

MINUTES OF KINVER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3RD JANUARY 2024 AT 95 HIGH STREET, KINVER

PRESENT: Councillors JK Hall (Chairman), Mrs C Allen (Vice Chairman), IG Sadler, G Sisley, D McGirr, K Hosell, S Anderson, Ms E Lord, K Davies and District Councillors P Harrison, Mrs S Duffy and County Councillor Mrs V Wilson.

Also present: Mrs J Cree – Clerk, Mrs M Fullwood – Assistant Clerk, Mrs B Owen, Dr R Painter.

1/24. Apologies for Absence.

Councillors P Wooddisse, S Charlesworth-Jones, K Slade, E Simons, Miss N Owen, and A Calloway sent their apologies.

2/24. Declarations of Councillors' Interest.

None were declared.

3/24. To receive for confirmation and adoption, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th December 2023 (copy attached).

The minutes of the meeting held on the above date, were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4/24. To receive a report from the PCSO's relating to Kinver

No report was received prior to the meeting. It was noted that Chief Inspector Chris Cotton and the PCC is coming down next week to discuss issues in Kinver. Anyone that is available to meet at the Parish Office at 11.30am on the 11th January.

5/24. Public Participation

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

Mrs B Owen reported :-

- The busses have been running well, with no problems being reported to her.
- With regard to the future of the bus service that was raised at the last meeting by County Councillor Mrs V Wilson, she asked is there anything that KPC can do or lobby to keep the service.
- The CUA agreement – she was hoping that there may be good news on this, but she is concerned that the Leisure facility will be closed down before it is up and running as it is not well advertised.
- Old Peoples Vouchers – a big thanks to those who organised and support it.

Standing orders were reinstated.

6/24. County / District Councillor to address the Council on any matters relevant to the Parish

County Councillor Mrs V Wilson addressed the Council and raised the following points:-

- She wished everyone a Happy New Year to everyone.
- There is a large sink hole appeared in Huntsmans Drive, the County Council have been out and barriered it off until it can be repaired. The extreme weather is causing problems this year, over ice which causes pot-holes. There are issues with gullies being blocked around the Parish, the cleansing of the gullies are on a 2-3 year cycle, in the work schedule for cleansing 1 day a week is kept for emergency works, at present there are 30,000 jobs that are waiting to be fixed on this 1 day. It may be an option to pay for a service to do clear drains, by an accredited contractor funded by the Council.
- Community strategy – please can members complete it (this has been circulated to all members).

Cllr D McGirr, reported that when the water leak was repaired in the High Street, it has left sand in the road, this needs to be cleared by the contractor and the potholes need to be repaired. The County are in discussion with the contractor to rectify this. The grit bins have been checked and all are full apart from the one at the doctors, it was noted this is their own.

District Councillor P Harrison addressed the Council and raised the following points:-

- South Staffs Parish Summit 1st February 2024 8.30am – 12.30pm.
- Section 106 funding report has been issued by SSDC, and the funds for Kinver were listed, including White Hill breakdown.
- Regeneration / footpaths funds are available for Brockleys walk and funds will be allocated when the new bridge is installed.
- Replacing the street light on Meddins Lane / Church View Gardens is now progressing after a lengthy time.
- The land behind Kenrose Mill is to be tidied up, the majority is owned by SSDC, and some by the Canals and Rivers Trust.
- Health Care provision is being discussed locally, and is being worked through Health Watch.
- Potters Cross – parking is an issue and is being looked into.

7/24. To receive an update on the Community Use Agreement

Following the meeting that took place in December, an email from the school was received as detailed below:-

“Can I please have an update on the thoughts of the council with regard to our financial situation at Kinver re lettings and some options of a way forward”

The following response was sent :-

“Thank you for your email, that was sent to Cllr Charlesworth-Jones.

At the Parish Council meeting held on the 6th December he reported on the review meeting that took place on the 5th December.

