

Kingsbury Parish Council Minutes

Meeting of Kingsbury Parish Council held on **Tuesday, 27th September 2022**, at Kingsbury Methodist Church Hall, Kingsbury.

Present: Councillors: Chair J Thomas, V Barker, J Whitby, C Ayasamy, A Jenns, H Phillips and I Thomas

Apologies: Noted from Councillors B Moss, M Moss, E Steel and A Simpson

Clerk: S Humphries

969 Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

- Councillors H Phillips and A Jenns declared a personal interest in any Borough Council issues.
- Councillor H Phillips declared a personal interest in any minutes concerning Warwickshire CAVA Local Management Committee.
- Councillor J Whitby declared a personal interest in any minutes concerning Wood End Working Men's Club.
- Councillors J Thomas, A Jenns, I Thomas, and C Ayasamy declared a personal interest in any minutes relating to HS2.
- Councillors I Thomas and J Thomas declared a personal interest in any minutes relating to the Special Management Zone in North Warwickshire.
- Councillor J Thomas declared a personal interest in any minutes concerning Bodymoor Heath Victory Hall Committee and Piccadilly Community Centre. She took no part in the vote for items in minute 985.
- Councillor I Thomas declared a personal interest in any minutes concerning Piccadilly Community Association. He left the room while minute 985 was discussed.
- Councillor A Jenns declared a personal interest in any minutes concerning WCC.
- Councillor C Ayasamy declared a personal interest in any minutes relating to Kingsbury and Cliff residents group.
- Councillor H Phillips declared an interest in any minute relating to Woodlands Community Centre.

970 Proclamation of the Accession

Before the meeting commenced, the Chair, Councillor J Thomas read the Proclamation of the Accession, due to the sad passing of HM Queen Elizabeth 11. King Charles 111 now reigns over us.

971 Public Questions

There were no questions raised by members of the public.

972 Minutes to be Approved

It was proposed by Cllr I Thomas and seconded by Cllr V Barker and agreed:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 20th July 2022 be approved as a true record.

973 HS2 (952)

Meetings have been affected due to the mourning period for the Queen, and the next Special Management Zone meeting will now take place on Monday 3/10/22. Members of this have been invited to the HS2 work camp for a visit.

Councillor J Thomas reported that it would be a good idea to invite HS2 to a parish meeting in the new year to follow up the latest progress and comply with the engagement plan.

974 Improvements/Work required - Parish Recreation Ground (954)

The new cableway seat and chain is now fitted and the Clerk has requested sight of the report on the hawser swing, which was part of the work to be carried out.

Unfortunately the latest play area report states damage to the seat again after only a few weeks of being fitted. The Clerk was asked to see if there were any alternatives that would be more vandal proof, as the cost to replace is over £500 and this is the second time that it has been damaged and replaced. Councillor I Thomas suggested that if it had to be removed that a sign would be attached to explain that this is due to vandalism.

975 Unitary Authorities and Devolution of Services (955)

Discussions on this are ongoing and any updates will be provided when they occur. Councillor A Jenns reported that Andy Street had been in talks with WCC regarding a combined authority, but no further definite plans are available.

976 Kingsbury Parish Policies/Procedures Update (956)

All Councillors were provided with the proposed changes and copies of policies to adopt:

- **Finance Committee Terms of Reference** – These were discussed and slight amendments were made to section 1a and 5c. It was then proposed by Councillor A Jenns and seconded by Councillor V Barker and agreed:
RESOLVED: That a Finance Committee be set up and the Terms of Reference adopted with the slight amendments agreed. The Chair of the Committee was agreed as Councillor I Thomas and Councillors A Jenns and H Phillips were also elected. The current Chair of the Council will also serve and the Clerk will attend all meetings.
- **Standing Orders** – These will be checked to ensure they are correct now that we have set a Finance Committee up. Amendments if required will be brought to the October meeting.
- **Equality and Diversity Policy** – Slight amendment to wording of one section on gender. It was proposed by Councillor I Thomas and seconded by Councillor J Whitby and agreed:
RESOLVED: That the Equality and Diversity Policy be updated with the above mentioned section amended and also updated on the website.
- **Expenses Policy and Expenses Claim Form** – These had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting and it was proposed by Councillor H Phillips and seconded by Councillor V Barker and agreed:
RESOLVED: That the Expenses policy and expenses claim form be adopted.

977 Kingsbury TADC – Fire Service Training Centre, Bodymoor Heath (957)

Councillor Jenns has not had any feedback and will chase up TADC for a date for a visit/tour of the facility for those Councillors interested and ask about the room for hire.

