

## ANNUAL KINGSCOTE PARISH COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

### **Minutes of the Meeting on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall**

PRESENT: Graham Nichols (Chairman), Ben Bennett (Vice Chairman), Richard Gale, Sebastian Cooper, Doug England, Anna Davison (Clerk).

Tony Hicks Chairman of Gloucestershire County Council. Paul Swift, Gillian Portlock from Amey.

#### APOLOGIES:

PUBLIC PRESENT: Irene Ingleby-Oddy, Harry Tubbs Paddy Carpenter, Iolo Davidson, John Giddings, Mike Challis, Ali Challis, Di Legard.

#### 1. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING 13<sup>th</sup> May 2014.

Minutes of the meeting were approved and signed.

#### 2. MATTERS ARISING.

The map of the Parish was discussed again, Tony Wooldridge offered to produce a map of the village with house names for public use.

#### 4. CLERK'S UPDATE:

A summary was given by the Clerk of the pros and cons of a defibrillator in the village. In principle the idea of a defibrillator was welcomed. Long ambulance response times and a system of resuscitation to be used by an untrained operator appeared attractive. However, the dispersed population of Bagpath, Newington and all reaches of Kingscote, not to mention Ashcroft meant that many more than one would be needed. At a cost of nearly £1,000 each, this would be unrealistic, funding ideas were discussed. In the end the need to fetch the defibrillator from a central site proved unrealistic, as the defibrillator is best used within 5 to 7 minutes of a heart attack. A vote was taken and a majority was reached in favor of First Aid Training over the purchase of a defibrillator.

First Aid Course is to be organized.

Action: Clerk

#### 3 FINANCE.

Current balance as of April 1<sup>st</sup> stands at £4,443. The precept has been frozen for the sixth successive year at £3,000, of which £2,250 has been received.

Thank you to Godfrey Ainsworth for helping with the audit of the Parish Council

Year End accounts. The audit is now available to view. Please contact the clerk to make an appointment.

For those who may have missed the earlier Village Hall AGM, Carol Paton gave a summary of the Village Hall accounts. The Village Hall has been financial very successful. It currently holds approximately £8,000 in savings, which will be held for future renovations. The Committee has held successful events such as coffee mornings and a bridge club. There are no major projects planned, but it is hoped the damp in the kitchen will be addressed, costing to come.

## 5. HIGHWAYS:

Gillian Portlock and Paul Swift were welcomed to the meeting. They are responsible for 'Local Works'. The top dressing on Windmill lane was discussed, Amey were thanks for this much needed work. Iolo Davidson raised his concerns with the ongoing lack of maintenance past Scrubbetts Farm. Highways agreed that there had been some historic confusion as to where their responsibilities ended. The issue was resolved when Paul explained that the mapping had got lost in translation with the hand over to Amey. Gill is to talk to Richard Gray to secure funding as ultimately Richard Gray has to approve.

Tony Hicks then joined the discussion to explain the cost of funding highways repairs and structural maintenance. There has been over spending, Amey took on a 'tough contract'. There has been a back log of work, partly caused by bad weather; this back log is getting less. Tony also explained why there had been so many road closures on the A46 and into Tetbury; the latter was for drainage work. Carol Patton raised her concerns with the state of the A46 as it under goes improvements, Tony reassured her the work would be done to a high standard, and if residents were not happy to let him know.

The frequency of grass cutting on parish verges was raised, in summary the site lines are done first as a priority and these are then monitored over the summer. Anyone wishing to flag up a problem area is encouraged to ring the 08000514514 the Highways number. Other verge trimming may be as little as once a year on the minor roads, this is as a result of the financial cuts.

Mike Challis brought the safety issue of the loose gravel at the turning from Wotton to Uley to the attention of Gill Portlock.

Graham Nichols added to this the pot hole filled with water at the entrance to Babdown, and although not in our Parish it is a road that is regularly used by parishioners. Another issue 'out of Parish' was raised whilst there were Highways representatives present to answer. The Horsley road has been single track for a number of years. Tony Hicks explained that it was complicated, but at present complex tests were being done on water flow. The cause of the slip needs to be found before the correct repair work can be carried out. The reduced weight limit has caused lorries to re route, Graham Nichols was concerned about the increased traffic through Kingscote and Highways were made aware of these concerns.

Paddy Carpenter raised the repeated concern for visibility for standing traffic at the turn back to Uley off the A4135. Gill to assess the cutting back of trees.

## 6. Progress Report:

The phone box has been repainted.

Following extensive safety tree work, Paddy Carpenter reported he is happy with the current safety on Bagpath Common with respect to dangerous trees. Wood was left for residents to claim.

Windmill Lane has successfully been repaired and top dressed. The Parish are grateful to Amey for finally finding funds to complete this work.

There has been a successful fight against the Chavenage Anaerobic Digester, Jenny Stuart was thanked for all her help and everyone else who contributed facts and feedback.

7. PLANNING.

Anaerobic Digester: Stroud District Council held an Extraordinary Meeting and threw out the application on the grounds that it was not the right site. It is now going to appeal.

A Woodchip Dryer at Babdown has caused considerable concern. It is thought that 8,000 tons of wood is to be dried. This would create 4-5 lorries a week. This would create noise for the neighboring development as well as an eye sore. It was commented that Babdown is now a massive business centre. CDC will impose limits and are aware of the predicted vehicular movements. The environment agency are involved regarding the noise. Graham Nichols aired his concerns that the whole airfield could be at risk of in fill, and is to find out if the whole site is a 'brown field site'.

8. A.O.B.

Brian was thanked for his contribution to the Parish Council over many years. His perseverance and hard work saw the completion of the restoration of the War Memorial, and after many years of frustration his steadfast mission to improve Windmill Lane has finally paid off.