**KENNET VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL 5– 2022/23**

Minutes of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on the 9th January 2023 at 6.30pm in the Kennet Valley Hall.

**Present:** Cllr J Drew, Cllr M Bates, Cllr D Woolley, Cllr J Turner, Cllr M Dissanayake, Cllr A Miller, Cllr R Richards & Cllr V Hemery.

**In attendance:** S Roberts (Clerk) & one member of the public.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –** None.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr C Rogers and Unitary Cllr Jane Davies.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

1. **ITEMS TO BE TAKEN IN PRIVATE SESSION**

Item 73 - Kennet Valley School, Item 74 – Thames Water & item 81 Clerk’s pay and homeworking allowance.

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the 7th November 2022 Parish Council meeting were approved and signed as a true record. A small amendment was made to item 67 which should have read January instead of September.

1. **AVEBURY PARISH COUNCIL TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

Alice Macaire from the APCTC presented a fascinating insight into the history of the Avenue and the Council was asked to give their preliminary thoughts as to whether closing the road to vehicles could be a viable consideration. It was noted a formal consultation would be required before any decisions could be considered. The Council had mixed views on the concept.

Alice Macaire left the meeting.

1. **REPORTS**

Unitary Cllr Jane Davies in her absence had provided a short report advising Wiltshire Council are currently prioritising the fixing of potholes.

1. **CLERKS REPORT**

The Chair and the Clerk are both due to attend an online meeting of the Executive Committee of WALC on 18th January and will provide a report at the March meeting.

Play area signage – a site meeting has been carried out and we are now waiting for a mock up of the signage to agree before the installations can be carried out.

The West Overton bus shelter light is still not repaired, the final quotation is yet to be received from the electrician.

No further progress has been made on the provision of a bin on the Dene although several attempts have been made to contact Idverde to arrange an installation.

Peacock Field – the Council are hopeful the sale will draw to a conclusion shortly and a meeting of the Peacock Field Working Group will need to be arranged to discuss the fencing and other works required following completion of the purchase.  **Action Clerk**

Councillor email addresses – there are now only two councillors without designated emails up and running. The Clerk will work with them to resolve the issue and if necessary, ask a local IT person to assist. **Action Clerk, Cllr M Dissanayake & Cllr D Woolley**

1. **CORONATION**

The Council noted following two articles in the Upper Kennet News there had been no offers of help to organise an event. It was suggested a smaller scale event with refreshments and a large screen showing the Coronation might be a possibility. The Clerk agreed to discuss availability with the Kennet Valley Hall. **Action Clerk**

1. **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Monday 24th April. Cllr Jill Turner in her capacity as Chair of U3A agreed to give a short talk. An invitation will be delivered to households in the Parish, there will be a collection for the Devizes Foodbank and refreshments will be provided.

1. **PARISH ASSETS (AM)**

Jubilee Tree – Phil Duckett will dig the hole for the Horse Chestnut tree once a date has been agreed. The possibility of the May bank holiday was proposed, and availability would need to be checked with Rev Maria Shepherdson about the possibility of a small dedication service.

1. **TRAFFIC & EMERGENCY (JT)**

Ivy Lane in Lockeridge – correspondence has been received from Wiltshire Council, works to the trees have been delayed as there are areas of higher priority in the county.

Cllr Jill Turner advised Wiltshire Council are looking at areas of flooding and requested photos of flooded fields in the Parish to be sent to her to pass on.

1. **RIGHTS OF WAY (VH)**

The right of way leading from Lockeridge by Chalkys garage to Fyfield near the sewage works is now considerably improved and now passable and Cllr V Hemery is in discussions to improve the access to the right of way from Temple Farm at Totterdown Wood.

Works have started on the creation of an alternative Right of Way in Lockeridge pending an application to divert the existing one. It is understood that the landowner is happy for both rights of way to be used until a formal diversion is approved which could take several years.

1. **OTHER BODIES**

**Kennet Valley Hall** – the memorial trees have now been moved. Replacement of some of the trees which have died, and the future care of the trees will be discussed at the March meeting.

1. **FINANCE (DW)**

The accounts for the year to Jan 6th 2023:

Balance carried forward from last year: £22707.43

Total receipts for the year to Jan 2023: £47885.09

Total payments for year to Jan 2023: £38166.98

The available (cash book) balance at 6 Jan 2023: £32452.54

The Council approved retrospective and current BACS payments:

Retrospective:

Netwise – Annual website package and support fee £396.00

Idverde Limited – bin emptying £36.00

Current:

S Roberts – Clerk’s salary back-pay

S Roberts – Clerk’s salary January

S Roberts – Clerk’s salary February - post-dated

S Roberts – Clerk expenses Dec/Jan 2023

Kennet Valley Hall – Hire – Jan – Nov 2022 £90.00

The Chair temporarily closed the meeting to discuss in closed session the following items:

Kennet Valley School – to receive the incredibly sad news of the passing of Emma Russell, the Head of Kennet Valley Primary School, the Parish Councils thoughts are with the family and school community at this very difficult time. The Council recognised her achievements at the School and her many years of service.

Thames Water – resolved to advise the parishioners via the Upper Kennet News of possible digging up of the Dene to lay water pipes.

Clerk’s pay – resolved to approve the NALC pay increase for 2022/23 and back-pay.

Clerk’s homeworking allowance – resolved to approve a small, short-term increase for the winter months.

The Chair re-opened the meeting.

1. **COMMUNICATIONS**

Items to be added to the next edition of UKN:

1. Coronation
2. Councillor vacancies
3. Annual Parish Meeting – save the date
4. Defibrillator Training – 11th June 2023
5. Digging up the Dene
6. **AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

The following items will be added to the agenda for the March meeting:

1. Annual Parish Meeting
2. The Coronation
3. Memorial trees
4. Clerk’s contract
5. Standing Orders review
6. Peacock Field
7. Memorial trees – care of
8. Emergency Response review

The meeting closed at 8 pm.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 6th March at 6.30pm in the Kennet Valley Hall.

This is the last page of the minutes.