

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF KINVER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6th OCTOBER 2021 AT THE 95 HIGH STREET, KINVER

PRESENT: Councillors JK Hall (Chairman), Mrs C Allen (Vice Chairman), Miss V Webb, IG Sadler, G Sisley, H Williams, S Anderson, Ms E Lord, D Light, *Mrs S Harris, M Smith, P Wooddisse and County Councillor Mrs V Wilson *arrived at 7.30

171/21. Apologies for Absence.

Councillors Ms E Lord and E Simons sent their apologies.

Cllr T Talbot Webb was not in attendance.

172/21. Declarations of Councillors' Interest.

None were recorded.

173/21. To receive for confirmation and adoption, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 1st September 2021.

The Minutes of the above meetings, having been circulated in advance of the current meeting, were approved and signed as a true record of the proceedings.

174/21. Public Participation – 15 minutes for members of the Parish to raise matters with members of the Council

Mrs B Owen addressed the Council in relation to the bus service, stating her concerns that the bus service ceased very quickly, there were no notices on bus stops or warning to the service users. She has contacted District Councillors, Parish and Staffs County Councillor Mrs V Wilson, also MP Gavin Williamson.

She explained her concerns and frustrations on this matter. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

Standing orders were reinstated.

175/21. To receive an update for the KSCA re change of status to a CIO

The Clerk circulated the response to the Parish Councils letter sent to the KSCA following the September meeting.

Concern was expressed over the loss of the ownership of the land. A lease will be required to the Parish Council for the play area before the process starts, the Fields in Trust Commitments need to be taken over by the KSCA and new leases drawn up with the same peppercorn rents for the Model Eng, KAG and the Bowling Club. The existing leases need to be re-written as the Parish Council has signed them as the Custodian Trustees.

Councillor I G Sadler proposed that a requested that a referendum takes place to ensure the public have their say on what happens to the land. This was not seconded.

It was proposed by Councillor S Anderson that the Parish Council support the CIO status for the KSCA, subject to a lease being drawn up for the play area to the Parish Council (which should have been done previously); the existing leases be re-written / transferred for the Model Eng, KAG and the Bowling Club, all the leases should remain as a peppercorn rent; the clause to be put in place that any action taken with the land has to be agreed by the Parish Council; the KSCA take over the Fields in Trust commitments; finally the car park rental licence will have to be re-negotiated and redrawn up with the new CIO company is required. This was seconded by Councillor M Smith. On a vote there were 7 votes and 4 against. Therefore the motion was carried.

176/21. To receive a report from PCSO's re incidents and statistics for Kinver

The crime statistics were circulated and the Chief Inspector will be attending the next meeting.

178/21, To discuss supporting local business (Cllr V Webb)

Councillor Miss V Webb reported she had spoken to a local business that has suffered greatly due to the Covid Pandemic and they are struggling to continue to trade in the High Street.

It was felt that since Covid people are shopping local, and footfall has increased following the markets. However it was felt that a local business representative would be helpful on the Parish Council.

A meeting was held last evening to discuss the late-night shopping event, with traders, Rotary and some Parish Councillors there appears to be a positive link to the businesses. The Neighbourhood Plan has also forged links with the businesses.

Councillor G Sisley will try to contact the business owner again, but to date the premises has not been occupied when he has been talking to other traders.

179/21. To receive an update on the solar lighting for the Holloway (Cllr E Lord)

Report from Cllr Ms E Lord

The good news is that the Parish Council have approved up to £4k for lights on the Holloway. Prolectric, who have installed several solar light sets locally, have now visited the site for a detailed quote, accompanied by Geoff Sisley and myself. Siting for one of the lights is straightforward - about halfway down, before the trees. (Chopping back one or two of the sycamores there would help with light interception). We also wanted a light near the top, but are reviewing options as it seems the paving may not be secure for mounting a lamp post, due to the drain below which is not very deep at that point. The high wall on the east is stabilising the cliff, and the owner of the Old Grammar House is therefore understandably opposed to mounting anything on it. Black Country Breweries have been amenable to the possibility of fixing a light to the outside wall of their pub. In this location it might have to be a conventional light for weight reasons and because there are concerns about light interception. Attractive, period-style fittings are available, and we are following this option up. The cost of connection will be critical.

