

**Minutes of the Kilmersdon Parish Council
held at Coles Garden Meeting Room
at 7.30pm on Monday 1 December, 2014**



PRESENT: Councillors J Hubble, D Hudson, and S Gibbs,

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk and 3 members of the public.

Min No

- 1. 10 APOLOGIES:**
Apology received from Cllrs R Morse, A Jolliffe and D Phripp, County Cllr Harvey Siggs and Ward Cllr Edward Drewe.

2. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME:

11. The Clerk informed the members of the public that a Council meeting could not be commenced until the expected arrival of Cllr Gibbs.
12. PC Stuart Ball was present and introduced himself as Beat Manager. He explained the future policies for policing locally and said he had visited the Orchard area to see the prevailing conditions there. In company with Cllr Morse and representatives from Sustrans a number of options were considered. These included clearance of the area, grass cutting and the possibility of restricting vehicle access to prevent damage. There was little evidence of criminal activity, but patrolling would continue.
PC Ball left the meeting and was thanked by members for his contribution.

Cllr Gibbs arrived at this point.

13. Mr Hill of SJH Services said that the work on the streams had been completed and gave a detailed explanation of the work done and how the remaining debris left on the banks would be removed. It had been pointed out that the respective farmers had constructed wild life margins and had expressed fears that continued access could cause damage there. Discussion on site had taken place between the farmers, Mr Hill and the Clerk and ideas exchanged on how to minimise that damage.

The meeting, then being quorate, commenced.

3. MINUTES:

14. The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 3 November 2014 were approved and signed, but subject to two amendments:
15. Item 988 was amended to read “.... noted that the village could be moved up from Secondary to Primary Village status. It seemed possible that this might present opportunities for developers. Cllr Drewe committed to investigate this matter further and report back to the Council.”
16. Item 989 was amended to read “The County was attempting to improve care for the aged and children.”

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:

17 There were no declarations.

5. MATTERS ARISING:

18 The Clerk mentioned that the website was working well and the information there would continue to be developed.

6. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

19 An invoice from SJH Services was approved for clearance of streams at £2000.00 (Public Health Act 1936, ss259 and 260) and clearance of leaves on Jack and Jill Hill at £30.00 (LGA 1972, s111)

Cheque No. 1098.

(Post meeting note: This cheque became lost in post. In view of the general nature of postal difficulties being experienced in the parish, the cheque was stopped at the bank and Cheque No 1099 issued in lieu.)

20 An invoice from the Clerk for stationery (computer inks) was approved at £36.43.

Cheque No. 1097. (LGA 1972, s 112)

21 In response to a resident's enquiry the Clerk had spoken to a representative of Linden's concerning the flowerbed in the corner of the laying field near the show house. The alternative proposals for maintenance there were considered and the members' preferred option was for Linden's to clear the plants and reseed the area, since this involved no cost to the Council. The Clerk undertook to inform Linden's.

22 An invoice from Southern Electric for street lighting in October was approved at £3.13. (To be cleared by DD on 19 November) (PCA 1957, s3).

23 The Clerk had circulated details of the impending revised audit requirements and it was noted that a form of independent audit would be needed. The legislation to dispense with the need an External Audit was expected in the next few months and the method of providing that oversight would be developed. At present, the proposals in hand at central government level are taking the form of an enhancement to the current Freedom of Information Act, together with some of the existing annual documentation.

24 It was agreed to confirm the appointment of Paul Clark as internal auditor.

25 It was agreed to accept a quotation of £45.58 from Came and Co to increase insurance cover for the new community play area.

26 The budget and precept discussion was taken at the end of the agenda, after all of the following business.

27 The forecast was examined in detail, taking into account many aspects of budgeting, but it was considered necessary to research some of the budget lines before reaching a final decision on the amount for the precept. Members required further examination of the need for continued maintenance of the streams and the level of funding requested in the current grant applications, together with a short list of other expenses.

The Clerk undertook to prepare a revised set of budget and precept figures for decision at the next meeting.

7. **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:**

28 The Clerk said he had enough information to draft a notice for a joint meeting and would seek agreement from the Village Hall Committee.

8. **HIGHWAY MATTERS:**

29 Following the suggestion to raise a Traffic Order, the Clerk undertook to raise the matter with Highways for implementation, with funding to be provided by Wessex Water.

30 The Clerk had ascertained from Highways that the information obtained by SIDs would best be used for driver education and could be used in road safety negotiations, including enforcement. It was agreed that the raw data collected by SIDs would be useful to the council. The Clerk undertook to ask if this could be provided.

31 It was noted that the village sign on Kilmersdon – “KILMERSDON – HOME OF JACK AND JILL” – had been damaged. The Clerk undertook to forward a request to Highways asking for a replacement sign.

9. **PLANNING MATTERS:**

32 Cllr Hubble said he was nearing completion of the draft Village Design Statement, but it would be necessary to make enquiries concerning the Estate-owned land in order to establish any potential influence on preparation of the VDS and, later, the Parish Plan. The Clerk undertook to accept proposals for questions and make enquiries of Savills. (Post meeting note: A number of questions were forwarded to the Clerk, some of which were put to Savills, but the remainder to be referred to members for decision at the next meeting.)

33 ***Planning permissions applied for:***

Ref: 2014/2088/FUL

Proposal: The provision of 588 photovoltaic panels on south facing roof slope of 2 existing farm buildings (one group of 174 and one of 414 panels)..

Location: Green Parlour Farm, Green Parlour Radstock BA3 5UB

Applicant: Not stated

Application Type: Full.

Council recommended that this proposal be left to the planning officer.

In making this recommendation, the parish council has recognised that the siting of PV panels on existing buildings is an appropriate and sensible application of renewable energy technology, but has also has raised some concerns affecting the proposal:

(a) This application is made on behalf of the Ammerdown Estate not the tenant farmer. It is claimed that the generation capacity will make the farm energy self-sufficient, but it is not clear if the farming enterprise will derive any financial benefit from the proposed scheme.

(b) The extent to which disruption during the installation phase and, as a result of future maintenance requirements, might compromise the farming business is not considered.

PLANNING MATTERS (CONTD):

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(c) The installation requires the siting of 588 panels on the roofs of existing buildings. The manufacturers data (provided) on the proposed panels shows their individual weight to be 19Kg. This equates to an additional weight of 3.3 tonnes (174 panels) on one roof and 7.9 tonnes (414 panels) on the other. It is not clear if the design of the existing buildings can safely accommodate this extra loading or if additional construction work will be required. Indeed there appears to be nothing in the application to show that this issue has even been considered.

34 It was noted that a process to introduce the new Community Infrastructure Levy was now hand, but details not yet finalised. The CIL was intended to replace the monetary provisions contained in the Town and Country Planning Act of 1990, s106. The amount due to parishes would be calculated by the District Councils.

10. REVIEW OF PROCEDURES:

35 The decision to adopt the revised Standing Orders was deferred to the next meeting.

11. PCSO:

36 Taken under Item 2, Public Speaking Time

12. CORRESPONDENCE:

37 None received.

13. MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:

38 To finalise the budget and precept decisions. Deadline 15th January 2015.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

39 **The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 5 January 2015 at 7.00 p.m. in the Coles Garden Meeting Rooms.**

40 There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.10pm