

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF KINVER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3RD APRIL 2019 AT THE COUNCIL OFFICES AT 95 HIGH STREET, KINVER

PRESENT: Councillor H Williams (Chairman), Miss V Webb (Vice-Chairman), P Wooddisse, BR Edwards, D Light, J Cutler, G Mander, Mrs L Hingley, Mrs D Geoghegan, IG Sadler, JK Hall, Mrs C Allen

57/19. Apologies for Absence.

Councillors N Other, E Simons, D Hadlington and County Councillor Mrs V Wilson sent their apologies for the meeting.

58/19. Declarations of Councillors' Interest.

Councillors BR Edwards, Mrs L Hingley and H Williams as being serving District Councillors took no part in the decisions / recommendation relating to the planning applications under item 66/19.

Councillor Mrs L Hingley declared an interest in the Greenbelt / Conservation area.

59/19. To receive for confirmation and adoption, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th March 2019 (copy attached).

To receive for confirmation and adoption, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th March 2019, having been circulated in advance of the current meeting, were approved and signed as a true record of the proceedings at that meeting with the exception that on page 2 item 46/19 should read "Defer" not "differ".

60/19. Matters arising from Previous Minutes.

None were reported.

61/19. Public Participation – Standing Orders were suspended for a maximum of 15 minutes to allow members of the public to address the Council.

For note: The public participation is for the public to address the Parish Council on matters that they wish to. The Parish Council cannot comment or resolve action on any points raised at this time. If the item requires information being sent from the Council, the Clerk will do this following the meeting. If it is a matter for further discussion it may be added to a future agenda.

It was noted that all meetings are recorded and any member of the public not wishing to be recorded when they speak should inform the Clerk prior to addressing the Council.

Standing orders were raised to enable members of the public to speak.

Mrs M Rogers updated members on the Community Bus and confirmed that they would not be changing their timetable in light of the County issued bus passes times of usage changing. She has also asked members to accept her email re projects completed by the Parish Council as a support to the Council showing what great work has been undertaken over the past few years.

Mr Tibbetts addressed the Council to express his concerns over the proposed bridge at Brockleys Walk Park, he said residents of the area do not want or need the bridge, it will increase crime in the area and also make the area feel less safe when it's being used by families. There is already an almost circular walk to the park via the Canal and the bridge by the Anchor, so this is not required.

The park is well used by local people. The paths as they stand today are not suitable for disabled access, so this should not be used as a reason to put a bridge in.

Mrs Sharon Allan addressed the Parish Council to express her concerns over the plans from the National Trust to graze cattle on Kinver Edge (Blakeshall side), as the proposed grazing would mean that horse riders would have no option but to open and close gates and ride through cattle, this may be ok for some horse riders, but Kinver Edge is accessible to all so disabled, novice riders etc. would have technical difficulty in doing this. She has spoken with the National Trust and after setting up a Facebook page to raise awareness of this matter, they have over 300 members. National Trust have offered an amended proposal which hopefully will help, in that there will be a circular route for horses around the perimeter of the cows, with some paths still going through.

Mrs Claire Brookes also addressed the Council on this matter but from the view of dog walkers and cyclists. The plan as it stands is to put barbed wire fencing around the whole perimeter of the woods, to remove the majority of the trees and leave just the trees around the perimeter. The cattle grazing and nesting birds will mean that dogs will not be allowed off their leads for 8 months of the year. This has a major impact on people using the edge, and of course the wildlife as if the trees go what happens to the birds...

Many people that visit the Blakeshall woods go because of walking in the tree lined woods, to allow their dogs to run free. A lot of elderly people park their cars on the car park and only walk a small way from their cars, with these proposals they would have to walk to find a gate to enter the cattle enclosure and then not be allowed to let their dogs off to run, they will have to go elsewhere.

In addition to this if a large portion of the trees are felled, the birds that nest in the trees will be lost for ever, the whole of the area will change for good.

