

KENSWORTH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12th February 2004

Present: Councillor Mr. R. Radford (**Chairman**)
Councillors: - Mr. G. Blackburn, Mrs. C. Browne Mr. B. Davis, Mr. J. Dinsdale, Mrs. P. Litton and Mrs. G. Lyden.

County Councillor Mr. B. Piggott
District Councillor: Mr. B. Harris
3 residents of Kensworth were present.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 No apologies for absence had been received.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS (Personal and/or Prejudicial) (Parish Councils (Model Code of Conduct) Order 2001).

2.1 No members had any declaration of interests, either personal and/or prejudicial, in any of the items under consideration at this meeting of the Parish Council other than Councillor Radford with items 11.2 and 11.7 below.

3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

3.1 The Reverend Nicola Lenthall introduced herself and wished to record her thanks for such a warm welcome to the area. Residents were invited to contact her for any social, physical or spiritual matters as she would like to work closely with all residents.

3.2 Cllr. Radford thanked the minister for attending the meeting and the thoughts she had expressed.

4. MATTERS FOR THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR

4.1 It was reported the Bedfordshire County Council had set their part of the budget and the increase would be 5.5%. However the element for the Fire Service would be added to this amount.

4.2 Cllr. Piggott reported that the Bedfordshire Authority had withdrawn its support from the proposed Translink project in South Bedfordshire.

4.3 It was reported that the lights in Russell Close were still a cause of concern and any means of improving intensity of the lighting would be welcomed by the Parish Council.

4.4 County Councillor Piggott was thanked for attending the meeting and the contribution he had made.

Councillor Piggott left the meeting

5 MATTERS FOR THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

- 5.1 Cllr. Harris reported that the concerns expressed at the last meeting of the PC concerning the number of planes taking off from London/Luton airport cutting corners over Kensworth was purely a fuel saving exercise.
- 5.2 Cllr. Harris reported that the latest findings of the Boundary Commission had again placed Kensworth with Caddington, Slip End and East Hyde with its proposals for South East Bedfordshire. The aim was to give each of the sixteen county councillors for South Bedfordshire the same number of voters and the previous argument against this proposal using the A5 boundary was not as strong. Alternative reasons would need to be put forward by the PC. Cllr. Harris undertook to support the views of the PC at the meeting of the Licensing Committee next Tuesday.
- 5.3 Cllr. Harris gave clarification of the new planning consideration arrangements at South Bedfordshire District Council. Where objections to a planning application were made by a Parish Council then those objections would continue to be considered by the Planning Committee.
- 5.4 It was reported that the examination in public by the Milton Keynes Strategy for South Bedfordshire would now last five weeks and not two weeks as thought previously.
- 5.5 District Cllr. Harris was thanked for attending the meeting and the contribution he had made.

Councillor Harris left the meeting

6 POLICE MATTERS

- 6.1 In the absence of WPC Thompson no report from the Police Authority was made.

Two of the residents left the meeting

7 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

- 7.1 It was PROPOSED, SECONDED and RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th January 2004 were a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

- 7.2 **Item 4.3 – Mr. Taylor.** Cllr. Radford reported that Mr. Taylor had moved from his previous hospital although the destination was unknown at present.
- 7.3 **Item 8.2 – Rubbish.** It was reported that the tenant had been reminded three times to remove the rubbish. It was: -
Resolved: - that an item be included on the agenda for the May meeting of the Parish Council to consider appropriate action should it be necessary.
- 7.4 **Item 10.3 – Community Safety Forum.** It was reported that the January meeting of the group had been cancelled.

8 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 8.1 Cllr. Radford reported that four councillors had attended the recent exhibition on "Quiet Lanes" organised by an outside agency based in Leeds. It was understood that about 50 people had taken the trouble to complete the questionnaire. Cllr. Radford

had raised the matter of the request by the Parish Council to the highway authority for closure of part of the Isle of Wight Lane. It was: -

Resolved: - that enquiries be made with the highway authority on the progress of this matter.

- 8.2 It was reported that a very productive meeting had taken place between three representatives of the Village Hall Management Committee and three representatives of the Parish Council to discuss the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. The VHMC produced an action plan together with proposals relating to the emergency exits and the outside of the building and sought the help of the Parish Council with some of these proposals. Following a discussion it was:-

Resolved:- that three quotations be obtained to carry out work for laying new paths and erecting new barriers/moving old barriers outside the village hall from the emergency exits to the car park.

