

# KILMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING ON MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7.00PM IN THE CRICKET PAVILION

**Present:** Cllrs. P. Ball (Chair), S. Seward, K. Veberth,  
N. Bayley, O. Miller, M. Jones

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

**Members of Public:** 1

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

Judith Simpson spoke about the Kilmington Common Volunteer Group. She said that the volunteer work to protect and reintroduce the Lowland Heathland area and the rare Heath Lobellia within the central part of Kilmington Common was going well. The work they are doing is following the principles and guidelines provided by the EDDC ANOB team and she spoke about the work they have already done and the further work they are undertaking to remove lots of brambles runners and process some fallen branches. She said that they had received lots of positive comments in the recent Go Wild event. She understood that the full cut of the grass was due to take place by the end of September. Councillors were very appreciative of the work and the commitment of the volunteers.

### COUNCIL BUSINESS

- 24/059 To receive apologies for absence and to approve reasons given LGA 1972 S.85 (1))**  
Cllrs. Dare, Collier & Reed
- 24/060 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 24/064c5
- 24/061 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2024**  
The minutes were declared a true record of the proceedings, proposed by Cllr. Seward, seconded by Cllr. Miller, all in favour.
- 24/062 Matters arising from the Minutes**  
None
- 24/063 Planning Applications**  
None

**24/064 Finance**

**a) Current Financial Position**

The Clerk advised that the present balance in the Lloyds Account was £17,547.07

NSI Account £38,397.33

Santander Account £ 1,095.66

The Clerk advised that after consultation with the Chair, he had opened two secondary current accounts with Lloyds Bank, one to hold CIL separately as per the requirements and the other for all future payments and receipts transactions for the Allotments.

Cllr. Ball proposed that the £1,185.00 CIL monies in the main Lloyds account be transferred into the new CIL account and that a sum of £500.00 be transferred into the new Allotments account. Seconded by Cllr. Seward, all in favour.

The Clerk advised that he will arrange for future EDF direct debit payments to be made from the Allotments account.

**b) Expenditure to be ratified**

None

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

1) Payment to A. Jenkins for the Clerk's salary for the month of August 2024 (24/08/2024 to 28/09/2024) and the appropriate PAYE amount to HMRC based on the gross salary amount of £608.40.

2) Payment of £60.00 to J Simpson for cleaning bus shelters on 15/05,15/06 & 15/07/2024

3) Payment of £48.00 to Kilmington Playing Fields Committee for Pavilion room hire 08/07, 24/06 &12/08/2024

4) Payment of £756.00 to Advanced Arboriculture Ltd for Arboricultural safety Inspection.

5) Payment of £210.00 to C S Garden Services SW Ltd for work carried out on the 21/08/2024

Payments proposed by Cllr. Bayley, seconded by Cllr. Miller, all in favour

**d) Section 106 monies**

Nothing to report

**24/065 Reports:**

**a) Police**

None

**b) District and County Councillors**

Cllr. Chubb had sent a report which the Clerk had circularised to Councillors.

With regard to Highways he had advised that after some very poor, wet weather during recent winters creating problems it has been difficult to keep up with repairs, with safety defects taking priority when there is dry weather, which allows tarmac to set properly, rather than using short term fixes, which tend not to last. A generally drier summer has helped eat into the backlog and he hopes for similar in the run up to the end of the year. Additionally in recent months, DCC has been able to put an additional £10m of capital funding towards the following.

Additional serviceability patching (£7.75m)

White lining maintenance (£0.25m)

Drainage improvements (£2m)

By mid-August, over 16,000m<sup>2</sup> of larger scale serviceability patching has been laid, which works out in excess of 315 locations.

Over the summer four white lining gangs have been working across the county to remark the following

- 145 mini roundabouts
- 30 compact roundabouts
- 197 zebra crossings

The funding is also making it possible to allow approximately 10km of double white lines to be refreshed.

