

KING'S SUTTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT 7.30 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY 20TH APRIL 2016 IN THE KING'S SUTTON MILLENNIUM MEMORIAL HALL

PRESENT: Cllrs B Burrell (Chairman), M Bailey, D Bridson, R Burne, J Creed,
W Dowling, T Forde, C Hill, R Irving, W Mullis and R Sykes.
Cllr R Sawbridge MBE, NCC
Cllr I Morris, SNC
Mr D Hall, Parish Paths Warden
Mrs A Burrell, Assistant Parish Paths Warden
Mrs S Barrow, Public Transport Liaison Correspondent
5 members of the public

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs A Le Druillenec (Clerk)

APM: 1/16 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES:

PCSO Colin Brooks, Northants Police
Mr Andrew Waite, War Memorial Warden

**APM: 2/16 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD 15TH APRIL 2015:**

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Sykes and seconded by Cllr Irving to Approve the
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 15th April 2015.

**APM: 3/16 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2015
NOT ON THE AGENDA:**

None.

APM: 4/16 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT: Cllr Bob Burrell:

Cllr Burrell read out his Report.
(previously posted on www.kingssutton.org and available at the APM)
(Copy filed with the Minutes)

During the reading of his Report the Chairman advised that the King's Sutton
Playing Fields Association had submitted a Report and that this would be
taken after item 7.1.3.

From the Floor:

i) Youth Club: Is there a charge for users of the Youth Club? Will the Youth
Club be self-financing or will it rely on a subsidy?

The Chairman explained that last year the Parish Council awarded the Youth Club slightly less than £2,000 financial assistance towards set up costs. The Parish Council has set aside £2,000 this year (2016/2017) for room rent, which is circa £44 per week. This will be reviewed on an annual basis. Youth Club Members pay £1 per week which covers refreshments, trips etc.

ii) Proposed reduction in the number of seats on the Parish Council: What was the rationale behind this decision? What determines the size of the Council?

The Chairman referred this questions to Cllr Irving, Chairman of the Finance Governance & Policy Committee. Cllr Irving gave the following reasons:

- i) The difficulty in co-opting
- ii) Meetings were more efficient with smaller numbers
- iii) The average number of seats for Parish Councils in SNC district is 9.

APM: 5/16 PRINCIPAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES:

5.1 Cllr Ian Morris, SNC: (Report not available at the APM.)

Cllr Morris presented his report.
(Copy filed with the Minutes and would be posted on the website.)

Cllr Morris said how pleased he was to visit King's Sutton which was welcoming, with very good community spirit. Involvement and participation in village events was also good.

Cllr Morris had been elected for a 4 year term of office which ends in 2019. Cllr Morris has a unique perspective and understanding as he is also a County Councillor. He and Cllr Sawbridge work closely together.

i) Unitary Authority: Northamptonshire has 9 Authorities with 9 Chief Executives, 9 Planning Departments, 9 Human Resource Departments etc. The County Council is feeling a financial strain. Government funding is due to be phased out by 2020 when Authorities, including SNC and NCC are expected to become self-reliant.

Cllr Morris was opposed to a Unitary Cherwell District Council/South Northamptonshire Council Authority. SNC has been persuaded to look at other options within Northamptonshire. Possible options include:

- i) A single Unitary Authority for Northamptonshire
- ii) Two Unitary Authorities (the County and an extended Northampton Town)
- iii) Two Unitary Authorities (North and South)

Money has been set aside to find a solution.

Savings would not be achieved with more than 2 Unitary Authorities.

A referendum would be required.

ii) Wales Street FAS: Funding has been put in place.

Progress is slow but the FAs would be commenced possibly in May 2016 once legal agreements had been agreed and subject to good weather.

iii) Kings' Sutton Railway Station: Investment was required to maintain and improve the service. The extension to the car park was a long term plan with extensions to the platforms a possibility.

