

KINGSTONE AND THRUXTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Website www.kingstoneandthruxtongpc.org

MINUTES

**Kingstone and Thrupton Group Parish Council
meeting held on Wednesday 21st April 2021 at 7.00p.m.**

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

**Due to present Government restrictions this meeting was
a 'virtual' meeting held via Zoom.**

PRESENT: Cllr M. Walker (Chairman); Cllr D Lloyd; Cllr L Thorne; Cllr S Walker (Vice Chairman) and Cllr C Pugh.

PRESENT: Parish Clerk: Mrs L A Hay. Mr S Madison – Seven Sports Association. Ward Cllr Bolderson; one member of the public. Brigadier N Knusden and Mr A Williamson.

Chairman welcomed those present to the April Zoom meeting.

MINUTES

1. **Acceptance of apologies for absence** – none received.
2. **Declarations of interests**, Disclosable Pecuniary, Non-Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary interests. No declarations of Interest declared.
3. **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 Brigadier Nick Knusden and Mr Andrew Williamson who had recently put their names forward with a view to becoming Parish Councillors.

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

4. Chairman's Report.

- 4.1 An invitation had been extended to Derek Mumford, letting secretary for Hereford Allotments, HALGS, to attend the meeting to explain about the

establishing and allocation of allotments – however, Mr Mumford failed to attend. Clerk to follow up and item to be deferred until next meeting.

The Chairman reminded Councillors that the next meeting would be the Annual Parish Council Meeting which would include the election of Officers. Cllr Walker wished it to be noted that he will not be standing as Chairman – although wished to remain as a Parish Councillor. Cllr S Walker also explained that she will not be standing as Vice Chairman but wished to remain as a Parish Councillor.

The Clerk, Lesley Hay, also wished it to be noted that she will be officially informing councillors at the May meeting that she will be standing down as Parish Clerk from September.

5. **The minutes** from meeting held 3rd March 2021 were considered to be a true record and it was unanimously agreed that they be adopted and be signed by the Chairman.

6. **Police Report** – no report available.

7. Financial matters:

7.1 Finance: Schedule of payment sheet had been circulated.
The end of year bank reconciliation sheet had been circulated.

7.2 It was unanimously agreed that the Clerk should arrange payment of outstanding invoices.

7.3 The Annual Governance Statement 2020/2021 was approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

7.4 The Annual Accounts for 2020/2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

7.5 Chairman signed Certificate of Exemption which will now be submitted to the External Auditor.

All documents will now be displayed on the website.

The Notice of Public Rights will be displayed from the 14th June - the accounts will be available from that date if any members of the public wish to make an appointment.

During a discussion with regard to the 2021-2022 Precept and the Chairman explained that there was a detailed explanation on the website outlining the reasons why the precept had been increased for this coming financial year.

It was acknowledged that the additional housing in the village would create extra council tax – once these houses are erected and sold – but, any additional income from these is difficult to forecast at this time. It was also noted that any additional council tax is paid direct to Herefordshire Council and it is only through the Precept that this money comes back into the village.

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Schedule of Payments Required Date: to the end March 2021

PAYABLE TO	FOR	GROSS AMOUNT	VAT	NET
HMRC	March PAYE	£74.80		£74.80
Expenses	March Expenses	£35.45	£2.63	£32.82

8. Ward Councillor's Report – see end if these minutes.

8.1 Two recent emails had been received from Yvonne Coleman – Planning Obligations Manager - setting out the most recent allocation of 106 monies associated with Lagan Homes – these emails had been circulated.

The proposed residential development of 89 dwellings - an increase of 31 units from the previous application to include lagoon and public open space – was discussed at length. In particular, who would be responsible for the maintenance of these lagoons and public open spaces once the developer moves off site. The Ward Councillor thought a Management Committee would be formed. The Clerk was asked to clarify with the Planning Officer.

8.2 Open session

Recent correspondence:

(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.

Cllr A Williamson asked for his name to be added to the volunteer list.

With regard to the speeding issues - the Clerk was asked to enquire about arranging a mutually convenient site visit with Ian Connelly and Simon Hobbs once Covid restrictions allow.

- (b) Thruxton horse pond – a request to get this cleared had been received and sent to Balfour Beatty. It was agreed that any attention to this pond would have to be delayed until the Autumn.
- (c) Bike rack – Chairman confirmed that he had sent in an application for a free Bike Rack to be sited at the Village Hall.
- (d) Whitehouse Drive; dropped kerb – resolved.
- (e) Cllr Colin Pugh raised the ever-increasing problem of dog walkers not clearing up after their dogs. There was a lengthy discussion with regard to the location of bins; the emptying of bins; additional signage and eventually it was agreed that the Ward Councillor would, in the first instance, contact Craig Sandman – who is responsible for enforcing the dog fouling law – and ask him to contact the clerk to discuss.
- (f) It was noted that there is an electric fence blocking a footpath. Chairman will forward a footpaths map to Cllr C Pugh to enable him to identify the footpath number and approach the landowner.

8.3 The Chairman closed the open session

The Chairman apologised to the local resident who had attended specifically with regard to the allocation of allotments and reassured her that the Clerk would keep her informed of progress regarding the allotments. The resident left the meeting.

9. Highways and Environmental Matters

9.1. The Clerk confirmed that she had forwarded the Lengthsman's Contract to Balfour Beatty confirming that Terry Griffiths is now Kingstone and Thruxton's lengthsman and that Paul Wright is Footpath Officer.

