

Kirklington Parish Council Meeting

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 6th December 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Bob Radford (RSR)(Chair), Martin Smith (Vice Chair), Andrew Twidale (AT), Ian Woolridge (IW), Sarah French (SF), Patrick Mitchell (PM), Cllr Bruce Laughton (BL), Cllr Penny Rainbow (PR), Cllr Malcolm Brock (MB), Helen Cowlan (HC) (Clerk).

Public: Jane Armstrong, Dave Price, Kate Bell, Dan Brooks, Jane Brown, Graeme Wheatcroft.

Representatives from WINGS: Jake Shelton and two representatives.

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Declaration of interest

None.

3. WINGS update

A number of concerns were raised, and responded to, which will be summarised in this section.

WINGS Principal, Jake Shelton (JS), introduced himself and his team and wanted to reassure the Parish Council, and most impacted residents, that they are committed to resolving, and preventing, issues and are keen to build community links. It was recognised that more recent 'spikes' in issues, which were not acceptable, had been caused by the behaviour of two or three individuals who are now no longer at the School. It was acknowledged that removal is not the only fix, but that immediate action had been needed. It is anticipated that having greater control of funding will enable a better balance of needs - the installation of some fencing has already taken place. Another priority will be to find a way of helping the children to feel part of the community, and to develop accountability for their actions.

• Students' outdoor access / freedom

Since the fencing was improved, there have been no further instances of trespass, however, concerns remained with regard to items being thrown which have caused damage to property. Questions were asked about the levels of freedom permitted, and the steps that staff are allowed to take in the event of issues (as the perception is that they are unable / unwilling to take decisive action). Enquiries were made about being able to recognise members of staff.

There are plans to further improve fencing, both onsite and around the boundary. Students have their own designated areas, and are also permitted to have independent walks, however, permissions can be revoked in the event of them causing problems. Staff can use restraint if needed to prevent escalation and / or where health and safety is compromised. It was acknowledged that there are no quick wins, but that they are trying to create a safe and comfortable environment for children who may have had very unstable backgrounds and are not used to being challenged – trying to embed standards. Students would be expected to be wearing uniform, and be within the grounds during normal School hours, and staff should be wearing lanyards. Students may be allowed off site to try and develop some independence, but would normally have a member of staff to oversee activities e.g., cinema, with a curfew of approx. 8.30pm.

• Practical solutions

Concerns were raised about the effectiveness of fencing (to prevent damage and invasion of privacy), and questions asked about other steps being taken.

It was confirmed that additional fencing can be reviewed, however, that anti-climb paint is simply not effective, and that whilst the use of CCTV would be helpful, it is not an option which is currently permitted (even for internal use). Students' independence is co-ordinated by one member of staff and would be for short spells of time of 10-15mins, and for one, or possibly two, students at a time. This makes it much more effective to control, and to be able to track who was where / when in the event of a problem. Privileges can, and do, get withdrawn for issues such as verbal aggression, abuse, and criminal damage. There are seating areas, and activities, at different points around the site, which will be reviewed for effectiveness to discourage attention towards boundaries / neighbours.

• Effectiveness

Enquiries were made about how issues are logged and reviewed to measure changes / trends, and also how the effectiveness of measures are tracked. It was suggested that actions and deadlines should be agreed, so people are accountable and progress is made.

It was confirmed that issues are recorded, and that quarterly analysis takes place which will, from now on, include the wider community in the form of consultations and surveys to residents.

- **Building relationships**

Whilst acknowledging the difficulties in balancing the need for second chances, with managing behaviours, it was highlighted that the numerous changes of Head and a previous lack of willingness / ability to take strong and fast enough action have eroded trust. Residents have felt, and still do, feel anger, mistrust and vulnerability and would want to see strong action being taken to prevent issues occurring, before there could be a possibility of compromise in terms of helping with building community links. It was felt that more could have been done to follow up in person after incidents had taken place, and that the lack of visibility didn't instil confidence – more regular updates and communication were needed.

