

Keinton Mandeville Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the above-named Parish Council, held on
Tuesday 2 February 2021 at 7.30 p.m. via zoom

Present: Tom Ireland TI, Trevor Ryder TR, Chris Lane CL, Chris Calcutt CC, Scott Fischer SF, Kevan McHale KM, Richard Sutton RS.

In attendance: Tony Capozzoli and Charlie Hull (District Councillors) Dean Ruddle (County Councillor) Sue Graham (Clerk) 4 members of the public.

Public session

District Councillors:

TC:

- The Department for Transport had approved dualling of the A303 between Sparkford and Podimore
- A members' briefing had been circulated regarding the phosphates issue and its impact on planning applications and decisions.
- Mike Lewis was leading a campaign to have Sparkford train station re opened.

CH:

- An amended version of the Chestnuts planning application had been received.
- The County Council was being encouraged to improve rural transport (buses etc.) as part of a focus on active travel which also included initiatives to promote cycling, walking and running.
- Thanks to TR for his work on setting up an environmental action group. There were similar ideas in Barton St David and Charlton Adam.

County Councillor:

SCC Audit committee had met this month. The County Council was unable to sign off its accounts in the absence of a satisfactory valuation of its assets. Arrangements to value assets were in hand. There were also issues with double payments for Highways work.

Discussion about the planning phosphates issue took place including:

Delays in determining certain developments, in particular residential had resulted in thousands of dwellings being caught in the planning system. It was possible that this would impact the housing supply. A calculator had been devised to assess what the impact of each development and the implications of granting permission.

A resident asked for the PC's assistance regarding an issue with the SSDC planning portal. The application for 30 houses between Church St and Queen St had been posted on the planning portal, members of the public had submitted comments, and then the application had suddenly disappeared. It was unknown whether this was deliberate or a fault of the system, whether the application would re appear with a new reference number, and whether public comments had been received and retained. TC offered to establish the status of this application and ask for assurance regarding receipt of public comment.

The status of the local plan was queried, with reference to the 5-year housing supply. It was noted that the SSDC had now met the 5-year housing supply and future applications would be determined on local need as opposed to housing targets. However, it was possible that the phosphates issue would impact on this.

Concern was raised that responses received from SSDC planning department were signed off with a generic planning signature and not a named individual. TC would look at this and circumstances when it was appropriate to have the name of the person responding.

There had been some activity on the proposed development site between Church Street and Queen Street including hedge and tree cutting. Concerns had been raised about the possibility of this disturbing a badger sett. It had already been established by a previous wildlife survey that there was not an active sett on this field. It was not appropriate for the PC to report this further at the current time. If members of the public are concerned then they should report it directly to Natural England.

Lakeview – query about whether there had been s106 commitments and had they been received? TI reported that there were s106 commitments and these were now not due until occupation of the final dwelling.

KM advised the County Councillor of the situation regarding dangerous parking at the corner of Queen St and High St. Although there had been several visits by enforcement, no tickets had been issued and in any case it was not likely that this would address the problem. DR was asked how this could be taken forward effectively, he said he would speak to the traffic engineer about the possibility of some physical measure and suggested that a bollard with a right arrow as had been installed at various locations (including Somerton) might be appropriate.

1.0	Apologies. Apologies were received from Helen Beal. Jean Maynard had resigned from the Parish Council.	
2.0	Declarations. Receive declarations of interests. RS declared an interest in item 7 payments: Xmas tree. CC declared an interest in item 7.4 Grant requests, village hall. TR declared an interest in item 7.4 grant requests PCC	
3.0	Minutes of last meetings 5 January 19 January 2021 The minutes were agreed as a true and correct record of the meetings held.	
4.0	Matters arising from the minutes not covered by items on this agenda. There were no matters arising.	
5.0	Planning. 20/03302/HOU Removal of existing conservatory replacing with extended kitchen/family room. Extension to garage on front elevation. Replacement windows. New Access to Highway. Stoneleigh, High Street, Keinton Mandeville. The application was considered, and comments made as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposed changes are largely at the rear of the property. • No objections to alterations to the property • Concern about in / out driveway proposed and impact of this on the Highway. • Noted that there are similar driveway arrangements on the other side of the road. • Neighbour concerns noted - about the flue and the ridge height and Councillors anticipated that these would be taken into account by the planning officer. • Noted that the garage was being reduced in size, however there was sufficient space to park at the front of the property. Resolved: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to recommend approval on the condition that the effect of the in / out driveway was properly considered by highways.	
5.1	Determination of Planning. No notices had been received.	
5.2	Other planning matters. There were no other planning matters.	
6.0	Environment Champion Update. TR reported that he hoped to trial a carbon footprint tool. There was a free and user-friendly resource available online. The environmental action group would be meeting on Friday where officers would be elected. One of the first initiatives would be to promote tree planting in the village. One of the members had sourced a number of trees from the giveaway scheme. When conditions allowed, it was hoped that meetings with other groups and environment champions would take place. KM asked about the solar streets initiative, the PC had effectively endorsed the scheme and he enquired whether any due diligence had taken place. TI and TR reported that the proposal was unique in that it offered a scheme to a group of villages. Reviews of the company had been considered and found to be positive. Similar 4kW systems advertised locally were circa £1000 more expensive.	
7.0	Finance and Payments (RFO – Clerk) Payments RS had declared an interest in this item. Resolved: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve the following payments (corrections were made to the salaries and HMRC payments - 20p difference) Salaries January 2021 NEST Pensions Direct Debit HMRC	£261.92 £ 19.53 £ 0.60

