

DRAFT

KILMINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT 7.30P.M. ON TUESDAY 27th APRIL 2021 IN THE MAIN HALL AT KILMINGTON VILLAGE HALL

via Zoom platform as per legislation contained within section 79 of the Coronavirus Act 2020

Present: Cllrs P. Ball (Chair), Cllrs. J. Mear, S. Seward,
A. Dare, M. Collier, S. Huscroft, P. Ball, M. Jones
The Clerk (A. Jenkins),
17 members of the public

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Parish meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES**

DCC / EDDC Cllr. I. Chubb

2. **MINUTES OF THE 2021 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:**

Cllr. Seward proposed that these be approved, seconded by Cllr.Huscroft, Agreed by all.

3. **MATTERS ARISING:** None

4. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

The last twelve months had still been challenging with Covid meaning that for most of 2021 the Council were still unable to hold face to face meetings. We were eager to resume having regular face to face meetings which members of the public could attend if they wish. In October 2021 the Covid case numbers had reduced to a level where we felt that with the right Covid-19 Safe measures and Conditions of Entry in place we could resume regular face to meetings in the Village Hall.

Progress on safety improvement measures for the A35 is still on-going but very slow. The Parish Council along with other Town and Parish councils affected by the A35 have been continuing to pressure Highways England for a joint meeting with them. The Parish Council are hoping that this can take place in the Autumn and have offered to host the meeting here in Kilmington Village Hall.

During the past year the Parish Council has been able to give financial support to many projects, continuing support for the village web-site, ring and ride, postscript to name a few.

He thanked all the Councillors for the help and the support they have given him over the past year and the many jobs they undertake on the parishioners' behalf.

Stafford Seward and Sally Huscroft in organising and managing the Kilmington Coronavirus Support Group.

Ben Trott, the Vice Chairman for his help and support and Michael Collier for running the allotments.

Julia Mear for her complaining to Devon Highways on our behalf in trying to get potholes and other road repairs attended to.

Sally Huscroft and Julia Mear for looking after the play area .

The Parish Clerk Adrian Jenkins for his help, expertise and advice..

Thank you to others who assist the Council in their honorary roles. Elaine Penzer the footpath warden, Angela Miller for her work on the garden, on the bank of the car park and Martin Cumbers, the Snow Warden.

He also thanked County and District Councillor Ian Chubb for the help and support he continues to give Kilminster.

Once again he thanked all his fellow councillors for the help given to him over the past year to make Kilminster an efficient hardworking Council worthy for our parishioners, village and parish.

5. CORONAVIRUS SUPPORT GROUP REPORT

Peter Ball, Sally Huscroft and Stafford Seward reported that thankfully the Support Group had not been called upon this year to any large degree. Whilst there was a resurgence in cases within the village earlier this year, those infected were not as seriously ill as in 2020. The community spirit and neighbourliness of residents was undoubtedly key to the success of the village support throughout the pandemic. He said that a massive thank you was due to all of those who volunteered, and worked together, to help those who did need help.

He said that whilst there was no call at present on the Support Group, it was still in place and was ready to help those who may need help.

6. PLAYING FIELD REPORT:

Cllr. Collier said that it had continued to be a difficult period of time for the Playing Fields due to the Covid 19 pandemic and its effects on the room hire income of the Pavilion

The tennis club had relaid a new surface on the tennis courts.

The cricket matches had resumed and the Cricket Team had been successful in achieving promotion to the second tier in Devon. He congratulated the team on their successful year and promotion.

He thanked all the volunteers who looked after the playing field and also Peter Huscroft for administering the room hire bookings which are now creeping up.

7. THE COMMON:

Cllr. Seward and Cllr. Ball reported that during work for the Neighbourhood Plan we discovered that the 'lowland heath' patch on The Common is of national importance as it is home an incredibly rare wild flower, the Heath lobelia which was first found on Kilminster common in the 18th century. It is confined to Kilminster and Shute and a few sparse clumps in Devon and the South West. Attempts are being made to re-establish it on The Common. As the East Devon ANOB (area of outstanding beauty) team were keen to re-introduce the Lobelia we made contact with them to discuss. We asked them to tell us how we should best manage the common.

One of their officers visited and provided us with a management plan. In future we will only cut the common twice a year and we will remove the cuttings to prevent their nutrients re-entering the soil. This will help to encourage the growth of wild flowers.

During this discussion, we also discovered that the East Devon ANOB team were willing to support any voluntary efforts to maintain the common. We applied and were given a grant to purchase hand tools, rakes and secateurs for them. A group of volunteers formed by Judith and David Simpson had already started work on the project. Thanks to their efforts, and other volunteers who have joined

them, the common is in better shape. We will continue with the new management plan to see what flowers appear.

