

KINGSTONE AND THRUXTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Website www.kingstoneandthruxtongpc.org

MINUTES

**Kingstone and Thrupton Group Parish Council
meeting held on Wednesday 14th July 2021 at 7.00p.m.
held in the Village Hall**

Clerk's email address: thelesleyhay@hotmail.co.uk

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PRESENT: Cllr Nick Knudsen (Chairman); Cllr Andrew Williamson; Cllr D Lloyd; Cllr L Thorne; Cllr S Walker; Cllr J Watkins and Cllr C Pugh (Vice Chairman);

PRESENT: Parish Clerk: Mrs L A Hay.
5 members of the public.

Chairman welcomed those present to the July meeting.

MINUTES

1. **Acceptance of apologies for absence** – Cllr M Walker; Cllr A Vincent; Ward Councillor Bolderson and Mr S Madison – Seven Sports Association.
2. **Declarations of interests**, Disclosable Pecuniary, Non-Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary interests. No declarations of Interest declared.
3. **The minutes** from meeting held 27th May 2021 were considered to be a true record and it was unanimously agreed that they be adopted and be signed by the Chairman.

4. Co-option

Co-option. The Chairman reminded Councillors that since the 2019 elections there are still Parish Councillor vacancies and these vacancies can be filled by co-option. The Chairman was delighted to introduce Teresa Broomfield who had recently put her name forward with a view to becoming Parish Councillor.

After a short discussion, it was unanimously agreed to invite Teresa to join the Parish Council and she duly signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form and moved to the table with full voting rights. The Clerk will complete the necessary paper work and inform the Elections Officer.

5. Members of the public – open session

There was a query about when the Bingo would restart following the Covid19 lockdown. Cllr S Walker explained that there is a Village Hall committee meeting planned to be held shortly which would include discussion on restarting Bingo and future dates.

Communal Spaces and Management fees:

An email had been circulated from a resident about the costs being charged to mow a small area of communal grass in Whitehouse Drive.

The Chairman explained that at some point the unitary council in Herefordshire decided that communal land in new developments would not be adopted but would be subjected to upkeep by a Management Company. Management Companies formed for this purpose have all the members as shareholders who see the accounts every year and are entitled to a clear understanding about where the costs arise and how the annual charge is made up.

The same resident raised an issue about the pile driver being used on the Lagan Homes site which is creating a noise measuring about 70db in Kingstone. The chairman explained that he lived close to the building site and that he had discussed this in detail with the Site Manager. The work has been mandated by Building Regulators and will last a few more days.

(a) Community Speed Watch

An email had been received explaining that there was now a new Community Speed Watch Coordinator – Mark Booth. Cllr Colin Pugh will liaise with Mark Booth to arrange a site meeting in the village once Covid restrictions allow.

(b) Thruxton horse pond – this pond has been reported as having developed Japanese Knotweed – the Clerk asked to report this to Balfour Beatty for urgent attention. It maybe that the lengthsman Terry Griffiths may need to be asked to help with its removal.

6. Chairman's Report. To include:

- Road safety Plans and way ahead.

The chairman explained that he had made contact with Andy Byng – Hereford Council Highways and Transport who has agreed to meet with Parish Council representatives. The Chairman explained that there is an outline Road Traffic plan in place and it is hoped that residents – with their local knowledge - would add to that plan.

The Chairman explained that the TRO 2020 to implement a 30mph speed limit for the B4349 is due to start from 28 July – this work to be undertaken by a Lagan

Homes contractor - but there are some concerns that need to be raised for consideration.

- The entry to the village from Clehonger is a major source of concern as the current signage for the speed limit is, for most of the year, obscured with vegetation and the sign that indicates the crossroads on the entry to the village is barely visible. Similarly, the speed limit marked on the road is on the brow of a hill, making it very indistinct. There is concern that there is insufficient warning of a major crossroads just after the speed limit is imposed, where the warning sign is obscured, and with little distance to reduce the speed from seeing the revised speed limit.
- There are 4 bus stops along the route through the village where bus stops are only signed on one side of the road, safety would be improved if the bus stops were marked on the carriage way as recently applied in Clehonger.
- Finally, at the corner of Cooks Lane with the crossroads to the primary school, the speed bump in the direction from Peterchurch is some way from the corner and vehicles appear at 40mph round a blind bend. This crossing is patrolled by a School Traffic Warden and its safety needs to be improved.

It is hoped that the above issues can be discussed with Andy Byng at the meeting mentioned above - hopefully to be arranged before the 28th July.

- Drainage.

The ditch at the back of the Sports field - these works have been approved and given the Job Number MA 1700029 and now are near to the top of the list. However, when Cllr Pugh followed this up - he has been informed by J Hockenhull that the work will be surveyed later this year. Cllr Pugh is hoping to arrange a site visit with Mr Hockenhull and will report back to Council.

- Lagan Homes update – noise from pile driver see open session.
- Locality Steward and Lengthsman.

