

## Kingsbury Episcopi Parish Council

### Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.30pm at Kingsbury Episcopi Primary School.

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#### 76. Attendance and Apologies

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

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

**Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Miller, Frost and Mason. Apologies were also received from Cllr

#### 77. Approve and sign minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> July were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting, and duly signed by the chairman.

#### 78. Somerset Council Councillor Report

Cllr Stanton advised that Somerset Council budgets for the next financial year will again be tight. He also advised that there are no funds available for small improvement schemes so the costs for any such projects will need to be met by parishes.

#### 79. Questions and comments from the public

A resident commented that there was not an agenda on the East Lambrook noticeboard, but the Clerk confirmed these were put on every noticeboard the week before the meeting and it may have inadvertently been removed when other posters were taken out.

It was also commented that East Lambrook had not received the original survey from the Speed Action Group. The council noted this but advised that the Speed Action Group is a separate organisation, and the Parish Council were not involved in the survey or subsequent reports.

Comment was received regarding poor visibility at the junction of the Bridge at Gawbridge. The Somerset Council Ranger has recently left his role, but once a new Ranger is in place they will be asked if they can attend to this site.

A resident raised concern regarding the plans for progressing the sensory garden project and how funds are being used. Cllr Hall commented that the councillors are elected to make decisions on behalf of the parish and that a majority decision was reached by the council at a previous meeting to progress in this way, which has been formally documented in the minutes.

It was mentioned that the wheelie bin at the cemetery is being filled with dog waste, which is it not intended for. It was agreed that a sign could be placed on the bin indicating it is not for disposal of dog waste.

#### 80. Planning

##### a. Applications

23/00564/FUL - Land At Townsend Hawthorn Hill East Lambrook South Petherton Somerset - Erection of 4no. dwellings with creation of a new access, parking and associated infrastructure (update to application).

The council agreed to no further comment with regards to changes on the application, and that original comments made on the application in June apply.

23/01778/LBC - Lambrook House Silver Street East Lambrook South Petherton Somerset TA13 5HW - Replace garage door with glazed door screen with new stone paved threshold.

The council agreed to no comments on the application.

Full responses will be submitted to Somerset Council Planning, and will subsequently be found on the planning portal of the Somerset Council website.

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

## 81. Financial Matters

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

KJ Hall Surveyors	Sensory garden survey	£780.00
In2theGarden	Sensory garden design (stage1 payment)	£995.00
S Potepa	Interim Clerk Fees	£883.32
K Larsson	Clerk Salary (Aug)	£389.10
K Larsson	Admin Expenses (June-Aug)	£89.70
P Loxston	Wildlife Group Competition Prizes	294.93

## 82. Sensory Garden Design

After discussion of concerns raised and the current financial climate, councillors agreed unanimously to request a pause to the design element of the project to work while the current progress and financial liabilities are established. This will allow councillors to consider whether any wish to request rescission of the previous resolution to proceed in the agreed manner. The Clerk will gather required information and circulate to all councillors.

It was agreed to move discussion of the supplier contract for the design element to the end of the meeting, for ease of exclusion of the public due to the commercially sensitive nature of the matter.

## 83. Churchyard Grounds Maintenance

Current arrangements for maintenance of the churchyard will cease on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023. After discussion of possible requirements, it was agreed that Cllrs Loxston and Hall will visit the site to propose a scope of works, with Cllr Loxston hoping to be able to involve the Wildlife Group in ongoing maintenance of the area. The item will be added to a future agenda for further discussion.

## 84. Updates

- a. **Local Community Networks** – The Levels & Moors next LCN meeting is set for Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September.
- b. **Digital Communication / Website** – Website is up to date. It was agreed to remove the subject from standing items and include when there was something to report or discuss.
- c. **Wildlife Group** – There is a lot of work on show in the community centre that was carried out with the school. Unfortunately, an event at Ash Millenium Wood was cancelled due to inclement weather. There are several new projects coming up and the next meeting is being held this month.
- d. **Sensory Garden Project** – As reported at minute 82.
- e. **Kingsbury Episcopi Primary School Swimming Pool** – Nothing to report. It was agreed to remove the subject from standing items and include when there was something to report or discuss.
- f. **Speed/SID reports – The SID** The latest speed report from the Speed Action Group was circulated to all councillors. As advised by Cllr Stanton, there is no funding available from Somerset Council and any schemes would potentially need to be paid for locally. It was also commented that the parish council have not set aside any budget for highways related schemes.
- g. **Lock-up** – SB now has a key to the lock-up and the second key will be given to Cllr Hall.
- h. **Highways** – It was noted that lots of patching/pot hole filling has been taking place. Residents are encouraged to continue reporting via the online reporting tool on the Somerset Council website so Highways are aware of any issues.
- i. **Footpaths and Bridleways** – Nothing to report.
- j. **Commonwealth Graves** – Cllr Baldock reported that the signage indicating the graves is now place. He commented that one grave needs the memorial attending to.

**85. Items for the next meeting**

- a. Sensory Garden Update
- b. Churchyard Maintenance

**86. Date and time of next meeting**

Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at 7.30pm at Kingsbury Episcopi Parish Primary School.

*The meeting moved to a closed session to discuss remaining matters of item 8 on the agenda.*

**87. Sensory Garden Design – Supplier Contract**

It was agreed that the contract would be re-visited following gathering of information of the current status of the design works (refer minute 82).

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.05pm.