- 8.3 It was reported that the remedial work on the trees on the recreation ground was due to commence shortly. However something needed doing with the ash trees at the side of 31 Common Road. It was:-

Resolved:- that a letter be obtained from the occupants stating they had no objections to this work being carried out and he would be responsible for the upkeep of his wall and does not propose to replace these trees in the future.

- 8.4 Cllr. Radford reported that he had received a complaint over the condition of the hedge surrounding the gas breakdown unit in Common Road. Arrangements had been made to remove some overhanging branches and a letter had been sent to Transco seeking their help in making the unit secure from vandals whilst maintaining an aesthetic appearance. It was:-

Resolved: - that a letter be obtained from the complainant seeking their approval to putting up a vandal proof fence surrounded by a replacement hedge.

9 REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Airport

- 9.1 Cllr. Dinsdale had nothing to report.

Allotments

- 9.2 Cllr. Mrs. Litton reported that the gate to the allotments required attention to maintain security.

Community Safety Forum

- 9.3 As reported in item 7.4 above the meeting for January had been cancelled.

Highways

- 9.4 No new highway matters relating to repairs were currently outstanding.

Parish Paths

- 9.5 Cllr. Davis reported that two new kissing gates had been erected and an old stile had been replaced by a squeeze gate.

Parish Web-Site

- 9.6 Cllr. Davis reported that there had been problems with the host but this should be resolved shortly.

- Quarry
- 9.7 Cllr. Radford reported that the quarry were currently only stockpiling materials and he had nothing further to report.
- School Governing Body
- 9.8 Cllr. Dinsdale had nothing to report other than he had been approached by parents of a pupil at school who had an issue with the school. Following a discussion it was: - **Resolved: - that this was outside the remit of the Parish Council and the clerk should advise the parents that the matter must be raised with the school and/or the Bedfordshire Education Authority.**
- Village Hall
- 9.11 Cllr. Mrs. Browne reported on the events which had taken place since the last meeting of the PC and a number of forthcoming events which had been planned. It was reported that an issue relating to communication between the VHMC and the PC had arisen. However proposals were discussed on resolving this matter.

10 CORRESPONDENCE

- 10.1 List of correspondence received between 7th January 2004 and 10th February 2004.
- **Audit Commission – Comprehensive Performance Assessment**
Letter and questionnaire from the Audit Commission seeking council views on the performance of SBDC.
 - **South Bedfordshire District Council – Summary of Planning Applications**
Summary of planning applications for the period 21st December 2003 – 3rd January 2004. **None** for Kensworth and **None** for Totternhoe.
 - **Clerks and Councils Direct – January 2004**
Latest edition of the magazine **issue 31** together with suppliers guide and yearbook 2004/2005.
 - **South Bedfordshire District Council – Comprehensive Performance Assessment**
Copy of the self assessment document prepared by SBDC for the Audit Commission.
 - **Bedfordshire Police – Details of Crime Statistics**
Details of crime statistics for the period 1st December 2003 to 31st December 2003.
 - **JMP Consultants – The Chilterns Three Counties Transport Study**
Details of weekday exhibitions following the study. One to be held in Kensworth on **Tuesday 3rd February 2004 between 2.00p.m. and 9.00p.m.**
 - **Bedfordshire County Council – P3 Annual Review 2002-3**
Letter enclosing copies of the latest P3 review.
 - **Draft Sub-Regional Strategy for Milton Keynes and South Midlands – Notes of First Meeting**
Copy of notes of first preliminary meeting of the group held on 6th January 2004.
 - **South Bedfordshire District Council – Notice of Tree Panel**
Papers and agenda for the meeting of the Tree Panel meeting taking place on **30th January 2004.**
 - **South Bedfordshire District Council – Notice of Rural Management Committee**
Papers and agenda for the meeting of the Rural Management Committee meeting taking place on **21st January 2004.**
 - **DSC Sound & Lighting Ltd. – Carnival 2004**
Confirmation of the provision of a PA system by the company at the Carnival 2004.
 - **Bedfordshire and Luton Fire & Rescue Service – Carnival 2004**
Confirmation of the provision of a fire appliance and crew at the Carnival 2004 together with a community safety questionnaire for completion.
 - **South Bedfordshire District Council – Summary of Planning Applications**
Summary of planning applications for the period 4th January 2004 – 10th January 2004. **Two** for Kensworth, 86 Common Road and Packhorse Place, Watling Street and **One** for Totternhoe.
 - **Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils – Bedfordshire Bugle**
Copies of January 2004 (issue 1) of the magazine.

