**KENNET VALLEY PARISH COUNCIL 2 – 2024/25**

Minutes of the **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING** held on the 24th June 2024 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 R Richards, Cllr T Tolputt & Cllr V Hemery.

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

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –** None.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and approved from Cllr C Kohrt, Cllr A Miller, Cllr J Ward & Unitary Cllr J Davies.

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

1. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of 13th May 2024 Annual Meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting were approved and signed as a true record.

1. **COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS**

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

Planning - Chair – Cllr D Woolley

Finance - Chair – Cllr D Woolley

Legal -Representative – Cllr D Woolley

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

Item 25.

1. **CLERKS REPORT**

Parish Steward Scheme – the Parish Steward is due to visit our Parish next on 16th September. He will not be visiting in August due to essential verge cutting and weed control.

Peacock Field – the grass is now being cut regularly and the picnic bench and goal posts will be ordered this week.

Road Closure – the Overton Road will be closed from 1st July for 5 days but will be fully open for the 4th July for the elections. The works are for essential tree work.

Details of all road closures can be found on:

the one network: <https://one.network/>

Asset of Community Value – at the December meeting the Council resolved to take steps towards registering the Who’da Thought it public house as an Asset of Community Value. Wiltshire Council have provided an application form which requires a lot of information. Cllr Jayne Drew will help complete it. **Action Clerk & Cllr J Drew**

Noticeboard at KVH **-** Kennet Valley Hall were unable to provide contact details of who had made their noticeboard. Chris Flood will be asked if it is something he would be happy to quote for as he made the one for West Overton Church. **Action Clerk**

Idverde Bins – the problems with the bins continue with the one at the top of Knights Close in West Overton still not being emptied and a local resident had been bagging it up. Idverde have now carried out a site visit, hopefully seen the local resident and a credit has been put on our account. The new bins should now have been ordered. In the meantime, Adrian Hampton from Wiltshire Council has offered to help if he can by emptying some of our bins but only if they are moved onto Highway controlled land.

1. **REPORTS**

Rights of Way - WO20 is overgrown, this has been reported to Steve Leonard at Wiltshire Council Rights of Way.

The track leading to West Woods is desperately in need of repairs. Stephen Leonard has arranged for some plainings to be added from some road resurfacing in Manton and the residents are planning some repairs as well.

The footpath FD39 and WO50 need to be upgraded to a bridleway as riders are now being prohibited after decades of use. **Action V Hemery** to approach Stephen Leonard.

A request has been made to Wiltshire Council to reinstate the white lines by the Lacket, this will be done free of charge as routine maintenance. A further request for ‘Slow’ markings on the road by the white gates would need to go to LHFIG with a £400 set up cost. The Council did not feel it appropriate at this time to be taking on any unnecessary additional expenditure.

Bench on the Dene – a local resident has offered to donate a painted picnic bench for use on the Dene. Cllr V Hemery kindly offered to collect the bench, repaint it and place it on the Dene. **Action Cllr V Hemery**

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

Burj at The Bell – the police continue to monitor the parking issues at the Burj. The Council suggested the owners of the Burj could consider extending their car park but it was not known who owns the land next to them and it would not be possible for them to extend behind due to the trees and a the steep banking. Several complaints had been made to them following a mid-week party in their beer garden which went on all afternoon and well into the evening, they did eventually turn the music down.

Post Solstice review – the Solstice passed quietly with only a few solstice goers parked in the villages which were unfortunately left in the passing places on the approach to the Bell. The Council agreed to explore the possibility of Passing Point signage to discourage this in the future. **Action Jill Turner**

Parking on the Dene – twice in the last month cars have been seen and removed from the Dene. The Council were not supportive of signage and instead agreed to source two more Sarsen stones to go at the side of the current Easement to discourage this. Cllr V Hemery agreed to source the stones and Cllr R Richards agreed to speak to the owner of Dene Cottage. **Action Cllr V Hemery & Cllr R Richards.**

1. **PLANNING (DW)**

The Council closed the meeting for this item.

Tribunal Hearing in relation to an easement across the Dene - the Council resolved to write to the applicant’s solicitor to check they are still acting for her. **Action Clerk**

1. **FINANCE (DW)**

The Committee have not met since the last meeting.

The internal auditor has retired, and a new internal auditor will need to be found.

The accounts for the year to June 24th 2024:

Balance carried forward from last year: £36187.22

Total receipts for the year to June 2024: £13877.70

Total payments for year to June 2024: £1393.47

The available (cash book) balance at 24th June 2024: £48671.45

The RFO has applied for and received the VAT refund for 2023/24 of £1851.93.

Cllr T Tolputt to be provided with online banking authorisation. **Action Clerk**

1. The Council received and noted the internal audit report for 2023/24 which contained no recommendations for further action.
2. The Council approved and completed the Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24.
3. The Council approved and completed the Accounting Statement for 2023/24.
4. The Responsible Finance Officer announced the commencement date as Monday 1st July 2024 for the Exercise of Public Rights.
5. The Council approved payments of retrospective and current BACS payments:

S Roberts – Clerk’s expenses Apr/May £79.16

Bill Rammage – grass - May £440.00

Bruce Thomas - Village tidying £108.00

Graham Kitchen – internal audit £100.00

1. **COMMUNICATIONS**

Website Login details to be passed onto Claudius. **Action Clerk**

Items to be added to the next edition of UKN:

1. Peacock Field
2. Noise disturbances
3. **AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

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

1. Election of Chair
2. Fill vacancies on Communications, Civil Emergency & Traffic/Police
3. Co-option

The Chair announced her intention to stand down as Chair and Councillor at the end of July.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

The next Parish Council meeting is due to take place on Monday 16th September at 6.30pm in the Kennet Valley Hall but may need to be moved to the following week due to holidays of the Vice Chair and the Clerk.

This is the last page of the minutes.