Road surface: After on-site discussions with Highways in August (Victoria Wilson and Diane Firkins met with Julian Hall and myself) we submitted a fault report requesting treatment of the potholes to stop loose gravel forming, and improve pedestrian safety (4251757). As a result Amey/Highways have recently patched several of the potholes. This is a positive move, except that the patching is amateurish, insecure and disintegrating at the edges. It is already contributing to the loose gravel problem rather than improving matters. The owner of the Old Grammar expressed his dismay at the patching, and stated that numerous previous patching jobs have invariably failed to solve the problem. I've raised this with Victoria by separate email.

We have asked for the Parish Council to clear the weeds on the edges of the Holloway, and sweep the gravel. It's still on their list, but continuing problems with the van have created a backlog of jobs.

The big issue then is: where do we go with the road surface? The bottom of the Holloway is fine, but the top 2/3 or so is disintegrating, especially where water and gas supply channels have been poorly reinstated. We need a solution which creates a secure and reasonably even surface across this section. What are our options? Using Amey via the Highways contract no longer seems a tenable way forward.

Kind regards
Eunice Lord

It was agreed that the Clerk meet with Councillor G Sisley, the Maintenance Technicians and a professional to look at the work required to ensure that there should be no issues with disturbing vegetation in this delicate area, then report back to the next meeting.

180/21. To discuss specific email addresses for Parish Councillors

Following the NALC's guidance paper, it is strongly advised that Councillors use a specific email address rather than a personal email due to GDPR and FOI requests.

It was proposed by Councillor P Wooddisse and seconded by Councillor Mrs C Allen that a new email address is set up for all Councillors. On a vote there were 10 for therefore the motion was carried.

181/21. To receive an update on the High Street Grant (inc costs as detailed on papers)

The Grant has been awarded of £5000 to encourage traded in the High Street following the pandemic, to date 3 markets were scheduled and 2 have been run so far and a further one is scheduled for 30th October. Comments from Local Traders and residents have been very positive.

The Clerk has forwarded comments and pictures from the last market, to the District Officer who is dealing with these projects to update him.

It is hoped that there will be a November market will take place on the 27th which will be a Christmas Market. The Christmas lights switch on will take place on the 26th November.

The Clerk will put in the first claim for the funds.

A traffic management scheme is required for both of these days to keep the public safe as there will have to be market stalls only in the High Street on the Saturday due to the weather conditions (hard standing as opposed to grass at Danesford Gardens), and on the Friday evening with the Sleigh being in the village. The cost for the traffic management for both days is £2417.50.

It was noted that this is short notice and the application needs to be submitted as soon as possible as there is a 6 week notification period required by the County Council. This could be funded from the Community Fund, as this is money set aside for the Community. The Committee is aware that the protocol is to go to the Finance Committee for funding, however, time does not allow this to happen. On this occasion it is requested that funding is agreed at this meeting.

Therefore, it was agreed to Recommend to the Parish Council that the sum of £2417.50 is funded from the Community fund for the Traffic Management for the Christmas events 26/27 November 2021. This was proposed by Councillor S Anderson and seconded by Councillor JK Hall on a vote this was agreed.

182/21. To receive the minutes and any recommendations from the following Committee meetings:-

Leisure and amenities Committee 29th September 2021

- this Giants Well project is formally adopted by the Parish Council, the plumber is engaged to complete the plumbing work with a contingency sum totaling £430, and the retrospective costs to date of circa £200 is approved at the Finance Committee in November.
- the Clerk writes a letter to the school and forward the complaints that we have received with the parking in this area, and ask if there is any help that the Parish can support them on.
- the Clerk to ask the PCSO's to attend the school and see if they can assist with educating the new parents and local residents with regard to parking – this is not longer required. The school are trying to get the parking buddies also.
- the Parish adopt the existing small orchard at Brockleys Walk, any new trees can be purchased by the public in memorium / celebrations (instead of a bench) this would be progressed through the Parish, and the Maintenance Technicians would take over the minimal maintenance of the orchard (strimming the ground only by the trees annually and pruning the trees every few years).

The above recommendations were accepted (Councillor S Anderson proposed and Councillor Mrs S Harris seconded the proposals).

Finance and General Purposes Committee 22nd September 2021

- The accounts up to the 31st August 21 as set as Appendix 2 to these minutes be accepted

The above recommendation was accepted.

Planning and Development Committee 9th and 29th September 2021
(including update on NPlan if applicable)

There were no recommendations to the Council. However, there was a paper circulated to members with regard to the Black County Plan. This is referred to in the minutes of the Planning Committee of the 29th September, the Parish Council approved the response due to the deadline being on the 7th October 2021. This is attached as appendix 2 to these minutes.