The clerk confirmed that Terry Griffiths is the lengthsman. Paul Wright is the Footpath Officer. Funding from Herefordshire Council was ceased some years ago and their work is now funded from the Precept.

- Neighbourhood leads and Youth Parish Council.

The Chairman explained that maybe if a local Youth Parish Council was formed – it may encourage the younger generation of the village to take leadership and responsibility for their behaviour and actions and so reduce vandalism. Item to remain on the agenda.

7. Police Report. Chairman reported that he had completed the West Mercia Police Community Charter and this has been submitted.

The police are aware and addressing the anti-social behaviour in the school car park.

8. Financial matters.

Finance: Account sheet/schedule of payment sheet circulated.

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|-----------------|---------------------------------|---------|
| Lesley Hay | June 21 Salary | £310.00 |
| HMRC | June 21 PAYE | £77.40 |
| Expenses | June Expenses | £ 19.15 |
| Terry Griffiths | Lengthsman duties (drainage) | £447.60 |
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It was unanimously agreed to pay the outstanding invoices.

A letter of thanks was received from Kingstone PCC for the recent donation.

9. Ward Councillor's Report.

- Update on Dirt Track update.

It was agreed to take forward a dirt bike track on the land adjacent to Lowfield Meadow. This initiative by the County Council and the West Mercia Police has the full support of the Parish Council which is welcomed as an attraction for the parish. The initial plan is that the Police will fund the project for the first year. Councillors have, in the past, visited Withington dirt bike track – and, if thought necessary, a further visit could be arranged for the new Councillors to visit to see the facilities; discuss management etc

The Chairman will inform the Ward Councillor and the Herefordshire Community Safety Partnership the Parish Council's decision to support this development.

Item to remain on the agenda.

- Update on 106 monies allocation – no further information available.

10. Highways and Environmental Matters.

- Mowing triangles – Mr Addis has confirmed that he is unable to remove the cuttings. The Clerk explained that Mr Addis has a contract for the general grass mowing and now has an additional contract for mowing the two triangles - he will invoice for both at the end of the year and will attach a new quote for 2022.
- Cutting KS25 and the KS26 - the Clerk to ask the footpaths officer to trim these footpaths.
- Hydroponic Farm – no further update available. The Chairman will follow up as there are still some concerns regarding noise levels.

10. Planning. Planning application: 210545 – Church Nook Kingstone – plans now amended. No objections raised.

11. Sports Ground

There is to be a Post Covid Picnic/Get Together on the Recreation Ground on 4th September. The Parish Council will have a stall on the day to meet residents and hear what they would like to see improve in the Parish.

11. Allotments.

A meeting with Derek Mumford - has been arranged for Monday 19th July when it is hoped he will be able to advise on setting out the allotment plots and future management. Cllr J Watkins offered to help with mowing the area and maybe spraying off the overgrown areas.

12. Update on New Clerk appointment – Lesley Hay – the current Parish Clerk leaves on the 31st August. Despite advertising, there have been no applications to date. More local advertising is now planned.

13. Correspondence/additional business

13.1 Queens 70th Jubilee Celebration – 2022 – The Chairman reported that he thought that The Lord Lieutenant had a fund for financing the celebration – i.e., to help fund a street party; planting a tree. Item to remain on the agenda.

13.2. Cllr S Walker handed over the Notice Boards keys to the Chairman.

13.3 Cllr Broomfield referred to the entrance which is on the left opposite Herefordable carpets which is on right as you come towards Kingstone. There are no signs warning of concealed entrance and the residents – for the safety of themselves and other drivers – when coming out of their lane – if they wish to go right, they are having to turn left to turn round and come back on themselves.

This was discussed in detail. It was established that there are two mirrors but they are hidden in the hedge and the landowner refuses to cut back the hedge on a regular basis.

There is an additional problem in that the lane is in Kingstone but the adjoining hedge (which is over grown and hanging over the verge and so affects visibility) is in Clehonger Parish.

The Clerk will firstly liaise with the Locality Steward – to ascertain the responsibilities – and then has been asked to write to the landowner asking him to cut back the hedge to expose the two mirrors and so help health and safety of all road users not just those who live down the lane. If the landowner is not prepared to do this – then the Locality Steward may have authority to ask our lengthsman Terry Griffiths who has the necessary equipment to this) to cut back the hedge.

It was also agreed that it would be beneficial to have a traffic sign – ‘Concealed Drive’ – and may be some road marking – these issues could be added to the discussion with Andy Byng.

Item to remain on the agenda.

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55p.m.

Signed:

Date:

Ward Councillors Report

June has been a very busy month at the Council and although I cannot summarise all activity, here is a summary of matters which I feel may be of interest.

Covid-19 Update

Regular COVID-19 testing for people without symptoms is critical for protecting the population and stopping the spread of the virus. Around one in three people who are infected with COVID-19 have no symptoms and could spread the disease without knowing it. As part of the government's roadmap out of lockdown, regular twice-weekly testing at home is now recommended - read more about [testing for COVID-19](#). You can collect your [free home testing kits](#) at various places around the county, from the reception desk in Plough Lane and at other council buildings including libraries. Alternatively you can [order free test kits online](#) to be delivered to your home.

