

DRAFT. Councillors please note amendments to minutes in writing to clerk

**Keinton Mandeville Parish Council**

Minutes of a meeting of the above named Parish Council, held on  
Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011, at the village hall at 7.30pm.

**Present**

Brendan O'Hara, Michael Richardson, Belinda Simson, Chris Lane, Sarah Cooke, Kathy Low

**In attendance**

Jimmy Zouche, (County Councillor) John Calvert (District Councillor), Sue Graham (Clerk)

**Brief Summary of public session**

Mr Cook from Box Cottage attended the meeting. He expressed disappointment that it had been reported in recent PC meeting minutes that

1. The fingerpost outside his property had been moved / obscured
2. Queries had been raised about the height of his wall and whether this had been built to plan.

He noted that these minutes had been published on a public notice board. He claimed that

- The fingerpost outside the cottage has not been moved
- With reference to a report in the minutes that the fingerpost had been obscured, there is different backdrop, and the line of his wall is further back than the original hedge.
- A cursory examination would show it hasn't been moved. The sign is obscured by a telegraph pole.

Councillors were invited by Mr Cook to visit his property to see for themselves.

With regard the reference in the minutes about the wall, Mr Cook stated that:

- The wall is not too big (it is determined by the garden level on other side of wall) but they had to remove the hedge to build it, did not wish to replace clay and planning condition did not require it.
- The verge will be grassed and subject to views of PC /highways they will create landscaping to the north of the wall and a pedestrian way to the south, which he feels will be a benefit.
- The Environment Agency had no interest in the ditch.
- They have planning permission for the wall and a requirement from Highways to make the visibility clearer and safer for traffic.
- He accepts subjective views will differ and that wall looks stark

Mr Cook claimed that it is the duty of PC to obey rules of natural justice and stated that it is inconsistent with those rules to take a complaint at face value and not to investigate yet it appears to him that an investigation did not take place. He alleged that by minuting those allegations as if fact, people would read it as confirmation that he and his wife or his builders were responsible, as such the PC is defaming them. With regard to the law of defamation, he claimed this would reduce their reputation in the eyes of an ordinary person reading the minutes. He requested a correction in the minutes in the same manner that the concerns were reported.

The Chair asked Mr Cook if he could put his concerns in writing and that the council would respond after seeking advice.

Question were raised

- Seeking confirmation about which sign is being discussed - confirmed fingerpost that is a road traffic sign.
- Whether his land stretches to the kerb (JC responded that he believes he owns the sub soil to the highway but does not see why this is relevant)

A letter detailing his concerns was given to Councillors by Mr Cook

Other matters raised in public session included

- Could the village hall install a public address system loop for use in large meetings? PC will ask BG to raise with the village hall committee.
- Can far end of village hall field be used for allotments? Noted that this has been raised before and has not been possible.
- Snap Hill, drainage raised as a problem as water flows across the road, then freezes. Also trees are bending over the road.
- There is graffiti on the lamppost in the short cut between Amberley Close and Irving Road – query about whether this could be cleaned.
- Noted that Wiltshire Council is a unitary authority, query about whether there are plans for this in Somerset. JZ reported that SCC looking at possible joint ventures with other authorities, but not a

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Jimmy Zouche read out a report from SCC the following points were made

- The cost of servicing debt – third largest item of expenditure (£100k/day)
- Local Authorities have been hit more severely than any other area – cut by £27m (11%) and more cuts over next three years.

SCC has taken the following action

- Reduced senior directors by 40%
- reduced senior managers by 15%
- Recruitment freeze (£2m savings)
- Spending cuts over 30m
- It has received passionate appeals for libraries, arts and recycling centres.
- For some areas there is just nothing they can do.
- Must be responsible, cannot add to the county's debt.
- Working on partnership with EDF and if successful, significant jobs and funding will be secured.
- Doing well with recycling. Recycling centres in immediate area will remain open.
- Seeking broadband funding for the county and seeking to find ways how money can be saved from libraries' budget.
- Have kept all children's centres open.
- Secured funding for major road improvements, tackling winter weather using salt to keep roads open.
- Managed to secure grant from central government for highways – will reduce cuts.

J Calvert noted that an article had appeared in the Daily Telegraph regarding the pay off for the Chief Exec of SSDC. Since the article the finance committee has instructed the Internal Auditors to examine all the papers and report back, may be able to update the council at the April meeting.

