

KINGSTONE AND THRUXTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Clerk: Mrs Lesley Hay, 19 Karen Court, Dilwyn. Herefordshire

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Kingstone and Thruxton Group Parish Council Website

www.kingstoneandthruxtongpc.org

MINUTES

of Kingstone and Thruxton Group Parish Council Meeting
held on

Wednesday 2nd September at 7.00p.m.

**Due to present Government restrictions this meeting was
a 'virtual' meeting held via Zoom.**

PRESENT: Cllr M. Walker (Chairman); Cllr D Lloyd; Cllr L Thorne; Cllr S Walker (Vice Chairman) Cllr C Pugh and Cllr A Vincent

PRESENT: Parish Clerk: Mrs L A Hay; Steve Madison – Sports Association and Ward Cllr C Bolderson.

Chairman welcomed those present to the September meeting.

MINUTES

1. Apologies for absence - Cllr John Watkins

The Chairman explained that Cllr Russell had been invited to join this evening's meeting even though she had previously emailed to say that she was unable to attend meetings via Zoom. The legal position had been explained, in that if she had been unable to attend a meeting during the last six months - due to Government legislation - she would, unfortunately, automatically disqualify herself as a Parish Councillor.

The Clerk confirmed that the vacancy had been reported to the Elections Officer and the Vacancy Notice would be displayed on the Village Notice Board.

The Clerk was asked to write thanking Carole for her time and effort whilst representing Kingstone Parish Council.

2. **Declarations of interests**, Disclosable Pecuniary, Non-Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary interests. Disclosable Pecuniary declarations of interest were made by Cllr S. Walker; Cllr M Walker; Cllr L Thorne and Cllr A Vincent – Village Hall – plus agenda items 9.2 and 9.3
3. **The minutes** from meeting held 22nd July 2020. It was agreed the minutes to be a true record and it was unanimously voted that they be adopted and signed by the Chairman.

4. **Finance.**

(4.1) The Clerk confirmed she had submitted the end of year accounts 2019-20 and she had received an acknowledgment from the External Auditor. No further action required.

(4.2) The Notice of Public Rights is being displayed on Notice Boards.

(4.3) It was acknowledged that the current accounts sheet/schedule of payment sheet circulated.

(4.4) To agree payment of outstanding invoices – it was voted that all outstanding invoices should be paid.

It was also agreed to pay Items 9.2 and 9.3 referring to the village hall.

The Parish Council had received a letter from Thruxton PCC and Kingstone PCC requesting a donation toward churchyard maintenance. After some discussion, it was unanimously agreed to donate £150.00 and £300.00. The Clerk will arrange to forward the cheques and it was agreed that Cllr S Walker could countersign the cheques.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reminded those present about with the possibility of developing a local dirt track which had been discussed, at length, prior to the Coronavirus lockdown. Ward Councillor Bolderson and the police were still anxious to proceed with this but it had been previously agreed that any decision would be based on a survey of the local children.

A draft survey has been drawn up - again prior to the lockdown – and still needs to be finalised before being distributed.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Headteachers of the two local secondary schools plus two local primary schools and ask if they would be willing for their pupils to take part in a survey. However, it was acknowledged that as pupils only return to school tomorrow it may be prudent to delay any approach for a week or so.

In the meantime, Ward Cllr Bolderson will liaise with Claire Evans – who originally initiated and drafted the survey – with a view to discussing/proposing the way forward with the project.

6. Ward Councillor's report – circulated in advance. Please see copy of full report attached to the end of these minutes.

With regard to the proposed additional 31 houses for phase 3 of the Lagan Homes development – the Ward Cllr explained that as there had been an insufficient public response (only 9 letters received) – she had been unable to get the plan referred to the Planning Committee.

Questions were asked with regard to the 106 monies - and it was confirmed that there had already been a 1st payment – it is thought the payments are based on occupancy.

Although, there has been no official planning decision published with regard to these additional 31 houses – it was agreed that this was almost a forgone conclusion. There was discussion on the whether there would be an additional 106 payment based on the additional 31 houses planned for Phase 3. It was generally agreed that it was sincerely hoped that this money would be spent on improving the general infrastructure within Kingstone.

Mr Steve Madison will forward the initial 106 Agreement Document for the clerk to forward to the Parish Councillors.

Ward Cllr Bolderson explained that she was in the process of pulling together a plan for the linking and upgrade of the footpaths across and around Kingstone. Cllr Pugh asked for a footpath map – Cllr Bolderson will forward to the Clerk.

7. Highways and Environmental Matters

- 7.1 The Clerk confirmed the bid for a lengthsman Funding Grant had been successful. Kingstone had been granted the full amount requested. The Clerk will liaise with D C Gardening (Lengthsman) with regard to a start date for commencing the work outlined in the quote.
- 7.2 Sandbags – it was agreed to ask Cllr J Watkins if he would store another pallet of sandbags – with his agreement – the Clerk will order.
- 7.3 Update Dean Pool parking issues – these issues have been eased with the opening of the Sport Ground gates to allow off road parking. However, it was noted that the surface was now becoming quite muddy – but there are plans for some parking matting is to be laid to help alleviate the issue during the winter months.
- 7.4 Community Speed Watch – it had been agreed to postpone this training until the Spring – again due to Government

guidelines with regard to the Covid19. All residents who had declared an interest in joining the scheme had received a letter outlining the reasons for the delay.

