

KINGTON RURAL & LOWER HARPTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of the MEETING HELD AT THE BURTON HOTEL
7th December, 2023

Cllrs P Evans, N Evans, B Evans, H Davies, J Jones, G Edwards, P Watkins and County Councillor Terry James

325/23 APOLOGIES Cllr D Sankey, Cllr T Bounds

326/23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST None

327/23 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 5th October, 2023 - all in favour

328/23 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES None

329/23 HEREFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLOR Cllr James reported that Herefordshire Council council tax would be 4.999% - the finances are in a dire state. The reserves are all allocated or used. Cost of care for the elderly and for children services is where the majority of money goes. Over 10 years the Government grant has gone down from £10m to almost nil. Cllr P Watkins asked where the £100k for consultants was coming from for the proposed 20mph – County Councillor T James remarked that HC use consultants all the time, but suspects that nothing will happen.

330/23 LOCAL POLICE REPORT Not present – but reported

Once again, apologies for not being able to attend this evening, neither me nor Emma are on duty past 5pm. I've had a look back through incidents over the past month and there's only one to let you know of in the area.

You're probably already aware but over the past 6 months or so we have received sporadic reports of trespassing / nuisance behaviour in the area of Kingswood and surrounding properties. The majority of these concerns are of one individual trespassing on land and occasionally into people's gardens. Trespass is a civil offence and not something the police can enforce, however on occasion the individual has left gates open or cut ties around gates causing disruption to livestock. It's a tricky situation to resolve and we are looking at all options at this moment in time. If anyone is affected by this that you know of feel free to pass them our contact details if they want to talk to us about it.

331/23 Finance & Accounts

Clerk's Expenses	£150.00
Burton Hotel	£35.00
Herefordshire Council election costs (uncontested)	£316.20

All members of the Council were in favour of the Finance and Accounts

332/23 RISK ASSESSEMENT – NO RISKS CONSIDERED

333/23 COUNCIL VACANCIES

Clerk advised that she had been approached by the Elections office to query the vacancies. Discussion followed and various suggestions were made to advertise for more Councillors.

334/23 PRECEPT FOR YEAR 2024-2025

Clerk handed round the schedule of payments to date and what was expected to be spent up until end of March 2024. After discussion it was agreed that the precept would be £9k again.

All councillors in favour

335/23 BARCLAYS BANK ON LINE

Clerk advised although she had had to wait nearly an hour to talk to a member of Barclays staff, and had to explain what the purpose of their bank account – i.e. a Parish Council with an income of £9k per year, the staff member gave the clerk a reference and then said that a Manager would ring to discuss the Parish Council having an on-line account. Clerk advised that no Manager had rung and that the call happened nearly a month ago. Clerk advised that she would write again.

Cllr P Watkins mentioned that Barclays are not interested in little accounts such as Councils, Clubs etc.

336/23 BANK SIGNATORIES

Clerk advised that during the conversation with the Barclays staff member – told to go on-line!

337/23 ARCHIVES

Clerk advised that she had had a visit to the Archives on behalf of Kington Town Council and realised that nothing of Rural had been archived since she took over as clerk, having still got Ken Reeves papers. Cllr J Jones asked what the archives were about and County Councillor T James said that they hold all records – a lot of council minutes etc. Clerk advised that the Archives were well staffed and very helpful.

Councillors agreed that the clerk could check with the Archives and see if papers could be archived. Cllr P Evans offered to help.

338/23 PLANNING

No decision yet

220479 Sunset Cottage, Sunset, Kington HR5 3RF

No decision yet

216010 1 Golden Bank Rushock

CONDITIONAL

230581 Bramleys, Barton Lane, Bradnor, Kington HR5 3RE

Cllr H Davies advised that they had not got the entrance that they had wanted.

230828 & 230903 MILLERS HOUSE, HERGEST ROAD, KINGTON HR5 3EL

TO BE CONSIDERED

233320 & 233321 PARK STYLE MILL MAHOLLEM, KINGTON HR5 3PT

Proposed extension to existing listed building & proposed extension to existing listed cottage

Councillors had no comment to make on the changed plans.

Cllr J Jones asked if there was any decision yet on Rock Cottage. Clerk advised that Mrs R Bradbury had put in a well written objection to the proposed access onto By-Pass and clerk had also responded with the remark that they agreed with Mrs Bradbury's response. Still awaiting a decision.

339/23 CORRESPONDENCE

Mr Trumper – Back Brook OK

HC road info weekly.

BBLiving places emails re Footpath Rackway, Rushock Lane and Dunfield Lane (3 photos sent)

HC Notification of casual vacancy

HEDGEHOGS are U trying for a hedgehog highway – not appropriate for Rural area

HC Band for Council Tax

HC Precept request form

HC Request for electoral role

HC Notification of amount required for uncontested election

HC Change in the legislation for absent votes

Neil Darley Admin assistant to the WE DON'T BUY CRIME -do we want to sign up?

BB reminder of how we report road defects etc.

BBLP invitation to attend "the services they provide etc?" dates 16/17th or 22nd Jan

HC Election office moved to Blueschool House, Blueschool Lane, Hereford HR1 2LX

Talk Communities enquiry – want to know who our footpath officer is – *Footpath Officer not allocated – clerk to ask Kington Town Council's footpath officer if he would like the job.*

Barclays Bank request for details of our business details – given

Barclays request for ONLINE BANKING – awaiting Manager to ring – since 2/11/23

340/23 BACK BROOK UPDATE

Nothing to report.

341/23 ROADS & LITTER

Cllr J Jones advised that the Lower Harpton Road has a major crack in the road. Also reported that BB hadn't dealt with the road which is sliding into the field. Also a depression was appearing just outside Lower Harpton Farm – the lorries are pounding through it.

Cllr J Jones reported that the verge was damaged on the corner outside Stan Aubreys farm

Cllr B Evans reported that the Muhollam Road has potholes just at the turn

Cllr P Evans reported that the pothole at Kington Cemetery – he reported it direct – they came and filled it in, didn't tump it down and now the filling has washed away – needs reporting again. The quality of the work is a disgrace.

Cll P Watkins advised that the ditch that had been filled in when the lorry took a 'short cut' was still not dealt with and asked that the clerk should keep writing. Also mentioned that the blockage in the stream under the bridge/culvert (close to Dunfield House) was still blocked and that flooding was still happening.

Cllr D Sankey arrived at 8.10pm

342/23 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS – none

343/23 NEXT MEETING TBA

Meeting closed at 8.12pm

Signed _____ Dated _____