



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”

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Chairman Councillor J.MacDonald

Minutes of the of the Kewstoke Parish Council meeting held on Monday 6th January 2025, which commenced at 7.15 pm.

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

In attendance

Parish Clerk

M.Hardwick

Unitary Members

None

Public Participation

. There was one member of the public in attendance.

The Clerk outlined the recent decision in respect of Planning Application, Land to the North of Lyefield Road, which was approved by North Somerset’s Planning Committee by a majority decision, with only one councillor voting to reject the

application, The Parish Council was represented at the hearing by Cllr Adams and Cllr Williams with the Clerk and a resident of Mountbatten Close also in attendance.

A resident of Mountbatten close then addressed the meeting, indicating his disappointment with the decision of the above hearing. He then reiterated many of the concerns regarding the Planning Application and distributed a number of documents to back up this up.

A question was asked of the Parish Council if a known date for commencement of works might occur. Cllr Adams responded that this was not known and reference was made to the fact that this was an outline planning application and a further application concerning "reserved matters" would be submitted and required approval before this became apparent.

It was also requested that the Parish Council contact the Planning Officer to reiterate concerns of flooding and sewerage discharge, as well as the Sewerage Operator , Wessex Water, to request further details of financial contributions.

It was agreed to discuss these matters in the Planning Meeting which followed this Council meeting.

1. Opening of the meeting

The meeting opened at 7.15 pm

2. Apologies for absence

N.Richards **Liaison Officer**

Cllr Williams **Unitary Member**

Cllr Pilgrim **Unitary Member**

Cllr Jenkins

3. Declaration of Interests

There were no declarations of Interest

4. Adoption of the minutes of the Parish Council meeting of 2nd December 2024

Proposed Cllr Cunningham
Seconded Cllr Whyte

The Chairman called for a show of hands by the Councillors in attendance at the meeting on 2nd December 2024 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.

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

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

6. Police Beat Report

Cllr MacDonald read out the Beat reports for November and December.2024

November

Call Received 53

Crimes Recorded 18

Cygnets 29

Sand Piper Care Home 0

Assault 2

ASB 2

Abandoned 999 6

Theft 0

Threats 0

Other 5

Burglary 0

Criminal Damage 1

Concern for Welfare 4

Harassment 0

Public Order 0

Road Related 4

Suspicious 0

December

Call Received 36

Crimes Recorded 18

Cygnets 25

Sand Piper Care Home 0

Assault 1

ASB 0

Abandoned 999 4

Theft 0

Threats 0

Other 4

Burglary 0

Criminal Damage 0

Concern for Welfare 0

Harassment 0

Public Order 0

Road Related 0

Suspicious 2

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

7. Unitary Members Report

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

8. Other Issues

Budget Setting and Precept 2025/26

The Clerk gave a summary of the draft Precept report which had been agreed at the Finance and Policy meeting, and circulated to councillors prior to the meeting..

It was proposed to accept the report's recommendations, agree a Precept increase of £4000 to £58,000 and a proposed balanced budget for 2025/25. (See attached)

Proposed Cllr Morris

Seconded Cllr Adams

Agreed unanimously

It was also agreed that Cllr Whyte would contact the Church to see if a contribution could be obtained toward the grass cutting of the Church Grounds, as well as a proposed reduction in the frequency of cuts in the winter months.

Action: - Cllr Whyte

Policy KPC026 Scattering of Consecrated Ashes

The Clerk made reference to a draft Policy agreed at the Finance and Policy meeting and circulated prior to the meeting, relating to the Scattering of Consecrated Ashes on the Beach and Dunes by members of the Public.

This was discussed and proposed for adoption with one amendment in paragraph 1 to read "but would not condone a service **or the placing of a memorial** or likewise."

Proposed Cllr Whyte

Seconded Cllr Vearncombe

Agreed Unanimously

Playground Monitoring

Cllr Morris

Cllr Morris confirmed that he was monitoring the play equipment on the Village green until the arranged remedial work is undertaken in April 2025.

Action: - Cllr Morris

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

Action: - Cllr Morris & Cllr Harper.

Publishing Parish Council Minutes on the Village FaceBook page.

