

KENN PARISH COUNCIL

Page 149

MINUTES – Kenn Parish Council meeting 1 November 2016, held in the Village Hall, Kenn St, Kenn Meeting commenced at 19:30 and concluded at 20:45

PRESENT: Cllrs S Naish (Chairman), S Brain, W Bessant, J-P Humberstone, C Quinn, R Treble Clerk; Eleanor Wade
North Somerset Council (NSC) Cllrs J Iles and J Hadley and M Lenny Liaison Officer.

19:30 INFORMAL BUSINESS

Items raised during Public Participation

2 residents attended

(1) Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) K Turner – was in attendance to give assurance that, even though they had not attended many meetings, Kenn had not been overlooked. The reasons being; (1) understaffing, not so many available to attend, and (2) little or no crime occurs in the parish. A new format was being introduced next year which should improve attendance.

(2) North Somerset updates – Cllr Iles provided information on;

- St Modwens – ongoing. Possibly a third party will provide a community centre on the site.
- Mill Farm House – still being considered but she will not be requesting a committee decision
- NSC Plan – a site allocation of 14 houses in Kenn has been deleted from the plan.
- Empty properties – report these to Mark Hughes, who is trying to get them back into use.

(3) Derelict properties – a resident reported that there is also an article in the NS Life magazine on how to report these for checking if they are safe, also for possible re-habitation if appropriate.

19:40 FORMAL BUSINESS

16/132 Apologies for absence Cllr H Staples (unwell)

16/133 Declarations of interest None

16/134 Minutes of the Council meetings held on 2 September, 4 October 2016

Resolved: The minutes were approved as correct.

16/135 Chairman's Communications (min 16/108) the Chairman:

Active Gym – gave the information provided that the gym was celebrating a year's trading and had emailed inviting Kenn residents to a free try of their facilities.

Parish Recycling – thanked those that had assisted with the events.

16/136 Broadband (min 16/109)

At the last meeting it had been agreed Cllr Brain would draft a letter from the Parish Council to Connect Devon & Somerset and copied to the local MP, a summary of which is;

'Seeking clarification of plans for the Kenn area which suffers from patchy broadband. Some of the village can take advantage of the FTTC work but most are on unreliable aluminium/copper lines to an exchange some distance away. Previous enquiries have not been able to resolve how the situation will be improved.'

- *Been told (plus on the interactive map) the area is covered by a commercial provider so you are unable to assist. Also because of commercial reasons we cannot be told who it is.*
- *Intense research failed to produce evidence of a commercial provider and it is conclude there has been a mistake.*
- *Clevedon URBAN area has options of Virgin or Openreach and so is commercially covered. Clevedon RURAL does not have this alternative so there is no commercial option.*
- *It would seem that Kenn was designated to be commercially covered in error as part of the classification of the entire Clevedon Telephone exchange area.*

Request to look into this. To be able to reassure all parishioners they will receive satisfactory broadband in due course'.

A reply had been received a summary of which is;

'Kenn was passed to private suppliers as an area they were going to connect but when our phase 1 programme was developed in 2012 it was an area we could not deliver to. It emerged many village properties could not take advantage of the new fibre infrastructure. Now these properties will no longer be served by the private sector they become eligible for consideration in our phase 2 programme.'

Phase 2 is out to tender, to be awarded to a supplier in December, to begin works in the New Year. £39.5m secured to fund delivery to harder to reach areas and to connect as many as possible. This will include more contributions from suppliers, increasing the overall budget. Depending on the contractor, Kenn may be part of this phase of broadband rollout. As an interim solution CDS is offering a voucher for properties on the slowest speeds (below 2Mbps) as a grant worth up to £500 to connect to alternative broadband, bringing their speeds up to at least 10Mbps. Villages may work with neighbours to develop a community solution.'

Resolved: Information noted and continue to monitor in the New Year.

- Balance Pond on Business Park – Clerk reported she had not had time to follow this up
Resolved: To still progress writing to the owner to ask their intentions about maintaining the area and also contact Mr Hobden to arrange a site visit.
- Verge Maintenance – report received that the works had been done. However, the fail equipment being used was not fully effective, Cllr Treble had spoken to NSC about this. Another area of concern and some tree surgery works that was needed was reported, however, it was recalled these were the responsibility of the land owner.

16/138 **Traffic speeds, pavement parking** (min 16/111)

- VASS sign for Kenn – These signs had been ordered. Noted (2016/17 budgeted sum for this £3,000 in precept and £3,000 set aside from reserves)
- Direction Signage – a report was received that satnavs are misdirecting drivers to a local timber business instead of the Equestrian Centre, Hand Stadium, or Active Gym.
Agreed: Cllr Iles (NSC Councillor) and Matt (NSC Liaison Officer) would investigate if it was possible to have direction signage located on Davis Lane to assist people.

