

BUCKHORN WESTON & KINGTON MAGNA PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on MONDAY, 5th MARCH at 7.30pm

In KINGTON MAGNA VILLAGE HALL

Present: Parish Councillors

Rear Admiral John Bellamy (JB), Ms Phillippa Chapman (PC),
Mr Rob Crittall (RC), Mr Robert (Bob) Dolan (BD) (**Chair**),
Mr Graham Hinks (GH), Dr Anthony Jenner (AJ), Mr John Havill (JH),
Mrs Christine Wynne (CW)

In attendance:

District Councillor: None
County Councillor: Mr Andrew Cattaway
Police: Special Constable Andrew Bowtell
Internal Auditor: None
Members of the Public: 22
Minute Taker: Miss Susanna Cooke

Apologies: Mr Kevin Aldred (KA), Mr Geoffrey Miller (District Councillor),
Mr Nigel Osborne (NO), Mr Michael Ross (Internal Auditor).

106/12 Declarations of Interest

PC declared an interest in Agenda item 10.2 2 Rookside Cottage
CW and GH declared an interest in Agenda item 14.

107/12 Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Monday, 9th January 2012)

Action

It was proposed and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting were signed and agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed: JB. Seconded: AJ. Agreed: All.

108/12 Matters Arising from the Previous Minutes

None.

109/12 Update on Bridleway No. 43 Quarr: Item 10.4 on the Agenda was discussed at this point for the convenience of Mrs Rosie Ann Yeats, who reported that the meeting agreed for Wednesday, 18th January had taken place with Councillors, residents and Footpath Officers. The bridleway is to be moved to footpath 1 and the footpath is to be moved across the field. All parties were happy with the new arrangement. Concerns about access to the road had been raised and advice from the Highways Officer is being sought on that.

110/12 District Councillor's Report (Geoffrey Miller)

None.

111/12 County Councillor's Report (Andrew Cattaway)

Both the County Council and the District Council elements of the Council Tax will be frozen as both Councils decided to accept Central Government's offer. This will cut spending power in future years. The Fire and Police elements may be going up. About £28 million has been saved from County Council expenditure in this current year and a further £15 million saving is planned for next year. The equivalent of 500 full-time posts have been saved of which about 40 were compulsory redundancies. Major service cuts have been avoided for now.

BD said the road surfaces, the edges in particular, were in a poor state. AC responded that road maintenance is an area where the budget had been cut. There is a statutory duty to maintain major roads but village and minor roads are not high priority. JH asked for assurance that roads on which economic growth depends would be maintained. AC responded that legally roads must be kept in repair. The patch maintenance ability has been important. PC asked if it is possible to stop heavy lorries using lanes as short cuts. AC responded that it is not unless there is a width restriction.

112/12 Police Report

Special Constable Andrew Bowtell, Police No. 4717 introduced himself. He works with Maureen Hayward. Crime had been fairly low since December. Oil thefts are the most common. His advice was to make things as difficult as possible for thieves and to report sightings of odd vehicles in the neighbourhood. These reports have been the main way of catching oil thieves.

113/12 Public Session

Ann Ledgerwood said she was attending the meeting in order to say what Buckhorn Weston is planning for the Jubilee. On the Saturday they will have a

picnic, as they had for the Royal Wedding, with games, tug-o-war, welly wanging and a hog roast in the evening. Other things are being discussed, possibly including pig racing. On the Monday is the joint Bonfire Party with Kington Magna on which Ann Ledgerwood and Alma Floyd are working together. Buckhorn Weston is having a scarecrow competition starting the previous weekend, scarecrows to be erected in front gardens. Anyone from KM is welcome to all the BW events.

114/12 Resignation of Parish Clerk

BD had had a long letter from the Clerk. She needs time to settle to her new job working for Gillingham Town Council. CW is Human Resources Manager in the search for a new clerk, working with PC and JB. Notices are going out about the vacancy and all CVs submitted will be considered, including CVs from those with no experience. The closing date for applications is 14th March. The Clerk's last day is 31st March but she has agreed to do a handover with the new clerk after that.