	Christmas Tree – reimburse R Sutton. Glasdon Bin	£100.00 £416.38
7.1	Receipts. There were no receipts	
7.2	Review of Accounts. Presentation of summary of accounts, bank reconciliation and budget to be considered, agreed, and signed by Councillors. The accounts for month 10 2020-21 were reviewed. The balance at the end of December was £41,185.71 Payments in January totalled £584.16 and receipts were £nil. The balance was £40,601.55. The bank statements showed a balance of £41,601.55. There was one outstanding cheque: Keinton Mandeville School PSA £1000.00. With this taken into account the balance was: £40,601.55. The clerk had contacted the PSA about the cheque via their dedicated email address but had received no response. TI would chase this up.	
7.4	Grant requests. CC and TR declared interests as at item 3. The following grant requests were considered with reference to the purposes of the grant, benefit to the village and village residents, and the PC grant budget. Resolved: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to make the following grants: PCC: £1200 for the upkeep of the churchyard. s.137 Keinton Mandeville Village Hall - £1500 (£750 for redecoration of the foyer and disabled toilets, £750 towards costs associated with the village hall extension project s.137) Keinton Mandeville Playing Field - £1500 towards running costs s.137	
8.0	Highways. Update / Items to report SIS update. It was noted that this would be consulted. To date nothing had been received. Flashing Speed Indicator devices. The clerk asked Councillors to identify suitable locations to have them approved by SCC. KM offered to do this. TTRO422070SS- Queen Street, Keinton Mandeville. Temporary closure of Queen Street 15/02/21 for 22 days. This was notice was received and noted. Drains. The Parish Ranger had unblocked three drains but there were numerous blocked drains in the village. Councillors were asked to identify blocked drains in their area of the village and report to the clerk. If this was widespread DR would approach Highways for them to be unblocked. The drain opposite Keinton Stores was collapsing. Several streetlights were out at the new road junction Irving Road / Chistles Lane. Streetlight number 2 was permanently illuminated. The clerk would report this.	
8.1	Parish Paths. Update / items to report. The fingerpost marker on Coombe Hill to Furze Lane had been reinstated. Reinstatement of the fingerpost marker close to the western edge of the village (signpost to Combe Lane) would not be straightforward as it was likely to restrict access for tractors accessing the field. It had been previously attached to the gatepost (now knocked down and buried in brambles) RS would approach the landowner for his advice for repositioning the sign. Bollards on Babcary Lane. Correspondence had been received from MBBA who would be applying for bollards at the A37 end of Babcary Lane (SM 14/8) to prevent illegal use by 4 x 4s. They had asked whether the Parish Council would support the application, noting that there was also potential to have bollards at the Keinton Mandeville end. The PC would discuss this formally at the next meeting pending discussion with the landowners either side of Babcary Lane.	
9.0	Happy Tracks / Skatepark The bin had been replaced. The quarterly inspection report had been received, there were some areas to monitor. There had been some graffiti sprayed on the side of the skatepark ramp. The clerk would report to the police and ask the ranger to paint it.	
10.0	Maintenance. The parish ranger had attended and completed the following work: installed bin at Skatepark, cleaned bench on High Street, cleared drains on Castle Street, Barton Road. Consider and agree requirements – graffiti cleaning. Request for larger bin at shop and larger dog waste bin. The clerk was asked to enquire about whether the bins could be emptied more frequently in the first instance. If this was not an option then quotes for bins should be sought.	

11.0	Village Website An appropriate way of thanking John Light for his work on the village website including the Parish Council page for many years was considered. It was agreed to buy a gift to the value of £50.00.
12.0	Broadband Provision in Keinton Mandeville – update. The gigabit voucher scheme had been withdrawn, this would likely be replaced with an alternative scheme.
13.0	Village Hall Report There was nothing to report as the hall was shut.
14.0	Correspondence. Receive the following correspondence and agree any actions arising: There was no correspondence for discussion.
15.0	Correspondence. Circulation. The following correspondence was circulated via email during January. SCC corona Virus advice / updates, SWP briefings, SSDC corona virus advice / updates, CPRE newsletter, open letter to all councillors, CPRE Star Count, SCC- Taunton Racecourse Vaccinations centre; SCC - Data layers wish list; Details of vaccination centres
16.0	PR Items for inclusion in the April edition of the Parish Magazine, for the website and social media sites. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thank you to John Light for his work on the village website. • Volunteer litter pickers – thanks • Speed watch Discussion took place about taking forward a Parish Council presence on Facebook. It was agreed that this would take the form of a Parish Council ‘Noticeboard’ page with no commitment to respond to comments.
17.0	Future agenda Items. Update on measures to address illegal parking at shop
18.0	Any other reports. There were no other reports
19.0	Date of next meeting. 2 March 2021. Special Meeting 16 February.