

**Minutes of the Kilmersdon Parish Council  
held at Coles Garden Meeting Room  
at 7.30pm on Monday 8 September, 2014**



**PRESENT:** Councillors R Morse, J Hubble, D Phripp and D Hudson

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Clerk.

**Min No**

**1. APOLOGIES:**

917 Apologies received from Cllr A Jolliffe, County Cllr H Siggs and Ward Cllr E Drew.

**2. MINUTES:**

918 The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 14 July 2014 were approved and signed.

**3. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME:**

919 There was no public representation.

**4. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS:**

920 There were no declarations.

**5. MATTERS ARISING:**

921 The Clerk said he had received information concerning amendments to current Standing Orders. It was agreed that the Clerk should examine SOs and prepare proposals for review and adoption by February 2015, in time to meet audit requirements for the current financial year.

**6. 922 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:**

A proposal to combine the Annual Parish Meeting with that of the Village Hall Annual Event was considered and it was agreed that the suggestion be discussed further with the Village Hall Committee. Clerk to arrange a meeting.

**7. FINANCIAL MATTERS:**

923 An invoice from Southern Electric for street lighting in July was approved at £3.13. (Paid via Direct Debit on 24 August) (PCA 1957, s3).

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

925 It was resolved to review and approve the Direct Debit arrangement and payments annually, commencing in May 2015. Clerk to continue showing monthly payments as for Item 7-924 above  
Proposed by Cllr Hudson; seconded by Cllr Morse.

926 An invoice from SJH Services for grass cutting was approved at £204.00.  
**Cheque No. 1088 dated 20.8.14.** (LGA 1972, s111)

**FINANCIAL MATTERS (CONTD):**

**7. FINANCIAL MATTERS (CONTD):**

- 927 An invoice from Grant Thornton LLP for audit services was approved at £120  
**Cheque No. 1089. Dated 20.8.14** (AAR 2011 (6)).
- 928 An invoice from Savills for playing field rental was approved at 1.00.  
**Cheque No. 1090.** (Open spaces Act 1906, s9)
- 929 An invoice from SJH Services for grass cutting was approved at £204.00.  
**Cheque No. 1091.** (LGA 1972, s111)
- 930 A statement of account from Radstock Museum in respect of the parish council grant of £150.00 was noted. Members were satisfied that the grant had been properly spent and agreed that the residual balance of £250.00 be retained by the museum.

**8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

- 931 The election of a Village Day representative was deferred to the next meeting.
- 932 Membership of the Planning Working Party was deferred to the next meeting.

**9. HIGHWAY MATTERS:**

- 933 The Clerk said he had received notice from the Flood Mitigation Team at Somerset County Council to the effect that a grant of £3500 had been allocated for stream clearance.
- 934 The grant was subject to the same conditions as previously, including that the work be completed first and before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015.
- 935 The Clerk and Chairman, together with the contractor, had again inspected the length of stream from the pumping station to Waterside Lane; a distance of about 500 metres. It was confirmed that amount of work and difficulty would be greater than of the previous occasion. Clearance.
- 936 An estimate from the contractor had been obtained but was higher than expected. It was agreed that the Clerk should arrange for the work to be commenced, but to keep the costs within the levels of the grant.  
(Post meeting note:  
The Clerk has arranged that the contractor will commence the work, but to inform the Clerk when the costs has reached £3000, so that further consideration may be given before proceeding further.)
- 937 The introduction of a 30mph speed limit at Charlton was at the consultation stage and a decision was expected shortly. It was noted that there was some delay at Somerset County Council on re-positioning of the 30mph sign and other improvements in Kilmersdon Village. The Highways Agency was experiencing ordering difficulties with the intended suppliers, but completion was expected by end-October.
- 938 Details of the SID speed report for the period 8 to 22 August were examined and noted. The figures showed that the majority of traffic – 85% % – was travelling at less than 30-mph.

**HIGHWAY MATTERS(CONTD:)**

9. **HIGHWAY MATTERS(CONTD:)**

939 A request was considered for regular hedge trimming in Silver Street. Cllr Phripp said he would ascertain who was responsible for the hedges mentioned and would inform the Clerk.  
(Post meeting note:

The Clerk was informed on 9 September and contacted Aster Housing.)

*To consider Somerset County and IDB proposal to create a network of volunteers to*

*(a) inspect local watercourses*

*(b) advise landowners of what maintenance is required and*

*(c) report serious issues to the IDB/CC.*

10. **PLANNING MATTERS:**

940 Cllr Hubble said he had received 30 questionnaire responses for the proposed Village Design Statement; 11 on-line and 19 paper based. This was equivalent to around 12% of the households in the Parish.

