

## Keinton Mandeville Parish Council

Minutes of The Annual Parish Meeting held on  
**Tuesday 19 April 2022 at 7.30 pm**

Present: Parish Council:

Tom Ireland TI, Chris Calcutt CC (representing Community Speedwatch and Short Mat Bowls), Chris Lane CL (representing 3 Charities), Trevor Ryder TR (representing Environment group), Kate Ridewood KR (representing Netball Club), Richard Sutton RS.

Dean Ruddle (County Councillor) Sue Graham, clerk (representing Happy Tracks)

Invited groups present: Graham Bailey GB (Tennis Club) Warren Lee WL (Village Hall, Youth group) Rev Jane Durham (PCC)

### 1. Apologies

Kevan McHale (Parish Council) Charlie Hull and Tony Capozzoli (District Councillors) A Shakesby - KM School, John Walker (Community Speedwatch), Larry Hennessy (Short Mat Bowls), Andy Graham (Playing Field Committee)

### 2. Declarations

There were no declarations

### 3. Minutes of last meeting: Tuesday 27 April 2021

Resolved: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve and sign the minutes as a true and correct record of the meeting held.

### 4. Chairman's report

TI reported that the year had been dominated by planning, this was an ongoing trend and was a distraction from day-to-day council business. Much Frustration had been expressed about planning in the community. It was noted that work on a neighbourhood plan was progressing, and Neil Bain was thanked for his efforts in leading this initiative.

TI thanked the various groups for their contribution in making the village a thriving community

This year the PC had funded and installed a speed indicator device positioned in strategic locations. This provided useful and interesting data on the speed and volume of traffic. The long-awaited small improvement scheme was also being installed by Somerset County Council.

A number of councillors had decided not to stand for election, they were thanked for their contribution as follows:

- Helen Beal - She has been on the Council for circa 20 years, perhaps even longer. As a member of one of the villages oldest families, she has provided very valuable historical insight into village matters and we hope her replacement may also come from one of the long-established village families to continue this invaluable role.
- Richard Sutton – Another long-standing councillor of some 12 years and with farming knowledge that has been most useful. I'm sure all would agree that his Christmas tree by the village shop is excellent, and we are pleased that he is willing to continue putting it up for us. Perhaps less seen has been his work in strimming the footpaths around the village. Suffice to say he was not a fan of dog walkers who don't clear up after their dogs.
- Scott Fisher – He has been on the Council for two years and we have put his practical building skills to good use. He has also been able to represent fellow residents on the estate and always provides calm sensible advice on issues. Hopefully he can be persuaded to be co-opted back onto the Council and continue his great work.
- Kevan McHale – In his year with us he has really invigorated our work on highways, as evidenced by the improvement works that are currently being undertaken by the highways department. He has also set up the speed indicator device, moved it around the village for us and crunched the numbers to provide powerful data supporting the need for traffic calming measures in the village. Just in case you were not aware, the SID not only flashes warnings but also records the speed of all the vehicles passing it.
- Kate Ridewood – From village days, to the MUGA, to the soon to be constructed Trim Trail, Kate is the energy and driving force behind much of the good work and projects in the village. We are all looking forward to the opening of the Ridewood's family café at Newlands Farm.

## **5. County Councillor.**

### **DR provided the following report:**

It has been an Honour and a Privilege to have served Keinton Mandeville for the past 9 years.

It has been extremely difficult couple of years for all of us and from March 2019 we saw the whole country go into national lockdown.

Somerset County Council and other Authorities alike decided to run the council through delegated powers.

Weekly Covid meeting were held to inform the councillors what was going on within the county and their areas. I felt these meetings were so important that I made sure that the weekly reports were sent out to all my parishes.

Somerset County Council still continue to make financial savings and the pandemic has only made it more difficult. Some extra funding has come from central government which has helped soften the blow, however over the foreseeable years more saving will have to happen. This is becoming totally unsustainable and that is the reason Somerset will become a shadow Unitary Authority in May 2022 with the District Councils' operations coming to an end in May 2023.

The initial estimates show that around £18m pounds could be released annually to invest into front line services as well as providing the public with greater clarity with contact on public services. SCC and the District Councils have also stressed the increased roles that Town and Parishes would be able to play in the governance of the County to ensure local participation and consideration.

Climate emergency has become a major part of all our lives and to that end grants became available to all the areas for all sorts of projects from planting trees to cycle ways, and solar panels etc. but due to the large take up many schemes did not get through, there will be more funding available into the future.

It was great to see that the small highway improvement scheme has finally been signed off.

I believe being elected to both SCC and SSDC has been a huge benefit in the past which has allowed me to bring together officers from both authorities adding additional benefits to the residents in our area, and now we are moving to one single unitary authority I can only hope this will be better for us all.

I believe working together with the community is the best way of working.

I will continue to work with local people to try and help them achieve what we would like to see within our area.

## **6. District Councillors**

TC and CH were unable to attend due to meeting clashes. They had not provided a report because of the imminent election

## **7. Parish Council presentation of accounts year ending 31 March 2022**

The clerk presented a summary of the accounts and invited questions. CL asked about play area inspections and this was clarified. There were no further questions

## **8. Reports from Village groups and organisations**

### **Invited groups-**

Village Youth Group: WL presented the report

Playing Fields committee: the Clerk read the report on behalf of the playing field committee

Happy Tracks committee: SG provided a report

Methodist Church: no report

PCC: JD presented the report

Parish Magazine: the Clerk read the report on behalf of the Wheathill Benefice Magazine

Keinton and Kingweston Community Transport: No report

Keinton School Governors: No report

Keinton School PSA: No report

Tennis Club: GB presented the report. TI asked about the surface of the Court. He noted that contributions from developers might be available for such projects in future. GB noted that the court would need resurfacing at some point in the future, and an all-weather surface would be the preferred option.

Village Hall: CC presented the village hall report

Netball Club: KR presented the netball club report

Short Mat Bowls: CC presented this report

3 Charities (Big Breakfast): CL presented the report

Environment Group. TR reported the following:

This was a new group, less than a year old with open membership, there were regularly about 10 attenders, monthly meetings were held on the second Wednesday of the month. The motivation for the group was concern for environmental issues in the village and this was promoted via the parish magazine and village FB page. The group received no funding and there was no constitution.

Projects included:

- Proposal to rewild verges in the village
- Interactive map to record sightings
- Production of green living booklet for KM
- 20 is plenty campaign
- Queen's green canopy
- Environmental audit
- Tree giveaway (2000 trees had been given away in total as result of two big tree giveaways)

Community Speedwatch: CC presented a report.

### **9. Public session**

A time for members of the public to put comments and observations to the council. No action can be taken at this time but items can be added to the agenda of a future Parish Council meeting for further discussion.

There were no issues raised

### **10. Date of next meeting**

April 2023