



**Kewstoke Parish Council**

## **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 of the Kewstoke Parish Council meeting held on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2023, which commenced at 7.02pm.

**Present:-** Cllrs, T.Morris,(Vice Chairman),J.MacDonald,(Chairman),

. K.Harper,R.Adams G.Vearncombe & N.Whyte.

### **In attendance**

#### **Parish Clerk**

M.Hardwick

#### **Unitary Members**

Cllr Pilgrim

Cllr Williams

### **Public Participation**

There were no members of the Public in attendance.

### **1.Opening of the meeting**

The meeting opened at 7.02pm

## **2. Apologies for absence**

N.Richards    **Liaison Officer**

Cllr Horry

Cllr Jenkins

Cllr Cunningham

## **3. Declaration of Interests**

There were no declarations of Interest

## **4. Adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023**

Proposed Cllr Morris

Seconded Cllr Whyte

The Chairman called for a show of hands by the Councillors in attendance at the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> October to indicate their support for the adoption. This was indicated unanimously.

Agreed Unanimously

## **5. Police Beat Report**

Apologies had been received from PCSO Bennett who was unable to attend this meeting.

Some outline details of the latest beat report were referenced by Cllr MacDonald.

It was agreed not to publish the report although a copy is available from the Clerk.

## **6. O/S Actions/Updates from previous meeting.**

### **Work at Kewstoke Primary School**

The Clerk reported that an email had been received from NSC giving an update on the progress of the work.

In essence due to a number of challenges, working to the restrictions and complexities of the Kewstoke Primary School building site, the contractor has confirmed that the programme of improvement works is now expected to reach completion by Friday 15 March 2024.

Cllr MacDonald requested Cllr Pilgrim follow up with NSC the lack of communication to the School Governors regarding the works in what appeared to be a news blackout.

Cllr MacDonald agreed to write to a resident who had been the main focal point of ongoing communications with NSC to update him on the latest position.

**Action:** - Cllr MacDonald

### **80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations of D Day**

The Clerk reported that a request had been sent to all Councils and Local Authorities suggesting that the 80th anniversary of D Day could be celebrated by lighting strategically placed beacons, and inviting the Parish Council to register an interest,

It was requested that Cllr Pilgrim enquired as to whether NSC are planning to become involved.

Cllr Pilgrim confirmed that NSC was not planning to become actively involved in the celebrations in the form of the lighting of a beacon. It was suggested that an item was published in the newsletter to gauge resident's views on activities that could be undertaken in and around the Village.

**Action:** - Cllr Jenkins & Cllr MacDonald.

### **Annual Playground Report**

The Clerk reported that the Annual Playground report had been undertaken and it was agreed to discuss at the next Policy and Finance meeting. There appeared that any of the findings were classified as low risk.

Cllr Morris reported that there was still some work around the roundabout to be completed.

**Action:** - Cllr Morris & Cllr Vearncombe ongoing (2 O/s Items)

### **Chestnut Fencing**

Cllr Horry expressed his surprise as he had learned that chestnut fencing was going to be used to improve the sea defences at Uphill, particularly as the Environment Agency had indicated that it could no longer be used at Sand Bay for Health and Safety reasons.

Cllr Pilgrim explained that the Sea Defences at Uphill were the responsibility of North Somerset Council whereas at Sand bay it was the Environment Agency

Cllr Pilgrim agreed to pass details of the contact in NSC to the Clerk for further discussion and clarification.

**The Clerk confirmed he is awaiting a response from the NSC Development Control Officer**

**Action:** - Clerk- ongoing

### **Cllr Vearncombe**

Cllr Vearncombe reported that work restoring the loss of power resulting from a fallen tree on Kewstoke Road was still ongoing.

Cllr Vearncombe also asked if a letter be sent to the owner of land adjacent to Kewstoke Road where it appeared further trees were in danger of falling.

**Action:** - [Cllr Vearncombe & the Clerk Ongoing](#)

## **7. Unitary Members Report**

Cllr Pilgrim confirmed that the awaited Planning Application for outline Planning Permission for houses on land off Lyefield Road was still outstanding.

Cllr Williams reported that the West Link Bus was experiencing teething issues although these were being addressed.

He also reported some fishing line on the Dunes and would confirm the exact location to the Parish Clerk to action.

**Action:** - Parish Clerk

Cllr Adams requested that a recent enforcement notice received in respect of the Fence at Norton Court Farm was felt to be incorrect in law and requested Cllr Pilgrim escalate the matter within NSC.

**Action:** - Cllr Pilgrim

## **8. Other Issues**

### **Councillor Vacancy (Draft Policy on Co Option KPC9995)**

Cllr Morris proposed that the amended version of this Policy which was discussed at the latest Policy & Finance meeting be adopted.

