

KILMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY 11th SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7.00PM IN THE CRICKET PAVILION

Present: P. Ball (Chair), S. Seward, K. Veberth, O. Miller,
M. Jones, B. Reed, A. Dare, N. Bayley

In Attendance: A Jenkins (Clerk/RFO), DDC/EDDC Cllr. I. Chubb

Members of Public: 0

The Chair welcomed everyone to the Council meeting and outlined / reminded everyone of the Covid-19 measures which had been adopted for Council meetings.

OPEN SESSION

No matters raised.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

- 1. To receive apologies for absence and to approve reasons given (LGA 1972 S.85 (1))**
Cllr. A. Collier
- 2. To receive any declarations of interest relating to items outlined in this agenda (this does not preclude the duty to declare further interests as applicable)**
Cllr. Seward – Item 6c4
- 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th August 2023**
The minutes were declared a true record of the proceedings, proposed by Cllr. Dare seconded by Cllr. Miller, all in favour.
- 4. Matters arising from the Minutes**
None
- 5. Planning Applications:**

- a) **No. 23/1800/FUL Kilmington Cross Service Station Kilmington
EX137RB**

Removal of associated structures and the creation of charging zone, erection of EV chargers, erection of canopy, sub-station enclosure, LV panel, meter cabinet and associated forecourt works.

Cllr. Seward proposed that the Parish Council object to the application and to make the following comments, seconded by Cllr. Reed. all in favour:-

Whilst Councillors support, in principle, the installation of EV Chargers at the site, they object to the application on the following grounds:-

Councillors are concerned that the installation of the EV chargers and canopy will impact access into the site and reduce the number parking bays. The new layout of the remaining parking bays and new kerbs will restrict and delay vehicle access into the site, creating a further hazard and delays to traffic on the A35 trunk road.

The Kilmington Service Station is on the side of the A35, a very busy 50mph trunk road that already suffers a significant number of road traffic accidents, particularly along the approaches and past this site (as shown on the Crashmap.co.uk data which only records reported accidents, there are many more unreported).

For over ten years and without success, Kilmington Parish Council has been actively campaigning National Highways to reduce the 50mph speed limit and provide a pedestrian crossing.

Recently Kilmington Service Station was acquired by MFG, the Largest Independent Forecourt Operator In the UK, and logically they are developing their business on the site. A Greggs fast food outlet has recently been opened and a 24hr license for an Off License has been granted. These new offerings have significantly increased vehicle movements into of out of the site, which impacts the traffic on the A35.

An additional on-site fast-food outlet, Subway, is opening this month which will further increase the site appeal, business, and vehicle movements.

A35 Safety Hazard Vehicle - movements into and out of the station creates a hazard.

Vehicle movements exiting and entering the A35 from the site have significantly increased, particularly during the holiday season as this is a major tourist route. Parking is already congested and at a maximum at times, with little room for vehicles to manoeuvre on site.

The larger commercial vehicles, coaches and vehicles towing trailers or caravans can sometimes block the site entry and access to parking.

HGV vehicles frequently use the station as they can easily access and refuel along the entrance side of the site. This can also limit or block the entrance into, and the exit from, the forecourt (see photos). This results in vehicles wishing to enter the station stopping and waiting on the A35. This creates congestion and tailbacks on the 50mph highway, which has also resulted in some accidents.

Parking and on-site Layout

The planning application shows an out of date 'Existing site plan' with the number of marked parking spaces recorded as 14. This is inaccurate. It also states that the total spaces proposed will increase by 3 spaces to 17.

An arial photograph (taken this month) shows the actual number of marked spaces in use at present is 27. The new plan is a reduction of 10 parking spaces, not an increase of 4 spaces as stated.

The actual spaces shown on the new plan are: 2 spaces for disabled drivers, just 13 for other cars (EV vehicles use these when not charging), and 8 EV vehicles charging spaces.

The 15 parking spaces proposed in the application are recorded as 'Type: Cars' with no provision for larger vans, coaches or vehicles towing caravans or trailers, which do currently use the site.

In addition, the existing 'open' layout of parking spaces and absence of kerbing, currently allows these larger vehicles and those towing caravans and trailers, more room and flexibility to manoeuvre and park. Despite this, delays do occur on the A35 caused by these vehicles slowly entering and exiting the site.