The Community use agreement clearly states that the Sports facilities are to be self funded. It was felt that the school has not striven to advertise the sports facilities to the best of their abilities. The Parish council noted that aside from a few nominal posts on Facebook no other advertising campaign has taken place.

There is also some concern about the booking system, which has lead to several local sports groups using facilities outside the Parish.

Whilst the Parish Council understands budget constraints on any business, it was felt that it's far too early to be making any decisions on the future of the community sports facility.

It has only been operating under limited opening times due to staffing issues since August.

The Parish feel that it would be a sensible next step for the trust to seek advice from one of the other local facilities to develop their options on how they grow the business.

Kinver Parish Council”

This was noted and Cllr P Harrison has also received the following response:-

Dear All,

“Mark Moore has just got back to me re the above. Long discussion. The good news is that Mark doesn't think the school is trying to get out of the community use agreement (at least at the moment). Marks view is that the schools staff costs are what is making the community use not financially viable. I pointed out that they are not doing anything to increase footfall (accepting that this itself even if successful might not be enough to make it financially viable) and that they may be being unfair in their allocation of fixed costs to the community use agreement. He did accept these points. He also acknowledged that they hadn't always taken up offers of help - eg on recruitment. I let him know that he was likely to receive a missive directly from the Parish on this issue. He has made it clear that he will be more than happy to help in any way he can - using the benefit of his experience in the leisure industry. Likewise happy to help in any-way I can.”

Cllr P Harrison has spoken to Mr Mark Moore of the SSDC, and he is concerned over their business plan, fixing costs to the sole use of the building as a leisure centre, when the school have the majority use for the school sports and exams. They agreed that the main costs to the centre is the Bookings Officer. Mr Moore has offered help, advice and support and this has not always been taken up by the school.

Cllr Ms E Lord, suggested that SSDC (or Kinver Parish Council) advertise and promote Kinver High School Leisure Centre as they do others in the area.

It was agreed to put notices in the noticeboards and the Parish Office advertising the opening times and contact details for the facility. Also put links on the Parish Council and Visit Kinver websites and Kinver Parish Facebook page. As a note at the bottom of the notices / posts asking for comments if there are any issues when trying to use the facility, so this can be collated for future reference.

8/24. To receive an update on the Climate Change Group

Cllr Ms E Lord reported as below:-

The Thermal Camera is being used this winter to help residents identify where their heat is escaping, and to plan cost-effective ways to reduce their energy bills and make their homes more comfortable. At the same time advice and sources of further information are provided. Anyone interested should contact the group on info@kinverclimate.co.uk.

A local solar company, MyLowCarbon, is about to roll out installations of solar panels on several local homes, and run a campaign advertising their services. Each installation earns a small donation to the KCAG. While publicising this offer we have also suggested people consider other good offers, including Octopus.

We will shortly be meeting with RES (residentialenergyservices) who recently won the contract to support roll-out of the government's ECO4 funding for energy efficiency works to homes, in this area. They are keen to engage with us to increase their impact locally. We hope to forge strong links to make it easy for local people to access advice and funding for their projects, and we plan to run some test cases.

9/24. To receive an update on the empty shops in the High Street

Cllr G Sisley reported that last year it was being looked at Compulsory purchasing the properties, the former Spar, the Office, Chip shop and former Indian restaurant. The newly elected District Councillor has been helping with this. They discussed last year the lack of progress.

A sign advertising letting of one of the sites, was put in the window of the premises, so Cllr G Sisley went to have a look at the shop in Bearwood that is advertising the property in Kinver. This is a coffee shop not an estate agents. The website for the Bearwood shop was set up in 2022, and shows that it is not a legitimate business.

He sent an email to Annette Roberts at SSDC, with the information so far. Potential buyers have been found for the shops if they were compulsory purchased by SSDC as they have to move them on asap.

There is a new Regeneration and levelling Up Act and the District can now put up for auction the let of a building that's empty, and the information Cllr G Sisley has got, shows that there is no initiative to let the properties by the current owners. This is the former Spar, the Office, Chip shop and former Indian restaurant.

