

KILMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY 13th NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7.00PM IN THE CRICKET PAVILION

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

In Attendance: A Jenkins (Clerk/RFO), DCC/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))

Cllrs. M. Jones & 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)

None

3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th October 2023

The minutes were declared a true record of the proceedings, proposed by Cllr. Veberth seconded by Cllr. Miller, all in favour.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

None

5. Planning Applications

None

6. Finance

a) Current Financial Position

The Clerk advised that the present balance in the Lloyds Account was £11,695.45.

This did not include any payments to be approved at this meeting on the 13th November 2023.

NSI Account	£38,397.33
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Santander Account	£ 1,095.66
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b) Expenditure to be ratified

BACS payments of £2,370 and £198.00 to Community Heartbeat Trust for the managed solution defibrillator package and the 2023/24 annual support

BACS payment of £1020.00 to C S Garden Services SW Ltd for £408.00 work on 06/09/2023 and 27/09/2023 and for reissue of payment of £612.00 previously approved following error on cheque.

Ratifications proposed by Cllr. Veberth, seconded by Cllr. Miller

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

- 1) Payments to A. Jenkins for the Clerk's net amount of salary after tax/NIC deduction for the month of November 2023 (26/10/2023 to 30/11/2023) and to HMRC for the appropriate amount based on a gross salary amount of £491.20
 - 2) Payment of £90.00 to Geosphere Ltd for 1 year renewal of the Parish Online-digital Mapping.
 - 3) Payment of £726.00 to Advanced Arboriculture Limited for arboricultural safety inspection report.
 - 4) Payment of £40.00 to Judith Simpson for weekly checking and cleaning of the two bus shelters for 2 months (15/9/2023 to 15/11/2023).
 - 5) Payment of £45.00 to DALC for booking attendance at the DALC AGM, Conference and Exhibition 27/09/2023
 - 6) Payment of £1,584.00 to EDDC for dog bins waste collection for year 23/24
 - 7) Payment of £32.00 to Kilmington Playing Fields Committee for room hire
- Payments proposed by Cllr. Veberth, seconded by Cllr. Bayley, all in favour.

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

The Clerk advised that Santander had not yet closed the account or transferred the closing balance to Lloyds and had not replied to his letter with completed closing form or even acknowledged receipt of the letter. Cllr. Dare to contact Santander.

e) Change of bank signatories

Cllr. Veberth to return the completed/signed form at the December meeting

f) Section 106 monies

The Clerk and Cllr. Ball had been in correspondence with the EDDC new Section 106 officer. Cllr. Ball had spoken to her on the phone to try and clarify what the monies of £4841.52 held by EDDC could be spent on. The officer had said that the monies had to be spent on youth open space and that the Parish Council would have to undertake a consultation process with the community in order to determine what they want.

Cllr Ball said that he felt that the consultation was unnecessary as the Parish Council had recently undertaken an exhaustive consultation as part of the Neighbourhood Plan which had only been formally adopted earlier in the year. He proposed to investigate the matter of Section 106 more fully together with the Neighbourhood Plan documents and then discuss it at a future Council meeting before looking to arrange a meeting with the Officer to further discuss the matter.

7. Reports:

a) Police

The Clerk reported that he had spoken to PC 7553, Ben Middleton, the Axminster Neighbourhood Beat Manager a few days ago and had queried why no one from his team had been in contact about attending the Parish Council meetings every few months as indicated would happen by Inspector Gray earlier in the summer. PC Middleton said he would endeavour to get someone from the Axminster Neighbourhood Beat Team to attend future meetings and the Clerk had sent him a

list of the remaining 2023 and 2024 meetings. PC Middleton had said if there is anything the Parish Council wish to discuss prior to any meetings or any general concerns/issues we would like to raise outside of the meeting then he is contactable on the email address he has given the Clerk.