Cllr Morris was keen to include the Station project in the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulation 123 List. CIL is levied per property and is non-negotiable. Parish Councils are entitled to 15% (or 25% if a Neighbourhood Plan is in place) but this is capped at £100 per existing house in the village.

King's Sutton is the last working station -to be retained and improved.

iv) Astrop Grange: Demolition has begun. SNH will put back the community room in the new building. In the meantime the residents of the bungalows are being offered free transport to the coffee mornings at the KSMMH.

v) SNC Budget 2016/2017: £11.78 million. Government funding is £600K less. Council tax was increased by 2.95%, the equivalent of £5 per Band D property.

vi) New Homes Bonus: This currently under review by the government which may decide to channel a higher proportion toward Adult Social Care in the County.

King's Sutton currently has an allocation of £18,703.

Cllr Morris encouraged village groups to apply to the Grants Panel, of which he is a Member, for some of these funds.

vii) SNC Local Plan (Adoption date 2018): Consultation ends 10th June 2016. Cllr Morris stressed the importance of all local councils participating in the exercise. The Way Ahead project and re-definition of the village confines were both important as the Local Plan will lock in development for the district. It will not be possible to retain the current village confines. Some form of development, however small, will need to be identified within them.

viii) Waste Recycling: 59.9% of all waste in SNC was recycled thanks to residents using the blue and green bin system. SNC was top in the county, the best in the East Midlands and 11th overall in the Country.

Questions:

i) Astrop Grange: What sort of building will it be and how will the accommodation be allocated?

There will be 10 apartments with some age restrictions.

South Northants Homes is merging with Grand Union Housing.

ii) Empty Dwellings: Can empty dwellings be taken over and residents housed in them?

Empty properties attract 100% Council Tax. There are no plans to take people's homes away from them.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Morris for his report.

5.2 Cllr Ron Sawbridge MBE, NCC:

Cllr Sawbridge read out his report.

(previously posted on www.kingssutton.org and available at the APM)

(Copy filed with the Minutes)

i) The problems facing county councils and the need for reform of local government.

Local Government Shared Service (LGSS) arrangements had been entered into with Cambridgeshire, Milton Keynes Unitary Authority, Northampton Borough and Norwich City Council.

The number of children in care had doubled to 1,000 and in addition there were 140 unaccompanied asylum seeking children who took priority.

Cllr Sawbridge thought it 'significant that the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) had advised that new unitary councils should ideally serve populations of between 300,000 and 700,000. This population size range is not absolute but ministers would 'ask searching questions' relating to proposals outside this band. None of the four unitaries included in the Oxfordshire District Councils proposal, the most northerly of which include South Northamptonshire, meet this population criteria.' Cllr Sawbridge added that the population of Northamptonshire is 706,000 and that of Oxfordshire 666,000.

A new Unitary Authority should aim to make savings of £60 - £80million.

ii) Re. attempts to improve the junction of Twyford Road and Banbury Road: Cllr Sawbridge, with the help of Cllr Morris, is endeavouring to have traffic lights installed at this junction. It was becoming increasingly difficult to turn right towards Banbury at this junction due to the number of houses being built at Longford Park and also in Adderbury. Traffic lights have already been installed on the Banbury Road at the entrance to Longford Park using developer contributions and Cllr Sawbridge felt it was logical that the same should apply to assist traffic from King's Sutton where a similar number of houses are involved.

iii) Empowering Councillors' Allowance: In 2015/2016 Cllr Sawbridge contributed £2,500 of his total allowance of £7,000 to the creation of a footpath at Upper Astrop Road.

The Allowance has been reduced to £5,000 for 2016/2017.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Sawbridge for his report.

APM: 6/16 POLICE REPORT:

(Report previously posted on www.kingssutton.org and available at the APM)
(Copy of Report filed with the Minutes)

The Report was Accepted and **Noted**.

The Chairman invited questions to pass on the PCSO Brooks but none were forthcoming.

