

## **KENN PARISH COUNCIL**

Page 99

MINUTES of Kenn Parish Council meeting 1 December 2014 held in the Village Hall, Kenn St, Kenn Meeting commenced at 19:30 and concluded at 21.10

PRESENT Cllrs S Naish (Chairman), K Hatcher, S Brain, J-P Humberstone, C Quinn, R Treble Clerk; Eleanor Wade

---

19:30 **Items raised during Public Participation** North Somerset Cllrs Jill Iles, Tony Moulin & North Somerset Liaison Officer Lorraine Bush had given their apologies.

6 residents were in attendance.

1. Two past councillors were in attendance to express their concerns at an article published in the December Kenn News & Views, which purported to be from 'Friends of Kenn Parish Council'. However they made the observation that its wording could infer the actions of past councillors, such as themselves, and the past clerk had been less than reputable. They requested the article be withdrawn, or if the grounds for such comments had any substance then they should be reported to the Commissioner to enable people to defend themselves. They called for the support of the Parish Council in these requests and observations.

The chairman requested her comments be recorded:

- Firstly the article was nothing to do with Kenn Parish Council, the first occasion that any member of the council had been able to read it was just prior to the meeting
- Secondly the statements were misjudged but it was not for the current Parish Council to rectify observations of parishioners about previous councils
- Finally she expressed concern that recently anything done in the village seemed to become the subject of derision and malicious gossip

Other Councillors supported her comments and made the observation that it was sad the way things had developed recently, also talking about the past was not a reason for joining the council. It was agreed to report the debate on the Parish Council page in the next Kenn News & View.

2. A resident reminded members about the events planned for the 12 December to celebrate the turning on of the Christmas tree lights. The Chairman thanked everyone for their efforts on this.

---

20:00 FORMAL BUSINESS

**14/121 Apologies for absence** Cllr Bessant (at another meeting).

**14/122 Declarations of interest** Cllr Treble in relation to the item on Colehouse Farm

**14/123 Minutes** of the Council meeting held on the 6 October 2014

**Resolved:** The minutes were approved as correct.

### **14/124 Chairman's Communications**

**124.1** Drum & Monkey Public House's Freedom of Information (Fol) request

The Chairman thanked all members for their co-operation in providing any information relating to themselves. She also thanked the Clerk for collating all the Parish Council documents and presenting them to the applicant within the required timescales.

**124.2** Comments made about the Chairman

The Chairman reported she had received information that accusations were being made she had been carrying out checks in relation to the activities of the Drum & Monkey and then telephoning North Somerset Council (NSC) with details every week. She strongly refuted these allegations and would consider making her own Fol request to NSC to find what had actually been happening. Councillors supported her in this.

### **14/125 Free Summer plants & planters (min14/99)**

A request had been received to move Brain's planter; **agreed**. The resident who looked after the planters on The Green had tidied these and was thanked for his efforts.

### **14/126 Verges and hedges (min 14/100)**

- Kenn – Cllr Treble reported NSC had carried out the cutting on the main road
- Visibility Issues – were raised, and it was agreed to obtain 3 quotes, based on hourly rates to flail from the bus shelter to past the court land.
- Tree Trimming – the Poplar on The Green need the offshoots at the base trimming back. Cllr Quinn agreed to contact NSC to see if the tree officers would arrange this.

