

KEEVIL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30 p.m. ON MONDAY 18th JANUARY 2016

Present: Cllrs Jerry Wickham (Chairman), Francis Banfield, Andrea Hunter, Rob Kevan, Myra Link, Rodney Meatyard, and Geoffrey West.

In attendance: George Goodwin (Clerk)
Cllr Jonathon Seed (Wiltshire Council)
5 Members of the public

Consultation Period:

- Ian Simpson raised two issues:
 - He informed the PC members that the Keevil Society was being wound up and that they had assets of approximately £4,500 that could be used for the benefit of the community. He suggested that the funds should be held by the PC to be used for suitable projects at a later date. The Chairman said that some care was needed when making arrangements to hold and use these funds. The money could only be donated to the PC which would then make the funds public money bound by complex rules for holding and usage. He felt that further thought was required before any decision was made about how the funds should be held and controlled.
 - Also, he was concerned about care and upkeep of the high bank verge in Main Street. As it needs frequent maintenance, which is no longer available from WC, he had trimmed back the vegetation himself. The Chairman thanked him for his public spirited approach to the problem and responding to comments from Cllr Kevan he suggested that the Men Shed approach (see below) could be an appropriate solution for the maintenance of the high bank. In the meantime, Ian Simpson will look for volunteers to assist him in trimming the high bank verge starting at the end of April
- Bob Ayres then raised the issue of a Men Shed. **Men's Sheds** or **Community Sheds** are non-profit organisations that originated in Australia, to advise and improve the overall health of all males. However they have expanded their remit to anyone regardless of age or gender. They normally operate on a local level in the community, promoting social interaction and aim to increase the quality of life. There are over 900 located across Australia, with thousands of active members.^[1] Men's Sheds can also be found in Scotland, England, Wales, Ireland, Finland and Greece. The basis of a Keevil Men Shed is Bob himself together with Cllr Geoff West and Brian Banfield. There is a Men Shed starting up in Trowbridge and another is proposed for Westbury. There are some forms of the Men Shed idea also developing in Melksham and Bratton. The aim of a Men Shed in Keevil is to undertake community works such as pond clearing, playing field maintenance etc. It was agreed that the Chairman will talk to Westbury about the plans for a Men Shed and that Bob Ayres would return to the next PC meeting on 7th March with suggestions as to how the PC could assist with a Men Shed for Keevil.
- Cllr Seed said that an increase in Council Tax by WC for the coming financial year was very likely in order for WC to fulfil its statutory obligations. He suggested that everybody should look at the options proposed to reduce expenditure on bus services and to make their voices heard through the consultation procedure. He also said that it was now inevitable that the Connect/Hopper Service to the RUH would be discontinued as the Clinical Commissioning Group are reluctant to spend money on the service when the Arriva service is available. The Chairman drew Cllr Seed's attention to a complaint made about the condition of the road past Seend Road Farm. Cllr Seed said that the potholes should be reported to WC via the Smartphone App. The Chairman said he would do this himself and that he would reply to the complainant. The Chairman also said that the standing water in Seend Farm Road was apparent after a heavy downpour and this required work to the drainage ditch which was the responsibility of the land owner. Cllr Seed said that he would check with Highways to see if the promised letter had been sent to the land owner by WC.
- PCSO Helen Wilson gave her apologies and sent the following written report - . I have checked the system since the 4th November for Keevil and I am pleased to report that there have been no incidents. One of our main priorities at the moment is the awareness of cyber-crime. We have been going into all of the local primary schools to deliver awareness of this particular subject. We are due to attend Keevil School, and then later have the possibility of running an evening event with the parents of the children who may have questions which relate to cyber-crime.

If you have any concerns /queries please do not hesitate to contact either by email or Tel 101 Ext 77436171.

The Parish Council Meeting commenced with Councillor Wickham in the Chair:

1. Apologies for Absence

PC Emily Thomas
PCSO Helen Wilson

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Jerry Wickham & Rob Kevan regarding a Donation request from Wiltshire Portage.

3. Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of 4th November 2015 & the Planning Committee Meetings of 5th December 2015 and 9th January 2016

These minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising from the Parish Council Meeting of 4th November 2015

Main Street Handrails – Awaiting revised estimate. Cllr West will check with Mark Stansby of WC as to a revised estimate and the plans for completing the works before the end of the financial year.