941 Full details are given at the Annex to these minutes.

10. In summary:

There was strong agreement on building and landscaping; public footpaths and open spaces, and traffic safety improvements.

There was strong opposition to large-scale renewable energy schemes and large housing developments.

It was considered that, although the level of response was low, it would be sufficient to help in the formulation of a Village Design Statement.

942 ***Planning permissions applied for:***

**Ref:** 2014/1587/OTA

**Proposal:** Outline planning permission for residential development comprising up to 6 dwellings, with vehicular access via Frome Road consistent with permission ref: 13/01709/OUT, along with landscape planting to the southern boundary.

**Location:** Land South West of Frome Road, Writhlington, Radstock.

**Applicant:** Mr Andrew Jolliffe

**Application Type:** Outline – All Matters Reserved.

Members present recommended approval, but wished to make the following observations:

The plot is approximately triangular and is mainly in the BANES area, with only 5 or 6 dwellings to be situated in a corner, which falls within the parish boundary. As BANES has already granted permission for the larger proposal, the parish council felt there was little point in raising any objection to this proposal.

The parish council is concerned on management and logistics for the site generally. For instance, the occupiers of the 5/6 house would need to travel to the recycling centre at Frome, whilst the others would need to travel to the one at Midsomer Norton. Whilst that is a personal matter, the weekly rubbish and recycling collections would necessarily follow the same pattern.

Similar difficulties could arise with street lighting if managed by different authorities.

Given that authorities are being encouraged to enter clustering agreements, it is suggested that BANES, as the major holder, be approached to take on and manage these and any similar tasks.

The parish council is also concerned that the access to Frome Road will present traffic dangers. We were instrumental in requesting the road improvements at Terry Hill, which had suffered serious accidents. Although the Frome Road near the site is subject to a 40-mph speed limit, there is a strong feeling that vehicles will be travelling in excess of that. It is suggested that road safety improvements, similar to those at Terry Hill should be incorporated in this scheme.

**11. PLAY EQUIPMENT:**

943 Following Linden's removal of their cable across the playing field, It was agreed that the grass cutting contractor should now remove the remaining fence and debris in the area. Clerk to arrange with SJH Services.

**- PCSO:**

944 The Chairman updated members on a meeting called by Avon and Somerset Police for parish councillors to express their views on policing. It appeared that the allocation of a PCSO for the parish was still awaited.

945 The Clerk said he had contacted the police on 2 September, via the telephone number 101, but was still awaiting a response. He had received details contact details for the Sergeant, Beat Manager and PCSO for Kilmersdon and would publish when confirmed.

**13. VILLAGE HALL:**

946 Cllr Hudson agreed to act as representative on the Village Hall Committee for the forthcoming year and signed the form of acceptance.

**14. CORRESPONDENCE:**

947 None received.

**15. MATTERS OF REPORT & ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING:**

948 To consider strategy to guide the Clerk in preparation of next Budget.

**16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

949 **The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 6 October at 7.30 p.m. in the Coles Garden Meeting Rooms.**

950 There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.20pm

**ANNEXE TO MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**  
**HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014**

Item10 – Planning Matters.

Questions 1-15 covered various aspects of housing and what is commonly termed the “Built Environment”. These included the matching of new building styles to the existing character of the village, the importance of landscaping, lighting, planting of trees, and maintaining views of open countryside. In all cases the average score was over 4 indicating a high level of agreement that these issues are important.

Question 15 which addressed the desirability of additional low cost housing while being strongly supported by the majority of respondents did show some opposing views giving an average score of 3.86.

There were strong scores for the need to maintain existing public spaces, footpaths and by-ways and strong support for protection of recreational areas. While still scoring 4.13, there was slightly less support for the need for extensions to the existing footpaths and rights of way network.

Questions addressing issues of traffic and road safety generated strong agreement that improvements were needed but somewhat less agreement on how this should be achieved. Protecting the needs of pedestrians attracted one of the highest scores (4.67), but there was also strong support for the need to site and maintain existing road signs with care. The suggestion that road markings should be kept to a minimum compatible with safety considerations generated a more mixed response with a score of 3.77. Similarly support for speed bumps and chicanes to limit traffic speed was split giving a score of 3.48.

The remaining two questions covering the desirability of large scale renewable energy schemes and large housing developments showed a high level of opposition with scores of 1.86 and 1.58 respectively.

The majority of the specific comments concerned the issue of traffic and the need for improved road safety, but again some opposition was expressed to the use of chicanes.

While the size of the response to the survey is somewhat disappointing, these results do help to give the Parish Council a broader view of community opinions and will help in the formulation of future policy on road traffic issues and responses to future planning applications. Finally the data will be central to the development of a Village Design Statement.