Discussion followed on the extra traffic using the village roads in particular C1221 – Church View/Lane to Deans Pool. There are also speeding issues throughout the village and the Clerk was asked to contact the local PCSO to ask if they could arrange for random speed checks.

There was discussion about residents parking on the pavements and forcing pedestrians with pushchairs; wheelchairs into the road. It is illegal to block a pavement in this way – but difficult to police. It is possible to apply for a TRO with the possibility of double yellow lines – but this process could take up to 10 years. Ward Cllr will take these issues forward and report back at the next meeting.

- 7.5 Lengthsman and Footpath Officer's report – no report available.
- 7.6 KS25 Footpath issues. The Clerk reported that she had forwarded several emails with regard to problems on the KS25. There is an issue regarding ownership of a large oak tree which is in need of pollarding work to make it safe. There was also an incident of a padlocked gate preventing access to the footpath. It has been reported that there are ongoing issues between Lagan Homes and the Land Registry with regard to registered land being sold as gardens - no up to date news available.

In addition, it was noted that there are now no safe passing places along the path which is now very narrow in places.

After discussion, it was agreed that Cllr M Walker and Cllr C Pugh will visit KS25 to look at the oak tree in question; assess the exits; entrances and passing places along the

footpath and to try and establish ownership of the ditch running alongside the hedge associated with the path.

Following the site visit, they will approach the land owners/tenant to discuss future maintenance and hopefully maybe able to report back to the Parish Council before the next meeting in October.

- 8 **Website** –The Chairman reminded Councillors regarding the necessary requirement to upgrade the website to bring it in line with new legislation. The Chairman and Clerk had asked for two quotes – and it was agreed to accept TEEC Ltd. The Chairman will liaise with them and he will continue to manage the website.

However, due to the time scale to set up the new website - it will be necessary to re-new the existing Word Press contract – annual cost of £15.00 – which will cover the interim time necessary to get the new website up and running. The Chairman will make a note on the existing website page that an upgrade is in the process of being installed.

9 **Village Hall**

(9.1) Defibrillator. The Chairman explained that he had checked the defibrillator which is sited by the Village Hall. The senior pads are in date – 2022 but the junior pads need replacing October 2020.

The Chairman will send information to the Clerk. Unfortunately, the emergency equipment pack has been stolen from inside the defibrillator box. Again, chairman will send clerk details to purchase a replacement.

(9.2) Request for part payment towards Village Hall insurance – agreed - see item 4.4

(9.3) Invoice re hire of village hall for Parish Council meetings - agreed - see item 4.4

10. Sports Ground – general update with regard to Seven Site drainage (Pipe and Ditch). There was a full and lengthy discussion with regard to the ongoing drainage/flooding problems which had all been highlighted previously and inspected by Balfour Beatty’s Locality Steward together with representatives of the Parish Council; lengthsman and D C Gardening.

It was generally agreed that the Locality Steward’s hands were tied due to the financial restraints in place. It was suggested that may be an up to date survey should be carried out – but it was felt this should not be funded from the Parish Council budget as it was the landowners/tenant ‘s legal responsibility.

It was acknowledged that there has been an initial survey carried out by Lagan Homes and the Ward Cllr was asked to forward a copy to the clerk for circulation.

11. Items for Next agenda: Dirt Track; School Survey; KS25 site visit.

12. Date of next full council meeting:

Date of next meeting –7th October 2020 – 7.00p.m.

The venue for this meeting will depend on the guidelines in place at that time regarding the use of the Village Hall but will probably be via Zoom.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending via Zoom – and it was generally agreed that the Zoom meeting had again gone very well.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.35 p.m.

Signed: **Parish Council Chairman Cllr. Mr. M Walker**

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Date: 7th October 2020

Ward Councillor Bolderson's September report:

Active Travel Measures

The introduction of emergency active travel measures in connection with Covid-19 was not as smooth as the Council would have wished. In conjunction with a Notice of Motion at Full Council, several meetings have been consequently held by the Cabinet Member with Ward Members to take on board resident concerns. The Cabinet Member for Transport has subsequently reported the following:

- The prohibition of vehicles on the Old Wye Bridge is to be adjusted to permit Hackney Carriages to travel northbound to support this alternatives to private car use. This adjustment will take place from Saturday 22 August.
- Parking bays on the west side of Broad street have been reintroduced as parallel bays (with the existing mix of disabled and pay and display bays) in front of the widened footway. This is to address the reduction of disabled parking in Broad Street and the temporary advisory bays on the north side of King Street across the closed junction of Aubrey Street have been designated as temporary advisory pickup bays. This is to provide additional facilities for pickup which traders have identified as important in current conditions.
- The existing temporary barriers utilised to define the widened footways on Bridge St, King St and Broad St are to be supplemented with planters on Friday 21 and Monday 24 August. This is to enhance the appearance of the measures within these historic streets.
- The proposed bus and cycle lane on Newmarket St and cycle lanes on Blueschool St are not to be implemented. Discussions are ongoing with Highways England regarding measures on the A49 to improve the safety for cyclists crossing from and to Newmarket St to the west of the city including introducing a possible 20mph speed limit. These measures on the A49 are not sufficiently advanced to support the connection that the lanes on Newmarket St and Blueschool St would create.

