**Kennett Parish Council**

MINUTES of the Ordinary Meeting held on 10th October 2017

At Kennett School - Meeting commenced at 7.30 pm

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| Present  Cllr Robin Swanson (RS)  Cllr Anthony French (AF)  Cllr Darren Watson (DW)  Cllr Tim Foddy (TF)  Cllr Cheryl Jowett (CJ)  DCllr Julia Huffer | Apologies  Cllr Adam Girling    Absent  Cllr Mark Hillyer  CCllr Josh Schumann |

In attendance

Su Field (Parish Clerk)

0 Members of the public

**PUBLIC FORUM**

No items.

**17/18-064 Chairman’s Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr A Girling.

**17/18-065 Declaration of Interests**

1. Declaration of any disclosable pecuniary interest in any item of business:

**None**

1. Declaration of any personal and/or prejudicial interest in any items on the agenda:

**Cllr R Swanson – CLT and Village Hall**

**Cllr T Foddy – CLT**

**Cllr D Watson – CLT and Village Hall**

**Cllr C Jowett – CLT**

1. Written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests:

**None**

1. Grants to any requests for dispensations:

**None**

**17/18-066 Minutes of Meeting held on 12th September 2017**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2017 were agreed as a true record and were duly signed by the Vice Chairman as Chair of that meeting.

**17/18-067 EXTERNAL FORUM**

1. **County Councillor**

No report received.

1. **District Councillor**

Local Plan has now been accepted by the District Council and will be entering its final phase of a 6 week consultation before the Examination in Public by the Planning Inspectorate. It is envisaged that this consultation will take place between November and December but formal notification will be received from ECDC prior to it’s commencement.

Comments submitted within the 6 week consultation will need to be sent to the Strategic Planning team at ECDC in the first instance and then they will forward to the, yet to be appointed, Programme Officer for consideration by the Inspector(s). The Inspector(s), after consideration of all paperwork, then have the ability to invite people/organisations who have made representations to speak at the Hearings. People/Organisations will also be able to attend the Hearings upon a request when the dates are published.

Further information regarding the process will be distributed to the Parish Council in due course.

**17/18-068 Matters arising from previous meetings (Action Items)**

Bin stickers will be distributed as soon as practicable.

**17/18-069 Traffic calming and road safety**

Nothing to report at this meeting.

**17/18-070 CLT – Update**

Latest minutes are on the website and hard copies were provided for those members of the Parish Council who are not on the CLT.

**17/18-071 Village Website**

No update available for this meeting.

**17/18-072 Village Church**

**1. New Vicar**

A new Vicar has been appointed and is due to be inaugurated on 20th October. He is also going to take Kennett’s Remembrance Service on 12 Nov 17.

DW suggested that the dates/times of all Church services to go on the Kennett Facebook site. DW will liaise with the administrator of the group.

**2. Roof works and grants**

As previously raised at a Parish Council meeting the cost of scaffolding to enable the works and the repairs themselves on the Church roof are going to be in the region of £60,000 and whilst RS has been successful in obtaining a promise of £20,000 from a local charity towards this cost, this still leaves a large deficit in funding. A bid has been made to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) but has not been successful this time. There is an opportunity for a further bid to be made next year.

RS reported that the PCC are looking to carry out some remedial/temporary repairs until such time as the full £60,000 has been raised.

Those present discussed whether the PCC had considered starting a public fund raising programme with visual aids (ie a “fund thermometer” in the grounds of the Church showing how much needs to be raised and how much has been).

RS said that he would take these ideas back to the PCC and would keep the Parish Council updated with developments.

It was acknowledged by all present that the Church is the centre of the village/community and that all residents should be encouraged to support it’s upkeep.

**3. Bird Cherry tree**

The large multi trunked Bird Cherry tree is slowly damaging the Church boundary wall and it is felt that this tree needs to be removed.

Currently it is not clear who owns the strip of land where the tree is situated and it was suggested that ECDC’s Tree Officer be asked to attend on site to inspect the tree and give an opinion as to whether this could be/should be removed. ECDC may have the ability to ascertain who the owner is. RS agreed that he could be available to meet with the Tree Officer. The Clerk will liaise.

RS provided the Clerk with contact details of a gentleman who may know and the Clerk agreed to look into this.

7.54pm - Cllr M Hillyer joined the meeting.

**17/18-073 Noticeboards - Update**

Despite numerous requests to CCC concerning the new noticeboards it was decided that the boards be ordered and erected. The Clerk undertook to place the order and delivery to be made to CF.

**17/18-074 REPORTS**

1. **Any External Meetings that Councillors may wish to report.**

No meetings attended.

**17/18-075 Planning Issues**

No new applications received.

**17/18-076 Correspondence Received**

The Clerk provided those present with a copy letter received from the Environment Agency via Lucy Frazer MP in response to concerns raised by the Parish Council in October 2016 and the levels of the River Kennett.

In summary, the EA stated that they believe that the river relies heavily on rainfall, run off and land drainage from the clay areas in the upper parts of the river catchment. The Parish Council maintain that historically this river has always had a ‘flow’ and that residents have fished the water course. In the past few years the river bed has been completely dry and it is felt that this could be due to extraction and damage caused to the river bed further upstream allowing water to run into the water table as opposed to keeping the river wet.

It was agreed that a further letter be written to the Environment Agency along with the MP stating that the Parish Council believe their assertions to be incorrect and request further investigation be carried out.

TF will draft the reply and the Clerk will send on the Parish Council’s behalf.

**17/18-077 Financial Matters**

1 Current Bank Balances, at 9th October 2017 (online), Cash Book and Bank Reconciliation for noting

Treasurers Account - £859.51

Bus Bank Instant Account - £20,161.65

2 Online payments made/to be made

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Amount | Payee | Detail |
| £9.07 | Anglian Water | Water Rates on Church |
| £156.29 | Mrs S Field | Wages & Expenses (October) |
| £85.40 | HMRC | PAYE on Clerk’s Wages |

The Clerk provided the Chairman with a copy of the bank reconciliation which was duly signed as evidence of income and expenditure.

The Clerk informed the meeting that invoices had been received from the County Council in the sum of £2,099.14 in respect of the Parish Council’s contribution to traffic calming works on Dane Hill Road and £156.00 from PKF Littlejohn (external auditors) in respect of the annual return for the financial year ending 31st March 2017. These accounts would be settled following this meeting.

**17/18-078 Councillors Forum**

CJ – the sofa has now disappeared! Van is still there though.

AF – Should we as a Parish Council be giving a contribution to the Playing Field Association towards the cost of removing the travellers? DW agreed to bring some costed options to next meeting for consideration.

DW – A couple of slates on the bus stop need repairing.

**17/18-079 Agenda Items for the Parish Council Meeting to be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 14th November 2017 to be held at the School**

Traffic Survey – indicative figures

Contribution to Playing Fields Association for additional entry security.

Meeting closed at 8.25 pm.

Signed: ..................................................................

Kennett Parish Council