

KIRKLEVINGTON AND CASTLE LEAVINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of a Meeting held on Monday, 16th December 2024 at 7.00p.m held in
The Balcony, Kirklevington Memorial Hall**

Present: **Nigel DeBadgecoe (Chair) (NDB)**
 Neil Clement (Vice Chair) (NC)
 Damian Hadfield (DH)
 A. McLee (AMc)
 Jenny Smith (JS)
 Liz Blanchard (LB)
 B. Rogerson (BR)
 Mrs. R. Mazonas (RM) (Clerk) (PC)

Also in attendance: Borough Councillor A. Sherris (AS) & Mrs J. Beaumont (JB),

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - Borough Councillor E. Hampton

2) DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

DH declared a non-prejudicial interest as employed in a Government Department. **JS** resident and farmer at Grove Farm declared a non-prejudicial interest as part of a Farming Business with land NW installing sewage pipes on, **LB** declared an interest as running business in the village. **AS** declared a non-prejudicial interest as a member of Stockton Borough Council Planning Committee.

3) MINUTES OF THE LAST PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of the November meeting were duly read. **APPROVED LB, DH**

4) COMMUNITY WEB SITE

NC – The web site continues to be tidied up with small incremental changes. We are still looking for pictures to be placed on the site representing the various activities at the Village Hall. **AMc** has spoken to the choir to obtain a picture but is still waiting for them to come back to him. **NDB** reported that he has taken some pictures that can be uploaded.

5) SAFEGUARDING

After a discussion it was felt that DBS checks for Parish Councillors were not necessary. **EH** is the Safeguarding Officer for the Church and it would be very useful if she could give her advice at the next Parish Council meeting. **BR** expressed her concern that safeguarding was not just to cover children but also vulnerable adults and needs to be considered. **NDB** reiterated the need to ensure that the Parish Council takes reasonable steps to ensure that all members are trained and take reasonable steps to ensure that this happens. **LB** reported that she felt that we, as a council, should be trained and that everyone should know what safeguarding is and what the process is if we were ever concerned about anyone – ie. knowing who to contact and what steps we would need to take.

6) PLANNING

a) Planning Update and Proposed Developments

i) Story Homes – St. Martins Green

- The noticeboard which has been provided by the Parish Council has now been installed by Story Homes. It was suggested that there is a need to monitor the board to ensure that it is stable. The board is for the use of the Parish Council/The Church/ NDB & St. Martins Green Residents Group.
- NC reported that bins and benches have been installed around the site
- It was reported that it was very dark along the PROW and on the cut from St. Martins Way. Questions were asked as to what was possible and could lighting be installed?
- The Long PROW footpath from St. Martins Way to the southern hedge is also very dark. The Residents Association Group to look at this although this is on private land. Unlikely to be any possibility of lighting being installed at such a large cost.
- Story Homes to be asked as to whether the installation of lighting was possible.
- NC to report back from Residents Association Group meeting. Email sent to R. Swann and Story Homes but has received no reply. Questions raised as to where bins are to be placed. Questions have been raised re the large number of mole hills that are damaging resident's gardens. SBC are not willing to become involved with issues at the site. The installation of bird/bat boxes that were part of the planning approval at the site have only seen a few installed. A map has been sent out to residents showing the position where the bird/bat boxes were due to be put up but only 3 residents have got back to the group.
- AS reported that the adoption of the site by SBC could take 5 years.
- The closure of the temporary footpath between the St. Martins Way cut and the western hedge is shown on the plan with a fence at both ends which will result in the temporary footpath being permanently closed.
- NC reported that he had asked Story Homes for signage to be installed at the Play Park – **NO HORSES OR DOGS ALLOWED** – 6 weeks later no action or permission to put up signs.
- AMc raised the question re the double yellow lines on Pump Lane. NDB reported that there was a need for them to be extended as cars are now being parked on the narrowest part of the road which is two-way traffic at the end of Town End Close.

ii) Taylor Wimpey - Oaklands

- The site is well on the way to completion with many new residents already occupying homes.
- Questions were asked as to whether the suds ponds were coping with the high volume of rain and the runoff from the new homes. To be monitored.

iii) Duchy Homes/Banks Homes– Hall Wood Meadow - 22/1846/REM

- It is clear that more road cleaning on the A67 needs to be carried out throughout the day.
- Banks Homes are now owners of part of the site.

- Questions were raised re the number of signs on the verges by the site and as to whether approval has been given for their installation.

v) Knowles Farm – Nothing reported

b) APPLICATIONS- NO APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

c) DELIGATED DECISIONS - NO DECISIONS RECEIVED

7) PLAY AREA

a) Grass Cutting/Lawnmower

- **NC** reported that he had now purchased the approved new lawnmower. After a discussion it agreed to offer the old lawnmower to The Church for spares only.
- A subcontractor to the sought in the new year to cut the grass regularly at the Play Area.

b) TPO

NDB reported that Neil Hoskins of SBC was trying to organize a meeting on site with Mark Nozedar of SBC to discuss the condition of the trees and include the owners of Orchard House.

c) Play Equipment

- **NDB** reported that some remedial work has been carried out on some equipment at the Play Area except for pooling of water under older children’s swings. To be carried out in the spring.
- Concern was expressed re the inspection reports being received from the SBC as it was unclear as to when the inspection had taken place and it was suggested that we request that the date and time that these inspections are carried out is shown in the reports.