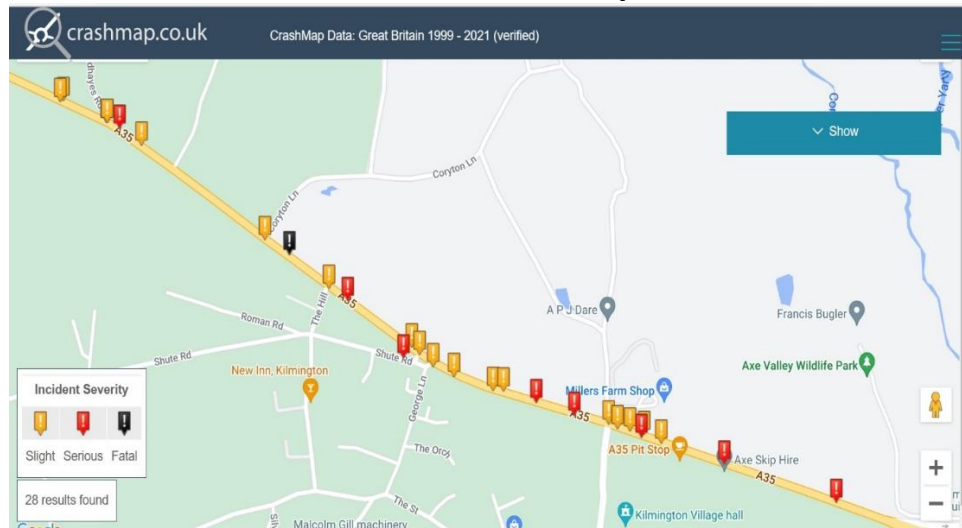
The proposed layout and additional kerbing will make manoeuvring of larger vehicles, and those towing caravans and trailers, much more difficult. Councillors feel this will result in further congestion on site, which in turn will prevent and delay the entrance of vehicles from the A35. This could increase the safety hazard and create further delays on this busy trunk road.

Supply of Electrical Power for Chargers

Kilmington residents regularly suffer power cuts. This raises the question 'Will the additional

large amount of power required for the EV chargers impact the supply of power for the village?’ Councillors seek assurance that power to existing village residential properties and businesses will not deteriorate further when the 8 EV Chargers are fully operational.

Historic Accident data 1999-2021: 28 reported incidents

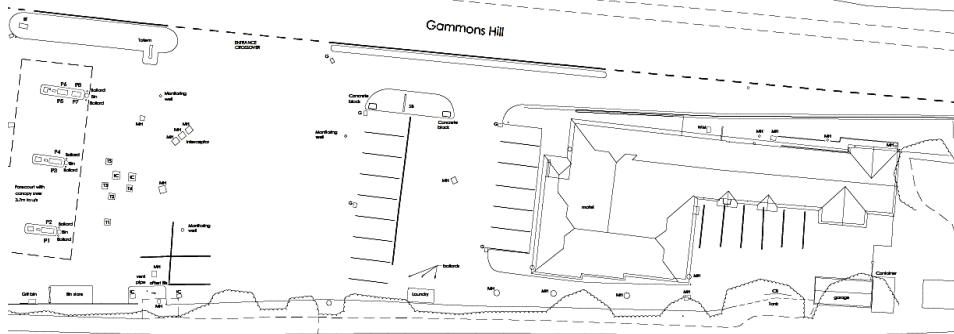


HGVs can restrict or block entry into the forecourt. This slows or stops vehicles on the A35 that are trying to enter, obstructing and delaying through traffic on this 50mph Highway.