Parking continues to be an issue in some areas around the Common and needs to be addressed.

8. KILMINGTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:

Cllr. Ball reported that he was pleased to tell everyone that the end of the Kilminster Neighbourhood Plan is in sight. In September last year EDDC informed us that Natural England were satisfied with the methodology, evidence and conclusions of the screening of the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment and we could proceed to the Regulation 16 Submission documentation. The Neighbourhood Planning Team members discussed and reviewed the plan and were unanimous that the documents represented the Team's best efforts for the future planning interests of the Parish. On 13th December Kilminster Parish Council resolved the plan should be formally submitted to East Devon District Council for adoption.

EDDC reviewed the plan and suggested a small number of changes which were agreed. The East Devon District Council Policy Team confirmed that, in their opinion, the relevant legal requirements at Submission stage had been fully met and the Plan was published on 9th February for the Regulation 16 Consultation. This ran until end of March and a small number of comments were received which will be reviewed.

During March we held two public meetings in the village hall to present the plan and answer any residents' questions. We also selected and agreed an external independent examiner who was appointed to examine the plan. She is working on this now and we expect her report around the end of this month - May. We will then discuss and review her comments, making any changes necessary. EDDC will then hold referendum for all those on the Kilminster Electoral Roll, so please make sure you are! If carried the plan will be introduced and will become law. He thanked all residents who took the time to contribute to our consultation and particularly the NP Team who pulled the Plan together. Alongside the Neighbourhood Plan which runs until 2031, we have also started to discuss the new EDDC Local Plan which will run until 2041. We will keep you informed.

9. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT FROM CLLR. CHUBB:

10. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT FROM CLLR. CHUBB:

No annual report had been received but Cllr. Chubb had earlier in the evening advised at the Parish Council meeting that anyone applying for hardship grants should only go through the proper official application channels and not respond to unsolicited phone calls offering to apply on their behalf. A number of such fraudulent phone calls had recently been reported to the Police. He said that potholes was the number one reported issue that DevonHighways had to deal with and that whilst they tried to deal with them as soon as possible, it was important that people keep on reporting them if they have not been repaired within a reasonable time and are getting worse and more hazardous.

He advised that DCC had now returned to having face to face meetings but that EDDC were still holding virtual remote consultative meetings with decisions delegated to the Principal Council officer.

11. FOOTPATH REPORT:

None

12. PUBLIC FORUM:

A number of persons spoke expressing:-

- a) How the Coronavirus Support Group had been massively reassuring and supportive to the whole Community and a Big thank You for the help and support they had received.
- b) Their grave concerns for highway safety on both the A35 and within the village. They felt that the Parish Council should be more pro active on both matters in pressing for the speed limits to be reduced. In particular that the Village 30mph speed limit be reduced to 20mph and that they look at establishing a Speed Watch Scheme.

Cllrs. Ball said that the Council was being pro active on both these highways matters. The A35 was managed by Highways England and the Council had been pressing them for many years for a speed reduction and a pedestrian crossing. Kilmington was not the only Parish & Town Council seeking highways safety improvements on this Trunk Road and that the Parish Council were working with the other Councils, County Councillors and the Members of Parliament in pressing for the proposed A35 Chideock to Honiton safety improvement scheme to be approved by Highways England and the Department of Transport.

As regards reducing the existing village 30mph speed limit to a 20 mph one, the Parish Council had submitted a 20mph speed application to Devon Highways earlier in the year. The Devon Highways funding available for such schemes was limited and only sufficient to fund 5 applications. Devon Highways had received over 120 applications from Councils all over Devon and Kilmington had not been one of the 5 successful applicants.

The Parish Council was committed to continue to press for a 20 mph speed limit and would make another application when Devon County Council approve funding for a further round of applications.

Cllr. Seward said that the Council were supportive of the setting up of a Speed Watch scheme for Kilmington. Such schemes were operated by volunteers who had to be trained and approved by the Police. The Speed Watch equipment could only be used on roads where the speed limit was 40mph or lower, and such it could not be used on the A35 where the speed limit at Kilmington is 50mph or on the other Parish roads where the National Speed limit applies. It could only be used within the village 30mph speed limit area and then only at specific points approved and authorised by the Police.

He said that a Speed watch Scheme would help to reduce speed in the village but said that it could only operate if sufficient persons volunteered to operate it. He appealed to anyone present who was concerned about speed safety in the Village and was prepared to volunteer, to contact him.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.