

Minutes of the Kilmersdon Parish Council
held at Coles Garden Meeting Room
at 7.30pm on Monday 7 April, 2014



PRESENT: Councillors R Morse, C Gibson, J Hubble and D Hudson.

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk and 8 members of the public.

Min No

1. APOLOGIES:

758 Apologies received from Cllr D Phripp, A Jolliffe and Ward Cllr E Drew.

2. MINUTES:

759 The Minutes and notes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3 March 2014 were approved and signed.

3. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME:

760 Members of the public spoke on planning application 2014/0093/OTA for the construction of 151 houses on land SE of the A367 and requested an update on progress. It was explained that the comments noted at the public meeting held at the Village Hall on 18 March were to hand, together with notes from council members. At Item 11 on the current agenda, these details would be included in the parish council response to MDC in time to meet the extended deadline of 8 April.

(Post meeting note:

Response forwarded to MDC on 8 April, recommending refusal)

761 A member of the public updated council members on the current status of an appeal against planning application 2013/1356 for the construction of solar panels at New Tynning Farm and asked if the parish council would respond to the Planning Inspectorate concerning the appeal. Members confirmed that a response would be made under Item 11.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:

762 There were no declarations.

5. MATTERS ARISING:

763 The Clerk said he had received notice that the final meeting of the Somer Valley Partnership will take place on Wednesday 7th May, 6pm at Norton Radstock College (Northside Building). This is a Special General Meeting, which has been called to dissolve the Partnership prior to establishing a new Somer Valley Forum in July.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

764 The Clerk had received the notice of commencement of audit from Grant Thornton LLP for the past financial year, 2013/14, but with an earlier end date of 16 June. This would fall in line with the parish council meeting dates and that statutory requirement would be met.

765 The Clerk presented the Annual Accounts and Balance Sheet summaries to Council for examination and approval. Current Account balance was £2510.62 and Reserve Account balance £6997.23

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS (CONTD):

766 The Clerk presented the completed Annual Return, which was approved and signed.

The Clerk declared an interest at this point.

767 The Clerk had been notified that the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 came into force on 30 January 2014. The Act introduces a new framework, in which smaller authorities with an annual turnover not exceeding £25,000, including parish councils, will be exempt from routine external audit. Abolition of the Audit Commission is being progressed and this should be completed with the introduction of new legislation proposed for July 2014.

768 A consultation process is in hand to prepare a Transparency Code for these parish councils. It is expected that the Code would be similar to the present Freedom of Information requirements.

769 It was noted that the changes would not apply to the current audit cycle, but the need for a form of independent checking of the accounts and procedures, in lieu of external audit, would be considered when the Code was finalised.

770 An invoice from EDF Energy for street lighting was approved at £96.77.
Cheque No. 1058. (PCA 1957, s3).

771 An invoice from T. Wilkins for dredging streams was approved at £830.40.
Cheque No. 1059. (Public Health Act 1936, ss259 and 260)

772 A substitute cheque was approved for the £150 grant to the Kilmersdon History group's display at Radstock Museum.
Cheque No. 1064 (LGA 1972, s137) being a total of £162.00, to cover the Museum expenses related to the bank rejection of **Cheque No. 1057.**

773 An invoice from the Clerk for salary and expenses was approved at £709.52.
Cheque No.1061. (LGA 1972, s112).

774 The Clerk's Income Tax payment was approved at £170.15.
Cheque No. 1062. (LGA 1972, s112.)

775 An invoice from SJH Services was approved for clearance of streams at £850 (Public Health Act 1936, ss259 and 260) and grass cutting at £66.00 (LGA 1972, s111)
Cheque No. 1063.

776 The Clerk said he had received a response to his letter to HMRC, which explained the RTI problem and his proposed solution. The reply stated that, as it was the RTI system being used, HMRC could not amend the records, nor offer any help in that respect. It was now too late to make corrections, since the end year date was 5 April. The Clerk undertook to investigate further to find an alternative solution.

7. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:

777 Cllr Hubble presented his poster for display at the Annual Parish Meeting, which was approved by members.

778 The date for the Annual Parish meeting was agreed as 6 May and, since it was close to the Open Meeting of the Village Hall, it was decided to revert to the original format with a time allotted for public participation.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

779 Deferred to the next meeting.

9. HIGHWAY MATTERS:

and 780 The Clerk reported that he had not received any further responses concerning all the matters currently outstanding with the Highways Agency. It was understood that the Agency was experiencing delays due to flood related difficulties.

