

**MINUTES OF THE KINGSTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY  
18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBERS AT 7.00PM, AT ST DAVID'S CHURCH, EASTERN AVENUE SOUTH, NN2  
7QB**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs, Titus Ajayi (Chair), Tony Ward, Michael O'Connor, Bryan Lewin, Rachael Ball, Eluned Lewis-Nichol, Sam Kilby-Shaw, Dilip Kumar, Arthur Newbury (part), Anthony Antoniou (part), Gill Askew (part)

**ALSO PRESENT:** Sarah Wrighton (Deputy Clerk), Cllr Sam Rumens, PCSO Rachael Barber, Community Safety Liaison, one member of the Public. Alison Barnes (Clerk) also joined for part of items 11, 12 and 13 via telephone.

**ABSENT:** Cllrs, Mamun Ali, Elaine Miller, Steve Miller  
Alison Barnes (Clerk due to sickness)

**139/23 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Ali due to other commitments. Proposed by Cllr Kilby-Shaw, seconded by Cllr Lewin, and unanimously resolved that the apologies be accepted

Apologies were received from Cllr S Miller due to work commitments. Proposed by Cllr Ball, seconded by Cllr Kilby-Shaw, and unanimously resolved that the apologies be accepted

Apologies were received from Cllr E Miller due to sickness. Proposed by Cllr Kilby-Shaw, seconded by Cllr Kumar, and unanimously resolved that the apologies be accepted

Apologies were received from Cllr Beardsworth for lateness due to other commitments. Proposed by Cllr S. Kilby-Shaw, seconded by Cllr Lewin, and unanimously resolved that the apologies be accepted

**140/23 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND APPLICATIONS FOR  
DISPENSATION**

It was noted that all Councillors should declare a non-pecuniary interest in item 12 due to Arthur Newbury's activity as a previous Councillor

Cllr Ball declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 15.1, as her children attend Buckton Fields School. Cllr Ball stated she would remain in the room but would abstain from any vote under that item of business

Cllr Ajayi declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 12 as Gill Askew was known to him

*Cllr Beardsworth arrived at the meeting at 7.04pm*

Cllr Beardsworth declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 12 as Gill Askew was known to her

**141/23 MINUTES**

It was proposed by Cllr O'Connor, seconded by Cllr Kilby Shaw, and resolved with 8 votes for and 1 abstention by Cllr Beardsworth, to confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2023 as a true record

## **142/23 REPORTS FROM POLICE REPRESENTATIVES AND WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCILLORS**

PCSO Rachel Barber gave a verbal report and noted an increase in offences was recorded this year

Shoplifting - Cllr Beardsworth raised a question regarding information that Kingsthorpe was one of the worst affected places for shoplifting and what was being done to address this. PCSO Barber explained that many large businesses did not investigate under a certain value. PCSO Barber also mentioned that the recent rise in shoplifting thefts was due to an increase in the cost of living and that the Home Secretary was looking at ways to support shops

Boots Store break in - PCSO Barber explained that Boots on Harborough Road was broken into again, and that the adjacent alleyway was problematic, and they hoped it would be gated off

General safety in Kingsthorpe - CCTV had been requested for Harborough Road and behind Boots near the Library as a hotspot for anti-social activity, including the spiral path and rear exit to the Church

Discussions took place between members and Cllr Rumens around the following:

Potholes – Highways are awaiting funding

Orbital Road – there may be possible funding for a Northampton orbital road to direct traffic around the town

Childrens Services - Council's budget was £400M, and that Children's Services were £100M of this and regularly over budget. Cllr Rumens stated there had been problems due to Childrens Services not advising in advance of overspends but that this was being remedied

Welford Road Closure - Cllr Lewin asked about Welford Road closures and noted there had not been a well signed diversion put in place and Acre Lane was being used like a racetrack. Cllr Ball stated that the closure of the Welford Road had caused much traffic problems on the Harborough Road. Cllr Rumens advised he was attending a meeting with residents at the corner of Lynton Avenue to discuss this issue

Greyfriars Bus Station Site - Cllr Kilby-Shaw asked about the use of land where the Greyfriars bus station used to be. Cllr Rumens explained that there were no plans

Discussions took place between members and Cllr Beardsworth around the following:

Potholes - Cllr Beardsworth explained that 2 pothole machines had been purchased allowing 1 person to do this work with each of the machines.

Childrens Services - They explained that Childrens Services were regularly over budget, for example, this year by more than 10% totalling approximately 14M and as such they were purchasing houses to try to bring down the cost of children's home placements

Enterprise Zone - Cllr Beardsworth explained that there was office space and a hotel planned in the new enterprise zone in the town centre

Cost of Living Crisis - There are some concerns around temporary accommodation for people that had recently lost homes, explaining that this had increased recently due to mortgage rate rises

## **143/23 DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

None

## **144/23 CHAIRS REPORT**

Cllr Ajayi gave a verbal report regarding the NCALC AGM he had attended with Cllr Ball

## **145/23 CLERKS REPORT AND ACTION LOG**

Noted

#### **146/23 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS SERVING ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Library Working Group - Cllr Ward stated that St James Community Library at the Doddridge Centre worked with volunteers and that they may be able to work in our library at no cost to us. He added that the reading challenge was starting and that it was being considered to charge CMLs for library online services at £75 for individual membership and £150 for corporate membership annually.

