

Kingsbury Episcopi Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on Wednesday 7th February 2024 at 7.30pm at Kingsbury Episcopi Primary School.

142. Attendance and Apologies

Present: Cllrs Hall, Frost, Carpenter, Paul and Spree.

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

Apologies for absence – Cllrs Baldock, Loxston and Mason; Somerset Council Cllr Wilkins.

143. Parish Council Vacancies

There are currently 2 vacancies on the council which may be filled by co-option; anyone interested in becoming a member of the council should contact the Clerk.

144. Approve and sign minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on the 3rd January 2024 were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting, and duly signed by the Chair.

145. Declarations of Interest – None.

146. Somerset Council Councillor Report

Cllr Stanton advised there was an executive meeting held that day but the final budget for 2024/25 will not be decided until the full Council meeting on 20th February. He advised there is still a risk of a section 114 notice being issued, although this is becoming less likely. Lots of areas are being looked at for potential costs savings, including Mudford Rec in Yeovil, the Octagon Theatre, CCTV and public toilets. Cllr Stanton advised that big towns are looking at taking over or supporting these services where possible. The Council is also looking at Capitalisation, but commented that this only provides a one-off funding source for ongoing costs and doesn't address the budget gap the following year.

147. Questions and comments from the public -

Thanks was received from Kingsbury Time Travellers for the grant towards production of the One Hundred Heritage Matters project publication, which has now been delivered to all households in the parish.

Road work signage - Comments were received in relation to signage being left following road closures.

Query was raised regarding maintenance of the River Parrett, with a build up of silt and weed noted and the banks not being maintained. It was agreed to contact the SRA.

A resident reported that damage to Stockditch bridge was reported, but Somerset Council assessed the bridge and deemed works were not required at this time.

A resident reported tippers have been using Stockditch as a construction traffic route. They have reported to Somerset Council to investigate.

148. Planning Applications

- a. 23/03199/FUL West End Farm West End Kingsbury Episcopi Martock TA12 6AY- Conversion of a stable block for residential use.

The Parish Council resolved to submit a "support" response to the application, noting that the development will allow a resident to remain in the area as their needs for accessible living change.

- b. 23/02692/FUL Land Os 8500 Part North Of Owl Street East Lambrook South Petherton Somerset TA13 5HF - Proposed development of four dwellings and associated development.

The Parish Council reviewed the amendments to the application and had no further comments to add to the response submitted in December 2023.

- c. 23/03188/S73A Land South Of Giffords Orchard Stembridge Kingsbury Episcopi Martock TA12 6GB - S73A Application to vary Condition 06 (tree and shrub planting scheme) to be

reworded to become a compliance condition with the accompanying landscaping proposals relating to planning consent 18/01927/FUL.

The Parish Council resolved to submit a “no objections” response to the application.

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](#)

149. Financial Matters

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

Gallagher Insurance	Annual insurance renewal	£521.07
AON (Sports Insure)	Wildlife Group insurance	£100.00
PKF	2022/23 Audit Fee	£252.00
Gardens & Trees	Tree inspection (cemetery)	£144.00
London Hearts	Defibrillator	£750.00
Kingsbury Time Travellers	Grant for One Hundred: Heritage Matters Publication	£250.00
K Larsson	Clerk Salary incl. PAYE (Dec)	£433.50
St Martins PCC	Wildlife Group event hall hire	£50.00
Wildlife Group	Pin badges, Pond Dipping & butterfly supplies	£178.74

150. Updates

a. **Local Community Networks** –The recent LCN meeting was held online due to weather a travel conditions. Somerset Council financial position was discussed, but no clarification on cost saving measures could be given as they will not be finalised until the full Council meeting on the 20th February. The Highway Steward Scheme was discussed and suggestion of a working group being set up was made. The next LCN meeting is planned for Monday 4th March.

Further information on the LCN’s can be found on the Somerset Council website at the following link <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/local-community-networks/>

b. **Wildlife Group** – The recent bird box making event at St Martins Church Room was a huge success with 50 boxes made.

c. **Sensory Garden** – The Wildlife Group are looking forward to progressing and it was agreed to look into setting up a dedicated section/page on the Parish Council website to keep the parish up to date with progress.

d. **SID reports** – No updates. Cllr Frost offered to assist with moving the SID between locations and he will be shown how to do this.

e. **Lock-up** – No updates.

f. **Defibrillator at the Rusty Axe** – The Rusty Axe will continue to raise funds for ongoing maintenance of the defibrillator. Once installed, Cllr Spree will organise a training session.

g. **Highways** – As reported in public question time.

Residents are encouraged to report any new issues directly to Somerset Council so they can be accurately recorded 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/>

h. **Flooding** – Highways have advised that they will be arranging jetting of the drains at Little Lane as soon as possible in the new financial year. It was noted that Wessex Water had been in attendance recently to investigate a possible leak in the same area.

Cllr Frost commented that flood defence works following the severe flooding 10 years ago seem to be working as there has not been a repeat during the recent heavy rainfalls. Other items as reported in public question time.

- i. **Footpaths and Bridleways** – The Parish Council wish to note thanks for work carried out by residents to lay new stone over the bridge on footpath L17/35 which had been very slippery underfoot.

151. Items for the next meeting

None requested.

Cllr Spree tendered her apologies for the next meeting.

152. Date and time of next meeting - Wednesday 6th March 2024, 7.30pm at Kingsbury Episcopi Parish Primary School.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.28pm.

Signed

Date

Initial