APM: 7/16 Q&A on WRITTEN REPORTS:

(previously posted on www.kingssutton.org and available at the APM)
(Copies of Reports filed with the Minutes)

7.1 ORGANISATIONS:

7.1.1 Public Transport: Mrs Sheila Barrow:

Mrs Barrow read out her report.

- i) Library van timetable: This had altered since the report had been written. There would be no library van in May 2016. The van would be stationed at the KSMMH car park from 11.45 a.m. until 12.45 p.m. on Friday 3rd June 2016, Friday 1st July 2016 and Friday 5th August 2016.
- ii) Bus Correspondent: Mrs Barrow recommended that the Parish Council approaches Mrs Kath Wyatt to take up this role and to be responsible for the timetables in both bus shelters. The whereabouts of the key for the Noticeboards was not known.
- iii) No Train Service between 30th July and 8th August 2016 and replacement bus service: Cllr Forde offered to follow this up as in his experience it was not normal for buses to visit King's Sutton, but rather that passengers would be required to ring for a taxi. Cllr Forde would ask the Cllr for Communications to publicise the arrangements on social media.

Cllrs Sawbridge and Morris withdrew from the Annual Parish Meeting.

Question from the Floor:

- i) Why were bus timetables not available at the start of the 499 bus route? That was a matter for the Bus Company.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Barrow for her Report.

7.1.2 Poor's Allotment Charity: Mr Bob Burrell, Clerk to the Trustees:

The Report was taken as read. There were no Questions.

7.1.3 King's Sutton Millennium Memorial Hall and Health Centre: Mr Bob Burrell, Chairman of Trustees/Committee of Management:

The Report was taken as read. There were no Questions.

7.1.4 King's Sutton Playing Fields Association: Cllr David Bridson, Parish Council Representative:

The Report was taken as read. There were no Questions.

7.2 WARDENS:

7.2.1 Parish Paths Warden: Mr Dave Hall:

Mr Hall spoke to his Report.

- i) AS10 and AS12: These paths were always wet.
- ii) The ditch alongside AS10 had still not been totally filled in. Mr Hall asked for details of the Management Company. Cllr Forde advised that the Company had been formed and the details were with the Clerk, including that of the Managing Agent, Premier Estates. Cllr Dowling advised that Mr Phil Church mowed the grass on the site.

7.2.2 War Memorial Warden: Mr Andrew Waite:

The Report was Accepted and **Noted**. There were no Questions.

7.2.3 Tree Warden: Cllr Michael Bailey:

(Report not available at the APM.)

Cllr Bailey presented his report.

(Copy filed with the Minutes and would be posted on the website.)

Cllr Bailey explained that his remit as Tree Warden was:

- i) To make recommendations to the Planning Committee or the Parish Council on planning applications for proposed works to trees that are subject of a Tree Preservation Order.
- ii) Make Observations to the Planning Committee or the Parish Council on notifications on proposed works to trees in the Conservation Area.
- iii) Take an interest in the condition of trees on Parish Council land and raise any concerns.

Cllr Bailey then gave historical examples to illustrate how he had carried out his remit. These included investigations into:

- i) Deadwood and report of wasps in the Lime trees on The Rec
- ii) Concerns over the proximity, size and stability of a Poplar tree in Windsor Close
- iii) Resident's concerns over tree encroachment on his property at Halestrap Way
- iv) Felling of Copper Beech tree at Astrop Road

Cllr Bailey will be instigating of a review of significant trees in King's Sutton. If anyone wished to suggest any significant trees they considered merited protection, they were encouraged to contact Cllr Bailey in the coming months.

7.3 PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS:

7.3.1 Finance Governance & Policy Committee: Cllr Ronnie Irving:

The Report was taken as read. There were no Questions.

7.3.2 Planning Committee: Cllr Tom Forde:

The Report was taken as read. There were no Questions.

7.3.3 Flood Alleviation Group: Cllr Tom Forde:

The Report was taken as read.

Questions:

- i) Flood Alleviation Scheme, Barwood Homes: Had anything been done since the heavy rainfall in March?

