

**MINUTES OF THE KENTFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019 AT ST MARY'S CHURCH, BURY ROAD, KENTFORD AT 7.00PM.**

Present: Cllr M Baker, Cllr C Carter, Cllr Z Smith, Cllr R Dicker, Cllr R Jaggard, SCC Robin Millar and four members of the public.

1. Apologies – none received.

A resident from Tuddenham raised concerns that the village, like Kentford, is subjected to an unacceptable increase in traffic movements. With the only solution being the construction of an A11/A14 link road, Kentford Parish Council agreed to join with Tuddenham and surrounding villages in promoting getting this done. Cllr Millar explained it was a National Highways matter and not linked to SCC. He further added, RIS2 (2022/2027) for the eastern region, has identified this junction to be in need of improvement. However, monies may not be available unless linked with large housing development. Initially, to emphasise the impact increased lorries and cars have on villages, a meeting with FHDC (Local Plan) should be arranged. Additionally, SALC, FHDC Parish Forum and SCC Colin Noble need to be advised.

2. Minutes / Matters Arising

Update on the 55 homes at Kennett, the current planning application has been refused but may come back at a later date; recycling bank to be moved to the garage; Malcolm & Chris have been trained by Trev on the website, old local magazines now uploaded; thank you to Henry for changing the name on the notice board; excellent day decorating the church and railings for Christmas. The minutes were then unanimously approved as a true record of the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

3. Officer reports

Cllr Millar reported the Jeddah Way land transfer has finally happened. A notional sum of monies, £870, has been transferred for future maintenance at the site. Simon Collins is scheduling works to clear the branches and undergrowth. Cllr Carter asked what is planned for the rest of the footpath/open space as FHDC are not actively pursuing this and are not willing to take enforcement action. Cllr Dicker with the help of Cllr Millar to follow this through.

4. Public Forum

With regards to the proposed houses at the rear of the Kentford pub, two issues were raised by a member of the public a) some residents, especially those who directly back onto the development were not informed of any changes i.e. cutting trees down early b) a pathway was taken out and passed by planning without due notification to those affected. FHDC have omitted these were errors on their part. A letter of complaint on how the whole thing has been handled to be sent to Planning. The developer, however, must take some of the blame.

The second issue raised related to flooding on Gazeley Road. SCC Highways have cleared two drain holes but with little or no difference. Coupled with constant water gushing down Gazeley Hill and motorists speeding, property walls are beginning to erode. Cracks are also appearing in the road (a danger to cyclists) RM to take back to SCC.

Speeding is still a major problem within the village. Statistics show local drivers and not outsiders are mainly responsible. Police spot checks not viable. The two Vehicle Activated Signs in Bury & Herringswell Road do have an impact but are not the overall solution.

To keep vehicles out, a question was asked whether the two ineffective posts that lock up the church car park are to be replaced? Date of the opening of the children's playground also to be queried? Matthew Homes to be contacted (MB to action).

#### 5. Flooding on Gazeley Road

Dealt with in public forum.

#### 6. Village walking/cycling connectivity and connection to Moulton

A map showing suggested routes between Bury Road and Lambert Grove was circulated. Purely inspirational at present; questions need to be identified; public consultation to gauge level of support; ownership of new path; ability to gain access etc. Further discussion at the next meeting. Concerning connectivity between Kentford & Moulton, the Chairman met with Moulton PC to share views from Farriers Grange. RM reported funding not available at present; need for the speed limit to be reduced from 60mph (RM offered to help fund a report for this). A further option is still in the confidential stage. With many questions to be considered, local residents are to be asked for their thoughts. An ongoing agenda item.

#### 7. Street Lighting

Costings to upgrade the obsolete G39 street lights with LED lights were circulated for consideration. Following discussion, it was unanimously agreed to ask SCC Street Lighting whether a) the three street lights currently not working will have LED lights fitted and if not, can they be? b) to instruct SCC to upgrade all ten street lights on Bury Road to LED at the cost of approximately £7,600.

An uplift on the precept, together with some reserves to be used to cover the cost.

#### 8. Precept

It was unanimously agreed the precept for the financial year 2019/20 be increased to £10,500.

#### 9. Plans for 2019

Suggested dates for the Kentford Fete are: 27<sup>th</sup> July 10<sup>th</sup> August 17<sup>th</sup> August (RJ to action).  
Big Litter pick – date to be confirmed.

Date of the next meeting: 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 7.00pm.

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

