**KENNET VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL 2 – 2023/24**

Minutes of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on the 26th June 2023 at 6.30pm in the Kennet Valley Hall.

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

**In attendance:** S Roberts (Clerk).

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –** None.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and approved from Unitary Cllr J Davies.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

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

None.

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of 15th May 2023 Annual Meeting and the Planning Meeting of 1st June 2023 were approved and signed as a true record.

1. **CLERKS REPORT**

The Clerk will shortly be submitting the survey for the buses, please let her have any further comments as soon as possible, the revised closing date is 13th July.

Emergency repairs have been carried out at Fyfield bus shelter due to the wooden seating being broken and unstable.

Information has been passed onto the Emergency Response representative following parishioners having difficulties reporting a power outage in West Overton to SSE, with no mobile phone signal and many telephones now using the Voice Over Internet there is no way of reporting an incident. Cllr J Turner has raised the issue with SSE who experienced difficulties themselves with some of their equipment whilst attending the outage due to the lack of mobile signal. Mobile phone coverage in the villages and the BT switch off planned for 2025 will be discussed at the next full Council meeting and an update from SSE provided.

1. **REPORTS**

The Council noted the white lining at Fyfield on the A4 by the Filling Station had still not been carried out. Cllr Jill Turner agreed to ask Unitary Cllr Jane Davies for assistance in progressing the matter. **Action Cllr J Turner**

1. **REPORT FROM UNITARY COUNCILLOR JANE DAVIES**

Unitary Councillor Jane Davies was not present at the meeting but advised the Solstice had passed quietly and Wiltshire Council and Police were content with the temporary closure of the Ridgeway.

1. **PARISH ASSETS (AM)**

Bin on the Dene – progress is still being severely hampered by the lack of communication from Idverde despite intervention from Wiltshire Council Highways and Streetscene. The Clerk will continue to pursue the purchase and installation of a bin on the Dene and another on Peacock Field in West Overton.

Memorial Copse – an email has been sent to ARK to request ideas for harvesting rainfall and watering of the trees without the need for a hosepipe.

Peacock Field – the new fencing is due to be installed shortly. The Trust have been asked to mark the points where the fence line needs to go to and from and provide measurements to avoid any difficulties arising further down the line.

1. **COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS**

The following vacancies on the Committees and Working Groups were filled:

Rights of Way - representative – Cllr V Hemery

Traffic/Police - representative – Cllr J Turner

Kennet Valley School - representative – Cllr J Turner

Community Emergency & Defibrillators - representative – Cllr J Turner

1. **POLICY DOCUMENTS**

The following policy documents were reviewed with some minor amendments:

Complaints, Vexatious Complaints, Petitions, Freedom of Information & Code of Conduct.

1. **TRAFFIC/ROAD SAFETY & POLICE (JT)**

SSE – The Kennet Valley Hall Committee had been asked to consider an application under the SSE grant for a generator. Cllr C Rogers reported the KVH committee were not currently in favour of a generator due to installation, storage and the likelihood of it being used. The Council raised the question as to whether the electronic main front door had an override in case of a power outage, this being of particular importance if the Hall were to be used as an emergency shelter and the emergency response equipment being stored there. **Action Cllr C Rogers**

The Council supported the purchase of a Speed Indicator Device by the Lockeridge Traffic Group and a contribution from the Council towards the cost would be agreed once the full costings had been provided. It was noted this would be required before the November Council meeting when the Precept is set for 2024/25.

The proposal to support the recommencement of efforts to improve road safety along the A4 in collaboration with neighbouring Parish Councils was agreed.

1. **FINANCE (DW)**

The Committee have not met since the last meeting.

The accounts for the year to June 26th 2023:

Balance carried forward from last year: £29892.86

Total receipts for the year to June 2023: £12522.30

Total payments for year to March 2023: £4787.74

The available (cash book) balance at 26th June 2023: £37627.42

1. The Council received and noted the internal audit report for 2022/23 which contained no recommendations for further action.
2. The Council approved and completed the Annual Governance Statement for 2022/23.
3. The Council approved and completed the Accounting Statement for 2022/23.
4. The Responsible Finance Officer announced the commencement date as Monday 3rd July 2023 for the Exercise of Public Rights.
5. The Council approved payments of retrospective and current BACS payments:

**Retrospective:**

 IdVerde Ltd – bin emptying £36.00

Graham Kitchen – Internal Audit £100.00

CP Flood – emergency repairs Fyfield Bus shelter £160.98

N A Rammage – grass cutting Fyfield & West Overton £420.00

 **Current:**

S Roberts – Clerk’s expenses Apr/May

Jill Turner – torch for Emergency response £24.99

1. **COMMUNICATIONS**

Items to be added to the next edition of UKN:

1. Speed Indicator Devices
2. Hedge Trimming
3. **ELECTORAL REVIEW**

The Council resolved to withdraw from the proposed boundary change to incorporate Preshute Parish Council into Kennet Valley Parish Council as part of the 2023/24 Community Governance Review.

The original request made in 2019 to combine had been with full support of both councils. Preshute is viewed by the Council as a good, strong functioning Parish Council with a full set of councillors who have just completed an impressive Neighbourhood Plan.  Preshute Parish Council have now indicated that they wish to remain independent and Kennet Valley Parish Council both respect and fully support their decision.

1. **AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

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

1. Mobile phone coverage
2. Policy document review
3. Peacock Field

The meeting closed at 8 pm.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on Monday 18th September at 6.30pm in the Kennet Valley Hall.

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