



Kewstoke Parish Council

“Here to protect the Rural Character and Environment of the Village and to promote Kewstoke as a pleasant place to live”

Clerk to the Council Mike Hardwick

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Chairman Councillor J.MacDonald

Minutes of the Kewstoke Parish Council meeting held on Monday 3rd February 2025, which commenced at 7.07 pm.

Present:- Cllrs, K.Harper, J.MacDonald (Chairman), R.Adams , G. Vearncombe, A.Clapp, T.Morris,(Vice Chairman), T.Horry, K.Jenkins, R. Cunningham, & N.Whyte .

In attendance

Parish Clerk

M.Hardwick

Unitary Members

None

Occupancy of the Dunes

Prior to the meeting Colin Leppard from Natural England addressed the Councillors with regards to the opportunity for the Parish Council to apply for occupancy of the Dunes at Sand Bay.

This would subsequently allow the Council to apply for grants from the Rural Payment Agency for maintenance of the Dunes (Approx £5K per annum) as well as undertake Capital works such as the partial removal of Sea Buckthorn.(With a 80% Contribution)

It was agreed to arrange a site visit to progress.

Public Participation

None

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting opened at 7.07 pm

2. Apologies for absence

N.Richards **Liaison Officer**

Cllr Williams **Unitary Member**

Cllr Pilgrim **Unitary Member**

Cllr Baxter

3. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of Interest

4. Adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 6th January 2025

Proposed Cllr Vearncombe

Seconded Cllr Cunningham

The Chairman called for a show of hands by the Councillors in attendance at the meeting on 6th January 2025 to indicate their support for the adoption. This was indicated unanimously.

Agreed Unanimously

5. O/S Actions/Updates from previous meeting.

Book Swap

Cllr MacDonald also raised the possibility of setting up a book swap facility in the Telephone Kiosk currently housing the defibrillator unit. Following some discussion it was agreed that this would be progressed noting some matters of detail needed to be agreed and resolved.

Cllr Clapp suggested someone who would be able to make and fit a book case in the Telephone Box. - The work is scheduled for w/e 7/8th December

Action; - Cllr Clapp – Book case completed awaiting installation.

This has now been completed. Cllr MacDonald expressed his thanks to Mark Tottle for his efforts in providing and installing the Book Case. This was endorsed by all the Councillors.

BMX Park

Cllr Adams requested that Cllr Pilgrim contact North Somerset Council as he was concerned of reports that the BMX park had been again expanding.

Cllr Pilgrim reported that a hole had been excavated for a new water container which may have given the impression that the site was expanding. Nevertheless, this excavation appeared to be dangerous and Cllr Pilgrim agreed to follow up the concerns.

Action: - Cllr Pilgrim ongoing

Document Storage

It was agreed to set up a steering group to look at scanning and indexing documents relating to the Parish Council and the Local History Group.

Due to illness the Steering Group was unable to meet, this is to be rearranged.

Action: - Cllr Baxter, Cllr Horry, & Cllr Jenkins.

A report with a recommendation has been produced. This will become an agenda item for debate subject to a review of whether the current cupboard area can be made fireproof and the current supporting floor accessed for suitability.

Action: - Cllr Morris ongoing

Birnbeck Pier

The Mayor Cllr John Crockford-Hawley who is also a local Historian and Trustee of Birnbeck Pier and sits on the redevelopment committee has agreed to come and undertake a presentation. It was agreed to invite the Mayor to one of the next Parish Council meetings with a 30 min slot made available.

The Clerk had emailed Cllr Williams with some proposed dates requesting that this be arranged.

Action: - Cllr Williams ongoing

Cllr Morris confirmed he is to purchase a replacement gate post and arrange installation as agreed. .

Action: - Cllr Morris & Cllr Harper- ongoing

Dates for Staff Meeting

Cllr Cunningham agreed to provide some suggested convenient dates for a meeting.

Action: - Cllr Cunningham

The Clerk confirmed that a meeting had now taken place and appropriate documentation sent to a staff member regarding the making of the role of Beach Orderly redundant w.e.f. 1/4/2025

Cllr Vearncombe

Cllr Vearncombe reported that he was going to increase the number of allotment plots for 2025/26 by reducing the sizes of some of the current plots.

It was also noted that some plots had fallen into disrepair with some owners no longer requiring them. A black covering was required to cover the plots until new owners were found. Cllr Adams suggested he may be able to assist with procuring a black cover.

Action; - Cllr Vearncombe & Cllr Adams ongoing

6. Police Beat Report

Cllr MacDonald read out the Beat report for January.2025

November

Call Received 59

Crimes Recorded 13

Cygnets 33

Burglary 0

Sand Piper Care Home 0

Criminal Damage 0

Assault 1

Concern for Welfare 4

ASB 1

Harassment 1

Abandoned 999 4

Public Order 6

Theft 1

Road Related 2

Threats 2

Suspicious 3

Other 7

It was noted that the levels of recorded crime were again at particularly low level.

7. Unitary Members Report

There was no report available, due to non attendance of Unitary Members. .