Mrs Brookes read 8 points of concern over the transfer of the land from Wyre Forest to the National Trust:-

- The estimated sale value was £75,000, its value would be nearer £1.2 million
- Other organisations would have been interested in looking after the land if they had known it was to be gifted free of charge such as the Woodland Trust
- WFDC stated that they have no duty to consult the public
- Access should remain free in perpetuity and the public should retain all rights to access the site, the only change should be the ownership
- NT intend to conserve the land as the County had prior to the change of ownership
- Wolverley Parish Council supported the transfer of the land to the NT
- Potential to transfer to the NT to ensure the sites remain the same
- Access would be free and no restrictions in the open space to public FP's and BP's

Concern was expressed that car park charges will follow as they always do by the NT for the area. Members asked if Mrs Brookes would allow the Council to have a copy of the document that she had read from.

Standing orders were reinstated.

62/19. To discuss proposals from the National Trust to increase grazing on Kinver Edge

The National Trust are changing the part of Kinver Edge and the majority of the changes are on the Wyre Forest side.

There proposals include major felling of trees on Blakeshall car park area, introducing more fenced cattle grazing areas (with gates for horse riders and public to open and ride / walk through the grazing cows).

The general public are very much upset by these proposals.

The following email has been received from Helen Selkirk:-

“The one bridleway on Kinver Edge will, in time, pass through the heathland area. There will be a gate at each end for riders to use. The gates will be compliant with British Horse Society and Worcestershire Rights of Way guidance.

The longhorn cattle are owned by the same grazier who already grazes a large area of the land we look after on Kinver Edge. There will be a low stocking density and no calves or breeding males, and whilst we'd always advise people to be vigilant around any livestock, this breed of cattle is usually docile, as supported by the British Horse Society.

The vast majority of the rest of the permissive horse routes will not pass through any of the grazed area, and we are taking the opportunity to also improve some of the horse routes, by tweaking the routes, clearing overgrown paths and widening them.

All the best, **Helen Selkirk**”

The Clerk has confirmed with SPCA that this matter can be discussed and their advice is below:-

“Purdah” doesn't mean that the council cannot continue with its normal business; I'd certainly categorise this issue as falling within that category, so I can't see that discussing it presents a problem. “

Members after listening to the members of the public, agreed to send a letter to the National Trust forwarding on the concerns of the public that attended the meeting, with a copy to Cookley Parish Council. When the new council is formed a special meeting should be arranged to discuss this further with them.

63/19. Police to address the Council on relevant matters and any relevant matter relating to ASB in the village and outstanding police matters of concern (including agreeing changing the layout of the clock shelter)

The crime statistics were circulated prior to the meeting.

The Clock shelter is still causing issues and the youths that gather in their at night; they are intimidating people as they walk past. The litter each day is very bad and the noise levels each evening. Helen Marshall has arranged for a CCTV camera to be erected on the former CCTV post next week, and the order has been placed for the removal of the panels in the clock shelter.

Members expressed their concerns over the lack of Police present in the village, and agreed to send a letter to Mathew Ellis on this matter and copy the correspondence to Chief Inspector Mark Ward.

64/19. To discuss rights of Interment at Comber Ridge Burial Ground

Previous minute:-

Members having read the information prepared by the Clerk and Assistant Clerk, agreed to defer any changes on this matter, but send the full set of regulations to the District Council to ask for their legal opinion on them before making any changes. The Clerk to report back once this information has been received.

No update has been received to date so this was deferred until the next meeting.

65/19. To discuss the purchase / location of a further SID

Minute from the Finance Committee held on the 20th February:-

The following recommendation was received from the Leisure and Amenities Committee to purchase a new SID, socket and pole at a cost of £2000.

The Committee agreed that funding is available from the Community budget line 104, but some members of the Committee had reservations if this was actually best value for money, and requested that this is a full agenda item for the next Council meeting, so the proposal can be fully discussed.

Members agreed unanimously that the Clerk should:

- *purchase 5 more removable sockets at a cost of circa £500.00.*
- *Get a quotation from the Company that supplied the SID signs for moving them from one location to another.*

It was agreed to defer the purchase of an additional SID and post to the next meeting for members to decide whether a third camera should be purchased.