- **The Boundary Committee for England – Periodic Electoral Review of Bedfordshire C.C.**
Letter advising that the draft recommendations on future electoral arrangements are to be published and the views of parish Councils are sought prior to **8th March 2004**.
- **Playground Management Ltd.,– Details of additional Service**
Details of annual inspection service plus additional service under the Disability Discrimination Act.
- **D. J. Granger – Landscape Contractor**
Flyer offering the services of this Landscape Contractor January 2004 edition of the review.
- **South Bedfordshire District Council – Civic Service**
Invitation to attend the civic service being held on **Sunday 29th February 2004**.
- **South Bedfordshire District Council – Precept 2004/2005**
Letter seeking details of the cash requirement for 2004/2005 for Kensworth.
- **South Bedfordshire District Council – Notice of Council Meeting**
Papers and agenda for the meeting of the Council taking place on **27th January 2004**.
- **South Bedfordshire District Council – Notice of Executive Committee**
Papers and agenda for the meeting of the Executive Committee taking place on **27th January 2004**.
- **South Bedfordshire District Council – Notice of Planning Committee**
Papers and agenda for the meeting of the Planning Committee taking place on **28th January 2004**.
- **Dunstable Town Council – Milton Keynes & South Midlands Sub Regional Strategy**
Letter advising of latest update in this matter giving dates for further written submissions.
- **Bedfordshire C.C./Mid-Beds D.C./South Bedfordshire D.C. – Park Smart**
Copies of leaflet giving details of new scheme being introduced in February 2004 for distribution.
- **Woodside Animal Farm & Leisure Park – Carnival 2004**
Confirmation of the provision of animals by the company at the Carnival 2004.
- **Running Imp – Catalogue 2004**
Copy of latest catalogue showing sports trophies etc.
- **South Bedfordshire District Council – Summary of Planning Applications**
Summary of planning applications for the period 11th January 2004 – 17th January 2004. **Two** for Kensworth, Dovehouse Farm and 13 Dovehouse Lane and **None** for Totternhoe.
- **South Bedfordshire District Council – Planning Applications**
Permission granted for SB/TP/03/1214, SB/TP/03/1396, SB/TP/03/1534, SB/TP/03/1565 and SB/TP/03/1577.
- **Asiantaeth Yr Amgylchedd Environment Agency – Action Earth 2004**
Letter and application form for registration of any environmental project.
- **Bedfordshire Police – Building Safer Communities Together**
Letter and questionnaire on the Home Office consultation document.
- **Bedfordshire County Council – Biodiversity Annual Review**
Seasons greetings and a copy of the fifth Biodiversity Annual Review.
- **Bedfordshire County Council – Mobile Library Visits**
Calendar for the mobile library visits.
- **South Bedfordshire District Council – Minutes of Licensing Committee**
Copy of minutes of the Licensing Committee meeting held on 17th December 2003.
- **South Bedfordshire District Council – Notice of Executive Committee**
Papers and agenda for the meeting of the Executive Committee meeting taking place on **13th January 2004**.
- **Bedfordshire County Council – County Civic Service**
Invitation for chair and guest to attend the County Council's Civic Service which is to be held on **7th March 2004** at 3.00p.m.
- **Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils – Councillors Allowances**
Letter advising councils of the legal steps necessary to pay allowances to councillors.
- **South Bedfordshire District Council – Sports Facilities Directory**
Letter and questionnaire for completion by **20th February 2004** on sports facilities available for community use in the District.
- **Bedfordshire County Council – Good Afternoon Programme**
Letter, poster on the “Good Afternoon” talks being organised by BCC together with other products.
- **Bedfordshire County Council – Bedfordshire 2004**

Latest edition of the magazine produced by BCC issue 31 January 2004.