- The scheme on Commercial Lane will be removed as feedback from users and cycling groups indicated low confidence in using the lanes.
- I will continue to liaise with ward and parish Cllrs, businesses and residents as we consider adjustments to Tranche 1 and suggestions for Tranche 2.

Waste Services

Due to the continued queuing and impact on local businesses at both the Leominster and Hereford recycling centres, **all** recycling centres throughout Herefordshire will move to a booking system during September. A date has not yet been confirmed for this change, so please check the council website before you go. Coupled with this change, the council will also increase the amount of slots that residents can use **ALL** of the sites within Herefordshire from twice a fortnight to four times a fortnight.

Cultural Services

Museum services are now open with the launch of the Ice Age exhibition. Although the library buildings are still closed, you can order books online and library staff will put together a selection to pick up from one of the [Click and Collect libraries](#).

Economy

Discretionary Grant Scheme: Approximately 8500 businesses have been contacted to promote the scheme and the Council have set up an Exceptional Circumstances Fund to support those facing significant hardship who haven't yet been able to get a grant. Businesses are encouraged to contact the Council if they wish to enquire further about available grant funding.

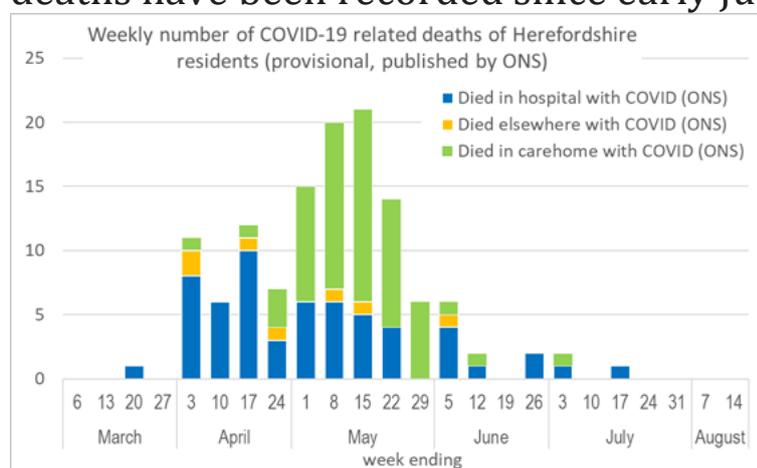
Covid-19 in Herefordshire

Apart from the single contained outbreak at A S Green & Co's Rook Row farm in Mathon (near Ledbury), there has been relatively little change in Covid-19 statistics within Herefordshire since June.

The total cumulative number of lab-confirmed cases in Herefordshire throughout the course of the pandemic is now 913 (26th August). Ten have been confirmed since last week, all from swabs taken between the 18th and 23rd August.

There have been a total of 127 Covid related deaths in Herefordshire (occurring by 14th August and registered by 22nd August) – 58 were in hospital; 62 were in care homes; 4 were at residential addresses and 3 were in a hospice. The below graph records all Covid-19 deaths registered in the County per week.

There have been no recorded deaths since mid-July and only eight deaths have been recorded since early June.



Economically, a recent report by Grant Thornton for The County Councils Network identified Herefordshire as one of the counties estimated to have experienced a greater than average decline in Gross Value Added (GVA). It classified 56% of employment in the county as currently 'at risk' compared to 49% in England as a whole



Where can I find out more?

- National information www.gov.uk/coronavirus
- Local information www.Herefordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus
- Get the latest NHS information and advice about coronavirus (COVID-19) www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19
- A factsheet of the numbers of people in Herefordshire likely to be affected by different aspects of the virus and the measures taken to control its spread can be downloaded

from the [Understanding Herefordshire website](#) (produced March 2020)

New research and open access analytical tools are continually emerging. Some are included below:

- Confirmed cases are updated daily by PHE at <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>.
- ONS publish an [interactive map](#) which currently includes deaths occurring up to the end of June and registered by 11th July.
- [The Office for National Statistics' daily coronavirus roundup](#) reports the latest data and analysis related to the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on our economy and society
- [The Health Foundation - COVID-19 policy tracker](#) is an interactive timeline of key events and government policy announcements related to Covid-19

Highway or Footpath Defects

Please can I encourage you all to report any EMERGENCY defects and potholes by phone 01432 261800 or for non-emergency defects, by logging on the Herefordshire Council website <https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads>

You can report the following items online:

- [Faulty street light](#)
- [Flytipping](#)
- [Public right of way problem](#)
- [Highway drainage issue](#)
- [Overhanging tree](#)
- [Pavement needing repair](#)
- [Pothole](#) or use the [ReportingApp](#)
- [Road needing resurfacing](#)
- [Road sign defect](#)
- [Worn road markings or missing cats eyes](#)