It was noted that only 1 further volunteer is required to get a Community Speed watch organised in the village if anyone is willing to volunteer.

The sockets have been ordered. The cost for the company to come in move the signs approx. 4 times per year, at a cost of £135 per unit per visit. It was agreed to refer this to Finance for funding, if funding can be found then delegated authority was given to the Committee to engage Morelock Signs to move the cameras initially until the staffing issues are resolved.

66/19. To receive the Minutes of the following Committee meetings and to consider adoption of any recommendations therein -

Planning and Development Committee 27th March 2019 (to be emailed and tabled)

The minutes of the above meetings, having been circulated, were **Received**, the following Recommendations were made to the Parish Council:-

- the planning recommendations as set out in agenda item 5 are sent to the District Council. the
- request delegated authority to send recommendations from the April meeting as the new Council will not meet until 15th May.

These were agreed.

Leisure and Amenities Committee 20th March 2019 (attached)

The minutes of the above meeting, having been circulated, were **Received**, there were no Recommendations made to the Parish Council.

These were agreed.

67/19. County / District Councillors to address the Council on any matters relevant to the Parish

Councillor BR Edwards reported that:-

- He had thanked the HR department for their assistance in relation to the recent staffing issues.
- A letter of thanks has been received from Mike Wood for the meeting at Lanwswood re the woods.
- The elections update is that there are 5 candidates for 3 seats for District, no election at Parish for Stourton or Dunsley, but there is an election at Potters Cross as there are 8 candidates for 7 seats.

68/19. Report of the Chairman

The Chairman reported that there was nothing to report due to Purdah.

69/19. Report from the Clerk.

Financial Requests

Grant application for leaflets / maps for the edge £500, this was deferred until the new Council is elected.

Publications to Note

The Clerk
Churchill and Blakedown papers
Letter from Civic Society re additional maps for ROW

Superintendent's report

2 new burial plots
2 new cremation plots
1 reopening of a burial plot
New headstone and inscription

The above was noted.

70/19. Reports from Members on Outside Bodies.

None were reported.

71/19. Accounts for Payment.

The accounts as detailed in Appendix 1 to these minutes were accepted.

72/19. Statement from retiring Councillor J Cutler

Councillor J Cutler read out the following statement:-

I have enjoyed my 8 years as a Councillor on Kinver PC...

When I joined the Council I found it very defensive .I got the impression that villagers who raised issues/problems were a "bit of a nuisance ".I have to say nothing much has changed in my 8 years. The Council needs to adopt a "can do/ try to do "approach rather than "can't do". Recent example has been the reaction of an offer from Cllr Victoria Wilson to co-fund a solution to one of the main concern of many in the village, namely drains/gutters. Of course its SCC responsibility but they made it clear this will only happen on their protracted timescale due to limited resources. No amount of letters will change this situation. Our Parish Council made surplus of £8133.42 in year ending 31st march 2018 why not use that(it also has £7201.78 reserves not all allocated) so why not, say, match fund £5000,which would give a pot of £10000,enough for 13 days work. If we do not want to touch reserves why not make small increase in precept. But the council was immediately defensive to Cllr Wilson proposals.

We need to be more "can-do".

After doing my Councillor Induction training at Stafford (also Cllr Allen attended) we came back with lots of new ideas both from the training and contact with Cllrs from different areas. Despite efforts over the next few months every one of the new idea was rejected. Two of these ideas were the Annual Parish Meeting and Public Participation.

Other councils make their APM much more of an event even including cheese and wine. This approach would help to get a real relationship between all the Societies in the village and the Council. I know it's been tried before but this is 2019 and our last APM lasted 16 minutes, we gave lip service to it and the one organisation who did turn up were "given short thrift "and told they had 3 minutes. Our public participation perpetuates this conception that the villagers who attend with problems are "a bit of a nuisance". Why don't we allow genuine debate on the issues the people have taken the trouble to come and raise? A real discussion with responses by Cllrs with the debate being controlled by the chair and of course a time limit. It could be made clear that the Council can only decide by putting item on next meeting Agenda if it doesn't already appear on the current agenda. But at least this approach would show that the Council was listening, trying to help, and willing to enter into a real two way discussions.