- **Commentree**
Latest copy of magazine issued by The Forest of Marston Vale.
- **Transco – Gas Installation Common Road**
Letter confirming that the complaint concerning the aesthetic state of the gas installation in Common Road was being investigated.
- **South Bedfordshire District Council – Notice of Executive Committee**
Papers and agenda for the meeting of the Executive Committee meeting taking place on **3rd February 2004**.
- **South Bedfordshire District Council – Summary of Planning Applications**
Summary of planning applications for the period 18th January 2004 – 24th January 2004. **One** for Kensworth, Merlin Farm and **None** for Totternhoe.
- **The Chilterns Conservation Board – Chilterns Flint Technical Note**
Withdrawal of part of consultation document issued in February 2003 and July 2003.
- **Bedfordshire Police – Speed Check Statistics**
Details of speed check statistics for the period 1st October 2003 – 31st December 2003.
- **ROSPA – Additional Inspections**
Leaflet giving details of additional inspections which are available.
- **Bedfordshire Playing Fields Association – The Playing Field**
Latest edition of the newsletter winter 2003/2004 together with details of safety products.
- **Bedfordshire County Council – Footpath Diversion Order**
Letter enclosing a copy of the changes to public footpaths in Kensworth.
- **Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils – Vital Villages Update**
Copy of the Countryside Agency's vital Villages Update No.3 together with details of a half-day seminar on "Affordable Rural Housing".
- **Leighton-Linslade Town Council – Sinfonia: ViVa Concert**
Poster and details of a forthcoming orchestral concert to be held on **5th March 2004**.
- **Bedfordshire Police – Building Safer Communities Together**
Letter and questionnaire on the Home Office consultation document.
- **South Bedfordshire District Council – Council Plan**
Letter enclosing a copy of the audit report on the SBDC Council Plan.
- **Cleanaway – Waste Transfer Agreement**
Copy of waste transfer agreement following the transfer of this service by SBDC to Cleanaway.
- **Bedfordshire Association of Town & Parish Councils – Tenancy Matter**
Copy of the response on a tenancy matter from the National Association of Local Councils.
- **The Chiltern Society – Subscriptions 2004**
Request for the annual subscription of £25 due in March 2004.
- **Bedfordshire County Council – Your Landscape Your Say**
Invitation to attend a workshop to discuss our local landscape on **3rd March 2004**.
- **Bedfordshire County Council – Service Development Plan (2003 – 2006)**
Copy of the common planning framework document "Service Development Plan (2003 – 2006)".
- **LLATVCC – News-sheet**
Copy of issue 4 January 2004 of the news-sheet issued by the London Luton Airport Town & Village Communities Committee.
- **South Bedfordshire District Council – Notice of Executive Committee**
Papers and agenda for the meeting of the Executive Committee taking place on **10th February 2004** together with a copy of the council's budget 2004/2005.
- **South Bedfordshire District Council – Rural Management Committee**
Minutes of the Rural Management Committee held on **21st January 2004**.
- **South Bedfordshire District Council – Information**
Latest edition of the magazine, issue February 2004.
- **South Bedfordshire District Council – Notice of Planning Committee**
Papers and agenda for the meeting of the Planning Committee taking place on **28th January 2004**.
- **Bedfordshire Police – Carnival 2004**
Acknowledgement letter to request for police presence at the Carnival 2004.
- **BTCV – Weekday Conservation Team**
Details of the plans of the weekday conservation team for the period January – March 2004.
- **The National Trust – Carnival 2004**

Confirmation of the attendance of the South Bedfordshire Association of the National Trust at the Carnival 2004.

- **Forest of Marston Vale**
Compliment slip enclosing 6 second class stamps for re-imbusement to the PC for excess postage on a letter.
- **South Bedfordshire District Council – Summary of Planning Applications**
Summary of planning applications for the period 25th January 2004 – 31st January 2004. **Two** for Kensworth, Kingsclere, Common Road and 142 Common Road and **One** for Totternhoe.

11 PLANNING

Notice of Planning Applications (Town and County Planning Act 1990)

- 11.1 SB/TP/2003/1809 Change of use from class B1 to B2 & B8
Workshop, Packhorse Place
- 11.2 SB/TP/2004/0019 Change of location of farm shop.
Dovehouse Farm, Dovehouse Lane, Kensworth
- 11.3 SB/TP/2004/0092 Addition of front porch.
142 Common Road, Kensworth

Plans for the above were made available. The Parish Council had no comments to make.