The Parish Council have grave concerns regarding the time this is taking and instructed District Councillor Paul Harrison to look into the new laws available with the Officers at Codsall, get advice on how it's felt we can make progress, why the compulsory purchase option should be shelved given we are in a position to proceed, a time frame for the completion of any proposed solution. Given this information it will be further discussed on the 7th February to agree on which option would be preferred by the Parish Council.

The Chairman expressed concern that he has noticed the rapid deterioration of these properties along with other councillors concerns regarding the mounting rubbish at the rear of the Coop. With regard to the rubbish, this has been reported in the summer by the District Councillors and they are trying to get the area tidied up.

10/24. To receive the minutes and any recommendations from the following Committee meetings:-

Planning and Development Committee

13th December 2023

The minutes for the above meeting were agreed.

11/24. Report of the Chairman

No report was given due to the time of year, there has not been too many issues with flooding in the area.

12/24. To receive and note the report from the Clerk including Burial Ground Superintendents report.

The following items were noted:-

Correspondence re the school Parking on Castle Street.

Have your say on the amount you pay towards Policing and Fire & Rescue Services in Staffordshire.

Enquiry about public right of way at Dunsley Drive.

Community Engagement from SSDC.

Community Engagement from SCC.

There has been 1 headstone installed in December.

13/24. Reports from Members sitting on Outside Bodies for the Parish Council.

Cllr G Sisley has been accepted on the PPG Panel for Moss Grove, and this includes Kinver and Kingswinford. The first thing he wants to try and establish it is as a nominated Parish Council seat and that it is voted on each year at the Annual Meeting (you must be a patient at the surgery to sit on this panel) . He will forward any information to the Parish Council to keep them informed.

14/24. To receive the accounts for payment since the last meeting

The accounts as detailed as appendix 1 to these minutes were agreed and noted.

15/24. Items for future Meetings Council.

Items to be with the Clerk by the 1st February 2024

16/24. Dates of Next Meetings –

Planning and Development Committee

10th January 2024

Leisure and amenities Committee

17th January 2024

Extra Ordinary Meeting

24th January 2024

Parish Council meeting

7th February 2024

Finance and General Purposes Committee

21st February 2024

Accounts for payment for JANUARY 2024 MEETING

Accounts for payment	Description	Total
Amazon	New toilet seat for public toilet	68.08
Andy Read Services Ltd	Contractor work	245.00
Barclays	Monthly charge	8.00
Caloo	Repair to Gym Equipment	654.00
PA Hire for Xmas Event		232.00
ESPO	Supplies	147.90
Greenacre Services	Contract work	60.00
Gif Gaf	Sim for CCTV at garage and tracker	12.00
HMRC	January	1547.18
Home and Hardware	keys cut	12.00
Ionos		39.60
J R K	Copier paper and ink cartridges	125.88
Kinver Designs and Marketing	Charges for preparing posters for Information Boards	240.00
Kinver Edge Farm Shop	Monthly opening toilets	108.00
Morrisons	Fuel for equipment	20.00
Power Equipment	Servicing and repairing equipment	1058.76
Recoded Solutions	Registered domain name	120.00
R H Electrical Ltd	Replacement time clock for Xmas lights	617.04
Sage	Annual Support	691.20
Salaries	January	5056.07
SCC pensions	January	1975.35
Screwfix		79.05
Signal	Balance of Xmas Road closure	2712.00
SSE	Garage electricity 1/4 electricity	806.12
SSE	Kinver edge toilets 1/4 charge	42.36
Utility Warehouse	mobile phone	37.90
VEG Ltd	Christmas Lights	732.00
Viking Direct		201.14
	Total Expenditure	17648.63
Receipts		
Burial Fees		0.00
Vend electric	November	0.00
Christmas Event	November	30.00
S106 SSDC		13882.00
Police rent	To 1st March 2024	1000.00
	Total Income	14912.00