

# KINGSTON ON SOAR PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting held on Tuesday, 4th November, 2003

Present: Arthur Clarke, (Chair), Kate Burton, Marion Shaw, Andy Sparrow, Stuart Dale, Liz Prady, Terry Holt (Borough Councillor), Valerie Howson (Clerk).

## 1. Welcome

AC opened the meeting and welcomed those attending. He asked for additional agenda items to be considered: website (under 12); provision of a litter bin (under 5.2); No. 5 bus (under 9.1)

## 2. Apologies for absence

An apology for absence was received from G. Aldridge

## 3. Minutes of the meeting of 2nd September, 2003

Item 8.4 delete 'Michael Gill' and insert 'Kingston Fencing'.

Item 8.6 after 'negotiate' insert 'by SD, but not so easy for elderly or disabled people'.

The Minutes were then approved and signed as a correct record.

## 4. Matters arising

4.1 30mph roundels. Those at the west end of the village under the railway bridge had now been painted.

## 5. Chairman's Report

5.1 Postal voting: The Borough Council support postal voting for future elections, although they have noted complaints regarding possible fraud and security.

5.2 Grass cutting: Mr. Norman Beeby had sent a letter to AS agreeing that the ride-on mower owned by the Parochial Church Council, but to which the Parish Meeting had contributed, could be used to cut the verges between Manor Farm Development and the railway bridge. It is not licenced for use

on

the public highway. Preferably only Mr Norman Beeby or Mr. Dave Elliot

should use the mower. It was recommended that Mr. Beeby and Mr. Elliot be asked to cut the grass between Manor Farm and the railway bridge and just beyond so as to provide a good view with a safe aspect. KB asked if the Council could arrange for it to be driven on the road. SD said this would be difficult to do. AC reported that a lot of litter was dropped around the bridge, and perhaps a litter bin could be provided. TH commented that it was an offence to drop litter and if a bin and liner were provided the Borough Council would empty it at intervals. The Borough Council were also legally obliged to clean up litter. The Parish Council felt that a litter bin might, in fact, encourage litter. It was **agreed not** to provide a litterbin.

The Chairman noted a leaflet on Home Heating for the elderly which had been put on the notice board. A free Government Grant was available to help with provision of some facilities although certain conditions must be met. Also Community Heritage had up to £25,000 grants available for research, projects involving local customs and/or features.

5.3 Visit to Dairy Unit: MS reported that the visit to the dairy unit had been very successful. Mr. Will Donger had provided an interesting tour. Thanks were offered to AS for arranging the visit. Under the Countryside Stewardship Will Donger will cut the hedges that abut the footpaths, yearly, usually in September. (Item 10.3 was taken at this point)

10.3 Hedge cutting: Progress report: AS reported that Ms. M. Pollard Ward (NCC) seemed to have made no progress in contacting the owners of roadside overgrown hedges. The University had, independently, cut theirs, sorting out many problems. However, the hedge abutting the old Genus site remained very overgrown. AS would contact Eammon Harrison (NCC).

AS

## 6. Risk assessment

6.1 Review of Standard Operating Procedures: The meeting agreed with AS that the Standing Operating Procedures did not need to be updated yet.

8.2 Risk assessment as per SOP assessment: AS identified the risks and their management as

- 1) Division of responsibilities within the Council: each Councillor and the Clerk knew of their responsibilities which it was their duty to discharge
- 2) Financial risks: insurance provision was in place and would be re-considered at the January meeting although all identifiable risks had now been covered.
- 3) Internal audit: a system of internal audit was in place. At each Parish Council meeting an up to date financial report was provided.

4) Employees, PAYE, etc. Contracts were given to employees and evidence of PAYE was provided.

5) Review of assets and liabilities: assets were insured. There were no anticipated tasks for this year.

6) Operational risks: only grass cutting was identified and needed no management

KB commented that potholes in road could provide a hazard, but TH said it was not primarily a council responsibility. It is the Parish Council's duty to report to NCC.

AS proposed that the risk assessment was satisfactory for the coming year and be approved, seconded by MS. Passed nem con.

## 7. Finance

In the absence of GA the Clerk explained the circulated accounts. These were accepted and APPROVED.

