**Kennett Parish Council**

MINUTES of the Ordinary Meeting held on 8th May 2018

At The Village Hall - Meeting commenced at 7.22 pm

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| PresentCllr Robin Swanson (RS)Cllr Tim Foddy (TF)Cllr Cheryl Jowett (CJ)Cllr Mark Hillyer (MH)Cllr A French (AF)Cllr D Watson (DW)D/CCllr Josh SchumannDCllr Julia Huffer |  Apologies Cllr A Girling  Absent  |

In attendance

Su Field (Parish Clerk)

1 Members of the public

**PUBLIC FORUM**

No items.

**18/19-001 Chairman’s Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

**18/19-002 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, Village Hall, item 18/19-012(2)**

**Cllr A French – item 18/19-012(2)**

**Cllr T Foddy – CLT**

**Cllr C Jowett – CLT and item 18/19-012(2)**

**Clerk – item 18/19-012(2)**

Written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests:

**None**

1. Grants to any requests for dispensations:

**None**

**18/19-003 Minutes of Meeting held on 13th March 2018**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2018 were agreed as a true record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

Cllr T Foddy joined the meeting.

**18/19-004 EXTERNAL FORUM**

1. **County Councillor**

CCllr J Schumann presented his report for the previous year and this is appended to these Minutes for ease of reference.

Cllr D Watson joined the meeting.

DW asked JS about the issue of liaising with network rail and pursuing the possibility of getting trains to stop more frequently at Kennett. JS had attended a presentation where it had been indicated that in January 2019 it is hoped that, with the introduction of new rolling stock and a new timetable, frequency will improve.

MH – The state of the verges along the A14 and A11 are atrocious and require to be litter picked. JS confirmed that he had met with Turners, EMR and DS Packaging and they have all committed to join in the fight to stop drivers leaving rubbish.

1. **District Councillor**

JS reported on his role as District Councillor concerning the Local Plan which has been submitted and is currently undergoing the Inspector’s investigation. Gladmans have submitted yet another appeal which was heard two weeks ago. It would appear that they are trying to undermine the 5 year land supply again. “Watch this space” and it will be reported back as soon as the result is known.

This does not mean that any large applications will automatically be agreed – each application will continue to be judged on their individual merits.

JH presented her report on the previous year and this is appended to these Minutes for ease of reference

**18/19-005 Matters arising from previous meetings (Action Items)**

Meeting with EA re River Kennett requires to be arranged – Clerk action.

**18/19-006 Traffic calming and road safety**

CJ had been in contact with the organisers of the Community Speedwatch who are willing to come and do some training provided that a minimum of 6 volunteers can be identified. An item has appeared in the Parish News but no-one has come forward.

**18/19-007 CLT – Update**

The last minutes are on the website.

**18/19-008 Village Website**

Nothing to report for this meeting.

**18/19-009 Village Church**

1. Lime Tree

The quotation received from SP Landscapes had been accepted via email and the work was due to be carried out on 18th May 2018.

1. Letter received from the Treasurer of the PCC setting out the work of the PCC for the last year. This is appended to these Minutes for ease of reference but it is important to note that there is a special “Songs of Praise” Service at 3.30pm on 17 June 2018 which will be taken by the Bishop of Huntingdon. A new altar covering will be commemorated in memory of Robin Watson during the service.
2. John Lofts does own the track and the car park. The agent is arranging for the repair works to be done.

**18/19-010 Footpath – Red Lodge to Kennett**

Red Lodge Parish Council have requested the views of Kennett Parish Council over the possibility of a footpath being created between the two parishes in order to encourage exercising and provide a link for people wishing to use Kennett Railway Station.

It was raised that there is already an existing path which goes by Forest End, over the Kennett River, up to the Church and this information would be conveyed to Red Lodge Parish Council.

It was also queried as to what sort of path was being envisaged insofar as bicycles would not be allowed to use a footpath and a cycleway would cost double to install.

In broad principle Kennett Parish Council are not against the idea and this information will also be forwarded to Red Lodge Parish Council.

**18/19-011 REPORTS**

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

None.

**18/19-012 Planning Issues**

1. **18/00410/LBC – The Bell Inn – To cover the existing swing sign outside the pub with a new logo. To reinstate the pub sign next to the front door that was previously removed. Applicant : Mrs Georgina King.**

No comment.

2. **17/02031/FUM – Land Rear of 12 to 58 Station Road – Proposed 76 dwellings with associated access, open space and drainage, replacing the dis-used commercial yard and part agricultural land. Applicant : Victoria Stanley Ltd.**

No additional comments.

**18/19-013 Correspondence Received**

Letter from MP re travellers. Central government consultation – more to complete please. Clerk to forward correspondence to JH.

**18/19-014 Financial Matters**

1. Current Bank Balances, at 3rd May 2018 (online), Cash Book and Bank Reconciliation for noting.

 Treasurers Account - £5,463.13

 Bus Bank Instant Account - £10,166.62

2. In line with new regulations concerning External Audit, the Clerk updated those present with the new power of Exemption that Parish Councils with a gross income or gross expenditure below £25,000 could apply. As Kennett Parish Council’s expenditure for the year to 31st March 2018 was £17,992.24 and income was £19,462.70 this exemption could be applied.

The Clerk read out the checklist requirements for the Annual Governance Review which was duly completed.

**18/19-015 Councillors Forum**

DW – rubbish in hedgerows/verges – report online. JH happy to join in a litter pick when the grass has been cut if that is what is required and will arrange for the equipment. Perhaps a village tidy up should be arranged – Date to be arranged for October.

TF – Dog fouling bag dispensers still need to be installed.

**18/19-016 Agenda Items for the Parish Council Meeting to be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 12th June 2018 to be held in the Pavilion**

None arising from this meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.27 pm.

