

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE KIG JOINT PARISHES GROUP
Held on 19th November 2009 at 7.30pm.

The meeting was chaired by Richard Jacques

1. Apologies

Apologies from absent members were accepted.

2. Public Inquiry Report.

Richard Jacques thanked all present for their work and speaking at the Public Inquiry.

He updated members on the progress of the Public Inquiry, he reported that SEEDA had withdrawn their support for the application and that was good news for the JPG at the Public Inquiry.

3. Future Finances.

A spreadsheet detailing the JPG finances to date was circulated to all present by the Clerk.

These were discussed by all present and Richard Jacques spoke of the work undertaken by Luther Pendragon.

Richard Jacques stated that the JPG was prepared for the Public Inquiry and was in a position to answer the questions raised by the Planning Inspector; he stated that in his view without Luther Pendragon the JPG would not have had the level of confidence to present at the PI.

These comments were supported by members of the JPG.

Richard Jacques spoke regarding the next steps to be taken by the JPG; he reminded members that the JPG had committed Luther Pendragon until the end of December. He stated that at this point the JPG needed to stop and review its actions and the way forward, at present the next actions were unknown, however he stated that that the JPG would still have work to do.

He spoke of the need for the JPG to consider its work as a group and for its electorate. He stated that tactically the JPG needed to stay aware of the developments at a parliamentary level. He spoke of the forthcoming elections and stated that the new Secretary of State was currently unknown.

As Chairman of the JPG Richard Jacques suggested that the JPG continued to the end of December 2009 and then stop to review its role and consider the next phase and the potential costs involved.

This was approved and agreed by all present.

A further discussion took place regarding the finances of the JPG and the possible future finances of the group.

Gavin McLaggan stated that the likely future costs for the JPG would be smaller for the next stage and the main bulk of the work had been undertaken at the PI.

Martin Pepper spoke regarding the budgeting of parish councils and stated that he would like to put a work plan to his parish council to try to create a provisional budget for future costs.

Patrick Walton suggested that a meeting should be arranged in January 2010 to discuss finances as this may assist parish councils in setting their budgets for the forthcoming year.

This was agreed by all present.

Richard Jacques stated that he and Martin Pepper would consider the budgets and future costs of the JPG to try to put together a basic budget forecast.

Patrick Walton asked if Luther Pendragon could supply a breakdown of their hours spent on the project, Paul Young supported this request.

Paul Young suggested that Luther Pendragon should not be the JPG's only source of enquiry.

Richard Jacques stated that if this was the case then all members of the JPG would need to have an input into the work.

Roz Cheeseman spoke of the benefits of having a panel of experts working for the group.

Geoff Licence thanked all for giving their evidence and the work at the Public Inquiry.

Peter Titchner spoke in favour of staying with Luther Pendragon.

Geoff Licence questioned whether the Proofs of Evidence were shown to the Planning Consultant.

Peter Waite stated that fair consideration was given to this, but it was agreed that it would have been an additional and unnecessary cost to the JPG. He stated that planning was an issue when the JPG first presented its case to MBC.

4. Other Items.

June Harrison formally conveyed her thanks to Richard Jacques, Gavin McLaggan, John Horne and Peter Waite for their consistent and daily attendance at the Planning Inquiry. She informed members that she had made contact with other parish councils via the KALC in order to seek additional support for the JPG and so far she had received emails of support from 49 parish councils representing 100,000 residents.

A discussion took place regarding the plans for the cross examination of the appellant at the PI.

Geoff Licence informed members that a recent article that had appeared in the Downs Mail regarding Bearsted Parish Councils financial commitment to the JPG had been reported incorrectly and he confirmed that they were still committed until December 2009.

5. Date of Next Meeting.

The Chairman thanked all members for attending the meeting and wished all a good Christmas; he stated that a date for the next meeting would be circulated to all representatives in early January.

He declared the meeting closed at 8.50pm.