



MINUTES

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9th December 2024 at 7.30pm
in The Pavilion, Kennett Playing Fields, Kennett

PRESENT: Cllr A French – Chair
Cllr F Mclachlan – Vice Chair – Apologies
Cllr R Swanson
Cllr T Foddy
Cllr D Watson
Cllr M Hillyer
Cllr S Baxter

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S Field – Clerk
DCllr K Pettit – District Councillor

FC24/25.098 **Chairman's Welcome and Open Forum**
The Chairman welcomed all those present.

FC24/25.099 **Apologies for Absence**
Cllr F Mclachlan – Apologies – Accepted.

FC24/25.100 **Declarations of Interest**
Standing Declarations of Interests:
Cllr AF – Member CLT
Cllr DW – Member CLT, Trustee VHA, PCC
Cllr RS – Trustee and Member CLT, Trustee VHA, PCC, School
Cllr TF – Trustee and Member CLT
Cllr MH – Member CLT
Cllr SB – Member CLT, Trustee VHA
Cllr FMcl – Member CLT

FC24/25.101 The Minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2024 were agreed as a correct record and were duly signed by the Chairman.

FC24/25.102 Matters arising from previous meetings
Covered under other items on the agenda.

FC24/25.103 Community Land Trust ("CLT") Update

Following lengthy delays contracts have now been exchanged with the developer in respect of the affordable housing and the open spaces. The first 4 CLT properties are expected to be occupied during January 2025.

A question was asked concerning the sales of the privately owned properties and it was confirmed that there are currently 5 completed sales on the Bellway site and 2 on the Ashbury site.

Maintenance of the open spaces will not start to be undertaken by the CLT for approximately 12 months and this will be the responsibility of the CLT (not the Parish Council) funded by service charges paid by residents on the development and contributions by the developer.

FC24/25.104 Road Safety and Traffic – Update

Quotations had been received from Swarco (suppliers of the MVAS units) in the region of approximately £4,000 per unit but this price would be rising in the New Year and further quotes will be requested at that time. These MVAS units form part of the successful LHI bid and the funding for the purchase of these will come from the earmarked CIL funds already held by the Parish Council.

Further problems have arisen at the junction of Dane Hill Road and Station Road insofar as the lorries are causing damage to the grass (and the bulbs that were planted there approximately 1 month ago). Lorries are cutting the corner and driving straight across the grass and the possibility of purchasing and installing large concrete planters to deter lorry drivers from continuing this practice will be investigated and brought back to a future meeting.

FC24/25.105 Budget for 2025-26

Discussions took place concerning the updated spreadsheet that the Clerk had provided to Councillors illustrating an increase of 31.9% in the Precept Request and it was AGREED that this should be reduced to an increase of 15% for this year and the situation will be further reviewed when preparing the annual budget for the financial year 26-27.

Councillors requested that an explanation as to the effect the additional homes would have on the precept calculations insofar as clarification was sought as to whether the Parish Council element of Council Tax bills for those properties would be passed to the Parish Council. DCllr Pettit will obtain an explanation as to the effect the new properties would have on the income received by the Parish Council in order to inform the budget process going forward.

The Clerk will prepare the relevant paperwork and submit this to ECDC in accordance with their timescales.

FC24/25.106 External Forum (District Councillors)

A meeting had taken place between the Developers (Bellway), the Operations Director, the Leader of the District Council and the District Councillors representing the Parish to discuss various issues including the issue of the

safe passage of children from the Village Hall car park to the school. DCllr Pettit reported that the meeting had been constructive and that there would be a further onsite meeting including CCC Highways (at a time illustrating the issue of parent parking and children crossing) to elicit a solution from Highways on a plan to, possibly, install a crossing. The outcome of the forthcoming meeting will be communicated to the Parish Council.

Both DCllrs are continuing to request a progress report/update from the new MP following the meeting held earlier in the year but, to date, nothing had been received from her. They will both continue to try and progress this issue.

A joint forum is planned for the New Year involving the Police, Highways, Youth workers and representatives from the local Parish Councils and further details about this will be communicated in due course.

FC24/25.107 External Reports – Parish Councillors

Issues concerning lorries destroying the grass area at the junction of Station Road and Dane Hill Road covered earlier in the agenda.

FC24/25.108 Financial Matters

The following invoices were presented to the Parish Council for authorisation for payment for the month of November 2024.

Payee	Amount	Narrative	Power
K & M Lighting	£60.00	Street lighting maintenance for month of October 2024	Open Spaces 1906 ss9 and 10
S Field	£275.75	Salary (15hrs x £15.75 p/hr) plus Home Working Allowance £26.00 p/mnth – re calendar month of December 2024	Local Government Act 1972 s111
TOTAL TO BE EXPENDED	£335.75		

The following amounts have been received into the accounts:

Creditor	Amount	Narrative
Lloyds Bank	Awaited	Interest
TOTAL RECEIVED	£0.00	

As at the date of the meeting the bank balances were:

Business Bank Instant:	£11,033.31
Treasurers Account:	£94,354.73

FC24/25.109 Updated Quotation from SP Landscapes

Due to the amount of time elapsed from the date of the original quote for the village tidyup works, a new quotation had been received from SP Landscapes in the amount of £6,150 plus VAT (an uplift from original quote of £5,120 plus VAT) reflecting the increase in operational/disposal costs. The work is scheduled to commence on 27th January and last for 5 days. The last day will be specifically designated for the tree works on Dane Hill Road and a letter advising residents nearby will need to be delivered the week before requesting that no vehicles are left on the roadside to mitigate damage from any flying debris from the works.

Due to the increase in the cost it was decided that new quotations should be sought to ascertain if a more competitive price could be obtained for the works and TF agreed to undertake this element and report back for a decision to be made at the meeting to be held in January 2025.

FC24/25.110 Clerk's Update

- i) Utility Aid (a brokerage company used by the majority of Parish Councils across the UK) are looking into finding an alternative energy provider for the unmetered supply for the Parish Council owned street lamps. A further update will be provided at the January meeting.
- ii) .gov.uk email addresses – The Clerk requested Councillors to report any issues that they were having in respect of the new email accounts and asked those who have not yet started to use them to please do so as soon as practicable to ensure compliance with legislation.

FC24/25.111 Councillors' Forum

TF reported that the River Kennett was now flowing correctly and it was assumed that there had been either a diversion of flow or blockage in the Moulton area which had caused the problem but this had now been resolved.

The remaining 1000 bulbs had now been planted by Paul Swanson and the Parish Council would like to formally note their thanks to him for the work undertaken by him at no cost to the Parish Council.

A pre-Christmas event (personally funded by Councillors) would take place on Thursday 19th December at The Bell Inn at a time to be agreed.

FC24/25.112 Items for next meeting (to take place on 13th January 2025)

Grass Cutting Tender – agreement of documents and contractors to contact.
Update on unmetered supply for street lights contract.

Meeting closed at 9 pm

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Chairman

Dated: