Kingsbury Parish Council Minutes

Meeting of Kingsbury Parish Council held on **Wednesday, 19th January 2021**, at Bodymoor Heath Victory Hall, Bodymoor Heath.

Present: Councillors: Chair M Moss, J Thomas, I Thomas, B Moss, C Ayasamy, V Barker, A Jenns, E Steel, and A Simpson
Apologies: Noted from Councillor H Phillips and J Whitby

Clerk: S Humphries

831 Declarations of Personal and Prejudicial Interests

- Councillors B Moss and A Jenns declared a personal interest in any Borough Council issues.
- Councillor A Simpson declared a personal interest in any minutes concerning Hurley Community Association.
- Councillors J Thomas, A Jenns, C Ayasamy and I Thomas 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.
- Councillor I Thomas declared a personal interest in any minutes concerning Piccadilly Community Association.
- Councillor A Jenns declared a personal interest in any minutes concerning WCC.

832 Public Questions

There were no questions raised by members of the public, however an email was sent in from Kingsbury Community and Youth Centre regarding NWBC car parking charges. They were unable to attend and the contents of the email were discussed as minute 842 in correspondence.

833 Minutes to be Approved

It was proposed by Cllr B Moss and seconded by Cllr J Thomas and agreed:
RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Council meeting on 17th November 2021 be approved as a true record.

834 HS2 (816)

It is proposed that a stretch of new high-speed line called HS2 East will be built from Birmingham to the East Midlands, based largely on the existing safeguarded route of the former HS2 Phase 2b scheme, and connecting to the existing railway network near East Midlands Parkway Station (close to East Midlands Airport). There is no additional detail at this stage other than the Government's stated intention for the hybrid bill for HS2 East to be deposited in Parliament after the HS2 Crewe to Manchester bill (due in early 2022) has been passed. HS2 Ltd has said it will be writing to households and businesses along the route informing them of the IRP and how it affects their circumstances. Copies of the plan can be requested from the HS2 helpdesk on 08081 434 434 or HS2enquiries@hs2.org.uk

Councillor J Thomas updated the meeting on the latest from the Special Management Zone meeting. More information is awaited on Ph2b eastern leg. Kingsbury main road compound is expected to be complete by summer 2022 and work on the roundabout on Kingsbury Road is due to start early 2022.

835 Parish Matters raised previously (817)

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

- **Piccadilly - fence railway side gives access to track** – WCC Bridges department and the Parish Council have had no feedback from DB Schenker Rail Uk Ltd, despite numerous attempts. Councillor I Thomas has now sent this onto the MP's office.
- **Improvements needed on access road to Water Park via private road/steps -** The Clerk sent photos to WCC and the request has been allocated a reference number and will be considered in a priority order set by WCC Paths department. As the wet weather has made the area extremely muddy and exposed more tree roots, further photos will be sent to add to the request.
- **Bromage path behind Kingsbury School floods** – Highways are currently costing up options, and are looking at solutions for the drainage problems. No further update available.

836 Improvements/Work required - Parish Recreation Ground (818)

The work on the cableway and backboard for the games unit was finally completed. Further improvements to the recreation ground will now be looked into. The company will be contacted regarding size and amount of words for the sign, so that this can be agreed and ordered. Councillor I Thomas suggested getting in touch with NWBC regarding a wet pour quote for the toddler area.

837 Parish Grants for Village Christmas trees (819)

The village Christmas trees were put up and decorated by local village groups. Grants were donated to help with costs.

Councillors are keen that this may continue in future years. Councillor C Ayasamy may have access to some photos of all the trees in the area to share, so that we can put them on the website.

838 Unitary Authorities and Devolution of Services (820)

Discussions on this are ongoing at Warwick. North Warwickshire Councillors are in the minority, but feel that control should be kept locally and not everything based at Warwick. Councillor A Jenns attended a workshop on this but nothing new was brought up, however the Warwick/Stratford merger is progressing.

839 Security of Parish Recreation Ground (821)

Costs/types of height restrictors available are still being looked into as an added option in conjunction with the budget.

There have been a number of cases recently of vandalism and anti-social behaviour on the recreation ground. These have been reported to the police and a letter sent to the Headteacher of the school to make him aware, and ask for some sort of assembly on this or something similar to make the students aware that this is not acceptable behaviour, in case it is school students who may be responsible.

840 Kingsbury Parish Policies/Procedures Working Party (822)

The working party group held a meeting to discuss policies needing updating, and any new ones.

It was noted that the Lone Working Policy was due for update and Councillor I Thomas suggested that the term "designated person" was better defined and made clearer. It was suggested that it be replaced with "Chair/Vice Chair/Councillor" in the policy. Councillors were made aware at this parish meeting and it was proposed by Councillor I Thomas and seconded by Councillor E Steel and agreed:

RESOLVED: The wording to be changed on the Lone Working policy wherever the term 'Designated Person' appears, it needs to read 'Chair/Vice Chair/Councillor.' The remainder of the policy is unchanged.

It has also been recommended that the parish council has a Bullying and Harassment statement on their website. A model example was given by NALC/WALC and read out to Councillors. It was proposed by Councillor I Thomas and seconded by Councillor V Barker and agreed:

RESOLVED: That the model Bullying and Harrassment statement be added to the website.

841 Planning Applications/Information

The following applications were brought to Councillors attention and discussed:
PAP/2021/056 – Amended plans 105 Mill Crescent, Kingsbury – Erection of detached 3 bed dwelling with integral garage and parking. The Council's previous comments still stand.
PAP/2021/0599 – **The White Swan, Kingsbury** – Construction of 4 dwellings with associated access, parking and landscaping. Comments will be sent to NWBC regarding design, parking and possible covenants on the land, together with a request to produce a carbon impact statement.
PAP/2021/0669 – Allotments Hurley – Installation of 2 containers for allotment use.

842 Correspondence

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

- Countryside Charity CPRE is based in Warwickshire and are dedicated to protecting the countryside. They need volunteers to help with planning in all areas. Also looking to recruit two trustees. Tel 01926 494597 or e-mail office@cprewarwickshire.org.uk if interested.
- Queen's Platinum Jubilee grants available from NWBC – Grants of up to £500 are available to parish councils and constituted groups for community based activities. Grants of £100 are available to community groups or individuals to organise locally based street parties. Deadline is 6/3/22.
- Warwickshire Search and Rescue request for help. They would be advised to apply through our grants scheme and Councillors would be interested in data from our area.
- Platinum Jubilee Beacons and grants available to help – Councillor A Jenns
- '20s Plenty for us' group request discussed but not felt appropriate for parish to get involved.
- Warwickshire PCC Survey on how police budget should be spent ends on 17/1/22.
- Nether Whitacre Neighbourhood plan consultation sent to all Councillors for comments.
- NALC/WALC supporting petition for parish council's to have the choice of physical, zoom or hybrid meetings in the future. This was agreed as a good idea to be in place if needed.
- Pear Tree Car Park charges – All persons/groups who responded to the consultation regarding parking charges being brought in, received the same letter explaining the findings. These will come into operation mid-February as the charging stations are yet to be installed. This will be reviewed after one year. Councillors were concerned that the state of the car park is in need of resurfacing and the line markings are all worn off. This will be reported to NWBC. Councillor A Jenns has responded to the e-mail received in (minute 832) as he was contacted personally also. It is advised that any problems from the parking charges being brought in should be noted and produced to NWBC before the review in 12 months time.

843 Councillors Parish Matters raised June-November 2021 (825/828)

The following are updates/information from the relevant authorities:

- **Damaged bench Hurley** – Councillor A Simpson will provide an update as he has details of someone who could fix/look at the bench. Any costs incurred to be agreed with the Chair/Vice Chair/Clerk before proceeding.
- **Can we obtain any Footpath maps for Councillors?** – WCC Country Paths are able to provide us with an updated map at no cost, but this may take some time. To follow up.
- **Tree branches overhanging coming out or going into Piccadilly Crescent** – WCC will arrange to have the tree crown lifted to avoid interfering with pedestrians and cars.
- **Access point to Pit Hill path to Kingsbury Link is overgrown** – WCC say that it is overgrown at the edges but easily passible. It will be passed through to the Community Payback scheme to clear at some point in the future.
- **New bin on recreation ground needs to be emptied more often** – This has been requested that NWBC look into if it needs more than once a week emptying.
- **Road signs twisted and hinges need attention opposite Trinity Road/Tamworth Road** – This has been dealt with by County Highways