The Parish Council had previously asked South Northamptonshire Council, the Planning Authority, to seek confirmation re. compliance with the drawings submitted and approved with the planning application on Appeal.

The Parish Council regarded SNC's pursuance of the matter to have been inadequate. There had been no proper reply from Barwood Homes.

The heavy rainfall on 8th/9th March 2016 had shown that the FAS was not fit for purpose. Northamptonshire County Council, as consultants to SNC, were to review and discuss the plans with the developer (Barwood Homes) and the

developer's consultants. One factor that was being investigated was the depth to which the ponds had been dug.
The matter was now under detailed scrutiny.
The Parish Council awaited the outcome.

7.4 PARISH COUNCIL REMITS:

7.4.1 Amenities: Cllr Bob Burrell:

The Report was taken as read. There were no Questions.

7.4.2 The Cemetery: Cllr Jacqui Creed:

The Report was taken as read. There were no Questions.

7.4.3 Communications: Cllr Bridson:

The Report was taken as read. There were no Questions.

7.4.4 Footway Lighting: Cllr Dowling:

There was **No Report**. There were No Questions.

7.4.5 The Rec, including the Play Project: Cllrs Hill and Mullis:

The Report was taken as read. There were no Questions.

7.4.6 Traffic Calming and Highways: Cllrs Sykes and Bailey:

The Report was taken as read.

Questions:

i) Potholes: When would they be repaired?

Cllr Sykes explained the online reporting Street Doctor facility for potholes. Parish Councillors survey their street areas and reports highway defects to the Highway Authority.

The Chairman advised that each year the Parish Council is invited to comment on the work of Northamptonshire Highways and has made its dissatisfaction known with regard to the quality of highway repairs.

Guidelines on intervention criteria for repairs had been circulated to Members of the Parish Council.

ii) Footpath Repairs: who is responsible for their condition (which were described as dangerous for the elderly and disabled)?

The mechanism for reporting footpath concerns was the same as for reporting potholes.

iii) Standing Water at Kissing gate on Banbury Lane: What had been done?

This was reported to Street Doctor and inspected by Northants Highways on the following day. An order to install a new carriageway gully in the low spot to catch surface water had been raised. The gully further up by the bus shelter may need to be lowered.

The Chairman thanked Representatives, Wardens and Councillors for their Reports.

APM: 8/16 THE WAY AHEAD: Cllr Ronnie Irving:

(previously posted on www.kingssutton.org and available at the APM)
(Copies of Report filed with the Minutes)

Cllr Irving presented a follow up to his written Report.

SNC Local Plan Part 2A Options Consultation: Cllrs Irving and Forde had attended a Parish Briefing event hosted by SNC on 19th April 2016. Cllr Irving urged parishioners to look up the documents on the SNC website and to participate in the consultation, which runs until 10th June 2016.

SNC will draft its Local Plan which will be broadly in line with the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy. There will be further consultation on the final Local Plan.

The Parish Council will respond largely based on the results of the village survey. SNC encouraged 'evidence based' responses and would take account of views that were expressed provided they were positive rather than negative.

Overall local planning objectives were being addressed.
The importance of village hierarchies was being assessed.
The mix, size and type of housing was being considered. On the basis of the various possible formulas being considered to calculate additional housing in order to meet government requirements by 2029, the number of additional houses in King's Sutton would range from 0 - 52.

Other issues included:

Infrastructure and environmental topics

Transport Policy

Employment sites

Land availability

Village Confines

Landscape use and amenity.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Irving for his Report.

There were no Questions.

APM: 10.16 QUESTIONS FROM PARISHIONERS:

(limited to 3 mins).

There were no Questions.

The Chairman, on behalf of parishioners, thanked Parish Councillors for their comprehensive reports which were in the interests of representative democracy.

The Chairman, on behalf of Parish Councillors, thanked parishioners for attending the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Annual Parish Meeting 2016 ended at 8.55 p.m.