The programme of drainage improvements, particularly in rural areas is being delivered through a dynamic approach with the Term Maintenance Contractor, where several factors come in to make best use of financial and human resources.

Delivery of the 'Local Area Capital Programme' was delayed until mid-May due to resource being focused on pothole repairs, but work is now progressing well, with a large proportion of the projects already completed or scheduled to be completed ahead of winter.

**c) Clerk**

None

**d) Highways Matters**

**1) 30 to 20 mph Speed limit**

Cllr. Ball said that he was still waiting to hear from Highways as to who were this year's successful applicants. The Clerk said that he will write to DCC Cllr. Stuart Hughes who is the Cabinet member for Highways and ask him to advise the present position on Tranche 3 24-25.

**2) Speed Watch Scheme**

Nothing to report at present.

**3) A35**

Cllr. Ball advised that he had contacted the National Highways, South West Operations Scheme Delivery for an update on their A35 Verge Project for Kilmington.

They had advised that their surveys had showed that the Kilmington verge remains largely dominated by grasses rather than wildflower species. This drove a change to the aftercare plan for that plot, with a cut also carried out in April of this year instead of just one in the autumn which was the case in 2023. It will also be cut in September and this should reduce the dominance of grasses and allow wildflower species to grow and spread across the plot.

However, they had advised that this is the last year when aftercare funding is available and the maintenance will revert back to Connect until 2026 when the A35 is brought back into National Highways operational area instead of under the DBFO model. The need to continue support of this scheme so that the benefits can be encouraged longer term is something

which the SW Operations environment team are aware of, and they would need to identify funding for this.

Cllr. Ball advised that he will liaise with the other A35 parishes and our Member of Parliament about seeking another joint meeting of all the parishes and other interested parties with National Highways.

**4) Other matters**

Cllr. Seward advised that the Gore Lane Street sign had been damaged with the writing wiped off, probably by the Highways flail.

The Clerk will speak to the Highways officer to determine responsibility for replacing the sign and also check as regards the Hill road sign which had been knocked down.

**e) Playground**

Cllr. Miller reminded council that the old bench in the playground needs replacing or at the very least cleaning and painting. Agreed to obtain a quotation for a replacement recycled plastic maintenance free bench for consideration at the next meeting.

The Clerk advised that the EDDC have to review Public spaces protection orders (PSPOs) every 3 years and they are starting the review process in August 2024 with a full public consultation in Spring 2025. Cllr. Seward proposed that the Parish Council request EDDC that the No Dogs allowed PSPO applying to the Childrens Playground be continued, seconded by Cllr. Bayley, all in favour.

**f) Allotments**

Cllr. Veberth proposed:-

1. that the plot fees should be set at 16pence per m<sup>2</sup> for the forthcoming tenancy renewals. T
2. that a £50 flat rate deposit scheme be introduced for all new plot holders with immediate effect. This deposit will be held by the Council and will be returned to the plotholder when they give up their plot subject to the plot being left clear of crops, plants, green waste, personal items and rubbish.
3. that the plotholders be asked to form an association and all join the National Allotments Society with the Parish Council including the membership fee within the yearly tenancy at no extra cost to the plotholder. The plotholders would then receive NAS membership benefits including in particular Public Liability insurance cover. Seconded by Cllr. Bayley, all in favour

Cllrs Veberth and Bayley advised that two plots had been vacated but said that they had been left in such a state that it would not be fair to offer them to a new plotholder in their present state. They need completely cutting back, clearing and any waste /rubbish removed. Cllrs. discussed getting this work undertaken as soon as possible in order the plots can be offered to new plotholders with the new £50 deposit fee applicable. The Clerk advised that the criteria for the deposit scheme would include a dated photograph of

the plot showing the state and condition of the plot when it is offered to and taken on by the new plotholder.

**g) Trees & Trees Safety Survey Report**

The Clerk had circularised the new report which had just been received. Cllr. Jones will study the report and advise further at the next meeting.

