

## Kingsbury Episcopi Parish Council

### Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 at 7.30pm at Kingsbury Episcopi Primary School.

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#### 104. Attendance and Apologies

**Present:** Cllr Frosts, Carpenter, Paul, Herridge, Loxston and Mason.

**In attendance** – Kim Larsson (Clerk) and Somerset Council Cllr Stanton.

**Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Hall, Baldock and Somerset Council Cllr Wilkins.

In the absence of Cllr Hall as Chairman, Cllr Frost as Vice-Chair, presided at the meeting.

#### 105. Parish Council Vacancies

There are currently 2 vacancies on the council for which no call for an election has been made.

These vacancies may be filled by co-option; anyone interested in becoming a member of the council should contact the Clerk.

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

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting, and duly signed by the Vice-Chair.

#### 107. Declarations of Interest – None.

#### 108. Somerset Council Councillor Report

The monthly written report had been circulated to councillors in advance of the meeting. Cllr Stanton spoke about the Somerset Council financial crisis and advised that a letter is due to be received by all town and parish councils regarding service cuts and outlining what is being asked of them in terms of taking on the provision of services at a local level. He advised the parish council should be considering this as part of their budget and precept setting for 2024/25.

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

A member of the public enquired regarding removal of a vehicle in the brook at Mid-Lambrook. They were advised that this is in the process of being dealt with by the owner but should there not be any progress, to report to Cllrs Stanton and Wilkins so they can follow up.

It was commented that the bridge works at Stockditch Lane had been completed but have been damaged again by another impact.

#### 110. Planning Applications

- a. 23/02530/FUL: Land At Greenway Farm West Lane West Lambrook South Petherton - Demolition of existing barn and the erection of a single storey dwelling and Garage  
Councillors agreed unanimously to SUPPORT the application on the basis that the proposed development will be an improvement to the visual amenity of the site.
- b. 21/00503/OUT: Land Os 3346 Thorney Road Kingsbury Episcopi Martock Somerset - Outline planning application all matters reserved except for access; Erection of up to 25 dwellings, demolition of single storey extension to no. 18 and rearrangement of estate road to facilitate access between 18 and 19 The Avenue (Update of plans to original submission)

Councillors agreed unanimously to maintain the original position of OBJECTION to the application. The basis for this was that the amendments had not addressed the concerns over the design of the access and that the proposed design was not suitable. It had also not addressed concerns over the suitability of The Avenue for increased vehicle movements for the construction or ongoing use by new properties. Due to the high volume of questions and objections from members of the public, it was suggested that the Agent, Greenslade Taylor Hunt, should hold a public information session to allow questions and concerns to be addressed.

Responses will be sent to Somerset Council Planning and will be available to view on the planning portal against the respective applications in due course. [Link to Planning Portal](#)

## 111. Financial Matters

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

Netwise	Annual Website Hosting & Domain	£350 + vat
SALC	Annual Affiliation Fee (incl. NALC)	£397.15
K Larsson	Clerk Salary incl. PAYE (Oct)	£403.50
K Larsson	Clerk Admin Expenses (Sep/Oct)	£38.19
B White	Materials for Wildlife Group projects	£138.45

### b. Natwest Bank mandate update

Further to previous agreement to add Cllrs Hall, Paul and the Clerk as signatories on the bank accounts, Kingsbury Episcopi Parish Council resolve that:

- if we add or remove Authorised Signatories in the "Add or Remove Authorised Signatories" section on the "About your request" page of the form, the Bank will update our mandate accordingly for the accounts we specify in the form's "About your business" section
- if we change the Signing Rules in the "Change the Signing Rules on the Mandate" section on the "About your request" page of the form, the Bank will update our mandate accordingly for the accounts we specify in the form's "About your business" section
- and the current mandate will continue as amended

### c. 2024/25 draft budget – The clerk gave an overview of the first draft of the budget for the next financial year, noting that this estimate does not include any figures for the impact of loss of services from Somerset Council.

### d. 2024/25 grants: Invitation for applications will be sent to local organisations so these can be considered before the final budget and precept is set. Applicants are invited to attend the December meeting to present details of their application and answer any questions councillors may have.

## 112. Christmas Tree at The Wyndham Arms

A request was received for a donation of £50 towards the cost of a Christmas tree being erected at the Wyndham Arms public house. Councillors agreed unanimously to the donation for the tree which can be enjoyed by the whole parish.

## 113. Updates

### a. Local Community Networks – The next LCN meeting is Monday 13th November. Cllr Hall and the Clerk plan to attend and will provide an update at the next council meeting.

### b. Wildlife Group – Projects continue to progress. The group has also agreed to adopt the Sensory Garden Project and plan to start immediately, with a view to having planting underway before the spring.

### c. SID reports – No updates.

### d. Lock-up – Transfer of ownership is still pending with the Land Registry. It was noted that the contact details for the Clerk should be updated with Land Registry as they have changed since the original application. Cllr Paul will provide the reference number and the Clerk will contact to update.

### e. Highways – Report had been received from a member of the public regarding flooding on Silver Street due to a blocked drain. The Clerk advised that as these issues are addressed by Somerset Council and not the parish council, it would be prudent to provide residents with the means to report issues directly to Somerset Council so they can be accurately reported and dealt with as promptly as possible. The online reporting tool on the Somerset Council website can be found on the following link:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/roads-travel-and-parking/report-a-problem-on-the-road/> or alternatively the Fix My Street website can be used <https://www.fixmystreet.com/>

### f. Flooding – Nothing to report.

- g. **Footpaths and Bridleways** – Nothing to report.
- h. **Defibrillator at the Rusty Axe** – The Clerk advised that the grant application has been submitted and we now await a response.

**114. Items for the next meeting**

- a. 2024/25 Grant Applications

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

Parish Council meeting – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023 at 7.30pm at Kingsbury Episcopi Parish Primary School.

The Vice-Chair closed the meeting at 9.15pm.