece of land which could be used for the project. Cllr Petter would draft something and circulate. **Action:** JP/PA/Clerk

12. To Note the Information Sheet (December2020) and any other updates

Resolved: The Information sheet was noted. There were no further updates

13. To Raise Items for the next Regular Meeting of the Parish Council (no discussion) – None

14. To Note Date and Time of the next Regular Meeting of the Parish Council

It was suggested that the schedule for the meetings be changed to the fourth Thursday in the month, with the next meeting being in January 2021. The Clerk would circulate an email asking for views on this and whether the change of date would be convenient for everyone.

The Meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Signed Date 28th January 2021
Chairman of Kings Caple Parish Council

DRAFT