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

Kennett Parish Council





Annual report from East Cambs District Council for Kennett May 2018

I believe we are a nimble, pro-active, forward thinking, entrepreneurial authority that delivers for our residents.

Our zero percent increase rise for the East Cambs element of the council tax has continued for five years in a row, our nationally recognised record on preventing homelessness, our low management costs and our Community Land Trust programme make us national outliers for all the right reasons. We are the smallest of the five authorities in Cambridgeshire and I believe we are punching well above our weight.

Kennett CLT voted in support of moving ahead with their planning application for 500 homes, 150 of which will be owned by the CLT in perpetuity. The community benefits from the Kennett CLT are huge:

-£140m total investment in Kennett

-£23m on site infrastructure – roads, footpaths, cycle ways, traffic calming, landscaping, drainage, utilities etc.

-£10m in S106 and CIL payments including £6.75 in new school buildings.

-£2m in village centre buildings including a GP’s surgery and pharmacy, food store, café etc.

-£2.5m investment in open space, community sport and leisure facilities

-£6m in buildings for employment on the Enterprise park

-£100m in new homes – all sizes and tenures

-Significant green infrastructure -28 acres of green space including playgrounds woodland open space footpaths cycle tracks all to be gifted to the CLT in perpetuity

-Improved transport infrastructure with a new perimeter road to take traffic away from the village, improvements to the Bell Inn crossroads, upgraded train service with more frequent passenger rail services between Kennett, Cambridge and Ipswich with improved parking at the railway station.

-150 genuinely affordable homes owned by the CLT and controlled under their allocations policy.

The building of the Ely bypass continues with the road set to open in in October this year, with a contribution of £1m from East Cambs which is coming from CIL payments from housing developers. You may have heard that the cost of the bypass has risen to £49m. Local taxpayers will not be paying more than was originally agreed.

We have built two new car parks, one in Ely and one in Littleport, parking charges at both sites have been frozen, and we continue to provide free parking in Ely and town centre car parks owned by East Cambs and this has been enshrined in the Councils constitution.

We have opened the new Cinema and Ely Leisure village in May last year which has proved to be a hugely popular for residents of the District. The Hive District Leisure Centre opens on Friday two weeks early built with no external borrowing and no impact on council tax.

In April this year the waste service came back in house through our East Cambs trading company Street Scene. Bringing the waste service back in house has saved in the region of £240k in procurement costs alone and will enable us to deliver a more flexible and improved service to our residents. Part of that commitment to improved service is the opportunity to acquire a second blue recycling bin for a one-off fee of £25 with no additional ongoing costs.

Fly tipping has become a plague in some areas of our District and we are taking steps to try and sort the problems out. Street Scene have been carrying out a mass clear up of the whole district collecting all fly tips on public land and litter picking the main roads, Environmental Crime officers will be accompanying them to try and gather evidence to issue fines or take enforcement action. We will be taking a robust stance against people who blight our communities by fly tipping and should you have any information regarding this kind of offence please contact the Environmental Crime team at East Cambs.

We have launched a ‘Purge on Plastics’ campaign aimed at eradicating single use plastics within the Council and its trading companies and we would encourage others in the district to do the same.

Ely markets are going from strength to strength and are now operating six days a week with mini markets and special markets in addition the usual traditional markets.

2017 also saw the setting up of the Combined Authority of which East Cambs is constituent member. It is attracting significant new funding to the county and presents huge opportunities from which we are working hard to make sure East Cambs benefits.

I am always happy to help with any local issues and can I take this opportunity to thank all the Parish Councillors who do so much for the community.

District Councillor Julia Huffer

**Kennett St Nicholas’ Parish Church**

Services are held once monthly with a congregation of only 6 to 12, and a yearly benefice service on Ascension Day which is well attended. There are one or two weddings and funerals a year. A visit was made in April by a committee from the Ely Diocese regarding the future of the church: If its future cannot be sustained it is possible that the church might be closed and if that were to become the case it is quite difficult to know what would become of the building which has been here for 800 years.

However, the committee were impressed by the good general state of the church and by the way that the church is supported by the community, and I am entirely confident that the church will not be recommended for closure.

As treasurer I am very aware and grateful that it is income from two car boot sales, the quiz night supper, the Race Night and the “Penny a Day” boxes that keeps us solvent. The recent Race Night produced £505 for church funds and a well over £100 for the defibrillator fund. Thank you to everyone who helped and generously contributed. We are grateful to the Parish Council for the upkeep of the churchyard. Our largest single expense is insurance at £1,727 a year and we contribute £1230 towards the cost of the employment of the two ministers. I am glad to report that we had an income of £338 greater than expenditure in the general account at the end of 2017.

We also have provision for maintenance of the building with about £7500 reserved and including the grant from the Parish Council of £1000 in 2016 and a grant of £1650 last year from the insurance company we use. There are some minor works needed - we are due an electrical inspection; and I expect it will cost about £500 to change the outdated distribution box, which I hope will be the only deficiency found.

However, the greatest difficulty that we face is the work that is needed on the tower roof which is in a poor state. The quotes range from £51 to £55 thousand pounds, and we have already had to spend £1200 on architect fees. The Rausing Trust has generously offered us £20,000 if we can match it from other sources but several requests to various charities including the Lottery Heritage Fund have been rejected.

On a brighter note, on June 17th at 3.30pm we will have a “Songs of Praise” including dedication of the new altar covering in memory of Robin Watson. Bishop David is taking part, and the service will be followed by refreshments. We look forward to welcoming you. The setting of the church is quite lovely in the summer months.

Stephen Taylor, Treasurer *doc@diapason.co.uk*