10.

781 The clearance of streams was still being progressed. Completion was expected shortly, with only a small number of obstacles needing to be removed.

782 The major JCB work was complete, but it now remained for the banks to be cleared where the silt from the beds had been deposited.

11. PLANNING MATTERS:

planning permissions applied for:

783

Ref: 2014/0093/OTA

Proposal: Outline planning application for residential development.

Location: Land S.E. Of A367 Westfield Midsomer Norton

Applicant: Landray Will Trust

Application Type: Outline

Council recommended refusal.

Detailed comments were forwarded which concluded with:

Taken all round, these points of uncertainty show that the proposals in hand are likely to be unsustainable in the current circumstances, and significant changes to infrastructure and facilities would be necessary to make that possible. It is noted that the application has been submitted on the basis that Mendip does not have a Local Plan, but it is considered that the proposal has not demonstrated the alternative view, "presumption in favour of sustainability," can be achieved.

The parish council has also accepted the weight of public opinion and considers there is sufficient reason to recommend refusal of this application.

784

Ref: 2014/0448/TCA

Proposal: Proposed felling of eucalyptus tree in a conservation area.

Location: Ragg House, Silver Street, Kilmersdon, Frome, Radstock.

Applicant: Mr E Hallam

Application Type: Works/felling trees in a C/A

Council recommended approval, since this was considered to be essential work.

11. PLANNING MATTERS (CONTD):
planning permissions applied for:

785

Ref: 2014/0261/FUL

Proposal: Installation of packaged wood pellet boiler plant complete with wood pellet store and underground pipework to connect into the existing heating system for the house and adjacent 2 flats.

Location: Ammerdown House, Ammerdown Park Radstock BA3 5SH

Applicant: Mr Andrew Jolliffe

Application Type: Householder Application

Council recommended that the decision should be left to the planning officer. It was not clear whether pellets would need to be imported, as opposed to making use of wood available locally. This would impinge on any claims of environmental benefit.

786

Ref: 2014/0262/FUL

Proposal: Installation of packaged wood pellet boiler plant complete with wood pellet store and underground pipework to connect into the existing heating system for the house and adjacent 2 flats.

Location: Ammerdown House, Ammerdown Park Radstock BA3 5SH

Applicant: Mr Andrew Jolliffe

Application Type: Listed building application

Council recommended that the decision should be left to the planning officer. It was not clear whether pellets would need to be imported, as opposed to making use of wood available locally. This would impinge on any claims of environmental benefit.

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Planning appeal registered:

Ref: 2013/1356

Proposal: Installation of ground mounted photovoltaic (PV) solar arrays to provide 5.8MW generation capacity together with transformer stations; internal access track; landscaping; fencing; security measures; access gate; and ancillary infrastructure

Location: Land at New Tynning Farm, Waterside Lane, Kilmersdon, BA3 5TE.

Applicant: INRG Solar Ltd. C/O Agent.

Council confirmed the earlier recommendation of refusal for permission and to reject this appeal. The Clerk undertook to respond to the Planning Inspectorate, enclosing 3 copies each of the submission and the previous planning application response.

12. PLAY EQUIPMENT:

788

Details of the design, costs and terms and conditions from Chrysalis Landscaping for the community garden had been forwarded for information. It was agreed that the Play Park Committee would need to apply to council if a grant was needed.

13. POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT SCHEME:

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No report.

14. REVIEW OF PROCEDURES:

790

The Clerk said he would provide details of backup alternatives by email, to save time at this meeting.

15. VILLAGE HALL:

791 The Clerk undertook to enquire of the Highways Agency the costs of marking the disabled
drivers' car parking spaces at the Village Hall. Subject to the cost being reasonable, the parish
council would meet the expenses.

792

The Clerk said he would now write formally to Linden's to remove the fence between the
newly leased extension of the playing field and the original land.

793 Members gave covering approval for the use of the playing field on 24 April by Norton
Radstock College BTEC students.

16. CORRESPONDENCE:

794 None received.

17. MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

795 None

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

796 **The Annual Parish Council meeting will be held on 12th May at 7.30 p.m. in the Coles
Garden Meeting Rooms.**

797 **The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 6th May at 7pm in the Village Hall.**

798 There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.30pm