Village Noticeboards – Re-varnished by Mr M. Dicker.

Main Street Footway – Still no response from Wiltshire Highways re cracks in the tarmac. The Clerk was asked to send a reminder to Andy Cadwallader of WC.

5. Playing Field

PF Repairs & Maintenance –Cllr Kevan has written to ROSPA regarding the poor quality of their report this year. They have apologised and offered to re-inspect the PF. Cllr Kevan has declined their offer and requested a better quality report for the autumn of this year. One of the Springies needs repairing. The large spring is fine but the bodywork needs replacing and Cllr Kevan is hoping to use volunteer labour for the job. However, materials will be needed and Cllr Wickham proposed that up to £100 could be spent on repairs before the next meeting. The proposal was seconded by Cllr Link and carried unanimously.

PF Improvement Project – Cllr Kevan reported that it was proposed the Goal posts be upgraded by installing new ones with vandal proof nets of a size suitable for the 7-a-side game. Cllr West has submitted an Area Board grant request to cover the estimated cost of £540. The PF sub-committee are also considering additions to the equipment on the playing field. There are possibly some trust funds that could be made available for the right project and Cllr Kevan is liaising with one of the trustees.

6. Flooding & Drainage

The Clerk reported that Paul Lenaerts had been in touch with Stuart Renfrew of WC Highways about the standing water on the Towmead Lane bend on the Bulkington Road. Stuart Renfrew had attended the same day and cleared the obstruction in the drainage ditch and the standing water drained away. Paul will speak to the land owner regarding the ditch blockage which was caused by hedge clippings dropping into the ditch.

7. Highway Matters

WC Highways have set up a new and temporary reporting system which will be reviewed when the new contractor is appointed for the next financial year. In the meantime Cllr West is the only acceptable contact to WC Highways and all highway problems must be reported via him.

Cllr West has been approached by Derek Black concerning repairs to his driveway. When Pyatts Corner was flooded 2 years ago after heavy rain, the manhole on the Black's property

lifted and the overflow damaged the driveway. WC Highways agreed to re-tarmac the driveway. This has not been done and WC Highways are about to work on Butts Lane so now could be an ideal time to carry out the promised repair to the Black's driveway. Cllr West will contact WC Highways to see if this is possible.

Cllr Hunter raised the problem with inconsiderate parking at Pyatts Corner. It was agreed that the Clerk will write a short piece for the parish Magazine asking people to park more sensibly at Pyatts Corner. The Chairman said that the Pinch Point bollard at Pyatts Corner had been damaged again. WC Highways have refused to carry out any more repairs because of the frequency of the damage to the bollard.

The Chairman presented a paper he had written concerning Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs). This paper recommended joining a local group of Parish Councils that would share a SID between them and then take turns using it. This sharing arrangement would have a setup cost of £103 per Parish with ongoing running cost of about £20 per Parish every 3 years. It might be necessary for one person to obtain a Street Works Qualification at a cost of £220. Cllr Kevan proposed that Keevil join this grouping at the costs outlined. The proposal was seconded by Cllr West and carried unanimously.

The Chairman referred to Cllr Seed's remarks concerning the WC Bus Consultation. He suggested that this consultation deserved to be highlighted in the Parish Magazine to encourage readers to take part. It was agreed that the Clerk should write a short article for the Magazine together with a web link to the Consultation. The Chairman agreed to supply the Clerk with the Consultation link.

8. Donations

It was agreed to make the following donations:

- (a) Payee = Keevil Village Hall
Sum = £100
- (b) Payee = Keevil Parish Magazine
Sum = £80
- (c) Payee = St. Leonard's P.C.C. for Churchyard maintenance.
Sum = £100
- (d) Payees = Victim Support Wiltshire, Wiltshire Music Centre & Wiltshire Portage.
Sum = £20 each totalling £60

Payments were proposed by Cllr Hunter and seconded by Cllr Meatyard. The proposal was carried with Cllrs Wickham and Kevan abstaining on the Wiltshire Portage request (please see Interests Declared above)

9. Budget 2016/2017

A budget for 2016/2017 of £5,871 (£4,891 in 2015/2016) was proposed by the Clerk. The Reserves would be kept to circa £10,700 (£9,400 in 2015/2016) for capital expenditure on the Playing Field, Highways, Village Design Statement, War Memorial, Poll Reserve and Web Site.

The suggested budget was proposed by Cllr Kevan seconded by Cllr Link and carried unanimously.

10. Precept 2016/2017

The Clerk said that, currently, Parish Council precepts are not capped but that the government was requiring larger authorities not to exceed a 2% Council Tax increase. Based on the Budget for 2016/2017, the required reserves (see above) and the Councillors wish to observe the 2% recommended limit, a Precept of £6,475.00 was suggested by the Clerk. The Precept last year was £6,475.00. Although the Precept remains unchanged it represents an increase of 2% in the PC portion of Council Tax. This is because the Council Tax top-up from Wiltshire Council has ceased and the tax base for the next financial year has been reduced from £229.90 to £225.11. A Precept of £6,475.00 was proposed by Councillor Kevan, seconded by Councillor Link and carried unanimously. The Clerk was instructed to notify Wiltshire Council accordingly. The Clerk informed the Councillors that their decision would mean that the Keevil Precept, to be added to the Wiltshire Council Tax demand, will range from £19.18 for Band A properties (an increase for the year of £0.53) to £57.53 for Band H properties (an increase for the year of £1.58).

11. Financial Statement (before Invoice Payments)

The Clerk reported that the Council's finances stood as listed below:

-	Current Account	£	110.05
-	Deposit Account	£	12,110.09
-	Total	£	12,220.14

12. Cheque Approval

- (a) Payee = Keevil Village Hall
Sum = £11.00 for Hire of Hall 4/11/2015 (£11.00 + VAT £ 0.00)
- (b) Payee = Society of Local Council Clerks
Sum = £65.00 for Annual Subscription (£65.00 + VAT £ 0.00)
- (c) Payee = G.F.W. Goodwin
Sum = £17.37 for Expenses Jul-Dec 2015 (£15.60 + VAT £ 1.77)
- (d) Payee = Mr M. Dicker
Sum = £40.00 for re-varnishing noticeboards (£40.00 + VAT £0.00)
- (e) Payee = A,W, Services
Sum = £840.61 for Playing Field Maintenance in 2015 (£840.61 + VAT £0.00)

All the above payments were proposed by Cllr Banfield and seconded by Cllr Hunter. A total of £973.98 (£972.21 + VAT £1.77) was disbursed with the consent of all present.

13. Any Other Competent Business

- (a) The Chairman reported that there had been discussions with HMRC regarding problems with reporting carried out on our behalf by our payroll company. The payroll company ceased trading in the summer without submitting proper year-end reports for 2012/2013 & 2013/2014. HMRC have fined us for these omissions and he has arranged for these two fines to be paid. The fines amount to about £280 which he will bring forward to be paid at the next meeting.
- (b) Cllr Link asked that consideration be given to moving the Dog Bin in Martins Lane to a better location. Cllr Kevan said that moving this bin had been considered previously and that although this bin was not used as much as some of the other bins, the cost of moving it was prohibitive.
- (c) The Clerk tabled a letter he had received from a resident concerning the amount of dog fouling in the village. The clerk was asked to put another article in the Parish Magazine asking residents to clear up after their dogs. The Chairman will reply to the correspondent who raised the matter.
- (d) The Clerk said that our Community Emergency Volunteer (CEV) David Buoault, has recently reviewed and updated the village Initial Response Plan.
- (e) The Clerk said that PC Audit arrangements were being changed in 2017 and although we could appoint our own auditors, the best option for small Councils was to go with the Group Auditing Scheme being set up by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). This was agreed.
- (f) Cllr Meatyard said that the damaged padlock on Crash Gate No.3 of the Airfield was still not repaired. The Clerk was asked to contact the MOD again about this matter.
- (g) Cllr Kevan said that there was a local Motor Club that would like to use Keevil Airfield for Track Days. The Chairman said that there was an agreement in place between Wiltshire Council and the MOD limiting the number of noisy events that could take place on the Airfield.
- (h) The next meeting of the Council is on Monday 7th March 2016 in the Village Hall starting at 7:30 p.m.

SIGNED

DATE

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