- 11.4 SB/TP/2004/0001 Fume Extraction System.
Chillies Bar, 86 Common Road, Kensworth

Plans for the above were made available. The Parish Council objected to the retrospective planning application on the grounds that it was unsightly, obtrusive to the landscape, effects the environment and is out of keeping with a rural village.

- 11.5 CED/TP/2004/0024 Non compliance of condition 7 of planning permission.
Merlin Farm, Kensworth

The conditions of the original planning approval were made available. The Parish Council objected most strongly to the removal of this condition and would wish the clause to remain and be enforced as in this farming community agricultural dwellings are at a premium and further loss or reduction in low cost housing would be deplored.

- 11.6 SB/TP/2004/0026 Single storey rear extension, single storey front extension.
13 Dovehouse Lane, Kensworth

Plans for the above were made available. The Parish Council objected to this application on the grounds that it is in excess of the footprint, the position of the garage is in front of the building line and the proposal lead to an overdevelopment of the site.

- 11.7 SB/OUT/2004/0095 Erection Of Detached Dwelling (Outline)
Kingsclere, Common Road, Kensworth

Plans for the above were made available. The Parish Council objected to this application on the grounds that it is outside the infill section of the village, it is inappropriate development in South Bedfordshire green belt, overdevelopment of site in the Chilterns area of outstanding natural beauty and the area of great landscape value. The visual impact is not appropriate. In addition inaccurate

information has been included on the planning application (Question 6 215 Common Road is not opposite this site but some ways down the road on the opposite side and objections by the parish council were made to this application also).

13 APPOINTMENT OF INTERNAL AUDITOR (Audit Commission Act 1998)

- 13.1 A discussion took place concerning the appointment of an internal independent auditor to meet the needs of the Audit Commission Act 1998. It was:-
Resolved:- that Mr. Ray Foster be appointed as the independent internal auditor for Kensworth to complete section 4 of the annual return for the year ending 31st March 2004.

14 ACCOUNTS (Local Government Act 1972)

- 14.1 The following accounts were submitted and approved for payment: -
- | | £ |
|--|--------|
| Hillborough Junior School (Photocopying) | 22.62 |
| Cllr. Radford (Chairman's Allowance) | 100.00 |
| The Chiltern Society (Subscription) | 25.00 |
| Mr. Farrelly (Clerk's salary February plus expenses) | 305.05 |
| Centrewire (Kissing Gate & Posts) | 361.46 |
| Mr. H. Killick (Repair of Noticeboard) | 46.00 |

- 14.2 The income and expenditure statement for the Parish Council for period ending January 2004 (period 10) was presented.

15 HIGHWAY MATTERS (Local Government Act 1972)

- 15.1 A discussion took place concerning the highway matters to be brought to the attention of the highway authority. A number of areas requiring consideration were identified. It was: -
Resolved: - that the highway authority be requested to look into the possibility of repairing the footpath outside 51 Common Road and improving the visibility for motorists leaving Common Road and joining the B4540 by re-siting the bollards/signs on the island.
- 15.2 It was reported that during the recent inclement weather four residents had acted as good Samaritans in assisting motorists in trouble at the bottom of Lynch Hill. It was: -
Resolved: - that an article be included in the Parish Link recognising the contribution made by these individuals.

16 COUNCILLORS ALLOWANCES (Local Government Act 1972)

- 16.1 It was reported that The Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 came into force on 1st January 2004. The previous regulations for allowances under the Act have been repealed. The power to pay a Chairman's Allowances has not. In order to pay travel and subsistence or attendance allowance to members it would be necessary to seek a recommendation from the Parish Remuneration Panel at SBDC. It was: -
Resolved: - that the Parish Council seek a recommendation from the Parish Remuneration Panel for travel and subsistence only at the present time.

17 REPORT OF CLERK

17.1 The clerk had nothing further to report that had not been considered elsewhere on the agenda.

18 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING TOGETHER WITH ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT AGENDA

18.1 The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Thursday 11th March 2004 at 7.15p.m. in Kensworth Village Hall followed by the Annual Parish Meeting at 8.15p.m..**

18.2 The following Parish Council meeting will be held on Thursday 8th April 2004 at 7.30p.m. in Kensworth Village Hall.

18.3 It was agreed that prior to the Annual Parish Meeting a letter be sent to all households inviting residents attendance at the meeting to share their views on a Parish Plan and future use of the agricultural land owned by the PC.

This concluded the business of the evening and the meeting ended at 10.13p.m.