Apologies were given and it was acknowledged that steps could be taken to prevent the lack of communication going forward. No further changes to leadership are anticipated, or desired, which should drive positive action and develop continuity. Whilst there is a small 'window' in which the School tries to expose students to situations in the right way, in order to develop the skills they will need for future independence and success, this cannot be at the expense of those surrounding the School. When it is felt the time is appropriate, visitors are welcome to visit to have a tour of the educational facilities and see the work being done. There are plans to hold an event, which will be open to the public, next year. It was agreed that regular meetings would be set up with stakeholders (residents and the Parish Council) to review issues / concerns and share feedback and ideas.

- **WINGS students**

Questions were asked to find out about the students on site, how and where they are placed, and actions that had been taken about specific students (unnamed) that had caused issues over the Summer - concerns were raised about the effectiveness of supervision. It was acknowledged that new intakes can create 'spikes' in issues, and that Winter provides fewer opportunities for problems than Summer, although the expectation is that plans are in place to allow for this. Frustration about vulnerability, especially for females on their own, was made clear – they need to feel safe.

It was acknowledged that the Summer was a difficult period – Police interventions had increased predominantly due to issues with missing children but one child in particular had 'wound others up'. A new Head of Education is in place, and it is anticipated that changes will have time to embed over winter (which is traditionally 'quieter') to prevent the behavioural issues normally seen during summers. There are currently 27 residential, and 8 'day time', students in attendance – WINGS is registered for ages 9-17 although the current age range is 12-16. The places are Local Authority funded, with board members receiving updates about costs (including those caused by incidents), and the School will deal with issues until they establish that they can't meet the student's needs effectively enough and that they need a different intervention plan. Potential placements are now more effectively 'screened' with them specifically reviewing each child's 'triggers' against the needs of the community – making the decision to decline placements for those who, for example, have a known history of climbing and / or causing criminal damage. The funding received is the same regardless of where children move from. Children may be moved outside of their previous area if it is felt that this is necessary to get them away from negative influences, and can include County Lines considerations. An apology was given for the fact that a previous letter of apology had been given (by a student) without remorse being demonstrated. Once particular event had been the result of a number of unfortunately timed incidents enabling the child to take advantage of the situation. The required notice period of 28 days had been previously served, but had expired, which exacerbated issues. It was a unique circumstance which should not recur.

Cllr Laughton confirmed that there are 980 children in care at the moment (with costs of £3-5,000 per week per child) and that processes are under review to actively seek stronger interventions, and more quickly, in order to find better outcomes. Examples of plans being considered include: supporting relatives to take on care, adoption, placements in smaller units. Cllr Laughton confirmed feedback would be passed to the Director of Young Peoples' Services.

- **Contact information**

The phone number that should be used to report issues / concerns is 07792 524187 as this will give 24 hours access to a point of contact. The Principal (Jake Shelton) can also be contacted by email j.shelton@kedlestongroup.com within normal working hours (although emails are often checked out of hours too).

Actions for WINGS Team:

- Let Clerk have contact details for Janette Ferguson who is the liaison / Police Officer for 'looked after children'.
- Remind staff to wear lanyards for ease of identification.
- Review designated smoking / 'hang out' areas to discourage students from boundary areas.
- Set up regular stakeholder meetings (including affected residents/PC representative).
- Review the position of lighting near the garage which are imposing and causing issues for residents.
- Liaise with NSDC Planning team to see what the requirements are for future fencing.
- Consider if, and how, residents can be made aware of high-risk students.

Actions for residents:

- Contact WINGS with any issues and concerns.
- Quote specific details when reporting issues – including dates, times and descriptions if available.

Actions for Clerk:

- Circulate the emergency contact phone number, and Principal's email address, and share on the Parish Council website.
- Add WINGS as a regular agenda item to ensure feedback is consciously captured and reviewed.

4. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 1st November 2021 were approved as a true record – proposed RSR, seconded MS.

5. Adjournment for matters to be raised by the public for future consideration, and County/District Councillor items

- *WINGS* – MB supported the need for the Parish Council and Community to drive change and improvements.
- *Railways* – BL advised there will be an independent rail announcement about funding for Maid Marian and Robin Hood lines, and will deliver projects including a station at Edwinstowe for better access. There will be links to HS2 via Parkway. Sections of the Midland mainline are to be electrified which will reduce the Nottingham-Birmingham journey time to 27 minutes (rather than around an hour).
- *Devolution* – BL advised that an announcement is expected regarding devolution, and it is hoped that NCC will be part of a pilot scheme to have more powers.
- *Service provider changes* – BL advised via services will be changed, with over 30 recommendations to follow for potholes. Current machinery operates best at over 5 degrees (Celsius) which makes winter performance a challenge.
- *Levelling up* – levelling up aims to increase infrastructure spending for Midlands and the North, to provide rebalance compared to London, and to try and improve industry and jobs.
- *Planning approval* – PR advised proposals to change use of land to exercise dogs had been approved – confirmation to follow.
- *Environmental Health* – AT confirmed he had still not heard regarding problems on land. **ACTION – PR to chase again (21-24).**
- *Vacancy* – GW advised he would like to formally register interest in the Parish Council vacancy. HC confirmed this would be advertised in the New Year (and noted intent).
- *Potholes* – RSR advised of issues at the junction with The Green and Southwell Rd. AT confirmed issues remain along Eakring Rd, BL advised to contact JH at Highways. **Action – HC to report to NCC (20-26).**
- *Bridge repair* – HC has received an email from a resident advising of repairs needed to the footbridge over The Greet (near the back of the Village Hall). **Action – HC to report (21-28).**

6. Planning

- i) 21/02383/FUL – Lilac Cottage, Church Lane – *proposed 3-bedroom house and associated works (resubmission of 20/01003/FUL)*.
Resident (GW) gave an overview of the current position and key changes before leaving the meeting. KPC felt the proposals were acceptable as long as the review process enabled careful review to ensure the structural integrity of the driveway and dyke. **Outcome – no objection (unanimous).**
- ii) 21/02434/FUL – Mill Farmhouse, Southwell Rd – *proposed detached garage for 3 cars with workshop area and annexe above*.
It was felt that there was a lack of clarity about intended use (living space or garage) and listed status / requirements, making it difficult to assess suitability and whether or not the project would be an enhancement. There was no design and access statement available. **Outcome - this needs to be reviewed and moved to January's agenda to consider again.**
- iii) 21/02043/FULM – Land off Nottingham Rd, Southwell *erection of a new food store and associated new access, parking, servicing, drainage, landscaping and highway works – amended to show updated information (site location plan and highways drawings)*.
It was felt that the new information had a lot of detail and was not sent in enough time to review thoroughly, especially as NSDC's website was very slow / wouldn't open documents. **Outcome – request information by email and request extension to deadline / advise submission will be made asap after January's meeting.**
- iv) 21/02028/HOUSE – Home Farm, Main Street – *proposed removal of rear extensions, replace with two storey rear extension and proposed dormer window at first floor elevation*. **Outcome – permission granted (info only).**
- v) 21/02262/TWCA – Mill Farmhouse, Southwell Rd – *removal of side branches / dead trees*. **Outcome – permission granted (info only).**
- vi) 21/02382/TWCA – Highfield Farm House, Southwell Rd – *branch removal*. **Outcome – permission granted (info only).**

Actions – HC to submit decisions / requests for information as outlined above, circulating before January meeting as required (21-29).