Proposed Cllr Morris

Seconded Cllr Whyte

Agreed unanimously

### **Kewstoke History Group**

Cllr MacDonald reported that he had be approached by a resident volunteering to take on the management of the Local History Group, and that they, along with other volunteers, had been approved to address the Councillors at the next Parish Council meeting to outline their proposals.

### **Fence Crookes Lane Footpath**

Cllr Morris reported that he and Cllr Adams had further inspected the fence and identified that at least 20 posts required reinforcement or replacement, albeit in their opinion they were not in a dangerous condition..

It was suggested that metal stakes were inserted and screwed to the posts initially to see if this resolved the issue.

**Action: - Cllr Morris**

Cllr Adams reported that he had spoken with a contractor with regards cutting back the hedges in and around the Village as the current contractor had not undertaken the work and currently could not be contacted.

Cllr Vearncombe suggested a further contractor and it was agreed to contact them to see if they would also be prepared to undertake the work.

**Action: - Clerk**

### **Registering a Community Asset.**

The clerk reported that all the appropriate paperwork had now been completed and that a decision by NSC would be expected within 8 weeks.

### **Speed Watch Campaign**

The Clerk reported that a site had now been signed off on Kewstoke Road ( Church Car Park) and following a further posting on the Village Facebook page there has been an indication that at least 7 residents have now registered as volunteers with the Police.

### **Advertising on the Parish Web Site.**

Following some discussion it was agreed to publicise the facility to advertise on the Web site at a nominal cost of £50 per year in the Christmas newsletter.

**Action: - Cllr Jenkins**

### **Newsletter**

Cllr MacDonald asked if any of the Councillors had ideas for input into the newsletter to let him or Cllr Jenkins have the details a.s.a.p.

## **9.Clerks Report**

### **Streetlight Norton Court Farm.**

The Clerk referenced a draft letter addressed to the owner of Norton Court Farm requesting a contribution towards the repair of a streetlight adjacent to their property. Subject to a minor amendment this was agreed.

**Action: - Clerk**

## **10.Financial Update**

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

Salaries & reimbursements	£2,654.65
HM Revenue and Customs	£251.00
HM Revenue and Customs( Rons Tax due 2022/23)	£100.00
K.Harper reimbursements	£132.50
J.K.Gardening	£1,135.00
T.H.Baker	£695.00
Weston Support Services	£225.97
Weston Town Council	£308.88
Total	<b>£5,503.00</b>

#### Additional Payments for October

Water2Business	£40.50
Water2 Business	£86.50
SSE	£195.97
British Gas	£27.09
EDF	£1016.74

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Policy & Finance Committee would be on 13/12/2023 at 7pm in the Village Hall Committee Room. This would be predominantly to set the precept for 2024/25.

A request was made to inform either the P&F Chairman or the Clerk of any proposed new expenditure for 2024/25 prior to the meeting.

The Clerk also referred to the budgetary forecast for 2023/24 which was discussed at the October Finance & Policy meeting and indicated a probable operational overspend this financial year,

This was mainly due to the increase in Energy costs, increased Groundwork's Contract and unexpected work required at the Toilet Block. This would be slightly offset by the additional grant for maintenance of the Car parks although an over spend was still expected. The situation would be monitored.

**Action:** - Clerk

It was agreed that Cllr Whyte would replace Cllr Buckley, who has resigned as a Councillor, on the Policy & Finance Committee.

## **11. Councillors Report**

### **Cllr Whyte**

Cllr Whyte confirmed the date of the Children's Christmas party as 16/12/2023.

### **Cllr Harper**

Cllr Harper reported that the income from the toilets was down on last month, attributable mainly to the inclement weather.

Cllr Harper also reported that the disabled toilet had come loose and that a wooden support would be put in place to secure the fitting.

New winter flowers had been planted at the New Castle Car Park.

Cllr Harper and two volunteers had been this week clearing sand and vegetation off the Sea Front steps

### **Cllr Morris**

Cllr Morris reported that he had successfully repaired the fence in the copse adjacent to the Car Park opposite the South Sands Hotel.

### **Cllr MacDonald**

Cllr MacDonald referred to no parking signs that had appeared on Lower Norton Lane. It was agreed to investigate their origins before possibly reporting to NSC.

**Action:** - Clerk

Cllr MacDonald raised the matter of the Annual Councillors Christmas Party, after some discussion it was agreed to go ahead in January 2024.

Cllr MacDonald also requested that an item relating to signage indicating the cost of maintaining the Bus Terminus Toilets be included on the agenda for the next Council meeting.

**Action:** - Clerk

**Meeting closed at 8.15 pm**

**12. Date of next meeting Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023.**