## Council meeting

### 1. Apologies

Mary D'Arcy, Beverley Goodall, Helen Beal

### 2. Declarations

None

### 3. Minutes of last meetings: 1st February 2011, 8th February 2011

To approve and sign the minutes as a true and correct record of the meetings held.

Amendments were agreed as follows 8<sup>th</sup> February - apologies amended to include Kathy Low, Chris Lane, Mary D'Arcy. 1<sup>st</sup> February Present amended to include Kathy Low, spelling mistake at item 4 planning *ménage* should read *manege*. The amended minutes were agreed 1st BS 2nd MR unanimous

Matters arising from the minutes not covered by items on this agenda. No matters arising

### 4. Planning.

Consider the following applications

**Application number 11/00493/CPO** Alternative access and retention of peripheral vegetation to assist screening of a proposed blue lias extraction site being the subject of application number 10/03199/CPO, Land forming part of Westfield farm, Keinton Mandeville.

The plans were considered together with a letter from member of the public regarding concerns about destruction of the hedge along the access point.

Comments were invited and observations made as follows

- Reasonable hedging for screening and wildlife should be retained around the proposed access point.
- The plan is not clear about whether the seat (in front of stile) will be retained. If removed it needs to be reinstated at developer's expense.
- A public right of way will cross the proposed access road. There is a kissing gate and appropriate signage marked on the plan, but the original concerns about the integrity of the footpath and safety of people using it remain. Footpath and the access road should be separated by a fence.

Proposal to recommend approval of the plans with conditions to address the concerns raised above i.e.

- Protection of hedgerow at access point

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- Preservation of / separation of footpath by a fence
- Retention of the seat at developer's expense.

1<sup>st</sup> BS 2<sup>nd</sup> CL unanimous.

**4a. Determination of Planning.** The following notice was read out.

**Application number 10/05168/LBC** Erection of a heritage plaque to front façade of Irving House, the birthplace of Sir Henry Irving. Irving House, Castle Street, Keinton Mandeville. Grant permission subject to conditions.

**4b. Other planning matters**

Notification of appeal decision – **10/04049/S73** application to remove condition 3 of planning approval 10/01916/FUL in relation to fixing closed the windows on the east elevation, Oriana, Church Street, Keinton Mandeville. Appeal allowed. This paper was placed in the circulation file for Councillors to read.

**5. Finance and Payments (RFO – Clerk)**

The following payments were agreed 1st KL 2nd SC unanimous.

Payments

Clerk's salary S. Graham February 2011.	£230.18
Maintenance	£40.00
SSDC Newsletter printing	£26.91
SALC Clerks training – localism workshop	£20.00
Barton St David Preschool grant (agreed Feb meeting)	£50.00

b. Receipts

Youth work funding SSDC	£550.00
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c. Review of Accounts, presentation of bank reconciliation to be agreed and signed by Councillors.

The accounts were reviewed. The expenditure in February was £931.17, income was £550, and the balance is £12,177.38. The bank statements are showing a total of 12,602.38. The difference between the actual balance and the bank statement balance is £425, is accounted for by uncashed cheques for the PSA £350 and SSVCA £75. The accounts were checked by councillors.

d. Grant requests. Consider the following grant requests

Yeovil Christian Support Trust. Deferred until January 2012 when grants from outside organisations will be considered.

e. Other finance matters

Receive verbal report from finance committee.

Finance committee met and queried bank interest of £1.75 which did not appear to match bank statements-clerk to check.

Receive thank you letters

Thank you letters from the Sir Henry Irving Club, Citizens Advice Bureau and South Somerset Association for Voluntary and Community Action were read out.

**6. Highways**

Update / Items to report

- Edge of Road is crumbling on Common Lane bend as a result of vehicles complying with white lines in middle of road. Need to reinstate the edge of the road.
- Need for update regarding subsidence at Barton Road junction
- Response from the Highways superintendant regarding replenishing the grit bin was received and placed in the circulation file.
- County Councillor was asked to confirm the County Council's policy with regard to refilling grit bins. It was noted that the existing bin has been empty since December despite several requests to have it refilled. The PC has budgeted for at least 2 more grit bins, but it will be holding purchase until a response from Highways is received ref refilling bins. An alternative could be to consider buying grit in sacks and having it delivered. JZ agreed to ask Highways about this – and will request a reply in writing. JZ noted that refilling the bins is dependent on availability but this is out of the hands of county –as there is now centrally controlled grit rationing.

