KIDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Meeting of Kidlington Parish Council Community Committee held at Exeter Hall at 6.30pm on Thursday 18 April 2024

Present: Cllr Alison Street (Chair) , Cllr Lesley McLean, Cllr Melanie Moorhouse, Cllr David Robey, Cllr Phil Wyse, Cllr William Easdown Babb, Cllr Doug Williamson, Cllr Naveed Barakzai Pace

In Attendance: Facilities Manager – Graham Kearney (FM)
Community Projects Office – Les Dent (CPO)

Apologies: Cllr Fiona Mawson

24/CO/013 **Declaration of Interest:** none declared

24/CO/014 **Minutes:** the minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2024 were reviewed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

24/CO/015 **Action Points:**
(a) St Mary's Field – Minutes from the SMF management committee meeting held on 18 March and the draft for the new notice board were circulated ahead of the meeting for info. A request was made for a digital tree map of SMF to aid with exact tree locations and to identify and label trees to support future grant funding applications.
Action: CPO to request a digital copy of the map from CDC Tree Officer
(b) Coronation Garden – the signage has now been installed at the Coronation Garden. The volunteer group for this area had a successful working session on morning of 13 May 2024.
(c) Working Group/Skatepark – the group are to meet with a date to be confirmed to look at potential sources of funding. **Action:** A date to be confirmed.
(d) Public Realm – members were updated on a recent meeting with CDC and RAW on prospects to update the High Street to include a new structure to replace the "band stand", replacing some of the bollards, planters, plus potential for new seating outside the old Barclays bank and consideration to repurpose some of the existing equipment. The intention is to create a unified feel through refurbishment throughout the High Street and Piazza areas with suggestion of a local artist to undertake some design work. **Action:** Comms Group to undertake outreach on this item, once CDC has arranged a schedule for required works. RAW to provide design options to KPC and CDC.

24/CO/016 **Facilities Manager's Report:** Members were briefed on his report.

- Members were updated on Cherwell Collectives' change of use and storage at the rear of the building which is only accessible when the building is open. **Action**: Clerk to confirm if a contract has been drawn up.
- The mapping of dog bin locations is in its final stages**.** **Action**: Comms Group to assist with digitalising map with QR codes for easy access.
- The introduction of water troughs at Blenheim Road have received both positive and negative comments; one in particular relating to a plot holder with disabilities. This was further discussed with suggestion of using Gosford Hill School Duke of Edinburgh students to help as part of their service requirements for the award. **Action:** Allotment group members to discuss this at the next allotment meeting in May.

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- Various quotes are pending for works to be scheduled at Exeter Hall and the Pavilion. Bar area painting works are soon to be undertaken and access needs to be considered prior to any bookings taken.

24/CO/017 Bicester Road Cemetery: The FM updated members on the BRCemetery issues reported by ODS who undertake double grave digging. CDS attended a meeting in March, reviewed and reported their findings with suggestion to recommend ODS liaise further with Teleshore who are experts on shoring graves. They also recommended some additional drainage be installed along the most affected section to assist the perched water flow into existing drainage, and also confirmed there would be potential burial capacity for seven years or more. They recommended the top section of the site, which was used for allotment use previously be reviewed and an application for a T2 assessment be submitted given changes in planning and environmental requirements.
Action: FM/Clerk to follow through with ODS on this item.

24/CO/018 Christmas Lights Proposal: Two of the proposals received for the 3-year contract were considered via visual presentation and verbal update from the FM and CPO. These proposals were discussed and it was agreed Lite is the preferred option. It was confirmed that both proposals are within the agreed budget. CPO advised that there is a separate budget line of £5000 for the switch on event itself. **Action**: CPO **t**o notify Blachere and Lite on the decision made.

24/CO/019 Environment Matters:
(a) **Kidlington Eco Group (KEG) –** Both 7 March and 11 April notes were circulated ahead of the meeting for information. It was noted the various environmental community activities are reported across a range of groups. A plan for a safe cycle route for Kidlington was suggested in the April meeting. which should attract funding potential. The next meeting is scheduled for 2 May at 1pm in the small hall.

(b) **Natural Environment Group –** Members were updated on Ruth Mo's recent recruitment as Growing Spaces Co-ordinator, joining the team at KPC for 8 hours a week. Her role will be to assist with public engagement and to help and encourage residents to grow their own fruit or vegetables or to get involved with volunteering in some of KPC green spaces. She is also a volunteer at the Community allotments/Hazel Walk. Members were given a plan of a proposed small project at the Phelps to enhance this area with increased biodiversity options.

Subsequent to this meeting a date has been confirmed for the group to meet on 9 May at10.30am.
Action: The working group to create a management plan from Rhiannon's drafts, previously distributed.

The meeting closed at: 7.50pm

Date of Next Meeting: 20 June 2024, 6.30pm at Exeter Hall

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