

KINGSLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 7.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT THE CORONATION HALL

PRESENT: Mr P Saunders (Vice Chairman), Mr S Morgan, Mr R Harris and Mr D Thompson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Ward Cllr. D Hurcomb; Traffic plan coordinator, Dr E Wallington, two members of the safer neighbourhood team, West Mercia Police; two members of West Mercia Police's Smartwater initiative, two representatives from Border Oak; and Mr R Hewitt, Parish Clerk. Fifteen (15) members of the public were present.

2023/77 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were accepted from Mrs C Sawyers (Chairman), Mr D Fordham, Mr S Hicks, Mr J Vaughan and Mr B J Watkins.

2023/78 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION
None.

2023/79 CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBERS
Deferred.

2023/80 MINUTES OF MEETING
The Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 July 2023 were agreed and signed.

2023/81 WEST MERCIA POLICE and SMARTWATER INITIATIVE
Leominster Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), West Mercia Police reported on local policing matters. Events are being organised to support young people. Speed enforcement, as requested by the parish council in the Community Charter, has been done, and local reports can help inform speed enforcement.

A briefing on Smartwater marking of valuables and the benefits of having Smartwater parish signs was noted. A straw poll of the public attending the meeting supported having a scheme for the parish. It was agreed to consider whether to proceed with a scheme at the next meeting.

2023/82 REPORT ON HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL
Ward Cllr. D Hurcomb's written report was noted. Planned resurfacing at Cobnash should never have been in the programme despite being one of the worst road surfaces in the county. Repair of local footpath bridges has been requested. Local people are encouraged to report defects to the highway authority. A decision on the relocation of the library is likely to be made in October 2023. The finances of the county council are under pressure.

2023/83 LOCAL RESIDENTS' DISCUSSION
Members of the public raised concerns and objections to planning application 232353 Land Adjacent to Methodist Chapel. The developer was offered a right of reply to respond to the points made and declined to speak at the meeting. The developer offered to answer questions and speak to members of the public outside of the meeting.

2023/84

PLANNING

232353 Land Adjacent to Methodist Chapel, HR6 9FD – Proposed erection of five dwellings with associated landscaping and infrastructure. *Kingsland Parish Council objected to the proposed development due to the proposed location outside the settlement boundary of the Kingsland Neighbourhood Development Plan. The Local Plan has achieved a 5 year land supply which means the settlement boundary carries full weight.*

In addition, the parish council is concerned that the proposed site, which is in the conservation area, detracts from the linear form of the village, and green corridor which provides a clear distinction between West Town and the core settlement. The site is considered Grade 2 agricultural land used for grazing and should be safeguarded for this purpose. A by-product of grazing is the support provided for diverse wildlife including invertebrates, birds, butterflies and small mammals.

It is said to be part of an historic medieval field (Great West Field), and consideration should be given to the archaeological value of the site. The access road is an unsuitable single track with an unsafe junction to the A4110.

Drainage remains an ongoing issue in the village, notwithstanding the comment by Welsh Water in respect of the capacity of the public sewerage network. Local knowledge has highlighted blockages in the main sewer on many occasions, including incidents where raw sewage has been discharged on to the road. The parish council requests that Welsh Water reconsider their view of the capacity of the sewerage system in light of this, and the ongoing requirement whereby the system is jetted on a quarterly or six monthly basis.

The water authority should be required to demonstrate that the aged, narrow sewer is capable of working to an acceptable standard, without unplanned spillages (KNDP 7). The sewage spillages can only add to the ongoing phosphates issue concerning the River Lugg SAC as raised by Herefordshire Council's Ecology Officer in their objection dated 11 August 2023.

232646 and 232647 Showers Cottage, Kingsland, HR6 9SF – Proposed extension to existing dwelling & replacement detached garage. *The planning application was supported.*

232555 York House, Mortimers Cross, HR6 9TG – Proposed installation of solar PV panels on roof facing highway. *The application for listed building consent was supported.*

Herefordshire Council issued planning notifications for 232693 and 232694 Mortimer Meadow (proposed tree works) after the agenda was posted. The planning authority have granted planning permission for 231381 and 231382 The Old Butcher Shop. Prior approval is not required for 232475 Brookend. Works to trees within a conservation area are allowed for 232286 Oldfield Lodge

2023/85

FINANCE

The following payments were agreed: Kingsland Village Shop, traffic working group meeting (£23.30); PKF Littlejohn, external audit 2002-23 (£252.00); Kingsland Life, donation for village website (£100.00); and John Finch Computers, MS Office/ email configuration (£328.32). The direct debit for data protection registration with the ICO (£35.00) was noted.

Lengthsman programme 2023-24: Additional grant funding of £1,125.00 has been agreed to match funding from the parish council. The parish council ratified the amended annual maintenance plan.

2023/86

TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

Dr E Wallington, coordinator, traffic management plan working group, kindly provided a verbal report. Planning is underway for the parish consultation. Enforcement by the safer roads team is due to start shortly. The traffic police have reportedly acted and issued a fine for speeding.

The Chair thanked Dr Wallington and the working group on behalf of the parish council.

2023/87

FOOTPATHS (PROWS)

A decision was made for the lengthsman to maintain the enclosed section of KL28 subject to the agreement of the landowner, as is done with the popular footpath from Longford to Pinsley Brook. This was felt to be a pragmatic approach to the concerns raised. The footpath officer email was agreed: FPOfficer@kingsland-pc.gov.uk.

2023/88

PLAYGROUND FOR OLDER CHILDREN

Cllr. Saunders kindly provided an update. Due to the uncertain timing for the connection of the Coronation Hall to the main sewage system, new plans are being drawn up to fit the playground into a smaller area away from the septic tank but within the same location. The updated plans will likely require a further planning application.

S106 funds (£4,148.39) have been allocated to support the project subject to confirmation of overall costs for the project, that all funding is in place and timescales for delivery. Provision of this information is partially contingent on the updated quotation and plans as set out by Cllr. Saunders.

The parish council noted the update and thanked Cllr. Saunders.

2023/89

HIGHWAYS/ LENGTHSMAN SCHEME

Cllr. D Thompson requested a sweeper to clear gutters and drain covers in Kingsland village.

2023/90

HALC TRAINING

Deferred pending availability of schedule.

2023/91

FIRE AND RESCUE COMMUNITY RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Stakeholder questionnaire on risk factors, such as demographics, workforce capabilities, societal change, legislation, resources and funding and other potential emerging issues. The parish council delegated the Clerk to review the survey in consultation with Cllr. Saunders, and complete as considered appropriate.

2023/92

MATTERS RAISED FOR THE NEXT MEETING (no discussion)

Footpath plan.

2023/93

INFORMATION ITEMS – Noted.

2023/94

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 18 October 2023.

The Vice Chairman closed the meeting at 9.21 pm.

Signed:

Date: