**No.005/2021**

# Minutes of the meeting of Kingston on Soar Parish Council held in the Village Hall on Tuesday October 26, 2021, at 7.00pm.

Couns. Mark Johnson (Chairman)

Gill Aldridge, Stuart Dale, David Fairbanks,

Nicole Elders (A), Wendy Melville

The Locum Clerk Mike Elliott and Notts County Council member Coun. Matt Barney were present.

1. **Chairman’s welcome** Coun. Johnson welcomed those attending the meeting.
2. **Apologies for absence** Nicole Elders (no reason)
3. **Declaration of Interests in items on the agenda** There were none
4. **Meeting of the council on August 16, 2021** were accepted as circulated and signed by the chairman after reference to a technical item that Coun. Fairbanks said was incorrect in itself. The meeting agreed that as the item had been brought to the meeting by the clerk in the way it appeared in the minutes they should be signed as being correct.
5. **Reports from Borough and County Councillors**

 Coun. Matt Barney spoke on various aspects of Notts County Council work and spoke of the new primary school to be built in East Leake and other County matters not involving Kingston but the county as a whole. He spoke of a site meeting held at Kingston cross roads to look further at problems that exist for traffic there and was told of a need for some hedge cutting there to reduce dangers.

1. **Locum Clerk’s Report**

The Locum Clerk spoke of concern over an advert that appeared on a face book page and believed to have been submitted by Coun. Elders offering up to £20 an hour payment to a secretary for the council, without the knowledge of the chairman or any member. The Locum Clerk also asked for details but was not provided with them of when the council had met to discuss the allocation from a reported £2000 profit from the recent council Beer Festival event.

1. **Correspondence**

Rushcliffe Borough Council and Streetwise wrote in regard to the availability of litter picking equipment such as rubber gloves and litter snatchers if the council or groups were holding organisers litter pick events. Streetwise would also be available to collect litter from a central point. The Locum Clerk commented on a paper from Rushcliffe Borough Council on its housing delivery plan and which had been circulated to all members in advance of the meeting.

Further details were given of the Rushcliffe Borough Council Covid-19 Parish memorial project. The Borough would make up to £500 available for a match-funded project with a parish council to record in some way a project to give remembrance to the pandemic of the recent 18 months. The matter would be raised with the parish church.

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The Borough Council announced an extension of their free trees scheme which was originally offering two trees to any resident. They were now extending this to parish councils.

A letter from Bridgett and Mike Plimmer raised the question of grass cutting on the Green. They said they recently left their home one morning to see what they described as ‘the most amazing display of autumn crocuses on the Green’ but returned home later in the day to find the grass there had been cut along with the flowers.

Local Government Boundary Commission - A new Soar Valley ward is proposed to include Kingston, Sutton Bonington, Stanford , Normanton on Soar and Thrumpton It would be a two seat ward with 3,727 electors which would give it a minus 14per cent variation to the average of other wards in the Borough.

1. **Financial update** Payments were agreed according to the circulated sheet.
2. **Planning & Development Matters**

 New Applications

21/02593 George Brewster, 26 Kegworth Road. Single storey rear extension. No objection.

 Rushcliffe Borough Council decisions

21/01560 Mr Martin Pratt, former Hardstaffs site, Gotham Road. Application for matters reserve under application 18/00177/OUT for the approval of appearance, landscaping and layout and scale for the proposed erection of buildings for employment use including the internal relocation of an open storage area for concrete steel safety barrier. Approve.

 The matter of the Kingston Estate proposed solar farm was commented on but the meeting was told there was at present no further news on then planned project

1. **Highways/footpaths**

Coun. Melville reported she is no longer able to report issues with regards to pavements and roads on "Fix my Street" and had reported the poor condition of the pavement on West Leake Lane and Kegworth Road on the Nottinghamshire County Council website. She had received a response which said that both pavements had been inspected and it was deemed that there was no issue. Nottinghamshire County Coun. Matt Barney agreed to arrange a meeting with Coun. Johnson and Coun. Melville to review the highways problems.

1. **Village hall and car park**

Coun. Elders presented a written report on the Village Hall to the vice chairman. The bar is to be named the Kingston Baaa.. This was the name with the highest number of votes, narrowly beating ‘The Soar Head’ which came a close second.

The village hall has been successful in its bid for a food licence and has been awarded a 5 star food hygiene rating. Our bar nights will now be featuring hot food and affordable meals, with all profit going to the village hall.

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The village hall has been successful in its bid for community art materials (thank you Coun. Rex Walker). Bar nights will now include art and craft activities in the coronation room. These crafts will be affordable and allow a creative outlet for young and old! There is also a request in for funding for the county councillor divisional fund, requesting funds for the potato oven (currently on loan), signs for the newly named bar and for an outdoor socket to allow us to put up outdoor fairy lights. The village hall is also introducing some instructor led crafting evenings- the first being a needle felt workshop in November.

1. **Environment\***
	1. Trees on The Green update

Two trees have now been planted on The Green, the third a commemorative Oak tree is still in the process of being sourced. Coun. Matt Barney agreed to contribute £300 towards the tree and it was suggested the Parish Council would match this donation.

* 1. Wildflower seed scheme update
1. **Community events**

Coun. Elders had submitted a written report. The Beer festival was a fantastic success, the new card reader proved very successful with many opting to pay on card- this also helped enormously with our Covid risk assessment. Card reader charge is 1.67% transaction fee, but the benefit was considered to be dramatic. We also saw a large number of people booking tickets online via ticketsource and this helped us maintain numbers at a manageable level while also keeping Covid safe. The Friday night also proved incredibly popular and we will maintain the 3 day layout for next year. Lots of great feedback and several sponsors have already expressed interest in sponsoring next year too. Total profit was a little under £2,000 and is by far the most profitable event we have run in recent years. It was agreed to split the profits with £1000 towards village hall renovations with the remainder for the children’s Christmas party and future community events.

We have now sold almost all the glasses purchased in 2018. We will need new glasses for next year- we can either go with the same logo design or a new design - I propose running a competition to design the new logo- this has the added bonus of increasing community engagement. I will also see if we can get these sponsored.

1. **Parish web site and Facebook page**

No matters raised.

1. **Newsletter**

The November newsletter is being prepared ready for distribution.

1. **Chairman’s and Members’ comments** (no decisions can be taken, refer only to next agenda) . Nothing was raised.
2. **Date of next meeting confirmation.**