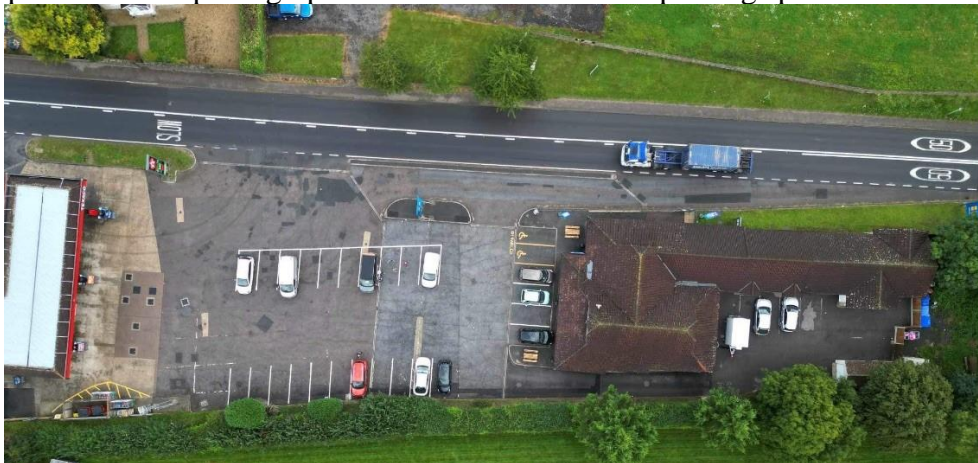




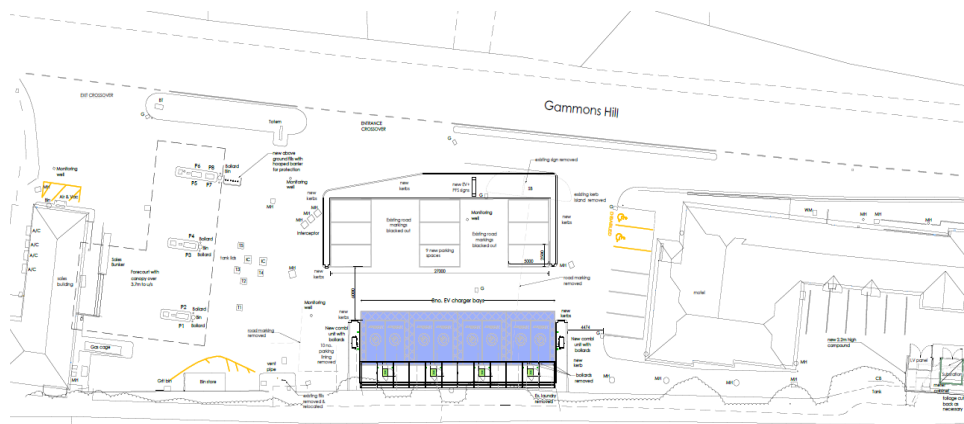
The submitted 'Existing Plan' is not in use today, so 14 parking spaces is inaccurate.



September 2023 photograph shows actual number of parking spaces 27 in use today.



The proposed plan below shows 2 disabled driver spaces, just 13 for other cars (including EV vehicles not charging), and 8 EV spaces for vehicles charging. No spaces for larger vans, coaches or vehicles towing caravans or trailers which currently use the site.



6. Finance

a) Current Financial Position

The Clerk advised that the present balance in the Lloyds Account was £12,749.58. This did not include any payments to be approved at this meeting on the 11th September 2023.

NSI Account	£38,397.33
Santander Account	£ 1,095.66

b) Expenditure to be ratified

None

c) Expenditure to be approved for which bills have been received

- 1) Payment of £290.56 to A. Jenkins for the Clerk's net amount of salary after PAYE deduction for the month of September 2023 (31/08/2023 to 28/09/2023)
 - 2) Payment of £102.40 to HMRC for PAYE.
 - 3) Payment of £84.00 to A. Jenkins for Home office allowance for the months of April, May, June, July, August & September 2023)
 - 4) Payment of £612.00 to C S Garden Services SW LTD for work carried out 007/08/2023, 17/08/2023 & 21/08/2023.
 - 5) Payment of £40.00 to J. Simpson for cleaning of bus shelters for 6 Weeks from 15/7/2023 to 26/08/2023
- Payments proposed by Cllr. Miller, seconded by Cllr. Veberth, all in favour. (except for Cllr. Seward who took no part in voting)

d) Closure of Santander account and transfer of closing balance to Lloyds account.

The Clerk advised that he had sent the signed closure form to Santander but had not received a reply and the closing balance had not been transferred to Lloyds Bank. Cllr. Dare as one of the signatories said that he would contact Santander.

e) Change of bank signatories

The Clerk reported that the required forms for adding the 4 newly elected Councillors as Signatories had been submitted and he was waiting confirmation from Lloyds that this had processed, and they had been added.

Once he received this confirmation, he would then obtain a further set of forms to add Cllr. Veberth in order that all nine Councillors are signatories.

7. Reports:

a) Police -None

b) District and County Councillors

EDDC Cllr. Chubb reported that EDDC were trialling an electricity powered refuse collector.

DCC Cllr. Chubb reported that DCC were now mainly holding physical meetings. They were holding Devolution discussions with the other unitary and district councils in Devon. Devon Highways were trialling a new Elastomac patch and resurfacing machine and had started a 4 to 5 years programme of renewing over 6,000 road markings.

c) Clerk- None

d) Highways Matters

1) 30 to 20 mph Speed limit

- 2) Cllrs. Ball gave an update report on the discussions with Devon County Council Highways (DCCH). The extent of the 20mph area had now been

agreed by DCCH who were now working on the implementation costing for the scheme.