7. Action points review

Number	PC member	Subject	Date Raised	Status
16-45	HC	<u>Ivy Farm</u> No further information has been received about proposals. It is understood that there should be consultation with Severn Trent as drainage should be connected to / with the main system (although currently blocked). Action: no further action at this time - awaiting next steps.	Nov-16	ongoing
17-53	HC/RSR	<u>School - Parking issues/ related CIL</u> RSR proposed a formal 'opening' of the car park to promote it (inc possible update to Advertiser), and establish usage / success (inc frontage being kept clear as agreed). Action: HC to contact School for feedback; RSR to contact local resident(s) - review next steps at future meeting.	Oct-17	ongoing
19-57	HC	<u>School Playing Field</u> Feedback on the document: clarify if it meant that motor vehicles, rather than 'wheeled' vehicles, should not access to make sure bicycles / pushchairs retain access; politely challenge proposals to charge for use of field as the School isn't charged for use of the Church / Village Hall facilities. Action: HC to prove feedback to NSDC	Nov-19	ongoing

20-25	HC	<u>Flooding / drainage projects</u> No ongoing issues at the moment - updates/actions as needed. Action: Continue to monitor during winter weather.	Oct-20	ongoing
20-26	HC/AT	<u>Potholes</u> BL advised to escalate pothole issues on Eakring Rd. Hedge near chicken sheds needs cutting back. RSR highlighted pothole(s) at The Green's junction with Southwell Rd. Action – HC to escalate Eakring Rd pothole/drainage issues with NCC (JH) and report The Green; AT to find out landowner responsible for hedgerow.	Oct-20	ongoing
21-01	HC	<u>Bridge repairs</u> Previously highlighted issues have been reported.	Jan-21	closed
21-02	HC	<u>Robin Hood Road Signs</u> Signs for Robin Hood Caravan Park on Lockwell Hill (near the Go-Kart track) are still in place. Action: HC to chase removal again.	Jan-21	ongoing
21-13	HC	<u>Parish Council Vacancy</u> New Cllr training is available online. New vacancy to be promoted in the New Year - interest noted from resident GW. Action – HC to submit paperwork and also liaise with NSDC for filling new (additional) vacancy.	Feb-21	ongoing
21-16	HC/IW	<u>WINGS School</u> Meeting has been held, and minuted - actions listed and will be reviewed at January's meeting. Action – circulate minutes and actions, then monitor progress. HC to add WINGS review as standard agenda item (to clearly show conscious reviews).	Apr-21	ongoing
21-22	HC	<u>National Grid</u> Action - HC to chase response from National Grid re concerns about traffic/speeding.	Sep-21	ongoing
21-23	HC	<u>Footpaths</u> All feedback has been reported and acknowledged.	Sep-21	closed
21-24	PR/AT	<u>Sewerage</u> Action - HC to chase PR who will contact Env't Health at NSDC and liaise with AT about next steps.	Sep-21	ongoing
21-25	HC	<u>Lamppost poppies</u> Action - HC to contact Royal British Legion to confirm price and availability of poppies.	Sep-21	ongoing
21-26	RSR	<u>Church Projects</u> Action - RSR to confirm any specific projects for which funding could be allocated.	Nov-21	ongoing
21-27	HC	<u>School - Governor Vacancy</u> Action - HC to circulate details of vacancy to residents.	Nov-21	ongoing

8. Finances

- Balances - Current account £22991.00, inc £14500 CIL (leaving £8491.00); deposit account £5323.43.
- Clerk payment – Clerk payment for November approved – prop MS, sec PM.
- New Councillor Training – payment of £30.00 for online training for Sarah approved – proposed RSR, seconded MS.
- Review any payments due – no new payments due.

9. Traffic Report

No known issues.

10. NALC AGM update

RSR gave an overview of discussion topics at this year's online AGM, including a high-level presentation.

11. Church Services

HC provided an overview of upcoming Church service in the cluster – emailed and available on the website.

12. Correspondence

- i) Transport Survey – already circulated for completion by 31st Jan 2022.
- ii) Names for new developments – no need at present but ideas to be forwarded if needed in future.

13. Date of next meeting

7th February 2022 at 7.30pm.