183/21. County / District Councillor to address the Council on any matters relevant to the Parish

Councillor Mrs V Wilson reported on the following items:-

- Correspondence on parking by Foley Infant School.
- She has completed her walk of the Staffordshire Way.
- The Community fund is open for applications.
- Buses – she reported that the County have been left high and dry by the bus company. Meetings with the company had ceased after being very helpful to the Parish. The Covid support grant ceased and they then stopped running the service but blamed driver shortages. This meant they did not have to give 70 days notice to stop the service. They did take over from Diamond busses when they stopped which we are grateful for. The County have found a new Company – Select Buses, they do have bus and driver shortages which are an issue, but they are running a slightly amended daily service for the village. We would like an early and late service, but drivers can only work for 10 hours with breaks. A new timetable

has been produced for the 11th October. The school are working to get the children to school. This company is in place until Christmas, but the County will go out to tender for the new service following December. It is beyond our control and we can only help to facilitate this process. A survey is being undertaken to see what service users require for our Parish and try to get this included in the new service.

Councillor H Williams reported that the SAD process has started and the printed copy is in the office.

We will make our comments at the 4th November meeting hopefully at the KSCA.

184/21. Report of the Chairman

He reported he has been building a relationship with the traders, working with the farmers market and the Christmas event.

185/21. To receive and note the report from the Clerk including Burial Ground Superintendents report.

Correspondence received:-

Update on 20's plenty campaign (circulated to members)
Correspondence re bus service and new timetable.

Staffing holiday update –

At the end of September (half way) through the year, **holiday left** is:

Jenny 26%

Marita 38%

Steve 30%

Lee 24%

We are all on track for using our holiday allocation by 31st March 2022.

Superintendents Report

There have been 3 funerals, a new burial plot / reopening and 2 headstone applications.

To note that there may be further burials in the H section of Comber Ridge, due to the requirement of needing wider burial plots for over sized coffins (such as the wicker and sea grass type). This was agreed.

With regard to the Parish Council vacancy, it was agreed to advertise the vacancy, ask for details from prospective candidates and invite them to be attend the November meeting for an interview.

186/21. Reports from Members sitting on Outside Bodies for the Parish Council.

Kinver Youth Café has re-opened, and numbers have increased week on week.

187/21. To receive the accounts for payment since the last meeting.

The accounts for payment are set out as appendix 1 to these minutes.

188/21. Items for future Meetings

To be with the Clerk by the 26th October 21. Co-opt a new Councillor.

189/21. Dates of Next Meetings –

Leisure and amenities Committee	27 th October 2021
Planning and Development Committee	13 th October 2021
Parish Council meeting	3 rd November 2021
Finance and General Purposes Committee	24 th November 2021

Accounts for payment for October Parish Council meeting 2021

Accounts for payment	Description	Total
Amazon	Wi-Fi adaptors	17.98
Barclays Bank	Charges	8.00
Chubb	Safety check	17.70
FM Branding	Boards for Farmers Market	199.97
FM Branding	Nplan banners	245.05
ICO	Data protection fee	40.00
Inland Revenue	October	1627.60
J Bradley	Van recovery	20.00
J R K	Supplies	56.88
Kinver Horticultural	Table hire for farmers market	150.00
Mazars	Audit fee	480.00
Morrisons	Fuel	160.00
Rospa	Play area inspection	223.20
Pure Shine	Windows cleaned	56.00
Screwfix	Supplies	181.60
Staffordshire County Council	Pensions October	2353.30
Staffs Wildlife Trust	Survey for Nplan	390.00
Swinford Insurance	Temp cover x 3	140.40
Viking Direct	Supplies	56.93
Zoom	Nplan subs	143.88
		6568.49
List of Monthly Direct Debits		
Utility Warehouse	Garage electricity	11.39
Utility Warehouse	95 High Street Gas and electricity and mobile phone	85.38
Utility Warehouse	Kinver Edge Toilets	9.58
Utility Warehouse	High Street Toilets	62.30
Salaries	October	5965.80
	Total	6134.45
	Total Expenditure	12702.94
Receipts		
Burial Fees		186.90
Vend electric	September	124.29
SSDC	Refund of rates	1438.00
SSDC	Precept	67354.50
	Total Income	69103.69

KINVER PARISH COUNCIL

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5th October 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

**Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012
Black Country Plan Consultation – Regulation 18
Response of Kinver Parish Council**

We are writing in response to the proposed Black Country Plan, Regulation 18 consultation.

In general, we welcome the Local Plan, which sets out a planning framework for the entire Black Country. We support most of the policies relevant to rural areas such as Kinver and the edge of the Black Country, but do have reservations about some of the proposed allocations and potential policy implications in the wider area. Our concerns are set out in this letter.