JH raised concerns about the way The Clerk's resignation had been dealt with and the speed with which it had been accepted. There was discussion about the impossibility of finding dates for meetings that suited all parties. The majority feeling was that the Chairman had acted correctly and that Clare Ratcliffe had been a very good and professional Clerk who would be a hard act to follow. She had arrived to find the Council's affairs in some disarray and had got them under control and running smoothly and many thanks are owed to her.

115/12 Planning

115/12/01 2/2012/0095/PLNG: Copper Beech Shave Hill

The Parish Council had approved this subject to confirmation that natural stone would be used, and that has already been sent in.

115/12/02 2/2012/0145/PLNG: 2 Rookside Cottage, Church Hill, Buckhorn Weston

This is for a single storey side extension and replacement of the existing porch canopy with a gable ended canopy. The application has been approved. No comment.

115/12/03 2/2012/0139/PLNG: Weston Field, Buckhorn Weston

The access way there at the moment was put in place to permit some of the work being carried out on the farm itself. The application is to put that formally into place. KA went to look and has sent a note to the meeting. The application is not very clear because of the poor quality of the photocopy. It does not appear to show any measurements so KA is concerned about the visibility of the splay. Comments to NDDC Planning to make this point and ask them to satisfy themselves that the splay is adequate for their needs and that otherwise the Parish Council has no comments on the application. The plans were submitted after consultation with Highways.

KA

<p>115/12/04 Update on Bridleway No. 43 at Quarr</p> <p>This had been covered in 109/12 above.</p> <p>116/12 Planning Enforcement</p> <p>116/12/01 Update of Land by Railway Bridge, Buckhorn Weston</p> <p>JH said the last news on this was that there had been a site visit to confirm that it is in contravention of proper use. BD to investigate.</p> <p>117/12 Village Husbandry: Litter</p> <p>PC had asked for this to be put on the Agenda because of comments made about litter in both villages. She had established that people doing Community Service could not be employed to pick litter from roadside verges for Health & Safety reasons. There were comments about fly tipping into ditches and the advisability of putting out bags for collection only on collection day itself, and villagers themselves looking after their immediate areas. PC to look into what help might be available and what it would cost and report back at the next meeting.</p> <p>118/12 Update on Progress of Parish Plan Review Group</p> <p>This was deferred to the next meeting in KA's absence.</p> <p>119/12 Gypsy/Traveller Sites Public Consultation</p> <p>GH told Andrew Cattaway that the Five Bridges site must have had hundreds of thousands of pounds of public money spent on it to make it into a picnic site, so the proposal to make it a transit site for gypsies is bizarre. When the illegal travellers were there, their dogs made such a nuisance of themselves to his customers that the burger van that pitched there was driven away. The Five Bridges site is the only place big enough for half a dozen lorries between Salisbury and Yeovil. The local wildlife, including deer and pheasants had gone for 2 years, but now, 6 months since the travellers left the wildlife is back. (Applause from the floor.)</p> <p>CW said she had been dealing with the illegal gypsy situation and the move to make the site into a transit site had all gone through very quietly. The site was referred to as "Bottles" which nobody locally had ever known it as before. When CW had contacted the Council, it had also emerged that no one considering the site had looked at the Environment Agency website which shows the site as at high risk of flooding. They said the bus stops were a factor in favour of the site, although there are only 2 buses a week. They said the school buses could stop there, but as the proposal is for a transit site, the children will not be there long enough to attend the schools. The near proximity of banks and shops was said to be another factor, despite the fact that Stalbridge is 8.9km away. When the illegals were there, a lot of damage was done to the site and they were drug dealing. [not sure we can say this] Reports in the press that the Council had agreed the site appeared before the cut-off date for response to the proposal.</p>	<p>BD</p> <p>PC</p>
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Andrew Cattaway said the site is not agreed. The County Council has a remit to provide sites across the county and has asked the district and borough councils to help the consultants compile a list of possible sites. There have been many complaints about the work of the consultants – inaccuracies, naming, etc. At the second phase of the consultation the list will be reduced and Parish Councils can put their points again at that stage. A site needs planning permission and the District Council, not the County, is the approving authority.

JB said there is still good reason to write in any complaints now, after the cut-off date of the first stage, as the volume of correspondence will make a difference.

