

MINUTES OF KINVER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2024 AT 95 HIGH STREET, KINVER

PRESENT: Councillors G Sisley, IG Sadler D McGirr, K Hosell, S Anderson, P Wooddisse, Ms E Lord, K Davies, S Charlesworth-Jones, K Slade, E Simons,

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

As the Chairman and Vice Chairman were not able to attend the meeting, Cllr E Simmons was appointed to Chair the meeting.

23/24. Apologies for Absence.

Councillors JK Hall (Chairman), Mrs C Allen (Vice Chairman), Miss N Owen and A Calloway sent their apologies.

24/24. Declarations of Councillors' Interest.

None were declared.

25/24. To receive for confirmation and adoption, the Minutes of the Parish Council meetings held on 3rd and 24th January 2024 (copies attached).

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

26/24. To receive a report from the PCSO's relating to Kinver

The report of the crime statistics was circulated to all members, PCSO Paula Wilkes commented on the data, she also reported on the additional work they are doing in rural crime.

There is a new Acting Chief Inspector Tim Norbury is due to take over in shortly.

27/24. Public Participation

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

Mrs B Owen reported that:-

- The busses they have been a number of issues 27th January 2.10 and 3.10 pm did not turn up, On another Saturday it could not come in due to an accident. The ticket machine is not working so it is not producing tickets or scanning bus passes, which will make their passenger numbers wrong. On Monday the bus broke down and the school bus was late. These may be minor but reliability is very important on such a limited service.

Dr R Painter addressed the Council he reiterated his concerns re the school bus, and he states he thinks its substandard to use an old bus that's not very reliable but also has no seat belts. He would like the Parish to write a stern letter on this matter.

Standing orders were reinstated.

28/24. County / District Councillor to address the Council on any matters relevant to the Parish

Cllr Dr Paul Harrison District Council written Report to Kinver Parish Council February 2024

"1. Two grants from the Rural England Prosperity Fund (managed by South Staffs District Council) have been awarded to our area – to Stourton Village Hall for solar panels and to Kinver Point for the conversion of an unused farm building to office space. Total grants are circa £85k.

If any council members haven't visited Kinver Point I would strongly suggest taking a look. It reuses old agricultural units in a sensitive way and has many ecological sensitive features including wild flower areas, environmentally friendly roads etc. In addition it generates local job opportunities that mean people don't have to commute.

2. Senior district council officers will be starting a new round of "Ward Walks" across the whole district in the near future. The first round was last summer. During the last round a number of sites were visited around the village. If Parish Council members have particular sites that they think would be worth including on the next walk (either good things to show off or areas where there are issues) please let me know.

3. We are aware that a further music event is planned for Stourton Court in early May. An official notification to South Staffs District Council has yet to be received (at the time of writing) but should be arriving within the next week. An Event Management Plan will need to be produced by the event organisers and a Safety Advisory Group will have to meet. Representations have already been made to Council Officers on a number of counts – including the need for adequate sound monitoring."

It was noted that a levelling up officers came and did a survey last year, a report was written last year but we did not receive a copy. It has been heard that Kinver has been allocated a Business Development Officer. The Clerk to try and find out further details on (possibly Lucy..).

29/24. To receive an update on the Community Use Agreement

The Clerk has circulated information on the Community facility. Correspondence from the school was circulated relating to the number of social media posts and publicity they had circulated to encourage use of the facility.

The posts have been updated with the half term opening times ready for next week.

Cllr A Calloway has offered to write a booking page for their website to speed up the booking process.

The lettings officer is still only employed 32 hours a week, which does not cover their approved opening times from the CUA, but they only have one member of staff.

The L & A Recommendation from their January meeting is to ask SSSDC Planning what the outcome would be if the facility was to close, it was agreed unanimously to formally write to the Chief Executive on this matter and ask for this information and also, send the copy of the email from the school and also the history of what has happened to date.

It was agreed to ask for the statistics from the school on user numbers, to clarify the situation.

Cllr S Charlesworth-Jones left the meeting at this point 7.30pm.

30/24. To receive an update on the Climate Change group

Cllr Ms E Lord report that the Visits to homes using the group's thermal camera have continued throughout January, and new requests continue. The camera is used to detect heat loss, and ways to minimise losses and thereby reduce energy bills are discussed with residents. Information on further contacts and support are left with residents.

The first installation of solar panels by MyLowCarbon has been completed, and a campaign by them is planned for late February. A member of the group has also recently had solar panels fitted by Octopus and reports excellent service.

A group of members are applying for the Great British Insulation Scheme, which is open to homes of EPC D or worse, and council tax group D or lower. Their experience will be used to prepare a simplified guide on how best to benefit from this scheme.

Future events are under consideration including an Electric Vehicle day, Sustainable Food event, and open meetings with invited speakers. The High school have agreed to allow use of their car park and indoor facilities for a future event in the spring / early summer.