8. Other Issues

Memorial Bench replacement

The Clerk confirmed that an email had been received requesting the purchase and positioning of a new Memorial Bench on the Sea Front path.

It was proposed that one of the Memorial Benches that was beyond economic repair being removed with the existing plaque transferred to the Shelter. This was in line with the Councils current Policy KPC008.

This site could then be used for a new memorial bench.

It was also proposed to review this Policy at the next Policy & Finance meeting scheduled for April 17th 2025.

Proposed Cllr Vearncombe

Seconded Cllr Whyte

Agreed Unanimously

Action: - Parish Clerk

Cutting Church yard Grass

Cllr Whyte has contacted the Vicar of St Pauls Church requesting a contribution towards the cost of cutting the grass in the Church yard. A response from the Diocesan Registrar indicated that the responsibility was passed to the Parish Council in 1977 on closure of the Churchyard and that the Parochial Church Council felt it was unable to make a contribution.

Following extensive research by Cllr Horry it appears the responsibility for the grass cutting was never transferred to either Woodspring District Council or subsequently to North Somerset Council therefore remains the responsibility of Kewstoke Parish Council. .

Groundwork's Schedule

The Village Groundwork's schedule for 2025/26 has been reviewed by Cllr Adams & Cllr Morris to reflect current requirements.

A meeting will now be arranged with our main contractor to review the amended schedule.

Action: - Parish Clerk

Village Signage.

The Chairman reported that a resident had indicated via our Village Facebook platform that some of the details on the Village Maps in and around the Village were slightly out of date.

Following some discussion it was proposed to leave the signage in its current state as the inaccuracies were of a minor nature and didn't warrant costly amendments.

Proposed Cllr Cunningham

Seconded Cllr Morris

Agreed Unanimously

9.Clerks Report

Sign Crookes Lane

The Clerk sought clarity as to where a missing sign had been reported missing from the junction of Crookes lane and Kewstoke Road.

This was confirmed by Cllr Morris.

Bus Terminus Car Park

The Clerk read out an email from an ex resident expressing thanks for the hard work put in by Cllr Harper and his volunteers in maintaining and improving the Bus Terminus Car Park area. This was endorsed by all the Councillors.

Flood Recovery Guide

The Clerk made reference to information from the Environment Agency regarding a Flood recovery Guide which had been posted on the Parishes Web site and on the Village Face Book site.

Delivering together programme

Reference was made to an email from NSC Policy & Partnerships Manager confirming that NSC were not expecting any Parish precepts to include elements in support of the Delivering Together programme, as there was insufficient interest in supporting the non-statutory element of the Public Rights of way proposal which was the only financial ask for 2025/25.

Contractors

As agreed at the last Policy & Finance meeting, letters had now been sent to appropriate contractors stating Estimates and or Quotations were required prior the commencement of any agreed work.

Occupancy of the Dunes

The proposal that the Parish Council should apply for occupancy of the dunes as presented prior to the meeting by Colin Leppard on behalf of Natural England was briefly discussed and agreed that a site meeting was required to progress the matter.

Action :- Parish Clerk

9.Financial Update

Payments for January have been approved outside of this meeting to allow payment in the appropriate calendar month. See below.

Payments for Approval January 2025

Salary and reimbursements	£2,976.97
HM Revenue and Customs	£374.35
Weston Town Council	£308.88
Nathan Kelly	£100.00
Village Hall	£540.00
Total	£4,300.20

Additional Payments for December paid by DD

Water2Business	£13.00
Water2 Business	£95.50
British Gas	£26.62
EDF	£426.74
Service Charge	£6.00

10. Councillors Report

Cllr Morris

Cllr Morris reported that he had cleared items of plastic from the bottom of Monks Hill. This appeared to be the result of a lorry shedding its load.

Cllr Vearncombe

Cllr Vearncombe reported on the ever increasing damage to Collum Lane as a result heavy vehicles using Collum Lane to access Collum Farm.

He asked if the Clerk could arrange a site meeting with representatives of North Somerset Council to look at resolving the issues.

Cllr Vearncombe is to arrange a Drone to capture footage of the damage to the road surface.

Action:- Parish Clerk

Cllr Cunningham

Cllr Cunningham reported that she had attended an open day at the new Worlebury Bay Caravan site. It appeared the current plan of the site was different from that advertised on Social Media by the Site owners.

Cllr Cunningham also reported that she had acquired a new Defibrillator Unit for which the pads could be used to replace pads on the current defibrillators in the Village when they were used or become expired.

Cllr Cunningham reported that the water leak at the junction of Crookes Lane and Kewstoke road had still to be fixed and water was still flowing down Crookes lane.

Following some discussion as to the cause of the water the Clerk was requested to contact Bristol Water Company.

Action: - Parish Clerk

Cllr Harper

Cllr Harper reported damage to the seat in the ladies toilet at the Bus Terminus Car Park as well as the toilet lid in the disabled toilet. He had managed to replace the damaged seat with a raised seat and repair the lid. This resulted in a significant financial saving if the toilet itself had to be replaced.

Meeting closed at 8.12pm

11. Date of next meeting Monday 3rd March 2025.