3) Speed Watch Scheme

Cllr. Seward advised that they were still waiting for the equipment.

4) A35

The Chair said that he had spoken to the National Highways officers about the matter raised by Cllr. Miller at the last meeting and had asked that their staff be more reasonable and considerate for local residents and workers in future when their staff man road closure points.

He said that he would be liaising with other parish councils and National Highways Officers about holding another joint meeting in the next few months.

5) Other matters

It was reported that Devon Highways had recently resurfaced part of the tarmacked section of Roman Road.

e) Playground

The Clerk advised that he was in the process of redrafting the weekly/monthly checklist reporting forms.

f) Allotments

The Clerk advised that he had already received the return of some signed agreements and payments but there was more yet to be returned.

Cllr. Ball advised that it had not yet been established who owned or was responsible for the trees/hedge running down the far side. It was decided that the tree safety resurvey should include this tree line within the scope of the survey.

Cllr. Veberth said that he was presently working on producing the new and more accurate plan of the site and the allotment plots.

He said that Cllr. Bayley and himself had met with the first person on the waiting list and discussed offering her plot No. 5 which had been the school's plot a number of years ago. This plot had not been re-let, but the holders of the neighbouring plots 3 and 4 had been caretaking on a no fee basis for a few years. The caretakers had said that plot No5 was not very fertile and they had therefore used it for brambles and some nut trees. In the discussion the caretakers had suggested they retain plot No5 and offered instead to relinquish half of one of their other two more fertile plots to the person on the waiting list.

Councillors discussed the matter at some length and were of the opinion that, as there were not enough plots to satisfy residents demands, plot No5 should be improved to return it to a fully acceptable plot that could then satisfy the needs of a new holder. Councillors felt that the suggested offer of half a plot was not fair to the waiting list person and they should be offered a full-size plot. It would also mean that the existing holders would be let 2.5 plots. Other existing allotment holders had asked to increase their plot sizes, but it was felt priority should be given to provide new holders. Therefore no existing allotment holder should be allowed to increase their plot sizes whilst there was a waiting list. The allotments were provided for the benefit of parishioners and it was important that the allotments can be offered to and used by as many parishioners as possible. The consensus amongst Councillors was that, as there were limited allotments they should be maintained for the for cultivation of vegetables and fruit (with cut

flowers also being permitted with some bio diversity). The Council should not encourage wild/wildlife areas within the allotments, it was more suitable to encourage such biodiversity to somewhere like the Common.

Cllrs. Veberth and Bailey said that they would write to the existing holders with some options in order to resolve the matter.

g) Trees/Common

1) To consider and adopt the draft Kilmington Common Management Plan

Cllr. Seward proposed adopting the draft policy, seconded by Cllr. Miller, all in favour.

2) Tree safety resurvey

The Clerk to instruct the resurvey to go ahead.

h) Footpaths Report- None

i) Defibrillators

The Clerk reported that the quotation for a managed solution package had been received from Community Heartbeat for a new defibrillator at The New Inn. The quotation was for £2,728.00 including a community awareness training session . There would be an annual support charge of £165.00.

Cllr. Ball said that this quotation was in line with the costs previously discussed with the licensees at The New Inn and that the monies already raised together with donations and grants would cover the costs. The only issue to be resolved was the hosting agreement with the brewery as to whether planning approval was required.

Subject to these two matters being resolved first, Cllr. Ball proposed that the Parish Council then proceed to place an order for the defibrillator package, seconded by Cllr. Seward, all in favour.

j) Any Other Reports -None

8. Correspondence

a) Ring & Ride

The Chairman advised that he had received a status report on the Ring & Ride

b) Other matters

The Chairman advised that he had received a letter regarding branches growing over and into the parking area on Gapemouth Corner and had spoken to the property owner's representative.

9. To consider and adopt the draft Councillor Long Service Awards Policy

Cllr. Miller proposed adopting the draft policy, seconded by Cllr. Reed, all in favour.

10. To consider and adopt the draft Community Recognition Awards Policy

Deferred to next meeting.

11. Councillor training

The Clerk reported that he had written to DALC and was waiting for their training officer to advise possible dates for an inhouse training session.

12. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Councillor training

draft Community Appreciation Awards Policy

13. Date and Time of Next Meeting

9th October 2023 at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed *P. Ball*

Date *9/10/2023*