There is a new initiative the Greenpage, which has a Facebook page to share experiences. We will share the contact details on the Solar panels and also the Facebook page for information.

31/24. To receive an update on the empty shops

Cllr P Harrison sent the following written report:-

“Update/clarification on empty shops Kinver High Street (specifically 112 and 112a). This is based on multiple conversations and email exchanges with the District Council. I am also aware that there have been significant discussion within the District Council.

a. I can confirm that the District Council has now made contact with a property agent who in turn has confirmed that they are acting for the owners of 112 and 112a

b. They have been given until 13th February to respond to a formal communication requesting details of their intentions/plan of action with respect to the properties. They have been made aware that if the response is not deemed reasonable or is not forthcoming then further formal action will be taken. I will update on this at the next meeting.

c. The council has been informed that the owner will be visiting personally (this should have happened by the time of the Parish meeting). The council will also be expecting an update after this visit.

d. Background information – In terms of taking enforcement action up to and including compulsory purchase this is a difficult/prolonged legal process. Not only do the owners have to be notified/involved so do any tenants/lease holders (even if the premises are empty). I have been told that there has been an issue with respect to the identity of tenants/leaseholders and establishing if they still exist. Interestingly, up until fairly recently, non-residential rates were being paid, but these are now in arrears. Prior to having

successfully making contact with the owners agents the District Council was planning on issuing a section 16 notice to multiple parties who seemed to be involved in order to identify all those with a legitimate interest. Hopefully, this now won't be required. Business rates being in arrears does give the District Council additional leverage.

e. Whilst the powers under The Levelling-up and Regeneration Act 2023 allow for the forced letting of disused High Street properties (it received Royal Assent in November I believe) the District Council has now informed me that the Government has not “enacted” it – although it is assumed this will happen shortly. Therefor this option, which may be less dramatic and potentially less difficult than compulsory purchase, is still not going to happen immediately.

f. I will continue to feedback comments from the Parish Council to the District Council and I will again raise this issue with the District Council CEO when I speak with him later this month.

On a related issue I have been told that the District Council is now chasing up on further clearing/tidying up of the land behind the Co-Op.”

This was noted and agreed to be left on the agenda for the next meeting.

32/24. To discuss the Health and Well Being event.

Cllr S Anderson attended this event, and he asked the organisers for an event in Kinver, so they have organised an event for the 2nd March 2024 at 11am -2pm at the Edward Marsh Centre, its aimed for 40+ age range. The aim to help people and signpost them to help / support. The poster advertising will be shared to get as many people to know about the event as soon as it is available.

33/24. To discuss allocation / use of the Biodiversity section 106 money

There is approx. £40,000 for Biodiversity off setting for phase 1 of the White Hill Development. Cllr S Anderson works for Worcestershire Wildlife and asked them for advice on how to spend such types of funds. Cllrs Ms E Lord, himself and Mrs C Allen met with the National Trust to discuss ideas.

The 3 councillors would like to suggest a grant / ideas scheme for the public to access these funds, choosing the best ideas that come forward.

The Clerk suggested that advice should be taken from the Officer at SSDC to make sure that this is an acceptable way forward , but confirmation on what the money can be spent on and if any has been allocated already.

It was agreed the Clerk would forward the contact details to Cllr S Anderson to speak to the officer and get the information.

Another possible project for funding from this source could be purchasing land for a wildlife corridor (if land came up) particularly from White Hill towards Enville also look at other parcels of possible land.

34/24. To receive the minutes and any recommendations from the following Committee meetings:-

Planning and Development Committee 10th January 2024

The minutes were accepted and it was noted that there were no recommendations from the meeting.

Leisure and Amenities Committee 17th January 2024

- In November 2024 budget line for the Christmas Lights road closure
- The date for this year's event should be 30th November 2024 12 – 9 pm.

The above items were agreed.

- the Clerk to find out the ramifications from the legal department of SSDC to ask what if the CUA agreement is withdrawn and the facility cannot be used by the community what would happen including background information. Any correspondence to be copied into Sports England at the appropriate time. – this was dealt with under the CUA agenda item.
- to enter the BKV for 2024 –It was agreed to enter the competition and carry on with work as we usually do and the annual High Street Competition.

35/24. To receive and note the report from the Clerk including Burial Ground Superintendents report.

The following was noted (unless there is an action attached):-

- 29th Feb 2024 - Virtual Localities+ Forum involving the 3-tier of members for all localities
- 20's plenty information
- Request to repaint benches on High Street Gardens – It was agreed that the Clerk write to the person that has requested to help, and decline his offer, as we don't feel that this is the right way forward. We are in the process of revamping Jubilee Gardens and will look at the benches as part of this process and take any agreed action.
- Volunteering on the Public Rights of Way Network
- S137 - The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities has notified the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) that the appropriate sum for section 137(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act) for local (parish and town) councils in England for 2024/25 is £10.81. The amount is a result of increasing the amount of £9.93 for 2023/24 by the percentage increase in the retail index between September 2022 and September 2023 under Schedule 12B to the 1972 Act.
- The Crown at Iverley new license – No objection.