**7. Parish Paths**

Update.

- BO'H reported that second stile from Church to Witybed lane will be repaired in the next month.

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- Wooden church gate into field behind graveyard does not fit its posts. Refer to PCC.

## **8. Happy Tracks / Skate park**

Update –

- It was suggested that the meadow needs to be strimmed once per year in July. BO'H will do with PC strimmer.
- Reported that Happy Tracks committee is obtaining quotes for a new piece of equipment for the park as well as benches and picnic tables for the flower meadow. Noted that Village Hall committee would like to buy a bench in memory of Brenda Gray

Receive inspection report.

- The inspection reports were received. Snags identified within the report are being monitored. Agreed that grass needs to be fed in the park

Consider correspondence about inspection training.

- It was agreed that the training was not required.

## **9. Neighbourhood watch**

- Nothing to report

## **10. Maintenance**

Noted that the hedge to the village hall has been cut back –the Chair thanked Sarah Cooke for arranging this.

Noted that the electricity cable is in the hedge – needs to be reported to Western Power.

The following requirements were agreed.

- Fingerposts need to be painted

## **11. Suggestion box**

Contents for discussion

- there were no suggestions

## **12. Youth**

Youth Activities – update.

- Lewis Diffey will be visiting SC to discuss the event on the 19th March. Noted that this needs to be properly publicised. SC has a list of desired activities and will presenting them to the Youth Worker.
- Update on youth activities funding – this has now been paid into the account (£550)
- Issue of youth training / apprenticeships (lack of) raised as a concern. Query about whether information is available, e.g. from SCC.

## **13. Village Hall field**

Update

- The field committee has had a meeting with the village hall committee, the village hall committee has paid for the planning application and it is being submitted this week.
- Steve Barnes suggested that a long term plan for the field would be appropriate and as such the public right of way is something that needs to be taken into consideration, the footpath may need to be re-routed if the field is turned into a sports field. The chair suggested that his advice would be to plan the field assuming that the footpath will not be moved.
- There is a maintenance issue with the stile at bottom of field - it is very muddy underfoot needs to be dismantled, rubble put in and stile built back around it (will get rid of mud)
- There is an issue with safety for children at top of village hall lane because of a blind spot.
- Enquiries have been made by the field committee about whether a hump could be put in at the top of the lane. Noted that a strip of land has been retained by local landowner and makes it difficult to install any such measures.
- Query about ownership of the lane to the village hall – and whether the Parish Council could try to adopt it. Discussion about potential liabilities (especially financial) if PC adopted the lane.
- KL reported on the playing field AGM. Noted that the village hall field committee would be potentially looking to share use of the playing field mower.

## **14. Litter pick**

- Noted that BO'H and BS litter picked over a dozen bags from Common Lane. It appeared that youths have been congregating around the area of Keinton Rearing - and the police have been informed.
- A village litter pick was arranged for 2nd April meet at 10am at Quarry Inn.

## **15. Arrange Annual Parish Meeting, set date for May meeting**

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- Annual parish meeting 12th April Clerk to write to local groups
- May meeting Tuesday 17th May.

## **16. Correspondence**

Discussion

- Somerset Association of Local Councils – area meeting. BoH to attend
- From The Community Land Trust project – invitation to seminar. No councillors were available to attend.
- E mail from resident re excessive SSDC salaries. Difficult to support this suggestion as the PC feels it could be a party political issue. Reply to resident noting these concerns and the information outlined by J Calvert.
- Devon and Somerset Fire Service corporate plan consultation. Chris Lane to comment

Circulation

- From SSDC Press release re garden waste collections
- From SCC Libraries service information
- Recycle for all its worth newsletter
- Noted from Area East meeting
- Handouts from South Somerset Together Parish and Town Council event
- From Dep't for Media, Culture and Sport – The Queens 2012 Diamond Jubilee

## **17. Agendas and minutes**

E mailing agendas and minutes to Councillors - update

The clerk reported that this is not allowed because of legislation.

## **18. Parish magazine**

Items for inclusion in the April edition

- Litter Pick
- Annual Parish Meeting
- Elections
- Remember to vote for SSDC, PC, and referendum on alternative vote system.

## **19. Future agenda items**

Correspondence received about matters raised in public session

## **20. Any other reports**

Netball club have 4 teams (mix of ladies and girls teams)

## **21. Date of the next meeting**

5th April

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.