

Minutes of Kilmeston Parish Meeting held 19th March 2024.

Present: - Cllr.Simon Young – Chairman (SY)
Cllr. Nick Gerrard (NG)
Cllr. Hannah Beckett-Pratt (HB)
Cllr. Charlie Parry (CP)
Cllr. Jason Bridges (JB)
Mr Kenrick Fell - Clerk
Cllr. Jerry Pett - WCC
Cllr. Neil Bolton – WCC
Mrs Suzie Parry
Mr Barrie Frampton
Mr and Mrs Mike Curtis
Mr and Mrs David Hill

1. WELCOME.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Cllr. Rob Humby.

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST.

Nil.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 16th JANUARY 2024.

The Minutes were agreed and were signed by the Chairman.

5. MATTERS ARISING.

Nil.

6. PARISH MATTERS AND COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS: -

a) Lengthsman (CP)

CP stated that all the work for this financial year had been completed and he was awaiting details of the continuation of the scheme.

b) Footpaths. (JB)

JB reported that there were no problems other than they were very wet. With regard to stiles it was possible some of the Fete funds could be used to replace them as they were difficult for some members of the community. However the Parish Council would need to liaise with the landowners.

c) Village Green (NG)

The Clerk said that he had corresponded with the contractor Idverde, and they would start grass cutting when it was dry.

d) River Itchen. (HB)

HB stated that a meeting had been held with the NT representative and they had walked around Mud Lane etc. They had discussed what could be done to alleviate the water problem. The NT thought there was a combination of factors causing the problem. The Itchen Preservation Trust want a long-term solution. The NT are unwilling to take any more water on to their field as it is already waterlogged.

Barrie Frampton stated that he had been taking photographs since 2017. He had visited with Lee from the NT. The pipes were too small for the amount of water and the ditch in Mud Lane was not capable of taking all the water off the NT field. It was thought that the plan drawn up by adviser's for the NT was totally wrong. The amount of soil in the water has increased since re-wilding. He mentioned highway pipes under the road but until the NT reduce the water, highways will not do anything. Highways will not dump water into a chalk stream. The NT are strapped for cash but understand the problem. He also mentioned the water problems at Cheriton.

HB stated that the broken manhole cover on the A272 was replaced.

e) Highways (SY)

The main problem was the water.

f) General Maintenance

Nil.

g) Councillor's Reports.

Rob Humby's Report and Hugh Lumby/Neil Bolton's reports had been distributed to Members. Cllr. Bolton gave an update on the 20mph situation. The Government will not fund 20mph schemes and therefore the cost to Parish Councils will be around £30,000. Cllr. Pett thought the Environment Agency should lobby the National Trust re the water problem.

7. BROADBAND.

Cllr. Bridgen stated that Open Reach had paid Southern Electric for all but 2 poles. The planning of the scheme was being organised. Meetings were taking place every Friday and Flick Drummond MP was assisting. The scheme would operate using poles around the village.

8. PLANNING.

SDNP/24/00818/HOUS Grey Farm House Mr & Mrs Martin
Proposed single storey ancillary studio and home office.
PC No objection.

9. OPEN FORUM.

Members discussed a proposed Brockwood Festival to be held at Sheep Dip, Joans Acre Lane, Hinton Ampner in July 2024. This would be over 3 days. A meeting was to be held in Winchester on 10th April to discuss the licence. However the organisers were already selling tickets for the event. The Friends of the South Downs had submitted comments on the 4th of March and Mike Curtis will send the PC a copy.

10. CORRESPONDENCE (KF)

SENT

RECEIVED

Report from Cllr. Bridgen.

Report from Cllrs. Bolton & Pett WCC

SDNP Meeting 13th March 2024

WCC Spaces of Sanctuary

Clerks & Councils Direct March

Elan City – New speed signs

Breast Walk

NALC Village Halls Week

Lemon Booking – Village Hall Booking Systems

11. ACCOUNTS (Clerk)

PAYMENTS

CPRE Subs. £36.00

Clerk's exps. £103.14

Cartridges £46.73

The Chairman stated that Kilmeston PC will not be making any further contributions to Cheriton playground as the cost of grass cutting the Green had increased to such an extent that the PC had to decide how many cuts it could afford. However it had been decided that the contractor should carry out a full complement of cuts as it was considered the quality of the Green should be maintained.

Accounts agreed and Monthly Financial Statement signed.

12. SUCCESSION.

The Chairman Simon Young stated that he was standing down and he had found a replacement resident who would be co-opted to the PC at this meeting and would be willing to stand as Chairman at the Annual Meeting.

Members and the Clerk thanked Simon for his service to the community and wished him well in the future.

Mr Edward Pitts was co-opted to the Parish Council but will sign the Declaration of Office at a meeting to be arranged when an official handover will take place.

13. ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA.

Election of Chairman.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 21st May 2024. ANNUAL ASSEMBLY/ANNUAL MEETING.

The Clerk reminded Members that reports on their specific area would be required for the Annual Assembly.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40 pm.