

Kingsbury Episcopi Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 4th October 2023 at 7.30pm at Kingsbury Episcopi Primary School.

88. Attendance and Apologies

Present: Cllr David Hall (Chair), Cllrs Frost, Carpenter, Paul, Herridge, Spree and Baldock.

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

Apologies for absence – Cllrs Loxston and Mason and Somerset Council Cllrs Stanton and Wilkins.

89. Parish Council Vacancies

Following resignations of Cllrs Pearce and Miller, there are currently 2 vacancies on the council. Notices of the vacancies have been posted on the parish noticeboards. Anyone interested in becoming a member of the council should contact the Clerk.

90. Approve and sign minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 6th September were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting, and duly signed by the chairman.

91. Declarations of Interest – None.

92. Somerset Council Councillor Report

Somerset Council Cllrs were not present at the meeting. A written report had been circulated to councillors, who had no questions to refer back to Cllr Stanton and Wilkins.

93. Questions and comments from the public

A representative of Kingsbury Time Travellers attended the meeting to present details in relation to their request for a grant for the costs of producing an end of year supplement for the “One Hundred Heritage Matters” project (agenda item 12, minute 99). The publication will show progress of the project to date in an A5, 8-sided booklet, which will be delivered to each household. Councillors were very positive about the project and publication but requested that a fully completed grant application form was completed before they formally made a decision.

94. Planning

a. Applications

23/02380/FUL - Land Adjoining Avalon Owl Street East Lambrook South Petherton Somerset - Proposed erection of a self-build dwelling with detached garage and replacement of existing access.

The council agreed to SUPPORT the application on the basis of the improvements it would make to wildlife habitats across the site. They were also supportive of a self-build project which will allow existing residents to stay within the parish rather than needing to seek a suitable property elsewhere.

b. Unapproved signage within Parish – No updates.

Councillors agreed that having submitted details to Somerset Council regarding these matters, that there was no further action to be taken. As such, it will be removed as a standing item, but included in future if further matters require consideration.

95. Financial Matters

a. Payments - The following cheques were approved:

B White	Wildlife Group Materials	£57.79
K Larsson	Clerk Salary incl. PAYE (Sept)	£389.10

b. Banking - The Clerk advised she will need to update the Natwest mandate as currently statements are not being received. This will require 2 signatories to approve the changes online. Cllr Carpenter and Frost will action this when they receive the email from Natwest.

- c. **Funds Transfer** – Cllrs agreed to a transfer of £20,000 from the saving account to the main account to cover upcoming costs. The transfer form was signed by Cllr Carpenter and Frost as signatories and will be taken to a Natwest branch by the Clerk.

96. Sensory Garden Project

Having received the required number of requests for a rescission of the motion agreed in minute 54. On 7th June 2023, councillors discussed the current position of the project and financial liabilities. Councillors voted unanimously in favour of rescission of the previous agreement, proposed by Cllr Hall, seconded by Cllr Frost, understanding that there is a financial liability of £800 + VAT for the project to date.

It was commented that having taken this decision; the project is not moving forward at this point. It has, however, been suggested that the Wildlife Group could be involved in moving the project forward, and they will meet to discuss.

97. Churchyard Grounds Maintenance

Councillors arranged to meet at the churchyard to discuss and agree a scope of works, and the requirements will be advertised inviting contractors to tender.

98. Cemetery Regulations

Having received requests for deviation from the regulations for memorials, and having noted some deviation to permitted styles within the cemetery, the Clerk requested advice from councillors on these requests. It was agreed for the Cemetery Committee to review the regulations and put forward a recommendation. In the interim, requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the council.

99. One Hundred Heritage Matters Project

Consideration of the grant request will be postponed until receipt of the fully completed grant application form, to include financial information.

100. Updates

- a. **Local Community Networks** – Cllr Hall and the Clerk attended the Levels & Moors LCN meeting on Wednesday 20th September. The meeting covered many of the same areas as the previous one, establishing which areas were a priority. It was agreed for the LCN to initially concentrate on two projects; Active Travel and Wellbeing. The next meeting is planned for November.
- b. **Wildlife Group** – Cllr Loxston was not present to offer a report this month.
- c. **Sensory Garden Project** – As reported at minute 96.
- d. **Speed/SID reports – The SID** - No updates have been received following receipt of the draft report which was circulated previously.
- e. **Lock-up** – Cllr Carpenter & SB will be putting up the Christmas decorations which are stored in the lock-up. Cllr Paul is following up ref. ownership of the lock-up.
- f. **Highways** – It was noted Hangman’s Lane has been closed for bridge works and a number of potholes have been marked for repairs. Residents are encouraged to continue reporting via the online reporting tool on the Somerset Council website so Highways are aware of any issues. <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/>
- g. **Flooding** – Nothing to report.
- h. **Footpaths and Bridleways** – Nothing to report.

101. Rusty Axe Defibrillator

The Rusty Axe are currently fundraising for installation of a publicly accessible defibrillator to be located outside the premises. Funding is potentially available for 50-100% of the cost of the equipment, with installation costs on top of this. Cllrs agreed to support the project, with Cllr Paul and the Clerk assisting with the grant application. It will be added to the updates section of the meeting from next month.

102. Items for the next meeting

- a. 2024/25 Budget
- b. 2024/25 Grant Application

103. Date and time of next meeting

Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 1st November 2023 at 7.30pm at Kingsbury Episcopi Parish Primary School.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00pm.