Police Beat Bus – Outside Waitrose recently attended by Cllr Lewin. Nothing to add to PCSO Barbers report but there were recommendations to protect keyless car fobs with faraday pouches to prevent cloning

#### **147/23 COUNCILS POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PRACTISIES**

It was proposed by Cllr Lewin proposed, seconded by Cllr Beardsworth, and unanimously resolved to accept the policy with immediate effect

#### **148/23 COMMITTEES AND WORKING GROUPS**

Proposed by Cllr Beardsworth, seconded by Cllr Kilby Shaw and unanimously resolved to accept the following:

- 148.1 Minutes of the Climate Change Committee Meeting - Monday 2nd October 2023
- 148.2 Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting - Monday 2nd October 202.
- 148.3 Cllr Ball gave a verbal report on behalf of the Library and Events working group, that the office was in the process of obtaining quotations for work to be carried out in the Library. The lamppost poppies had arrived, and the Christmas lights are due to be installed on 26<sup>th</sup> November
- 148.4 Cllr O'Connor gave a verbal report on behalf of the Grants Panel. Two applications were considered under delegated authority and to recommend to full Council, that in accordance with Council's Grant Policy criteria, Moors Trust are granted £1900.00, and Northampton Domestic Abuse Service are granted £2000

#### **149/23 FINANCE**

Proposed by Cllr Kilby-Shaw, seconded by Cllr O'Connor and unanimously resolved to accept the following:

- 149.1 Approve and authorise payments for October expenditure as detailed totalling £24,405.68
- 149.2 Receive a budget report showing expenditure for the year to date
- 149.3 Receive and note Bank Reconciliation for September 2023
- 149.4 To approve the monthly Standing Order for Personnel Advice & Solutions Ltd
- 149.5 Receive and note the Conclusion of Annual External Audit
- 149.6 Approve Grant expenditure of £2000 for the Northampton Domestic Abuse Service
- 149.7 Approve Grant expenditure of £1900 for Kingsthorpe Moors Trust

#### **150/23 CO-OPTION OF A NEW COUNCILLOR**

- 150.1 Applications were received and considered for appointment as a co-opted Councillor to fill existing vacancies in the St David's and Sunnyside Wards.  
Cllr Ajayi welcomed the candidates to the meeting and invited them to give a brief introduction about themselves and ward preference. He then opened the floor for members to ask questions
- 150.2 Anthony Antoniou stated he had no preference, both Gill Askew and Arthur Newbury stated their preference as St David's.  
The Chair read out each name in alphabetical order and asked members to exercise their one vote each by a show of hands. With Mr Antoniou receiving the lowest number of votes he was eliminated.
- 150.3 Due to both remaining candidates receiving 4 votes each, the Chair used his casting vote and Arthur Newbury was duly co-opted as Councillor for the St David's Ward
- 150.4 It was then proposed by Cllr Ball, seconded by Cllr Kilby-Shaw, and unanimously resolved that Gill Askew be duly co-opted as Councillor for the Sunnyside Ward
- 150.5 In the presence of the Chair and Deputy Clerk, both candidates signed their Declaration of Acceptance and joined the meeting

### **151/23 VACANCY FOR SPRING PARK WARD**

151.1 As no request for an election had been received by West Northamptonshire Council, Cllr Ball proposed to co-opt the remaining candidate onto Spring Park. A counter proposal was made by Cllr Kilby Shaw, seconded by Cllr Lewis-Nichol to advertise the vacancy. This motion fell with 2 votes for, 8 against, and 1 abstention.

Therefore, proposed by Cllr Ball, seconded by Cllr Kumar, and resolved with 8 votes for, 2 against and 1 abstention, Anthony Antoniou is duly co-opted as Councillor for the Spring Park Ward

151.2 In the presence of the Chair and Deputy Clerk, Mr Antoniou signed this Declaration of Acceptance and joined the meeting

*Point of order was made by Cllr Kily-Shaw to extend the meeting by 15 minutes. This was proposed by Cllr Ajayi, seconded by Cllr Lewin, resolved 6 for, 4 against, 2 abstentions*

*8.55pm Cllr Beardsworth left the meeting and did not return*

### **152/23 INTERIM BUS POLICY**

It was proposed by Cllr Ball, seconded by Cllr O'Connor, and resolved with 9 for, and 1 abstention, to send any comments to the Clerk to respond as a whole

### **153/23 MOTIONS**

Cllr Ball abstained from vote as a parent at the school. It was proposed by Cllr O'Connor, seconded by Cllr Lewin, and resolved with 7 votes for, and 4 abstentions to amend the motion that Council asks the Clerk, in consultation with Cllr Ball, to write to the MP for Northampton North, the MP for Daventry, and the Department for Education on behalf of residents of Kingsthorpe to express our disappointment with the structural issues at Buckton Fields Primary School, to encourage focus and to expedite resolution of those issues

It was proposed by Cllr Lewis-Nichol, seconded by Cllr Ball and unanimously resolved to amend the motion that under the discretionary statutory power (Local Government and Rating Act 1997, s 31), which gives a Parish Council the choice or opportunity to act and/or give financial support for crime prevention measures, this Council resolves to set up a working group to research crime prevention initiatives in the Parish, liaise with community groups and make recommendations to full Council

### **154/23 TO CONSIDER ANY CORRESPONDENCE**

An email from the Tess Group received and noted.

### **155/23 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

### **156/23 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING**

To note the date as Wednesday 15th November 2023 at 7.00pm

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their contributions and closed the meeting at 9.12pm

**Signed:**  
**Chair:**

**Date:**