16/139 **NSC Parish Recycling Scheme & Active Gym free event** (min 16/112)

The event had taken place on the 17th September and had attracted a number of Kenn residents (but not as many as had been hoped) who had taken part in the health checks and had obtained various 'freebees' and information from the NSC Recycling Team. This would achieve Bronze level for Kenn. **Noted**

16/140 **NSC Parish Recycling Scheme – Reused Event** (min 16/113)

The WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment) amnesty and collection of lift-able unwanted/old furniture had taken place on the 29 October 2016. A good number of items had been brought along (more than the event held in Clevedon). This would achieve the silver level for Kenn in the Parish Recycling Scheme. **Noted**

16/141 **Application 15/P/1588/F Oakland Automotive** (min 16/115)

Following a request as to the recent works to the pavement and wall at Oakland Automotive and whether it was in line with their planning permission. It had been agreed to enquire the views of the Highways Officer with regard to:

- Loss of pavement and/or the new pavement width is not to highway specification,
- And if highway land had been included in the forecourt.

Members received details of the Clerk's enquiries to the Highways Officer and plan layouts of the application. A reply had been received on the day of the meeting that: (1) no highway land had been taken into the property's new boundary and (2) because there was no link to a pavement on either side of the new boundary pavement, only grass verges, there was no requirement for it to be to highway width specifications. **Noted**

16/142 **Land for possible additional community facilities in Kenn** (min 16/121)

Following a request and information that developers can request the Section 106/CIL agreements are located off their site – eg on St Modwens – there should be an active search for an alternative area of land. It had been agreed to keep this in mind and give it further thought. Members recalled and **noted:**

- There is currently a site set aside for a village facility, within Kenn village itself, in the North Somerset Local Development Plan.
- For the St Modwens' site the strength of the request is for a provision to be contained on that site – this is in order to provide a facility in the near vicinity the new homes.

Planning Item16/143 **Planning Applications 16/P/2362/LB – Yew Tree Farm, Kenn Street, Kenn**

Replacement windows to ground and first floor elevations. **Resolved:** No objections

Consultations – All noted with no comments.

16/144 NSC Article 4 Direction on Airport Parking

16/145 ALCA – Referendum Principles for Parish Council Precepts

16/146 **Audit of Accounts 2015/16 – Receipt of the Auditor's Report**

The auditor provided written reports to Members on 2 matters not affecting their opinion but that they wished to draw attention to:

- **Accounting for Fixed Assets** – in box 9 the fixed assets had been depreciated by 15%. Reminder that local councils are required to account for fixed assets at ‘purchase cost’, if this is not known a proxy cost can be substituted (eg insurance value).

It was requested Kenn PC reinstate the 2016 figure on next year’s Annual Return as £5,427 to agree with the provided fixed assets register and write ‘restated’ beneath the £ sign on the 2016 column.

Resolved: To carry out the Auditor’s request and the keep this requirement in mind.

- **Annual Governance & Accounting Statement** – it was noted by the auditor that both of these had been considered, approved and signed on the same day/minute reference.

It was requested Kenn PC should ensure the minute references clearly demonstrate that the Annual Governance Statement was considered, approved and signed before the Accounting statements.

Resolved: To carry out the Auditor’s request and the keep this requirement in mind.

16/147 Payment of Accounts & Budget Control

Members reviewed the details in the Clerk’s report.

Resolved: To approve the accounts for payment as detailed.

16/148 Grant Request - HomeStart

Consideration was given as to whether it was known if this charity had carried out any work in the parish (working with vulnerable families in N Somerset providing home visiting volunteers to support those families in their various needs). Nothing could be recalled;

Resolved: Not to provide a grant on this occasion.

16/149 Calendar of Meetings for 2017

The draft calendar of meeting was reviewed and;

Resolved: Approve the calendar with a proviso to amend, if necessary, at a later date.

16/150 Kenn Christmas tree and lights

Arrangements were made for the supply of a tree and information provided on the lighting and the event to turn the lights on. Thanks were given to all those assisting with this.

The Christmas lights owned by the Parish Council were no longer used as they take too much electricity. Clerk offered to collect them as they are included in the assets register.

Review of procedures, committee and policy

16/151 Planning Committee remit review

The Chairman advised that she had been approached by some members who were appointed to this committee to enquire why all planning applications were not coming to them for consideration. The Clerk recalled the committee had been appointed; (1) on an ad-hoc basis (meets only call when appropriate), (2) to consider small planning applications received between scheduled main Council meetings. **Noted and no change.**

Attached as Appendix ‘A’

16/151 Council Agenda items – it was reported that when an item is requested by a councillor for inclusion on the agenda of a meeting then adequate information should be provided before the meeting to enable other councillors to read it and give thought to it.

Resolved: To accept the policy as set out and format a policy document for reference.

16/153 Planning Enforcement

Some members felt uncomfortable reporting minor infringements, feeling that seeking these out could appear to be a vigilante approach, especially if the Planning Authority did not deem them serious enough for any action. However, they felt they should not avoid their responsibilities. Proposed by Cllr J-P Humberstone, seconded by Cllr R Treble and;

Resolved: to accept the policy as set out and include it in the policy document. Also put an article in Kenn N&V for residents who may wish to let NSC know of a concern.

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

Signed by the Chairman

Date.....