

MINUTES OF THE KENTFORD PARISH COUNCIL VIRTUAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 7TH MAY 2020 AT 11.30AM

Present: Cllr M Baker, Cllr T Alexandra, Cllr C Carter, Cllr H Morrison, Cllr F Cunnington, Cllr B Tautz, Cllr S Thompson, County & District Cllr A Drummond. Members of the public were invited to attend the meeting.

1. Apologies

All present

2. Declarations of Interest

None declared.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting/Matters Arising

Prior to lockdown, one street light replacement still outstanding, proposed development near the river has been rejected, Flower and History Festival postponed, Cllr Dicker has given some monies from his Locality Budget towards the Moulton Road bus shelter project. Other matters will be covered within the agenda.

The minutes were unanimously approved as a true record of the meeting and will be signed by the Chairman at a later date.

4. Pathways & Open Spaces

Presentation led by Cllr Morrison – Under the S106 scheme, West Suffolk Council has received monies from various developers to support the infrastructure needs of the village. £38,000 for cycle paths/footpaths and £170,000 for public open spaces. This needs to be spent within a given time period i.e. March 2021. Given the current COVID situation, Cllr Drummond to find out whether this deadline will be extended. Although WSC will be making the final decision about spending the money, the Parish Council have been asked for their opinions on how it could be spent.

Pathways - Aspiration of the Parish Council has always been to connect the village away from the traffic on the Bury Road. Proposed links that need development are Lambert Grove to Jeddah Way (positive feedback from local residents but felt other issues need to be addressed first), Moulton Avenue to Moulton Stud, Moulton Stud to the Kentford Pub development, The Kentford to Gazeley Road, path towards the Garage and Phoenix cycle area; which would also connect to the Icknield Way.

Slides were used to show individual proposed pathways. Prior to submitting final recommendations, further discussion to be arranged.

Public Open Spaces – The aim of any development is to encourage the use of the outdoors and encourage outdoor social activities. Kentford has a number of small open spaces but lacks a village style area for recreational activities, seating, and outdoor meeting space. An idea to rectify this is to develop the green space behind the church. Mr Boyce has been approached and is interested in the proposal. If prepared to do so, West Suffolk Council could purchase the land with S106 monies.

5. Public Forum

Questions from members of the public a) that given the level of spend, if the space behind the church is to be intended for any other use, there should be input from villagers. In reply, Cllr Carter said the space would only be used for temporary events i.e. site for village fete, short term car parking, Flower/History exhibition. A concern was raised regarding the area being a potential attraction to travellers. All agreed, a height restriction barrier would have to be in place b) with the development in Kennett inevitable, is there anything that can be done in advance for better access/parking/path improvement at Kennett Station? The Parish Council will be pursuing these concerns, when appropriate, with East Cambs Planning c) links to station/wider footpaths needed.

Planning

Already covered earlier in the meeting.

Covid-19

Cllr Baker summarised what was available for those in need of assistance. Kentford has a bank of volunteers, a helpline telephone number, and its own support structure. Newmarket Hub is going strong, SCC has a website/helpline. Cllr Alexandra to explore a free prescription delivery service (Echo). The Newmarket Day Centre is delivering meals on wheels to clients in the local area – link to be posted on the Kentford website. Newmarket Town Council have a manned helpline 8am-8pm seven days a week. The Newmarket Festival also has been given a £50,000 fund from Bill Gredley's Unex Organisation to assist those in need.

Contact details for Newmarket Town Council helpline: (01638) 667227

Contact details for Suffolk County Council helpline: (0800) 8766926

Website

Other members are now getting comfortable with the technology of the website. It is intended to build out as much content as needed. A voicemail helpline is now in place with two volunteers registered to man it.

Date of next meeting

Thursday 18th June 2020. Invitations to be sent out.

With no further business the meeting closed at 12.45pm.