

Kingsbury Episcopi Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 5th July 2023 at 7.30pm at Kingsbury Episcopi Primary School.

Present: Cllr David Hall (Chair) Cllrs Loxston, Carpenter, Herridge, Miller and Pearce.

In attendance – Kim Larsson (Clerk) and five members of the public.

70. Preliminaries

Chairmans welcome – Cllr Hall welcomed the Cllrs and members of the public to the meeting with an explanation of Parish Council meeting etiquette, procedures and domestics, and also introduced the new Clerk, Mrs Kim Larsson.

Apologies for absence – Cllrs Paul, Mason, Frost and Baldock; Somerset Council Cllrs Stanton and Wilkins

Approve and sign minutes of the previous meeting – Cllr Carpenter proposed an amendment to the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 7th June 2023, minute 59, as he felt this was not the correct interpretation of the information. It was agreed to amend the second paragraph of minute 59. to read as follows:

“Latest SID data shows the same problem with Thorney Road, 46% of drivers are driving between 30mph and 40mph. Highways signs showing 30mph are not allowed as there are streetlights, which should indicate to drivers that it is a 30mps limit.”

The amendment was annotated on the hard copy minutes and duly signed by the chairman.

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 28th June 2023 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting, and duly signed by the chairman.

Declarations of Interest None.

Questions and comments from the public

Queries were raised by members of the public in relation to the decisions made for progression of the sensory garden project. Cllr Hall explained that the project and use of the awarded funds had been discussed at length at a number of council meetings, and following decisions reached this was now being progressed by Cllr Miller. Cllr Miller gave an update and offered to share draft plans with interested parties.

71. Planning

a. **Applications** – There were no new planning applications to discuss.

b. **Unapproved signage within Parish** – There were no updates to report.

72. Financial Matters

a. **Payments** - The following cheques were approved:

ICO	Annual Renewal	£40.00
Parrett Talk	Grant (already agreed)	£500.00
W Harris	Verge Cutting	£1,200.00
S N & C A Perrin	Internal Audit	£96.00
Somerset Council	Ranger (May/June)	£422.52

b. **Banking** – The Clerk requested those councillors that agreed to become account signatories complete and return the form with required details as soon as possible so the account opening could be progressed.

73. Litter Picking Equipment

A request was made for litter picking equipment to aid volunteers. It was agreed to purchase equipment for two kits, each including a long-handled litter picker, hi-visibility vest and bin bag hoop. It was noted that gloves would also be required, but these were kindly offered by a resident who was present at the meeting. A budget of up to £100 was agreed for the required equipment.

74. Updates

- a. **Local Community Networks** – The Levels & Moors LCN met for the first time on 19th June. Cllr Richard Wilkins was elected Chair, Cllr Anthony Betty of Othery PC as Vice-Chair. Informal discussions in groups highlighted common areas of importance for discussion at future meetings, including planning, flooding and the condition of the roads. The next meeting is planned to take place in September.
- b. **Digital Communication / Website** – Website is up to date and the Clerk has been set up with access.
- c. **Wildlife Group** – No updates. The monthly meeting was not held due to a number of people on holiday.
- d. **Sensory Garden Project** – The geographical survey has been instructed. Once this has been carried out, updated plans will be drawn up so the idea can be put out to tender and fundraising can be investigated.
- e. **Kingsbury Episcopi Primary School Swimming Pool** – There may be funding available from Sport England, but this needs to be submitted by Somerset Council. There is some uncertainty surrounding funding for schools, but they are looking into setting up as a charity. Cllr Miller will liaise with Cllr Stanton to confirm support from the parish council for any applications.
- f. **Speed/SID reports – The SID** The latest speed report was not yet available so no update was available from the SID data. An enquiry was received from a member of the public regarding the possibility of a digital Speedwatch device. Grants are available but it is not clear whether the grant can be made by the parish council or needs to be by Somerset Council. The Clerk will investigate and provide an update at the next meeting.
- g. **Lock-up** – It was agreed that keys for the lock up will be held by Cllr Hall and SB who looks after the grounds and required regular access.
- h. **Highways** – Notification has been received of a closure of Stockditch Road, lasting 3-6 months. It was reported that the Ranger has cleared gully's at New Cross Hill and cleared around the signposts. Somerset Council Highways have not yet carried out their cut to include visibility splays (the Ranger can be instructed to carry this out on their next visit if not already done).
- i. **Footpaths and Bridleways** – The footpath/bridleway at Pulpits Way is noted to be very overgrown. Cllr Hall will enquire if the Ranger can attend to this or if it will need to be carried out by the Bridleway Association.

75. Date and time of next meeting

Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 6th September 2023 at 7.30pm at Kingsbury Episcopi Parish Primary School.