- 14/127 Traffic speeds through village, missing signs, noticeboard,**(min 14/101)
- Noticeboard – still in the process of being made. **Await** details when available.
  - Missing 'Give way' Sign at junction of Davis Lane/Manmoor Lane – Cllr Naish reported the sign had been replaced. It was hoped a 50yrd advance warning would also be installed.
- 14/128 Bridge update on designated footpath LA10/710** (min 14/102)
- Correspondence had been received from the Public Rights of Way Officer. North Somerset's Rights of Way team were responsible for the surface of a public footpath path but not structures constructed and maintained by others. Previous discussions regarding the path did result on a tree being removed that was causing cracks in the concrete. They would be prepared to consider repairing the handrail as a one off improvement and repairing the crack in the concrete caused by the tree.
- The public rights of way team are not responsible for drainage issues although a highways officer has advised he may be able to obtain some redundant highway barrier that could be installed by the riparian owners which might help to reduce the amount of debris getting into the box culvert under the footpath.
- Agreed** the officer and Cllr Treble to arrange to meet on site to discuss the above.
- 14/129 Village tidy-up and litter rota** (min 14/103)
- General litter – Cllr Bessant had put an item in the Kenn News & Views inviting people to put their names forward to be on the litter rota, however, he had had only 1 reply. It was suggested residents should be encourage to pick up litter deposited outside their homes etc. The combined effort would ensure the village was reasonably litter free.
  - Flytipping – concern was expressed this was becoming a greater problem in nearby lanes.
- 14/130 Telephone Box Defibrillator** (min 14/105)
- Training – it was reported this had taken place, 25 people had attended some of which were employees on the business park.
  - Repairs to telephone box – Cllr Humberstone reported the loose window panes and door hinges had been repaired.
- 14/131 Vodaphone coverage** (min 14/113)
- Cllr Brain gave an update on his findings and details of the requirements which need to be met. Unfortunately Kenn did not fit in with these so that initiative could not be progressed.
- 14/132 Grass Cutting contract** (min14/120)
- The requirements detailed in Kenn Parish Council's Financial Regulations (contracts exceeding £500 requiring 3 quotations) were recalled. **Agreed:** to have a working group consisting of Cllrs Treble and Humberstone and the Clerk to organise this.
- 14/133 Drains/Flooding on B3133, & potholes on section of old road by the Drum & Monkey**
- The Clerk had advised NSC Area Officer about both items reported at the end of the last meeting he had replied that he would check the situation with these. Reply awaited.
- Junction of Colehouse Lane/Kenn Road – report of a large area of pooling in this vicinity.

### Planning Items

- 14/134 Streamline Planning – NSC Planning Committee** (min 14/109)
- Clevedon Town Council (CTC) sent for information a copy of their reply to NSC, who had given reassurances local members will still be able to make local views known at the Planning & Regulatory Committee. There are substitution arrangements to allow local members to have a seat on the committee when required. But CTC were still concerned about the democracy of the new process and ask for it to be kept under review. **Noted.**
- 14/134 NSC/ALCA Liaison meeting and NSC Parish Forum** (min 14/108)
- Various items of interest to T/P Councils which will be followed up at either of the events:
- Parish Forum – 10 December 2014 Cllr Brain & Clerk to attend, Cllr Quinn may attend.
    1. What is North Somerset's approach to major housing developments, and how NSC, town and parish councils can work together on a strategy?
    2. Two Neighbourhood Plans are currently being assessed - what is the future for their use by other parishes across North Somerset?
    3. More strategic use by Parish and Town Councils of 106 funding and the future distribution of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) **Noted.**
  - NSC/ALCA Liaison Meeting – 3 March 2015
    1. Update on NS Partnership and how parish councils are represented on strategic groups.

2. How will funding from the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) reach communities in North Somerset and can local councils feed into the priorities being set?
3. Community Right to Bid/Assets of Community Value
4. Q&A with David Turner

**Noted.****14/134 NSC Core Strategy Examination 'Housing Allocation' (min 14/108)**

Information received on additional hearings. As a consequence of the Inspector's initial conclusions, NSC put forward a proposed increase in the district housing requirement to 20,985 dwellings 2006-2026 and suggested changes to Policy CS13 (then subject to public consultation for six weeks commencing in Sept 2014). Following the Inspector's consideration of the responses received, additional hearings will be held on 6-7 January 2015. While the hearings are open to the public, participation is by invite only. **Noted.**

**14/135 Planning Decision** on the following was **noted**

14/P/1799/F –Rose Bungalow, Kennmoor Road, Kenn –Consent for change of use of garage into treatment centre.

**14/136 Planning Applications**

- 14/P/2376/F –Colehouse Farm, Colehouse Lane –Conversion and reconstruction of a barn for use as an extension to the existing residential barn conversion. The plans had been unavailable for downloading from the Planning Authority web site. **Resolved:** request an extension to enable the Parish Council to make their comments.
- 14/P/2458/F –Land off Windmill Road, Kenn –Erection of 3 industrial units for B1,B2 & B8 **Resolved:** to make the following comments; the number of units have been increased by one, over the permission granted to application 12/P/0655/F on the 12 May 2012. However the number of parking spaces provided has been reduced. The Parish Council have had, in the recent past, representations from businesses on this site expressing their concerns that they cannot get deliveries by lorries into and out of their premises due to the impact of on-street parking. No objections to development of the area.
- 14/P/2499/F – Edwards, Barns Ground, Kenn –Electric sliding palisade entrance gate **Resolved:** No objections

**14/137 NSC Planning Enforcement** the following was **noted**

Members received details of current planning enforcement issues in the parish of Kenn.