## 8. Planning and Development matters

### 8.1 New applications:

Mr. and Mrs. Hilal, 3 West Leake Lane, had submitted an application for a two story side extension. There was no objection from the Parish Council. TH suggested that approval by the Parish Council should be given subject to the satisfactory matching of materials.

### 8.2 Ongoing applications:

8.2.1 Manor Farm, earthworks, housebricks, roadside wall. Following enquiries by parishioners AS reported that the 'earthworks' were at the behest of the Environment Agency and were concerned with flood management. The topsoil which had been removed may be taken off site. The area would be grassed over. The light-coloured housebricks were being used according to the plans submitted to the Borough Council, they were felt by the developer to give diversity, and there had been no deviation from the submitted plans. The roadside wall which had been knocked down was in order to accommodate one of the units. This was in order. The Old Farmhouse was up for auction and might be sold on.

8.2.2 Village Hall Car Park. AS asked Mr. Howard if his primary objective and the reason he now rejected the Council's compromise plan (which was essentially the same in layout as a previous suggestion of Mr. Howard) was that he wished to acquire the land to the south of their property which

MS

would otherwise have become car park. Mr. Howard confirmed that this was the case. Mrs. Howard noted that, in addition, the Council's compromise proposal would have had a number of adverse financial consequences for them, They stated that they had no wish to deprive the Village of a car park. AS noted that in the July meeting Mr. Howard had publicly speculated about the motives underlying the Council's conduct with regard to the car park. AS asked him to clarify whether he was suggesting that the Council or any Councillor had offended against the Code of Conduct. Mr. Howard, amongst other matters, stated unequivocally that all Councillors had 'lied' in approving the minutes of the July meeting. AS vigorously refuted and resented any suggestion that the Council had acted improperly. It was agreed that a declaration of interest by AS had been inadvertently omitted from the minutes of the July meeting, although it had been properly entered into the Register of Declaration of Interests.

8.2.3 Kingston Hall downpipes. The Borough Council had sent a Requisition for Information to Ms. Herluf, (owner) and to Mr. Partridge (Chairman of Kingston Hall Management Ltd.). Further action would be taken.

## 9. Traffic

KB would write to NCC again regarding the traffic survey, speed limit and Kingston crossroads.

9.1 Drainage under railway bridge: progress report. Network Rail had agreed to take photographs and to report back.

9.2 No. 5 bus. TH reported that NCT had appeared before the Scrutiny Group at Rushcliffe Borough Council to answer questions about the closure of the service. NCT claimed they were making a loss on the route. TH felt very unhappy about the situation. The No. 65 bus run by Paul Winson was not running at satisfactory times. TH would see Paul Winson to see if these could be improved.

## 10. Environment

10.1 Conservation area status: how should we proceed? AS outlined the progress so far of the conservation issue. An appraisal document was needed to take this

further and English Heritage had details (on their website) of what was required. It was AGREED to ask Mr. Brian Smith if he would be prepared to undertake this appraisal, and to offer him a fee of £100 to do this.

KB

VH

10.2 Daffodils for planting: approval of expenditure. AS proposed and MS seconded that Mr. Norman Beeby be granted approximately £30 for the provision of daffodil bulbs to be planted in the village. AGREED. AC proposed and MS seconded that £20 be donated to Sutton Bonington's Village News. AGREED

### 11. Liaison Reports

11.1 NALC: no report.

11.2 AARPC. TH had attended the last meeting. The Chairman had now changed. The MP for NW Leicestershire had attended the meeting. The next meeting would be in December.

### 12. Items for newsletters

It was suggested that the Parish Council Minutes and other items of importance could be included on the Kingston on Soar Website run by Mrs. Bridget Plimmer. A fee of £20 per bi-monthly meeting would be offered to her for doing this.

### 13. Any other business

TH reported that the green haze appearing at night over Sutton Bonington might be caused by the lights from Rushcliffe Leisure Centre. Sutton Bonington Parish Council had written about this. He also noted that a Councillor from Rushcliffe Borough Council would be laying a wreath on Remembrance Sunday at Kingston Church. He would also be holding a coffee morning and evening at his home in aid of Save the Children Fund, on 28th November (10am to 12 noon) and 29th November (7pm to 10p.m.) AC reminded Councillors of the Village Hall meeting on 11th November, which could decide the future of the Hall. He asked if Councillors would deliver fliers to their delivery rounds encouraging attendance at the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.

VH

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