As the neighbourhood plan qualifying body for Kinver Parish Council, we have embarked on the preparation of a neighbourhood plan. There is clearly a requirement for the local planning authority and neighbourhood plan body to work in close liaison. The comments contained in this representation have been prepared against that context.

Highways Impact from Proposed Site Allocations:

In particular, sites DUH208 will have a serve impact on traffic on A449, an already busy road in both directions and will impact in South Staffs as detailed below as will site DUH211:

- Modeling and impact assessment on the wider highway network, including into Staffordshire and especially the intersection between the A458 Bridgnorth Road and A449 where there is already a considerable volume of local traffic.
- Mitigation or necessary planned infrastructure improvements ahead of strategic allocations required to avoid a chicken and egg situation.
- Particular reference to A449 junction at Stourton, currently there is limited evidence to indicate mitigation, potential flow rates etc.

- Our community feedback makes clear that any right turn from the southern carriageway of the A449 onto the A4101 at peak times results in standing queuing traffic. This is adjacent to a proposed site allocation (DUH211) and would therefore require junction improvements prior to any application or future development not to exacerbate existing issues on the main highway network. At present this is a severe impact on the movement of traffic along the A449. The free flow of traffic at and around this junction is of considerable concern to Kinver residents as it is the most direct route to both Russells Hall hospital and Moss Grove surgery (the group practice serving Kinver).

Proposed Site Allocation DUH211:

We find the following:

- Please explain the reason behind the coalescence.
- The considerations for this site fails to reflect the impact on adjoining areas outside of the plan boundary. There is no reference to how this site fits with the South Staffs development strategy.
- Removal of green belt how does this comply with NPPF framework?
- Eroding the defensible and policy boundaries (such as green belt to prevent against urban sprawl).
- We would encourage the A449 to be established as the defensible boundary to protect any further impact on removal of additional green belt.
- A design brief in policy that should be created to ensure that the edge of any new development against the A449 boundary is loose in urban gain, maintains the existing established hedgerows and provides a soft transition into the open countryside from the urban area to the east.

Proposed Site Allocation DUH217:

- Any proposed site allocation that includes land to be released from the green belt must demonstrate how other sites of previously developed land have been discounted and what the rationale is to release this directly.
- Make clear how this site fails the 5 purposes of the Green Belt to enable the site to be allocated.
- It is an important green barrier between the two counties.
- The site includes substantial trees, mature established hedgerows.
- There is no existing vehicular access to the site to enable the development. How are you intending to gain access?
- High biodiversity value and wildlife within the green wedge in an urban area.
- Mature hedgerows are important to wildlife and must be maintained

Strategic Employment Areas:

- The evidence base has been revised from 2017 in 2021 to reflect post Covid-19 changes. The Employment Land Supply Technical Paper identifies a shortfall of land availability and a reliance on neighbouring areas to meet the need in full. How is this being addressed with South Staffs and what are the implications for the neighbouring authorities?

Removal of Green Belt:

- Eroding the defensible and policy boundaries (such as green belt to prevent against urban sprawl) has a detrimental impact on the wider area.
- Do all the proposed strategic allocations that necessitate green belt release fail to meet the 5 purposes of green belt set in the NPPF? The evidence base does not make clear how the sites to be released fail part or all of the purposes.

Duty to Cooperate

We note the plan indicates a shortfall of circa 28000 new homes and feel:

- There is a presumption that these can be accommodated in adjacent authorities.
- This appears to be an over reliance on the duty to cooperate (which may not remain a statutory obligation in the future).
- Has the impact of increasing the pressure to release neighbouring protected Green Belt sites.

Flood Risk and Water Quality:

- We welcome the revised policy CC6 Sustainable drainage and surface water management to protect the blue infrastructure of the plan area and wider water catchment including the river Stour and its tributaries.

Conclusion

In conclusion, we feel the key issues for the adjacent parish of Kinver are:

- The lack of liaison with Kinver Parish Council as a statutory planning body. Kinver parish is in the process of making a neighbourhood plan.
- Lack of evidence and modelling to demonstrate the impact of additional traffic movement on the main highway network including the A449 and roads off.
- The premature decision to remove land from the Green Belt, before it is established that it is capable of being developed.
- Increasing development pressure in Kinver, and the further erosion of Green Belt land.

We look forward to receiving your comments.

Yours faithfully

JS Cree

Jennifer Cree
Parish Clerk