**14/138 Street Numbering, Duck Lane** the following was **noted**

An officer from NSC's Street Naming and Numbering had been asked by a property owner to allocate an address to a new dwelling at Duck Lane in Kenn. The officer was advising the Parish Council that even though the lane does not contain any property numbers (only house names) the request had been to provide a number and the number '20' had been assigned (ref S9.2 of NSC policy). Also the numbering of this single property did not automatically mean the rest of Duck Lane will be street numbered at this point in time.

**General Items****14/139 Young Voters** the following was **noted**

Yatton Parish Council were looking at ways to encourage people, especially young people, to register to vote and had written to Backwell School to ask if they could assist with this. The reasons for the request were as follows:

- The system of voter registration has recently changed and everyone who is not already on the register has to register individually.
- The 'head of the household' can no longer register the household as a group, which
- Means people who are 18, or who are about to be 18, now have to register individually.
- There is no guarantee all young people will be notified of this.

**14/140 Delivering differently in Neighbourhoods** the following was **noted**

Dept for Communities and Local Government has recently launched a new programme aiming to support principal authorities to redesign services to deliver at neighbourhood level, with the involvement of community organisations or parish councils.

**14/141 Streetlife** the following was **noted**

Information had been received that this is a local social network with a lot of people using it across North Somerset. They would be inviting lots more residents to join the

conversation, bringing together people based on their postcode, to help everyone – residents, elected officials and local groups – discover and discuss local issues and initiatives, joining in with local events, groups and volunteering opportunities. It’s an opportunity for non-profit organisations to get involved (nil cost) to share their news, events and opportunities with the growing local audience. Conversations have also led to locals organising litter picks, sharing trusted tradesmen recommendations and finding volunteers for befriending schemes.

**Accounts & Finance Items**

**14/142 Grants**

- Air Ambulance –letter of thanks, also giving further information about their service
- Citizens Advice Bureau –had written requesting a consideration for 2015/16. Members recalled Kenn Parish council had not provided a grant in the current financial year.  
**Resolved:** to give a grant of £100 for the financial year 2014/15
- Church Grant –a letter had been received requesting the annual grant towards the upkeep of the churchyard at St John’s Church, Kenn.  
**Resolved:** to give a grant of £50 (as requested in the letter) for the financial year 2014/15

**14/143 Gift in recognition of Service (min 14/120)**

Members considered the matter of possibly finding a way to provide a gratuity to recognise the services of the grass cutter, who was retiring The Clerk advised there were 2 ways in which parish councils could award such monies (other than to employees):

- Any monies have to benefit some or all residents – grants to individuals are not feasible.
- Monies can be awarded to people who are in financial need, hardship or distress but the applicants must live in the parish to be eligible.

However, the contractor did not fit either of these criteria: (1) he has been paid for his work, on provision of an invoice, and (2) he does not live within the parish of Kenn.

The Clerk suggested one solution could be for the Chairman to purchase a small gift for presenting and reclaim the cost of this under Chairman’s hospitality.

Proposed by Cllr Treble and seconded by Cllr Humberstone:

**Proposal:** to purchase vouchers to the value £100 and some flowers.

On a vote of 2 For and 3 Against the resolution failed

A suggestion was made to highlight the contractor’s retirement in the next Kenn News & Views and ask for donations from villagers.

**14/144 Accounts for Payment** Members considered the details in the Clerk’s Report.

**Resolved:** To approve the accounts for payment as detailed.

**14/145 Precept for 2015/2016**

Members reviewed a document of the accounts: (1) 2013/14 for comparison, (2) 2014/15 actual for 3 quarters, anticipated for last quarter,(3) known budget calculations for 2015/16  
Anticipated income (excluding precept): £735

Anticipated known expenditure: £3,453  
To increase the grass cutting to: £1,500  
To maintain a grants budget of: £ 500 = £5,453 Rounded up to £5,500

A debate took place about including a sum for the 2015 elections, it was agreed to take this from anticipated reserves if the Parish Council election is contested.

**Resolved;** to approve a precept of £5,500 for the administration requirements of the Parish Council for the Financial Year 2015/16. Effect on a Band D = £33.78 (-5.54%)

Note following meeting – an error occurred on the evening – the income of £735 was added to the anticipated expenditure, resulting in a sum of £6078. I have removed this to reach the correct figure

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

**Signed by the Chairman .....**

**Date.....**