After some discussion it was proposed to publish a link on the Village FaceBook site to the website so that Parish Council minutes could be accessed.

Proposed Cllr Whyte

Seconded Cllr Vearncombe

Agreed by a Majority decision 9-1

Advertising Boards/ Flags on the Dunes

The Clerk confirmed that after contacting North Somerset's Planning and Enforcement Departments, it appeared Planning Permission was not necessarily

required and that the current level of advertising and didn't appear to be an issue at this time..

Previously Natural England had been contacted who confirmed that they no particular objections.

Groundworks Schedule

Cllr Morris and Cllr Adams agreed to review the current proposed schedule for 2025/26 prior to a meeting with the contractors.

Action:- Cllr Adams & Cllr Morris

Occupancy of the Dunes

The Clerk confirmed that the Land and Conservation Manager for Natural England was unable to attend this Council meeting and was hoping to attend the February meeting to address the Councillors. **This was to commence at 6.30pm with a 30 minute slot before the meeting.**

Action: - Parish Clerk

9.Clerks Report

Events and Security Update

The Clerk referred to a communication received from Avon & Somerset Police regarding advice and guidance around event planning. This was particularly relevant in the light of recent tragic events in Germany & New Orleans.

A summary of the contents of the update was read out to the Councillors.

Dates for Staff Meeting

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

Action: - Cllr Cunningham

Finger Posts

The Clerk referred to an email received from a resident suggesting that the finger posts in and around the Village required maintenance.

Cllr Morris confirmed that they were due to be painted at the end of last year but the adverse weather had prevented this taking place. It had been rescheduled for the spring of 2025.

The clerk would respond accordingly.

Action: - Clerk & Cllr Morris

EDF Fixed Contract

The Clerk reported that the recent electricity bill in relation to the streetlights was significantly reduced as a result of entering a fixed term contract with EDF which commenced on 1/10/2025.

9. Financial Update

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

Payments Approval December 2024

Salaries & Reimbursements	£2,921.40
HM Revenue and Customs	£364.94
K.Harper reimbursement	£97.75
Weston Town Council	£617.76
Ward Tree Surgeons	£384.00
N.Whyte reimbursements	£527.04
M.lsgar	£1,536.00
Total	£6,448.89

Additional Payments for December paid by DD

Water2Business	£13.00
Water2 Business	£95.50
British Gas	£31.31
SEE	£315.58
ASL	£65.70
Service Charge	£6

10. Councilors Report

Cllr Morris

Cllr Morris confirmed that he would be installing the gatepost at the entrance to the Village Green shortly. (Cross reference *other issues –Playground Monitoring.*)

Action: - Cllr Morris

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

Cllr Cunningham

Cllr Cunningham reported a water leak had been discovered at the top of Crookes Lane with water running down Crookes Lane. Although this was currently being worked on by the Utility companies care should be taken if the water turns to ice in the predicated freezing conditions for later in the week.

Cllr Whyte

Cllr Whyte reported that the Children's Christmas party was a great success and that the same entertainer had been already booked for next year's party on 13th December 2025.

Thanks were extended to both Cllr Cunningham and Cllr Harper for their help in making the event a success.

Cllr Clapp

Cllr Clapp reported that Crookes Lane would be temporarily closed on 13th January 2025 to enable a new telephone connection to be made by Openreach.

Cllr Adams

Cllr Adams reported that a streetlight, C10, on Beach Road was incorrectly positioned and causing glare to traffic using Beach Road. It was noted that C10 had been recently adjusted by our contractors Centregreat and that a similar report had been received concerning C13. The Clerk was asked to look into the matter.

Action; - Parish Clerk

Cllr Adams also reported that the soak away opposite Swallow Point Caravan site was not working effectively and that it either required cleaning out or replacing.

Action; - Parish Clerk

Cllr MacDonald

Cllr MacDonald suggested that the feasibility and cost of making the existing cupboard fireproof should be reviewed prior to any consideration being given to purchasing a fireproof safe. (Cross reference- *Actions from previous meeting – Document Storage*

Action; - Cllr Morris

Meeting closed at 8.10pm

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