8) CORRESPONDENCE

- Borough Councillor E. Hampton – Temporary Road Closure – Forest Lane 12th January 2025
- K Hewitt – Taylor Wimpey, Oaklands – Illuminated Sign left on all night.
- E. Atkinson SBC – Confirmation of times illuminated sign can remain on.
- The Circuit – Confirmation of Defibrillator being registered.
- E. Atkinson SBC – Confirmation of warning re illuminated sign if left on again.
- F. Srogi SBC – Register pf Electors
- J. Smith/Andrew Sherris – Keys Saltergill Lane gate
- R. Swann, Story Homes – Bench and Bin locations
- Ria Jones, London Hearts – DHSC Grant Scheme
- Mayor’s Office – SBC Annual Charity Ball – 14.02.2025
- Mayor’s Office – Mayor & Mayoress’ Afternoon Tea – Stockton Globe 15.03.25
- LRSS GROUNDWORKS – Grounds maintenance – grass cutting
- K. Jackson, SBC – Play Area Inspection Report

9) FINANCE

a) Payments

Mrs R Mazonas

Salary, December 2024 £359.74

Broadband November 2024 £24.99

Christmas Event Supplies	£506.32	
Padlock Noticeboard	<u>£4.50</u>	£895.55
N Clement -Purchase of Replacement Lawnmower		£499.00
N Clement - No Horses Sign		£11.25
London Hearts – Defibrillator, Green Lane		£900.00
SBC		£1,536.00
Installation of Column & Defibrillator, The Green		
A. Alton, - Stainless Steel Padlock		£5.81
Flyer Box Village Hall		
HMRC - PAYE OCT, NOV, DEC 24		£288.80
N. DeBadgecoe - Paper & Laminator Pouches		£87.96

b) Accounts Update

The **PC** circulated the monthly updates to all Parish Councilors for their information

c) Risk Assessment

The Risk Assessment continues to have changes made with several additions. These are to be reviewed and will be brought back to the next meeting.

10) VILLAGE ISSUES

a) Defibrillator

- **NDB** reported that he had been in discussion with Rob Morrow re the positioning of the defibrillator on the verge to the front of the Railway Station and this still needs to be finalized.
- **AS** reported that he was also about to install a defibrillator which was going to be quite close to the Railway Station.
- **NDB** reported to the meeting that the Parish Council had been offered a discounted deal with London Heart which could not be missed.
- Training sessions at a cost £100 per session are to be provided by Debra Gale with all money received going charity. Both the Parish Council and the WHT are to hold 2 sessions each.

b) Christmas Event

- Went very smoothly.
- Not using the Play Area following the weather conditions was the right decision.
- Questioned as to how long we can obtain items for the Grotto and should we be looking at obtaining our own. Santas chair needs to be replaced.
- Some of the food had been over provided but it was felt that this was acceptable as we are always unsure of numbers.
- Hymn sheets for the choir need to be enlarged before next year.
- Positive feedback from all who attended. **A well-attended community event.**

11) ROAD SAFETY

- a) **Speed Watch** - To be an Agenda item at the January meeting – **EH** to update

b) Speeding Traffic

This continues to be an issue within the village and speed calming is being looked into. The possibility of signage and calming for St. Martins Way was discussed.

c) Accident Forest Lane – West of Railway Bridge

JS reported that a horse box had been forced off the road into the hedge. Dash cam footage clearly shows the incident which has been reported. She questioned as to when we can expect to see traffic calming along this section of road.

d) A67 – The Crown

- **NDB** reported that he is still working towards obtaining a reduction in the speed limit by The Crown from 40mph to 30mph. and that he is in conversation with SBC. There would be a need for additional street lighting if the speed limit is reduced and, at this present time, at a cost of £7,500 per light standard plus cabling and there would be a need for 2. **NDB** asked, as a Parish Council, are we to be doing something which would result in an increase in precept.
- **AMc** – As we now have documented incidents by The Crown can we not ask SBC to reduce the speed limit to 30mph?
- Questions asked as to whether we can ask for a reduction in speed limit without more lighting.
- **NDB** reported that he is working with Rob Morrow SBC to see what the possibilities are.
- Questions were asked as to what funding could be made available from the Ward Budget.
- It was reported that the changes to the Crathorne Interchange are not likely to start until the 50th house is occupied at the Duchy site and also the road from the interchange to Kirklevington will see a speed reduction down to 40mph.

e) Overhanging Hedges – Kirklevington Mews

It was reported that the hedges along the A67 at Kirklevington Mews are overhanging the road and covering signage and needs to be addressed. Unsure who manages the site.

AGENDA ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MONTHS MEETING

Risk/Procedure Assessment, Grass Cutting Outsourcing, Safeguarding. Budget 2025/26

Speeding Traffic/Traffic Calming, Noticeboard Strengthening.

13) Meeting Dates

Monday, 13th January 2025 at 7.00p.m. in The Balcony, Kirklevington Memorial Hall.

Circulation: Parish Councilors Nigel. DeBadgecoe (Chair), Neil Clement (Vice Chair), Damian Hadfield, Jenny. Smith, Dr. Alistair McLee, Liz Blanchard, Becky Rogerson,

Borough Councillor Mrs. E. Hampton – Southern Villages Ward

Borough Councilors Andrew Sherris, Dan Fagan, John Coulson, Yarm Ward (representing Green Lane), **Mayor of the Tees Valley:** Ben Houchen, Matt Vickers **MP,**

Jonathan Nertney **Monitoring Officer SBC, PCSO** Glenn Snow. Gareth Lightfoot – **Press**

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