- The seven day rolling rate of new cases by specimen date ending on 3 July 2021 the COVID-19 case rate in Herefordshire is 97 cases per 100k people. This is an increase of 120% on the previous week. Cases in England are 263.9 per 100k population
- Fluctuations in the COVID-19 case rates are expected as society reopens and asymptomatic cases are identified through regular rapid testing.
- The NHS has invited people aged 18 and over to book their COVID-19 jab.
- In Herefordshire, more than 165,000 adults (85%) have received their first dose vaccine, and more than 134,000 adults (69%) have had their second dose.
- In the UK, more than 45m adults (86%) have received their first dose vaccine, and more than 34m adults (64%) have had their second dose.

Covid-19 Recovery plan

In June, Cabinet approved the [COVID-19 recovery plan](#). The £6m investment aims to deliver the immediate actions required to enable short term economic, community wellbeing and organisational recovery.

Hereford Transport Strategy

In June, Cabinet approved £1.24m of funding to progress the development and delivery of the transport strategy in 2021/22 which includes the development of key schemes, such as safer routes to school, walking and cycling network and a new river crossing to the east of the City. The council has also secured government funding to develop proposals for improved bus services across the county.

Government published its National Bus Strategy in March and has confirmed that it intends to provide more funding for councils to improve bus services in partnership with local operators. For more details see [Go ahead given to priority City transport improvements](#)

Hereford Town Investment Plan

In June government announced an allocation of £22.4 million to Hereford to support the wide range of activity proposed in the Town Investment Plan <https://strongerhereford.co.uk/our-vision/>. Project 15 in the plan relates to Southside which falls right on the boarder of Newton Farm and Wormside and will provide a vibrant, inspiring and inclusive sports, food and skills community focal point for the people of South Wye. The Hereford Town Investment Board will now review the shortlisted projects and start developing the business case which will be submitted back to government for approval. The aim is for projects to be ready for delivery so that once investment is received, work can begin straight away.

Grants available for Herefordshire community projects

The Prime Foundation is a registered charity founded by Prime plc and has funded schemes including community sheds, sensory gardens, sports teams, cycle workshops and online wellbeing courses. If you know of a great Herefordshire cause that needs a financial boost of up to £2,200, [apply online by 5 August 2021](#).

Annual Canvass

This year's Annual Canvass has started. Over the course of the month the electoral services team will contact 88,183 households in Herefordshire to check their details for the Electoral Register. They will send over 45,000 communications via email and text message, before sending out hardcopy forms. Last year they received a number of queries as to the authenticity of the email domain. The email will arrive to electors from 'herefordshire.electoral.services@notifications.service.gov.uk' and will contain a link directing them to the online web response. This email is genuine and the link is safe to click. Visit the [annual canvass webpage](#) for more information, including Frequently Asked Questions. Electoral Services can be contacted on 01432 260107 or canvass@herefordshire.co.uk if you have further questions.

98% of primary school pupils attend Good or Outstanding schools

The recent performance tables, [published by Watchsted](#), show that 98% of primary school children in Herefordshire attend a school judged Good or Outstanding. This means Herefordshire has moved up to 7th place in a list of over 150 local authorities in England (with the top 6 local authorities are all in the south east).

Supporting vulnerable families this summer

This summer, Herefordshire primary and secondary school aged children who receive benefits-related free school meals are being offered the opportunity to take part in free activities during the holidays through the government funded Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme. Parents and carers of eligible children aged 4 to 16 years can book up to 16 hours of free activities per week, per child, for up to 4 weeks of the summer holidays. This means children will be able to enjoy up to 64

hours of exciting indoor and outdoor activities. Each child that attends will also receive a free healthy meal during the session.

Parents can book online now through the [Talk Community website](#). Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis. This Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme is funded by the Department for Education (DfE), as part of an expanded government scheme. You can find out more by [visiting the HAF2021 website](#). The government has recently released [a video featuring Marcus Rashford](#) where he talks about the programme and the importance of children having activities to do during the holidays, within a safe environment.

New Hollie Guard personal safety app

Everyone should feel safe. The Hollie Guard App turns your smartphone into a personal safety device at the touch of a button and can help protect you in a number of situations discreetly. For more information, or to download the app, [visit the Hollie Guard website](#).

Highway or Footpath Defects

Rather than contacting the Locality Steward directly, please can I encourage you to report any defects and potholes by phone 01432 261800 or by logging onto the Herefordshire Council website <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads>.

You can report the following items online:

- [Faulty street light](#)
- [Flytipping](#)
- [Public right of way problem](#)
- [Highway drainage issue](#)
- [Overhanging tree](#)
- [Pavement needing repair](#)
- [Pothole](#) or use the [ReportingApp](#)
- [Road needing resurfacing](#)
- [Road sign defect](#)
- [Worn road markings or missing cats eyes](#)