120/12 Superfast Broadband for Dorset

RC reported that there is an alternative proposal for getting fast broadband if we do not get superfast. Through Geoffrey Miller, he had had good discussions about the issues with Hugh de Longh who put RC in touch with Steve Adamson who is the temporary owner of superfast broadband. Steve Adamson cannot help with funding so RC is now looking into who can. A formal response has been sought from the ISP about how long they have been in operation. Superfast will only reach a percentage of households in Dorset and North Dorset is very much at the end of the line. Superfast is not really applicable for domestic users unless they are serious gamers. For most users a modest improvement in speed would be useful. The possibility of contributions from both domestic and business users was raised. Andrew Cattaway said DCC is conferring with Wiltshire and Somerset about broadband provision. RC to continue his research and report again.

RC

121/12 Community Resilience

BD said he had nothing new on this subject at present., but suggested that nothing be done without Bev Osborne

122/12 Parish Burial Ground

122/12/01 Update AJ reported that a Management Plan is awaited from Dorset Rangers. The tender document will be based on the Management Plan. A draft has been prepared so far and a copy given to Steve Scott. The intention is to get the tender out before the growing season and to consider at least 3 tenders. It is assumed the contractor will be responsible for his own liabilities. Ordinance Survey mapping will be used for the new Millennium Walk sign and there will be areas for photos to put on the map. Signage for the burial ground is still to come.

AJ

122/12/02 Risk Assessment This needs to be done. JH has some relevant information.

JH

123/12 Chairman's Report

123/12/01 The Chairman referred to the need for a new Clerk and said that Clare was most professional and was much missed. He thanked Susanna Cooke for agreeing to take the minutes tonight.

123/12/02 We seem to have a flurry of planning applications so far this year. The Chairman

said he expected to see some interesting ones in the near future.

123/12/03 There has been a good result regarding the land on the way to Wincanton, the containers having been removed.

123/12/04 The Chairman expressed the personal view that, regarding the Localism Bill, Parish Plans, Village Design Statements etc., although a lot of discussion and consultation is going on at the end of the day not much will have altered at Parish Council level. More efficient management of existing systems would possibly be more effective than yet more change, although a less popular approach among politicians.

124/12 Responsible Financial Officer's Report

124/12/01 JB reported that the bank reconciliation was correct.

124/12/02 The only recent non-routine payments were under the heading Village Husbandry totalling £250 for the Jubilee Way project. [Should this have been under KM budget heading?]

124/12/03 JB expressed gratitude for all the voluntary labour on the burial ground.

124/12/04 Acceptance of the RFO's report was proposed by GH, seconded by CW and agreed by all.

124/12/05 JB said there had been variations in the Clerk's payments with overexpenditure in the first 4 or 5 months and in line with provision made from October onwards.

124/12/06 BD said he would ask Michael Ross, the internal auditor, to carry out the annual review to ensure compliance with the regulations.

BD

125/12 Clerk's Report

The Clerk had said she had conducted an internal audit. JB said he had also completed an internal audit, as the RFO should do. JB strongly recommended councillors attend training courses.

125/12/01 Standing Orders should be reviewed annually.

126/12 The Buckhorn Weston Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Monday, 2nd April at 7.30 p.m. in Buckhorn Weston Village Hall.

127/12 Other Reports

127/12/01 Highways PC will try and get more copies of the "Hedges, Trees & the Highway" leaflet which would be useful for residents and perhaps could go on the Parish Council website and on noticeboards. Steve Scott said the main thing is that all trees overhanging the highway must be 17ft above the road.

PC

127/12/02 Public Transport AJ encouraged all villagers to get on the No. 25 bus on 22nd March when Mr Spracklen of DCC Transport Department Office will be riding the bus in order to talk to him about alternatives to the service which is due to be

withdrawn on 24th May. JH to bring information to the next meeting about the survey on public transport requirements carried out by Three Riversmeet and Gillingham Town Council. AJ to draft a letter to DCC for BD's signature concerning the lack of formal communication from the Council on the withdrawal of No. 25 bus service.

JH

AJ

127/12/03 Public Footpaths PC would consult with residents at Quarr once the bridleway and footpath changes have been carried out (see 109/12 above) to ascertain the need for "Horse" warning signs, the quantity required and their locations.

PC

128/12 Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be on Monday, 14th May at 7.30 pm. at Buckhorn Weston Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

These minutes are signed as a true and accurate account of the meeting.

SignedChairman

Dated 14th May 2012