**h) Footpaths**

None

**i) Defibrillators**

**1. Defibrillator at The New Inn**

None

**2. Defibrillator at the Village Hall**

None

**j) Hitchcock Trust**

Cllr. Ball advised that the Trustees had met to discuss the PSPOs.

**k) Any Other Reports**

Cllr. Ball advised that a general article highlighting the issue of fly tipping and discouraging it has been published in September PostScript.

He proposed that the The Orchard hedge bank be tidied up so as to discourage fly tipping, with additional hedging and new replacement tree being planted. The Orchard Hedge Bank has some of oldest trees in Kilmington – very likely at least 300-350 years old. Two of them - both oaks are now listed on The Ancient Tree Inventory as Veteran Trees. The Orchard residents would need to be informed and their cooperation be sought by delivery of an information letter explaining objectives to improve the hedge bank. David Simpson is involved in restoring and Managing Ancient Woodland in East Devon and has volunteered to help organise. He will involve EDDC Nathan Dunster, Street scene Officer as EDDC support will be required to improve the area, as they own the bank. David Simpson involved in restoring and Managing Ancient Woodland in East Devon has volunteered to help organise.

**24/066 Correspondence**

The Clerk advised that the DALC AGM, Conference and Exhibition was due to take place on Wednesday 2 October 2024. The charge for attending the event is £60. Cllr. Ball had said that he would attend and the Clerk has made a booking. The Clerk was not sure whether he would be able to attend himself due to it clashing with another event but if he could rearrange he would also attend as it was a very useful and informative event.

The Clerk advised that an invite had been received for a representative to attend a further EDDC Tree, Hedgerow & Woodland Strategy Stakeholder Workshop on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September. Cllr. Jones said he would check his diary to see if he would be able to attend but if he wasn't Cllr. Ball said that he would ask David Simpson if he was able to attend as he had attended the first workshop in July.

Cllr. Ball advised Council that an EDDC Strategic Planning Committee Meeting was due to take place on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024. At the meeting East Devon's Strategic Planning Committee will be considering officers' final

recommendations regarding site allocations for both housing and employment use. These recommendations will reflect extensive technical work undertaken by our team and subject specialists, as well as the public consultations that have been undertaken and comments at Local Plan Working Group meetings – and wherever possible will show explicitly how we have taken account of and responses to those consultations. Cllr. Ball advised that unfortunately he would be away on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024 and unable to attend the meeting, and asked for another Councillor to represent the Council. Cllr. Veberth volunteered to attend,

Cllr. Ball reported that two letters had been received from parishioners complaining about the Common. They complain that the paths have become dangerous with roots protruding, and that this is causing problems for a number of local residents with limited mobility that like to use the common regularly. The fact that it is not possible to step around the roots due to brambles is causing a problem. They also say that there is a problem with brambles and stinging nettles in certain parts of the Common particularly in the vicinity of the grit bin and the seat.

Cllr Seward said that a full cut of the grass on the Common was due to take place by the end of September and that Cllr. Ball and himself would look at the matters raised in the letters.

**24/067 Broadband provision**

In answer to a query from the Clerk, Councillors advised that the provision of full fibre broadband infrastructure was proceeding well.

**24/068 New Kilmington Memorial**

Cllr. Seward advised that he waiting for the technical drawings/details for the new memorial and would pass them onto the Clerk for him to submit the Parish Council's planning application.

The Clerk reported that Planning had advised that the cost for the planning application would be £216.50. Cllr. Ball proposed that the Council proceed with the planning application at this payment cost, seconded by Cllr. Seward, all in favour.

**24/069 'The Green' – water course**

Nothing to report. Agreed that this item be removed from future agendas and that Councillors monitor the water course and raise the matter again if the situation deteriorates.

**24/070 KPC Facebook page**

The Clerk distributed to Councillors a suggested draft policy to be considered at the next meeting.

**24/071 Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

KPC Facebook page

**24/072 Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed *P. Ball*

Date *14/10/2024*