**KENNET VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL 1 – 2024/25**

Minutes of the **ANNUAL MEETING** held on the 13th May 2024 at 7pm in the Kennet Valley Hall.

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

**In attendance:** S Roberts (Clerk), Wiltshire Cllr Jane Davies, Wiltshire Cllr James Sheppard, Katie Mallinson (Head) & Simon Jones from Kennet Valley School & 2 members of the public.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –**

Katie Mallinson introduced herself as the Head of Kennet Valley School. She thanked the PC for their support of the school. She spoke in support of working together to resolve the ongoing parking issues around the school and would welcome PCSO presence at morning drop off and afternoon pick up. Those children and parents that are near enough to walk to school generally do and those entitled to use the bus mostly use it. The catchment area goes out to Avebury.

Simon Jones (School Governor) introduced himself. The school are actively fundraising towards a minibus, and he has been talking to the bus companies to see if the same school bus could continue into Marlborough to save on journeys.

Cllr Jayne Drew thanked Mrs Mallinson and Mr Jones who then left the meeting.

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Cllr Jayne Drew was elected as Chair. *M Bates proposed, V Hemery seconded*.

Wiltshire Councillors Jane Davies and James Sheppard left the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and approved from Cllr C Kohrt & Cllr D Woolley.

Cllr James Ward was absent from the meeting.

1. **CO-OPTION**

The co-option did not take place due to the prospective parishioner being unable to attend the meeting.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE**

The Chair signed a Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Proper Officer.

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

Tribunal costs under item 14 was taken in Private Session with the public excluded. The Council reviewed the Council finances and agreed to put an appropriate sum aside for the Tribunal Hearing costs.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & DISPENSATIONS**

Cllr Jayne Drew declared an interest in item 13 having been consulted as a close neighbour on the Planning application to be discussed.

1. **ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

Cllr Martin Bates was elected as Vice-Chair*. C Rogers proposed, A Miller seconded.*

1. **APPOINTMENTS TO OTHER POSITIONS**

**Planning Committee** – Chair - Vacancy & all councillors

**Parish Assets Working Group** – Leader A Miller, R Richards, V Hemery & T Tolputt.

**Rights of Way** – V Hemery, C Rogers & T Tolputt

**Traffic/Police Working Group** – Leader J Turner, J Drew & vacancy

**Civil Emergency Working Group** – Leader J Turner, J Drew, C Rogers & vacancy. Also non Council members.

**Finance Committee** – Chair D Woolley, J Drew, A Miller, T Tolputt & M Bates.

**Legal** – D Woolley KC

**Staffing Committee** – Chair C Rogers, M Bates, J Drew & R Richards

**Communications** **Working Group**– Leader vacancy, R Richards, J Drew & V Hemery

**Other Bodies:**

**Kennet Valley Hall** – C Rogers

**Kennet Valley School** – J Turner

**Marlborough Area Board** – Councillors to take it in turns.

**Avebury World Heritage Site Steering Group** – J Drew & M Bates

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the 11th March 2024 Parish Council Meeting and the Extraordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 22nd April 2024 were approved and signed as a true record.

1. **REPORTS**

Cllr Jill Turner advised a representative from Avebury Parish Council would like to attend our next meeting to discuss traffic on the A4 and the Avenue.

1. **CLERK’S REPORT (SR)**

Meting dates for 2025 had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The next Parish Steward visit will be on 17th June 2024.

Asset of Community Value – the Clerk and Chair have a date in their diaries to go through the paperwork. Action **Chair & Clerk**

A reminder the Annual Defibrillator Training is taking place in the Kennet Valley Hall on Sunday 16th June at 10am.

Quotations are being sought for the new public noticeboard to go outside the Kennet Valley Hall. **Action Clerk**

Best Kept Village – no parishioners offered to assist with the competition therefore the Council did not enter it.

1. **PARISH ASSETS (AM)**

Peacock Field – the grass is very long, and a request and reminder have been sent to Manor Farm to cut it. Once the grass has been cut the Clerk will order the picnic bench and goalposts.

Bins – the locations of the new bins have been agreed with Wiltshire Council and Idverde and will be ordered shortly.

1. **PLANNING**

PL/2024/02825 – West Bailey, Lockeridge, SN8 4ED for the construction of a stable block of three stables and a tack room for the accommodation of privately owned horses.

The applicant spoke in support of the application explaining his reasoning for the stable not being sited in the field itself due to security and shelter from the sun provided by the trees. He also advised the muck heap would be positioned at the far ends of the field away from the houses.

The stables would have no footings therefore tree roots would not be disturbed.

Cllr Martin Bates presented the plans. Cllr Jayne Drew having declared an interest stood back from the deliberations. The Council considered the plans and agreed not to object to the application - ***The Council raises no objection to the application above but would like WC to ensure the muck heap is located in a designated area away from housing and the location does not contravene BS5837:2012.***

Two parishioners left the meeting.

1. **FINANCE (DW)**

The Clerk advised that she was unsure if her combined annual income would exceed the current tax threshold for PAYE but HMRC were satisfied with her reporting through her Annual Return.

All councillors were reminded of their requirement to inform the Monitoring Office of any gifts over £25.

The accounts for the year to March Year End 2024:

Balance carried forward from last year: £29892.86

Total receipts for the year to 31 March 2024: £32609.17

Total payments for year to 31 March 2024: £26314.31

The available (cash book) balance as of 31 March 2024: £36187.72

The Finance Working Group met on 9th May at 2pm in the Kennet Valley Hall and made the following recommendations to which the Council accepted:

The current bin contract with Idverde is due for renewal with an increase of over 100%. The Council recognised the previous rate had been incredibly low and Idverde had moved their operations from Devizes to Westbury. The Council agreed to support the rise increase and adjust the 2024/25 budget to reflect the change. The Clerk agreed to check with alternative suppliers should the Council wish to change this arrangement later. **Action Clerk**

WALC membership renewal – the Finance Committee recommended, and the Council agreed to not renewing at this time and to reconsider at the next full Council meeting to see what progress has been made by the new WALC Council Advisor in providing more relevant training and in particular New Councillor Training. **Action Clerk**

Budget Review – the Finance Committee recommended, and the Council supported a provision in the Budget for the Withy Beds project of £500.00, the Parish Council money for the football posts and picnic bench to come out of the Youth Club funds as the area is primarily a Youth provision. The SSEN grant to be returned to SSEN if the provision of a generator at the Whoda Thought it public house is not viable and to allocate an additional sum for legal fees should they be required.

The council approved the following BACS payments:

Retrospective BACS to be approved 2023/24:

J Turner – space blankets & walkie talkies £207.26

Mark Hutton – bus shelter light replacement WO £220.00

Retrospective BACS to be approved 2024/25:

Idverde Ltd – Bin emptying 2023/24 £36.00

N A Rammage – grass cutting Fyfield & WO March/Apr £450.00

Current BACS to be approved:

S Roberts – Clerk expenses Apr 2024 to May 2024 £144.57

1. **COMMUNICATIONS**

Items to be added to the next edition of UKN:

1. A reminder of the defibrillator training on Sunday 16th June.
2. Thank you for attending the Annual Parish Meeting.
3. **AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

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

1. AGAR
2. Peacock Field
3. Committee & Working Group vacancies.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm.

This is the last page of the minutes.