

## **KINGSLAND PARISH COUNCIL**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT 7.30PM ON WEDNESDAY 23 OCTOBER 2024 AT THE CORONATION HALL**

**PRESENT:** Mrs C Sawyers (Chairman), Mr S Hicks, Mr R Harris, Mr S Morgan, Mr D Thompson and Mr B J Watkins.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Ward Councillor D Hurcomb; PCSO E Swallow, West Mercia Police; Mr D Lloyd, traffic management working group and Mr R Hewitt, Parish Clerk. One member of the public was present.

**2024/125      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** were accepted from Mr D Fordham, Mr G Lewis, Mr J Vaughan and Mr P Saunders (Vice Chairman).

**2024/126      DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**  
None.

**2024/127      CO-OPTION OF NEW MEMBER**  
Deferred.

**2024/128      MINUTES OF MEETING**  
The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 September 2024 were agreed and signed.

**2024/129      LAND AT BROOK GREEN**  
Deferred.

**2024/130      LOCAL RESIDENTS' DISCUSSION**  
PCSO E Swallow, West Mercia Police kindly provided a verbal report on local policing matters. A request was made to look at speed enforcement at Cobnash. The Chairman thanked PCSO Swallow for the report on behalf of the parish council.

A member of the parish council highlighted a report that the Monument might be causing problems for a neighbouring property. It was agreed that more information was needed to be able to consider the matter further.

[PCSO Swallow left the meeting.]

**2024/131      CLERKS REPORT/ MEETINGS ATTENDED BY MEMBERS**  
The drainage and ditching grant application has been submitted to Herefordshire Council, including: £2,000.00 ditching works; £350.00 drainage survey; and £5,400.00 (estd.) for gully clearing and cleansing. The external auditor's report and certificate 2023-24 was noted and together with the Notice of conclusion of audit has been published online and on the parish council noticeboard.

In consultation with the Chairman, an updated quotation for the purchase and installation of three signs in Cobnash and Kingsland village has been agreed with the highway authority (£2,864.70 net of VAT). The net cost has increased by £19.30 since the previous quotation that was agreed by the parish council. The next step is for Herefordshire Council to issue an invoice.

The finance working group will be meeting shortly to review the mid-year accounts 2024-25 and to propose a budget and precept for 2025-26. Herefordshire Council have requested the precept requirement for 2025-26 is submitted by 31 December 2024.

The top issues highlighted in the current West Mercia Police Community Charter will be renewed for the next period. The consultation on the Community Risk Management Plan by Hereford and Worcester Fire and Rescue Service has closed.

**2024/132**

**PLANNING**

**1. 242414 Fairfield Cottage, Kingsland, HR6 9QT** – Consent was given on 2 July 2024 (Application: 241416) to reduce the height of two trees within our garden. Upon return to assess fully the works needed, the tree surgeon has advised that the Wild Cherry (Number 2 on the sketch plan) has deteriorated over the past months - there is a conjoined stem and branches have thinned considerably. As the tree is very close (approx. 8 feet) to the garage he feels it is a danger to that building. It is his opinion that removal would be the best option. I would like, therefore, to apply to change from height reduction of the Wild Cherry to removal. The Japanese Maple will be reduced as per the original application. - Tip back branches by 2 metres. T2 - Sycamore - Tip back branches by 2 metres. *The proposed tree work was supported.*

**2. Planning Decisions:** Herefordshire Council have allowed works to trees within a conservation area for 241953 Ferney Cottage, 241980 The New House and 242034 Little Holgate.

**2024/133**

**TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Deferred.

**2024/134**

**PLAYGROUND AT CORONATION HALL**

Deferred.

**2024/135**

**FOOTPATHS (PROW)**

Cllr. S Morgan's PROW report was noted and will be published on the parish council website. Permissions are being sought from landowners to install footpath furniture at the locations highlighted in the PROW grant. The PROW team at Herefordshire Council have yet to advise on what is to be done about the unserviceable swing bridge where footpaths KL6A and EY5 meet at the Lugg.

New guidance on the Parish Footpath Officer Scheme has been issued by the PROW team at Herefordshire Council and highlighted in HALC's Information Circular of 4 October 2024. The guidance asks for an increased commitment from volunteers which some may find unacceptable. While more prescriptive in detail, it offers more training, and volunteers are under no obligation to carry out tasks.

**2024/136**

**HIGHWAYS/ LENGTHSMAN SCHEME**

*i) Report on lengthsman activity:* Cllr. S Hicks, lengthsman coordinator, reported that the current lengthsman has scraped kerb edges in Kingsland village. Other activities under the annual maintenance plan are ongoing. A request was made for a sweeper which Cllr. Hicks advised can be requested via the locality steward.

*ii) Quotation for kerb scraping in Kingsland village and other kerbed areas:* The quotation was noted. No further action required.

*iii) Highway matters to bring to the attention of the highway authority:* It was noted that a collapsing gully defect has been raised with the highway authority. No new matters were raised.

**2024/137 FINANCE**

*i) Receipts:* Herefordshire Council, precept 2024-25 Part II (£9,250.00).

*ii) The following payments were agreed:* NBB Outdoors, share of bike shed (£1,009.00); Hitrees Ltd., lengthsman maintenance (£1,980.00); Coronation Hall, meetings, Sept-October 2024 (£40.00); DC Gardening Services Ltd., installation of bike shed (£1,176.00); Pink Sheep Design, PROW leaflets (£132.00); PKF Littlejohn, external audit 2023-24 (£252.00).

*ii) Wifi access and projection technologies at the Coronation Hall:* Deferred.

**2024/138 NOTICEBOARD ON SCHOOL WALL, LONGFORD**

Deferred.

**2024/139 POLLING DISTRICTS, POLLING PLACES AND POLLING STATIONS**

The consultation was noted. The proposal to make no changes for Kingsland parish was supported.

**2024/140 REPORT ON HEREFORDSHIRE COUNCIL**

Ward Cllr. D Hurcomb's verbal report was noted, including initiatives to increase emergency cover in response to amber weather warnings and improvements to drainage such as proactive gully clearing to help keep roads open. Council tax for 2025-26 is likely to increase by 4-4.99 percent. The long-term future of Maylords, Hereford has yet to be determined.

**2024/141 MATTERS RAISED FOR THE NEXT MEETING (no discussion)**

There were no matters raised.

**2024/142 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Wednesday 27 November 2024 at the Coronation Hall.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.46 pm.

**Signed:** .....

**Date:** .....