b) District and County Councillors

EDDC Cllr. Chubb reported that

- a) Waste and recycling. The average recycling rate for East Devon is 62%, a far better than the UK in general which is 44.1%. At present EDDC receives £900 per tonne for aluminium and £200 for plastic and metal recyclables. The popular green garden waste service collects from 19,896 homes in East Devon, where the charge per green wheelie bin is £50 per year. This is set to increase to £52 next year. By way of comparison, recyclables and general refuse are collected from over 74,000 homes in East Devon
In 2026 the Government are introducing new rules for Local Authorities regarding waste and recycling collection where a 'three bin' policy puts an emphasis on making recycling simpler with plastic, glass, cardboard etc in the same container.
- b) Planning update Currently East Devon do not have a required 5 year land supply which makes it easier for developers to build new homes that would not normally gain approval at the planning stage, potentially leading to inappropriate development in the wrong places.
In 2022/23 54% of new Homes were built in in the West End of East Devon (Cranbrook and eastern fringes of Exeter that lie in East Devon), with the other 46% spread across the rest of the District
This is the fourth year in a row that the West End has exceeded its proposed planning completions, unlike the two years before that. 986 New Homes were completed in East Devon during the past year.
At 31st March 2023 East Devon District Council only had a 4.28 year housing land supply position against the identified 'Local Housing Needs' figure of 910 dwellings plus 5% buffer (i.e. 956 dwellings) with the number of dwellings being deliverable 4093 against the requirement of 4778. In other words a supply shortfall of 685
- c) Winter Parking Offer From the 1st November 2023 until the 31st of March 2024 you will be able to park all day until midnight for a flat rate £2 in all car parks owned and operated by East Devon District Council, so you can buy a ticket in the morning in say Axminster and then visit other towns with the same ticket!
- d) Dog Waste Bins EDDC are proposing from next year dog bins will have a smart phone scan code attached to them; enabling residents to let EDDC know when the bins are full and need emptying.
- e) EDDC app For those of you who do not have it and have a smart phone, why not download the East Devon app from the Apple App Store or Google Play store, see <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/website-help/east-devon-mobile-app/>
A simple to use and very effective tool, there are a number of functions that are very popular on it, including the 'Report It' section for all sorts of things from fly tipping to litter and the waste collection section. It can also remind you about collection days and what containers to put out.

DCC Cllr. Chubb reported:-

Devon County Council is going through a major restructure currently of how the 'business' operates, so that it can best serve the needs of the residents of Devon with the physical and financial resources available to it. There is a lot of publicity currently about the financial health of Local Government and a number of them issuing what is called a section 114 notice. In effect, this is a declaration that they cannot meet their obligations in producing a legally required budget and 'handing back the keys' to central government to send in commissioners to run services at the minimum legal level. There is often no one single reason for this but certainly growing demand for services, children's in particular, combined with inflation are major factors in many instances.

Devon County Council took early steps to address this and reorganise and as part of this are currently in advanced negotiations with the Department for Education for a very significant financial settlement (called the 'safety valve') and not currently at risk of having to issue a section 114 notice.

Setting a balanced budget early next year is going to be very difficult, resulting in some very difficult choices having to be made where core spending power has reduced in real terms by 27 per cent since 2010/11 as Councils remain firmly in the eye of the inflationary storm and finances are under pressure like never before.

DCC Highways - climate change, flooding events in particular have decimated planned maintenance but despite that are pressing on with as much of the programme as possible when not dealing with 'risk to life' events or clearing up after flooding, fallen trees and damaged buildings.

They are doing their best to keep all of the plates spinning and I would ask that you understand that they must prioritise workload those 'risk to life' events while not diminishing the priority of things you have reason to contact them for.

c) Clerk

None

d) Highways Matters

1) 30 to 20 mph Speed limit

Nothing further to report at this point.

2) Speed Watch Scheme

Cllr. Seward advised that they were now ready to implement the scheme in the very near future as all the training has been completed and they have received the equipment.

3) A35

Cllr Ball advised that he had received a written report from the Parishes Group meeting which took place on the 13th October. The meeting had been attended by 13 Councils All those present supported the implementation of the average speed cameras, consistent road signage and improved methods to allow residents to cross the carriageway

There was then a general discussion involving all those present covering topics such as much improved signage for diversion routes when the A35 is

closed. The use of satnavs can cause chaos in the surrounding villages. The replacement of old streetlights cowed LED ones to stop flare.

It was noted that Ben Hampson has now left National Highways and Jonny Hill has taken over responsibility for the A35 in Dorset as well as the Devon section.

The Group felt that the Parishes need to become more organised to allow the Communities voices to be heard and have influence to moderate the effects of the A35 on the communities living along its length. A 'top down' approach may be more effective whereby the Parishes deal with the Department of Transport, top civil servants, parliamentary committees and MP's etc in pressing our case for improvements.

The Group had set up a Lead group in order to gather the necessary data in a co-ordinated way to present our case that a detailed questionnaire covering all aspects of the effects of the road that each parish could complete. These would then be collated and analysed to present our case. Topics covered for example include the perceived impacts – noise, air pollution, drainage / flooding, public transport, movement of residents, road markings, on the community – businesses, schools, residents, bio-diversity.

Detailed Mapping in a way that can be used to back our case. To be marked with for example – accident black spots - not all accidents are reported back to NH often only those involving the emergency services, bad visibility, bad signage, locations for residents to cross (desire lines/movement mapping). Anecdotal information Statements from residents of the direct effects on them.

Cllr Ball said that whilst this was all useful, he felt that we should try and arrange another meeting early in the new Year here in Kilmington with Highways England and all other parties in order to get an update from National Highways on the present position of the A35 scheme. Cllr. Ball to speak to Johnie Hill, the National Highways officer who was now in charge of the whole A35 scheme in order to arrange the meeting.

4) Other matters

None

e) Playground

The Clerk had contacted HAGS and was waiting for them to advise re the safety maintenance inspection.

f) Allotments

Cllrs. Veberth and Bayley advised that they were hoping to arrange a meeting with all the allotment holders. Cllr. Ball thought this was an excellent idea and asked them to arrange the meeting and book a venue which the Parish Council will pay for.

g) Trees – Safety Survey report

The Clerk reported that the tree safety report had been received and sent to all Councillors. The report to be discussed with Cllr. Jones at the next meeting.

h) Footpaths Report

1) Footpath No. 1, Kilmington

Devon County Council Public Path Diversion and Definitive Map and Statement Modification Order 2023

2) Footpath 9 – Temporary closure due to dangerous bridge extended until 14 May 2024 or until the works are complete, whichever is the sooner.

These orders which had been circulated to all Councillors were noted.

i) Defibrillators

a) Proposed defibrillator at The New Inn

The Clerk advised that the order for the defibrillator together with payment and the completed hosting agreement had been submitted to Community Heartbeat Trust. Also that the planning application for listed building consent had been submitted to EDDC.

The Clerk will arrange the awareness training session.

j) Any Other Reports

None

8. Correspondence

a) Fire service consultation

Noted

b) Refugee resettlement – Community Sponsorship in Devon

Noted

c) Neighbourhood Planning and the Emerging Local Plan update and survey

Cllr. Ball will respond and complete/submit the survey

9. To consider and adopt the draft Community Appreciation Awards Policy

After considering the matter, Councillor decided not to adopt the Policy

10. Councillor training

The Clerk reported that the training session would be held on Wednesday 24th January 2024.

This was the most suitable date for the majority of Councillors. The session would commence promptly at 6.30pm and should finish at 9.15/9.30 ish. The Clerk will supply further details in early January.

11. Zero Hour – Climate and Ecology Bill

Defer to next meeting

12. Grant application - Axe Valley and West Dorset Ring and Ride Service.

Councillors were minded to make a contribution but wished to check first as to the present position of the service. Cllr Ball to speak to them and report back to the next meeting.

13. 2024 meeting dates

The Clerk advised that the dates had been set and the venues booked.

14. PART TWO Items which may be taken in the absence of the press and public. The Committee is recommended to pass the following resolution:- ‘Resolved that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items as they involve the likely disclosure of sensitive and confidential information.

Cllr. Dare proposed the resolution, seconded by Cllr. Seward, all in favour.

15. NJC National Salary Award 2023/24 Payscale for Clerks- (Implementation backdated from April 2023)

The Clerk advised Councillors the details of the National Salary Award for 2023/24 which had just been nationally agreed and which applied backdated to April 2023. The award based on the Clerk’s present scale would result in an increase of £1.00 per hour going forward and the backdated amount up to the 30th November 2023 was £280.

16. Payments to A. Jenkins for the Clerk's 2023/24 Salary Award increase backdated to the 1st April 2023 after tax deduction for the the period 1st April 2023 to the 30th November 2023 and to HMRC for the appropriate amount based on a gross amount of £280.00.

Cllr. Dare proposed payments to the Clerk A. Jenkins for the net amount and to HMRC for the appropriate PAYE amount based on the gross backdated amount of £280.00, seconded by Cllr. Seward, all in favour.

17. Clerk's Annual Appraisal

Deferred to next meeting

18. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Clerks's Appraisal

Zero Hour – Climate and Ecology Bill

Grant application - Axe Valley and West Dorset Ring and Ride Service.

19. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Monday 11th December 2023 at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

Signed *P. Ball*

Date *11/12/2023*