Market Update

The Council has received a letter from SSDC Legal team stating that the rules are going to be revised for the Trading Policy, and therefore we can have stalls in the High Street that sell any wares. In addition the Clerk contacted Highways and they have agreed to allow additional stalls in the High Street as long as the safety of pedestrians is maintained at all times. The gazebos can be up to the edge of the kerb with a backs / sides in them for protection for the stall holder.

At this moment we only have 4 stalls paid and confirmed, 4 more have had invoices but not yet paid.

We have looked at the area further up the High Street, you can fit 3 gazebos in when the scaffold is down, but Hers n Sirs, the next shop and Vinos all have a step protruding which makes this space even less, so there is less than 5ft left from the front of the gazebo to the steps of the shops. The gazebo nearest the Bay Tree needs to be carefully

looked at as they also have a deep step that is prominent and briefly measuring the area, that may cause a trip hazard to pedestrians.

With regard to signage Cllr G Sisley is sorting locations for these to be erected and the Clerk has advised him of the rules of flyposting so he is aware of these. Cllr G Sisley has sorted the signs for the market.

If any entertainers are collecting donations at the Market they have to apply for a licence and it is up to them to do this, this is outside the remit of the Clerk and Assistant Clerk.

36/24. Reports from Members sitting on Outside Bodies for the Parish Council.

Cllr S Anderson reported on the Traders Association meeting on Tuesday evening, they had a good presentation on the Daffodil weekend, showed interest on the Visit Kinver website, they are doing something for the solstice, and Halloween as per last year. They would welcome a Christmas event like last year also, as they felt it was a great success. This was noted

Cllr G Sisley attended his first PPG meeting, they have split into smaller committees, he meets a week on Monday.

Cllr S Anderson attended the Parish Summitt, he reported that there are funds available for Parish Councils. When the presentation pack is sent out, he and the Clerk can look at areas we can apply for.

37/24. To receive the accounts for payment since the last meeting

The accounts for payment were noted and agreed as per appendix 1 to these minutes.

38/24. Items for future Meetings Council.

To be with the Clerk by the 28th February. Bus Service – update from the bus company (Clerk to write for an update and ask how it can be better promoted) and ask Cllr Mrs V Wilson for an update.

39/24. Dates of Next Meetings –

Planning and Development Committee	14 th February 2024
Finance and General Purposes Committee	21 st February 2024
Annual Parish Meeting (6.15pm)	6 th March 2024
Parish Council meeting (7.00pm)	6 th March 2024
Planning and Development	13 th March 2024
L & A Committee	20 th March 2024
Parish Council meeting	3 rd April 2024
Planning and Development	10 th April 2024
L & A Committee	17 th April 2024
Finance and General Purposes Committee	24 th April 2024
Parish Council Annual meeting	1 st May 2024

Accounts for payment for February 2024 meeting

Accounts for payment	Description	Total
Amazon	Replacement tracker	50.24
Amazon	Vases to mark out graves	24.58
Amazon	Ground anchors for new benches	40.97
Andy Read Services Ltd	Contractor work	637.50
Barclays	Monthly charge	8.00
BT	quarterly Bill	348.56
Caloo	Repair to Gym Equipment	654.00
CPRE	Annual Subs	36.00
ESPO	Supplies	
Geosphere Ltd	Parish mapping online (N-Plan)	288.00
Greenacre Services	Contract work	
Gif Gaf	Sim for CCTV at garage and tracker	12.00
HMRC	February	1431.45
Ionos		10.80
J R K	Copier paper	71.88
Kinver Edge Farm Shop	Monthly opening toilets	168.00
Krystal Hosting Ltd	New Domain registration	228.00
Kwik Fit	Replacement tyres	527.28
Midshires	Copier printing	119.08
NBB	Recycled benches for play area	1509.12
R H Electrical Ltd	Taking down Xmas lights	1948.80
Salaries	February	5045.14
SCC pensions	February	1939.70
Screwfix		25.23
SSE	Kinver Edge toilets 3 months	106.06
Utility Warehouse	mobile phone	37.90
Van wash		7.00
Viking Direct	Milk and toilet cleaner	46.93
Waterplus	Water rates	51.32
	Total Expenditure	15257.75
Receipts		
Burial Fees		980.00
Kinver Market		400.00
Vend electric	December	50.89
Christmas Event	November	30.00
S106 SSDC		13882.00
Police rent	To 1st March 2024	1000.00
Bath Building	Annual Interest	572.01
Aviva	Insurance claim	1261.10
	Total Income	18176.00