- **Footpath from Kingsbury Co-op to old library gulley is uneven and a problem for mobility scooters** – WCC have been out to inspect this and say that there is an area of excessive crossfall at the 1st 2 vehicle accesses after Barlow Court that go into the layby. It will be difficult to resolve because the levels at the rear of the footway and the dropped kerb cannot be altered. WCC will look into further but it is likely to take some time.

844 Conference on Climate Emergency (826)

Councillor E Steel has today attended a further course and will forward to all Councillors a paper detailing the contents of the course before the next meeting. This can then be discussed further.

845 Plant a tree for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 (827)

The pin oak tree was sourced and ordered before Christmas and was planted for us by NWBC. Unfortunately someone decided to destroy the support and break the tree in half before it had been in the ground 24 hours. NWBC will look at the tree and prune in the hope that it can be saved and will grow.

846 Grounds Maintenance and Street Cleansing

The annual quote was received from NWBC who we have used for many years to attend to various items around the parish. A one year or two year fixed price option was available. After comparing figures and taking into account the extra jobs that are carried out for us, some of which are not charged for, Councillors agreed to the 2 year fixed term price as it gives good value for money. This was proposed by Councillor B Moss and seconded by Councillor C Ayasamy and agreed:
RESOLVED: The quote for grounds maintenance and street cleansing for the next two years be accepted. A total cost of £4197.30 which includes various jobs around the whole parish, such as playground inspections, grass cutting, tidying/pruning paths and emptying litter bins.

847 Council Taxbase, Precept requirements and Budget 2022/2023

Councillors considered a report provided by the Clerk, based on current expenditure and estimated out-turn for 2022/2023. Councillors discussed this at length and after careful consideration decided that with the current price increases and expenditure required for the forthcoming year, that reluctantly the precept should be raised.

At this time of year when looking at future expenditure Councillors are asked to provide suggestions of any work they would like to see placed in the budget going forward. There are already projects to work through from previous requests and a draft budget was put forward. The Clerk will finalise this following the discussions and precept agreed.

It was proposed by Councillor I Thomas and seconded by Councillor A Jenns and carried:-
RESOLVED: That the expenditure budget be approved for the year 2022/2023, and that the precept levy on North Warwickshire Borough Council would be £37,821. (An increase of £1,801 on last year due to rising costs for work and to cover the projects the Council have put forward).

848 Councillors Parish Matters raised January 2022

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

- Bodymoor Heath Bridge damage is getting worse – Councillor J Thomas – Pictures to be sent to Clerk by resident to show how it has deteriorated since the last time it was reported.
- Hurley Surgery, Knowle Hill road surface needs attention – Councillor J Thomas
- Tarmac on path is raised by Wings building to Bus shelter – Councillor C Ayasamy
- Litter/Dog bin needed Dexter Lane – Councillor A Simpson. Request to be added to list.
- Are there any plans to put an electric charging point in public car park in Piccadilly? – Councillor I Thomas
- Bollard on central reservation by Mill Crescent has been knocked down and only part fixed – Councillor M Moss

849 Next meetings

The next meeting will be 16th February at Piccadilly Community Centre.

850 Accounts for payment

It was proposed by Councillor J Thomas and seconded by Councillor I Thomas and agreed:

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

Administration Costs – December/January	£2,278.87
Bodymoor Heath - Hire of Hall for meetings x 2	£50.00
NWBC Grounds Maintenance Oct-Dec	£656.14
Kimcell – e-mail addresses	£50.00
Inland Revenue quarterly payment	£431.81
Jubilee Pin Oak Tree	£70.40
Grants for Village Christmas Tree/Lights Minute 819	£824.96
Kingsbury History Society Subscription	£20.00
HAGS-SMP Ltd – Playground equipment	£1,629.60

Bank Balances – 31st January 2022 Current A/c - £1,622.37 Reserve Account – £32,757.34

Signed _____ Dated _____