In summary the council needs to be much more pro-active and less reactive and defensive. So I have decided,, in the time I can devote to voluntary village work that I can help the village more effectively from a position outside the Parish Council.

Despite the above concerns I have enjoyed my time on Council especially work on the L &A committee.

I would like to thank all Cllrs for healthy, good nature debate and putting up with my rather loud and sometimes emotional input. Arguments and discussions were never personal and I thank everyone for this approach to their council work.

I thank the SSD Councillors and SCC Councillors. We are very lucky to have had Cllrs .Edwards and Wilson as our County Councillors.

The council is very lucky to have an exceptional Clerk and Administrator. I thank both Jenny and Marita for all their support during my term on the Council, I wish all current Cllrs good health and good fortune in the future, Also best wishes to the new council. Thank you

73/19. Items for future Meetings

Costings for County works
Proactive councillors
Public participation
Agenda and Minutes how to be distributed to new members
Specific Councillors email address
APM format
Green Village
National Trust proposals
SID

74/19. Dates of Next Meetings –

Finance and General Purposes Committee	17 th April 2019
Planning and Development Committee	24 th April 2019
Parish Council (AGM)	15 th May 2019
Leisure and Amenities Committee	12 th June 2019

All meetings to start at 7.00 pm

75/19. Exclusion of the press and public

The press and the public were excluded on the grounds that the business to be transacted was relating to staffing matters.

76/19. To receive the Minutes of the Personnel Committee meeting held on the 1st April 2019

The minutes of the above meetings, having been circulated, were **Received**, there was one Recommendation made to the Parish Council that Mr L Slater position of acting supervisor is extended to 31st July 2019, this was agreed.

The Clerk gave an update on the stage 4 meeting to members.

Appendix 1 to the minutes of the 3rd April 2019

Accounts for payment 3rd April 2019

<u>Chq No</u>	<u>Ratification</u>		
SO	KSCA	Grant	500.00
		Total	500.00

<u>Chq No</u>	<u>Accounts for payment</u>		
101235	Petty Cash		43.63
101234	Kinver Edge Farm Shop		125.00
SO	Barclays Bank	Charges for February	20.10
SO	Enville Oak	Changes to Bus shelter	1080.00
SO	ESPO	Supplies	310.98
SO	J Cree	Expenses for Codsall x 2 trips	40.26
SO	JRK	Supplies	143.95
SO	OCL	Supplies	217.98
SO	R H Electrical	Repairs to office and toilet lights	402.00
SO	R H Electrical	Pat Testing	150.00
SO	Sage	Year end forms (underpayment)	2.40
SO	SPCA	Annual subs	694.00
SO	SPCA	Training	35.00
SO	SSDC	Legal fees	720.00
SO	SCC	OCH Charge	240.00
SO	SCC	Van lease Feb	315.56
SO	SCC	Van lease March	349.39
SO	SWOPS	Fuel bill for February	68.19
SO	Viking Direct	Stationary	297.13
			5255.57

List of Monthly Direct Debits

DD	Utility Warehouse	Garage electricity	14.94
DD	Utility Warehouse	95 High Street Gas and electricity and mobile phone	228.32
DD	Utility Warehouse	Kinver Edge Toilets	9.98
DD	Utility Warehouse	High Street Toilets	190.63
DD	Pitney Bowes	Last payment	59.60
DD	Screwfix	Supplies due for payment 30/04/2019	66.96
DD	Salaries	April	4124.31
		Total	4694.74
		Total Expenditure	10450.31

Receipts

Burial Fees		0.00
Toilet income		40.00
M Fullwood		15.00
Barclays	Loyalty payment	4.01
	Total Income	59.01