

Minutes of the Kilmersdon Parish Council
held at Coles Garden Meeting Room
at 7.30pm on Monday 7 December, 2015



PRESENT: Councillors S Gibbs, D Hudson, A Jolliffe and R Morse.

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk.

Three members of the public

**Min
No**

1. APOLOGIES:

50 Apologies received from Cllr D Phripp, County Cllr H Siggs and Ward Cllr E Drewe.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:

2. 51 Cllr Jolliffe declared an interest for Item 6.

3. MINUTES:

52 The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 2 November 2015 were approved, subject, to amendment and signed:

Minute 25 to read:

“Two members of the public were present. One was interested in Local Plan Part II. The other commented on the condition of the Orchard area.”

4. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME:

53 A member of the public spoke of further deterioration of the Orchard area; another spoke about the Local Plan, and the Ranger for Sustrans on the Colliers Way requested permission to replace a sign which had been vandalised.

5. MATTERS ARISING:

54 The Clerk informed members of changes to the website and to his email facility. The website provider had upgraded the web-builder software to make its web sites compatible with mobiles and other devices. The hitherto free (front) web page now attracted a charge of up to £9.99 per month, with an alternative at £6.99 per month. It was recognised that we should comply with legislation and it was agreed to adopt the paid-for website.

(Post meeting note:

The Clerk has since negotiated a new price of £4.99 per month. The penalty was the loss of the existing site and a need to reconstruct a new one.)

55 The Clerk also said he had been receiving unwanted and unacceptable emails for a long time during the year. He believed that ill-intended persons had trawled the MDC website for clerks addresses to send rubbish messages. He informed members of his new email address and confirmed that anyone could still make email contact by using the clerk@kilmersdonpc.co.uk address. He was in the process of transferring the important emails to the new address, prior to deleting the old one.

6. PLANNING MATTERS:

56 **Ref:** 2015/2664/HSE.

Proposal: Erection of two storey side extension, single storey rear extension, front open porch and detached garage. Relocation of vehicular entrance gate. Remodel of existing house to include new window sizes/locations and changes to external cladding.

Location: Venture, School Lane, Kilmersdon.

Applicant: Mr and Mrs Neil Brown

Type: Householder Application.

Council recommended approval since it was considered that the proposal was within the existing footprint and not intrusive for neighbouring properties.

57 **Ref:** 2015/2705/LBC

Proposal: Conservation and repair of stonework, joinery repairs, paint sampling and redecoration.

Location: Church of St Margaret, Vobster Cross To Hatchet Hill Babington, Frome.

Applicant: Mr Len Morris (Trustee)

Type: Listed Building Consent.

Council noted that this application was in respect of a listed building and would prefer the decision to be left to the Planning Officer.

58 **Ref:** 2015/2710/HSE

Proposal: Provision of a driveway and parking; raising the height of existing single storey extension for accommodation at first floor level..

Location: Cariad, Silver Street, Kilmersdon BA3 5SU.

Applicant: Mrs J James

Type: Householder Application

Council recommended refusal. The construction would not be of good appearance. Access would be too narrow and restricted for safety. On exit from the drive, the angle would increase the likelihood of accidents, which would be exacerbated by the local poor lighting. It is considered there would be a need for off road parking.

59 In response to consultation requests, members had considered the implications of the proposals contained in Local Plan Part II and would let the Clerk have their comments before the closing date of 16th December.

(Post meeting note:

The Clerk received all the details and forwarded the response to MDC on 15th December.)

60 Information had been received to the effect that planning application 2015/1448 (the Village Shop) would be discussed on 16th December at Shepton Mallet. Cllrs Hudson and Gibbs indicated they would attend.

(Post meeting note:

It was later established that the application would not be discussed until 2016.)

Cllr Jolliffe left the meeting at this point.

7. FINANCIAL MATTERS:

- 61 The annual precept for 2015/16 was set at £ £12,145.00, being an increase of 3% considered necessary to maintain essential services within the parish and to make future provision for replacement of the play equipment.
(LGFRA 1992, ss 41 and 50)
- 62 Invoices from Southern Electric for street lighting were approved for October at £15.52 and November at £14.36.
(To be cleared by DD on 20 November and 19 December. (PCA 1957, s3).
- 63 An invoice from Savills for garage rental was approved at £50.00.
Cheque No. 1133. (LGA 1072, s111)
- 64 An invoice from the Clerk for expenses was approved at £59.52.
Cheque No. 1134. (LGA 1972, s112).
- 65 The Clerk said he had not yet received applications in respect of Cllr Siggs' offer of grants under his Well Being Award Scheme for the current year. It was considered that a form could be forwarded to the Village Hall secretary and the Clerk undertook to arrange.
- 66 In response to a request from Somerset County Council for suggestions on how to make savings of £30 million, councillors agreed to forward comments to the Clerk for onward transmission to the County.
(Post meeting note:
The Clerk received all the details and forwarded the response to MDC on 15th December.)
- 67 Information had been received in respect of the future of audit. It was now confirmed that an auditor must be appointed. An offer from SALC to it enable the establishment of a sector-led body to appoint auditors and to manage audit contracts was considered and it was agreed to use that facility for future audits.
- 68 On offer was accepted from the Community Council for Somerset of help in respect of the current levels of the Community Infrastructure Levy, which is the new way that local authorities can collect tax from new development.

8. HIGHWAY MATTERS:

- 69 The Clerk said his request to Highways to move the 30mph sign at the East end of the village had stalled: the officer was temporarily absent and other officers were handling his work. The Clerk had asked the officer managing the SIDs if these could be used to determine the approach speeds, to allow estimation of the likely speeds on passing the sign, but it had been explained that vehicles so measured would in fact be travelling at legal speeds. It was recommended that another engineer, possibly Jeff Bunting, could be approached for a solution.
- 70 It was noted that the local tree surveyor had not yet cut back the overgrowth in Silver Street. Cllr Gibbs undertook to make enquiries locally and report back to the council.
- 71 The Chairman reported that he had made enquiries concerning the repair of the broken sign at the Triangle, but had no firm information at present. He had made a repair to the "Jack and Jill" Kilmersdon sign.

9. **PLAYING FIELD:**
72 Following the complaints last month of dogs fouling the playing field, a notice had been placed in the Parish Newsletter. It was now decided to place signs at the entrances to the field stating that dogs are not allowed in the field.
73 It was agreed to renew the notice to the Village Hall Committee granting their use of the car park for their functions.
10. **LITTER AND MAINTENANCE:**
74 Item not taken.
11. **FOOTPATHS:**
75 The Clerk said he had prepared a register of those volunteers who had expressed a wish to adopt a footpath in their vicinity and would publish shortly.
76 The Footpath Warden was to retire at the end of the year. Council members all signed a "Thank You" card and the Clerk said he would forward it under cover of a letter expressing formal gratitude.
12. **PCSO REPORT:**
77 This item was taken at Public Speaking Time.
PCSO Mike Storey said the next Steering Group meeting would be held on 8th December and the next PACT meeting would be held at Holcombe on 7th January 2016.
78 The level of minor disturbance near the Village Hall had reduced recently.
79 A degree of rural crime had been noted, but it was felt that some crimes had not been reported. Members made the point that there was a perceived low level of police success among the public, which was a likely factor in non-reporting. An additional factor was that the telephone 101 facility was a slow contact medium and long delays in making calls were being experienced.
13. **CORRESPONDENCE:**
80 None.
14. **MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:**
81 None.
15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**
82 **The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 4th January 2016 at 7.30 p.m. in the Coles Garden Meeting Rooms.**
83 There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.25pm