978 Climate Change (958)

The Phase 2 Green Shoots Community Fund deadline has been extended due to the period of mourning. The parish council were unable to help apply for the Wood End Primary School application due to legal reasons and they are now looking into other funds to apply to, as they cannot apply themselves having no PTA attached to the school.

979 Councillors Parish Matters raised previously (962/953/959)

The following responses/updates have been received from the relevant authorities:

- **Piccadilly - fence railway side gives access to track** – The MPs office has now escalated their enquiry as they haven't received an update since DB Schenker Rail Ltd told them they were pricing up for a repair. They will inform us of any updates.

- **Bodymoor Heath Bridge damage** – The Canal River Trust has apologised for the delay in replying and advise that the bridge is regularly monitored and no movement had occurred on their last check in August. The repairs to the approach retaining wall are programmed.
- **Trinity Road branches protruding at kerb level EMR to 2nd bridge Piccadilly** – WCC will take a look but expect it to be private vegetation and would have to be unreasonable for them to write to the owners. Also bird nesting season makes large scale vegetation clearance undesirable.
- **Footpath alongside Kingsbury Theatre/Royal Oak needs strimming** – Reported to WCC and given Ref no 438004883. Chased up 29/9/22.

980 Planning Applications/Information

The following applications were brought to Councillors attention:

- **APP/R3705/C/22/3305778 – Notification of Enforcement Appeal – Old Rail Farm, Hurley Common** re material change of use of land, formation of associated walkway, parking area.
- **APP/R3705/C/22/3305777 – Notification of Enforcement Appeal – Old Rail Farm, Hurley Common** re change of use of building.
- **PAP/2022/0419 – 77 Knowle Hill, Hurley** – Outline application for the erection of dwelling land rear of property with access to be considered.
- **PAP/2022/0422 – 1 Hurley Lane, Hurley** – Change of use of storage building (unit 2) to light industry, erection of seven new buildings for industry, change of use of agricultural land to business use, new hardstanding, bunding and associated works (retrospective).

981 Correspondence

For any further information on the items below please contact the Clerk, details on website.

- North Warwickshire CAVA network event 17/10/22 12pm to 2pm at Wood End Village Hall.
- WCC Councillor's Grant Fund Round 2 launches on 5/9/22 until 16/10/22.
- Westcotec Speed VAS signs in Kingsbury have been calibrated, checked and tested and are all ok. The over-height sign on Trinity Road has also been tested. A VAS policy is going through cabinet and it may deem some old makes of signs ineffective and they may have to be removed from service, and only replaced if they are found to have a positive effect. Councillor Jenns said it was suggested that maybe to replace some in the future it may fall to WCC Councillors delegated budget or parish councils.
- Curdworth Neighbourhood plan – designation of area. They have applied to NWBC in order to prepare a neighbourhood plan.
- North Warwickshire Area meeting and AGM is at Shustoke Village hall on 29/9/22 at 7.30pm.
- NWBC is consulting on two supplementary planning documents from 15/9/22 to 4/11/22 and a proposed conservation area for the village of Caldecote. One is planning obligations for Sport, Recreation and Open Space and the other is Provision of Facilities for Waste/Recycling for new Developments and property conversions. www.northwarks.gov.uk/planningconsultations
- NWBC Cost of living engagements forum is on 29/9/22 - Council chamber 10.30am – 3.00pm.

982 Highways Items/WCC Councillor Jenns Delegated budget (963)

These items would be funded from a delegated budget held by Cllr Jenns through WCC:

- **Bench – Mill Crescent** – A bench to be provided when waiting for the bus by the post box Mill Crescent, Kingsbury. WCC will order and fit the bench and agree the position with Councillor A Jenns. This would then need to be added to the parish insurance and we take responsibility for this once it is in place as agreed.
- **Hurley Bus stop location** – Residents find it dangerous to access the bus stop on Knowle Hill due to parked cars and have asked if it is possible to move the bus stop. The views of local residents are needed, and Hurley Community Association will take to their meeting in September and report back. Councillors discussed this also and it may not be possible to move it for a number of operational reasons.

983 Sycamore Recreation Ground – Green Shoots Funding (964)

Councillor A Jenns has received a number of complaints from Kingsbury residents regarding the Sycamore Road play area. This is the responsibility of NWBC, but the information coming from WCC who are running the fund/CAVA and the borough was that the parish council may be able to apply to the fund on their behalf with the borough carrying out the community consultation and taking responsibility for any new equipment. Without any information being sent on what was required and concerns that this was not good practice, the Clerk has had confirmation from WALC that it is not legal to do this when we do not own the land and it is not a parish project. Therefore the parish council cannot help with this request.