9.2 Drainage issues - Cllr C Pugh had asked the Clerk to raise three issues with the Locality Steward:

- a. The road from outside 2 Deans Pool down the Seven Sites Sports Ground (C1221) is not draining away properly – reported to Locality Steward will inspect – no further details.
- b. The ditch at the back of the Sports field - these works have been approved and given the Job Number MA 1700029 - the Clerk emailed the Locality Steward and he confirmed he had forwarded the email regarding the time scale and was waiting for a response.
- c. With regard to the recently resurfaced road outside the Lagan Homes development breaking up and may be in need of resurfacing – the Locality Steward confirmed he had visited the development and no safety defects were found – he will continue to monitor.

10.Planning applications –

Planning application: 210545 – Church Nook Kingstone – an email received implied that these plans may be withdrawn or amended. Clerk to liaise with Planning Officer.

Planning application: 210924 - Rose Cottage Kingstone – after discussion – no objection.

10. Sports Ground – Mr Madison reported that he was in consultation with various agencies with regard to the upgrade of the Play Park – and would report back to the next meeting.

Vandalism and anti-social behaviour remain a major issue throughout the Play Park but the police hands are tied due to the age of the youngsters. There have been concerns about the health and safety of some of the equipment in the Play Park and this is being monitored.

Mr Madison confirmed that a retrospective planning application had now been submitted regarding the temporary car park.

Mr Madison explained that the main issues in managing the Play Park are :

1. The low number of people on the committee.
2. Lack of support for maintaining the playing field from people in the local community.
3. Lack of money.
4. Vandalism

5. Not enough hours in the day due to work commitments of the active committee members who are able to do any work on the playing field.

11. Annual Parish Meeting - Wednesday 26th May 2021– 7.00p.m.
followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting. These meetings will be via Zoom.

Chairman closed the meeting at 8.55p.m.

Signed:



Date:

Ward Councillor' Report

There has been quite a lot happening at the council over the last month. Below is a snap shot of some items which I thought may be of interest.

Children Services

You may have seen the [High Court judgment](#) relating to Herefordshire Council's Children's Social Care Services. The Council have taken immediate action to address the serious issues highlighted by this judgement and the Extraordinary Meeting of Council on Tuesday will assist further in addressing and responding to individual issues. You can find the council statement on the [website](#).

Children's Commissioner for England, has launched '[The Big Ask](#)', the largest ever consultation with children undertaken in England. The survey will run until 19 May and asks children across England to set out their priorities for improving childhood post-Covid. Children and young people can take part in the survey at [thebigask.uk](#).

Face-to-Face meetings

No new legislation has yet been passed in relation to face-to-face meetings from May this year. There is court action taking place which if successful will allow remote meetings without the need for legislative changes.

New fund for investment in local skills and employment opportunities

Herefordshire has been chosen as one of 100 places across the UK to receive funding through the government's £220m UK Community Renewal Fund, for investment in skills development, communities, businesses and improve local employment opportunities. With up to £3m available for investment locally, Herefordshire Council (as the designated lead authority) is inviting voluntary and community sector organisations, education providers and business groups to submit proposals for innovative pilot projects that address local challenges, develop skills and support people into work. See [New fund for investment in local skills and employment opportunities](#)

Fly tipping reporting

The 'report it app' has a new feature to include fly tipping in addition to reporting potholes, dog poo, and Public Rights of Way (PROW) issues. The 'app' allows you to pin point your current location or type in an address, and then add in a photo. The 'app' has been designed to make it quick and easy to report issues affecting our community and keep a record of where there are repeated incidents. <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/reportingapp/>. Any defects and potholes can also be reported by phone 01432 261800. You can also report the following items online:

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

Visit Herefordshire Website

There is a new Visit Herefordshire website which has been launched to support the post covid tourism recovery. They are encouraging as many businesses to sign-up to the website as possible. <https://www.visitherefordshire.co.uk/>

Minerals & Waste

Herefordshire Council is encouraging local people to have their say on the final draft of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP) for Herefordshire. The consultation will run until midnight on 24 May - [Last chance to have your say on Herefordshire's draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan](#)

Covid

As reported by the s.151 officer, over the pandemic (up to the 9th of April 2021) Herefordshire Council has paid 21,200 grants (totalling just over £100m) to businesses, with this number and the amount increasing every day.

- Nearly 2,000 businesses have had help with their business rates;
- The council has received over £20m in grants to cover the additional costs regarding Covid, eg. compensation for lost income, providing PPE, outbreak control activities including enforcement, school transport, food and emergency assistance, and accommodation costs for rough sleepers;
- The council received just over £1m to help households struggling to pay council tax;
- The council has distributed over £5m to care homes and care providers; and
- Grants have been given to nearly 300 people required to self-isolate under test and trace rules.

We are now back to levels last seen in early October and the seven-day rolling rate of new cases by specimen date ending on 10 April 2021 the COVID-19 case rate in Herefordshire is 12.4 cases per 100k people. This is a decrease of -29.4% on the previous week. Cases remain low compared to the national average (28 per 100k population). Over 102,000 Herefordshire residents have received their first dose vaccine (and over 32m people in the UK).

The March edition of the Economic Impacts of Coronavirus has been published on the [Understanding Herefordshire website](#). The latest figures show that around 4,800 people in Herefordshire were claiming out-of-work benefits in February. This is around 200 fewer than the peaks in May and August last year, but an increase of 400 since January and still more than double the pre-pandemic number last March. Just under 900 claimants were aged 18-24.