984 Proposed cuts to Bus Services (965)

Warwickshire County Council has now awarded the contract for the bus service, starting Tuesday 30th August 2022. This will comprise two services on Mondays to Saturdays operated by Diamond Buses – 76 running every hour Tamworth-Ventura Park-Dosthill-Kingsbury, and Service 76b running every hour Tamworth-Dosthill-Kingsbury-Hurley/Wood End-Piccadilly (loop). In the early morning and late afternoon the two will be combined as Service 76a. Certain journeys on Service 76 are extended beyond Kingsbury to Coleshill, Water Orton and Sutton Coldfield. The Sunday schedule, operated by Stagecoach, is unchanged. The 16S Castle Vale-Kingsbury School / 16X (one trip in each direction) Tamworth-Kingsbury-Birmingham services are not being replaced.

These services between Tamworth and Kingsbury/Hurley, previously operated on a commercial basis (i.e. fares covering costs of operation) by the bus operator, are now being supported by Warwickshire County Council.

Detailed timetables can be found on the operator's website (www.diamondbuses.com)

Councillors have reported they are being informed of some buses not turning up. A log of which service and times should be recorded and reported to WCC.

985 Grant applications

Two applications for grants were received and all the required paperwork submitted. These were discussed at length including the way the grant system may work in the future, bearing in mind the budget available.

- **Piccadilly Community Centre – Fireworks and Bonfire evening** – All local communities are invited to attend and there is no admission charge. This is the first time since 2019 that it has been possible to put this on due to Covid. It was proposed by Councillor H Phillips and seconded by C Ayasamy and agreed:
RESOLVED: That a grant would be given of £500 towards the Fireworks and Bonfire Evening at Piccadilly on Saturday 5th November.
- **Bodmoor Heath Skittles Evening** – A good way to get the community involved after Covid. It was proposed by Councillor H Phillips and seconded by Councillor V Barker and agreed:
RESOLVED: That a grant would be given of £100 towards Bodmoor Heath Victory Hall Skittles Evening on 22nd October 2022.

986 External Audit

The Clerk reported that the accounts had been received back from the external auditor with no areas of concern and no comments to action. The notice of conclusion of audit had been advertised on the website as required.

The current auditors PKF Littlejohn were appointed by Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd as External Auditor from 2017-2022. Councils were asked to make Councillors aware and ensure they were happy to stay with whoever was appointed going forward, or they could opt out.

It was proposed by Councillor H Phillips and seconded by C Ayasamy and agreed:

RESOLVED: That Kingsbury Parish Council would remain with the External Auditor chosen by the Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments Ltd.

987 Councillors Parish Matters raised September 2022

The following are for information or will be followed up with the relevant authorities:

- Branch needing attention by 31 Piccadilly Crescent – Ref no 442010604. Follow up. Councillor I Thomas
- Street light removed Bodymoor Heath – Councillor J Thomas
- Planter for Kingsbury put on agenda for October meeting – Councillor C Ayasamy
- Disabled markings on car park rear of Jubilee Court faded – Councillor C Ayasamy

988 Next meetings

The next meeting will be at Bodymoor Heath Victory Hall on 26th October 2022. The November meeting is confirmed as 23rd and will be at Piccadilly Community Centre.

989 Private and Confidential Item

That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, in view of the special nature of business to be transacted, it is advisable to temporarily exclude the public from the meeting as there would be disclosure to them of exempt information under paragraph 1 and 11 of Part 1 of schedule 12A of the said Act.

- Reason being - Discussion on Employees, former or prospective employees, eg salary of Clerk and conditions and terms of employment.

This will be recorded as a separate confidential minute.

990 Accounts for payment

It was proposed by Councillor H Phillips and seconded by Councillor A Jenns and agreed:

RESOLVED: That the accounts listed below be approved for payment and the relevant contribution to the pension scheme would be paid by bank transfer. Amounts recorded excluding VAT.

Administration Costs – August	£1,230.30
Administration Costs – September	£1,454.49
Piccadilly Community Centre - Hire of Hall for meeting	£20.00
PKF Littlejohn External Auditors	£200.00
HMRC quarterly payment	£477.55
PJ Collins (fit litter bin by bus shelter Kingsbury)	£130.00
HAGS – SMP Ltd – cableway seat	£555.00
Piccadilly Community Centre grant for Fireworks evening	£500.00
Bodymoor Heath Skittles evening grant	£100.00
Kimcell Ltd (website cost and renewal)	£150.00

Bank Balances – 30th September 2022

Current A/c -	£3,185.57
Reserve Account –	£45,598.44

991 Minute numbering

Please note that the minutes will revert back to number 1 from the October minutes. This is to avoid large minute numbers over time. (0 – 1000).

Signed _____

Dated _____