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 7 March 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, Community Officer – Les Dent
Apologies: Cllr Fiona Mawson

24/CO/013 Declaration of Interest: None.

24/CO/014 Public Participation: The representative for Yarnton Road Allotment site asked members to reconsider their decision to begin a programme of installing galvanised water troughs in the allotment sites. The initiative has been proposed as a water saving measure and will be trialled initially at Blenheim Road. He stressed that plots are well maintained and cultivated and holders are careful with their water use. He also raised concerns that this could adversely affect older plot holders. The representative did endorse the suggestion of a turning circle at Yarnton Road. He was thanked by members and left the meeting.

24/CO/015 Minutes: the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2024 were reviewed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

24/CO/016 Action Points:
(a) St Mary's Field – designs of signage for the interpretation board/signage being funded by KPC were circulated amongst members. **Action:** It was agreed to leave St Mary's Fields to agree final designs.
(b) Recycling Bins at Exeter Hall: Members were updated on the continued issue with fly tipping at the recycling bins; the difficulty in progressing any penalty by CDC with those caught via CCTV coverage. **Action:** It was agreed stern signage to be installed. Wording to be confirmed at the next meeting April. FM to action.
(c) Signage for the Coronation Garden – New signage to be installed soon and in hand. There will be a weeding session for volunteers this Saturday 9 March (all are welcome).
(d) Skatepark Proposal Update – The Council has previously agreed to consider a full development including replacing the existing temporary building, refurbishing the play area and installing a wheeled sports park. The WG need to look at potential funding options, including grants or S106 funding. **Action:** To hold a meeting of the Skate Park Working Group to progress the ideas and consider funding streams.
(e) Bicester Road Cemetery/Oxford Direct Services: Awaiting a report from ODS on their health and safety concerns regarding double depth graves. Concerns were raised about how much space is left and whether the planned extension will be needed sooner than anticipated. **Action:** To ascertain how many usable plots in existing ground.

24/CO/017 Facilities Manager's Report:
Members were updated on the problems at Exeter Close Play Area as one of the slides has problems with water pooling at the bottom. **Action:** FM to contact Eibe to consider a solution to the problem.

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24/CO/018 Allotments: Although the committee was sympathetic to the concerns of allotment holders they felt that the scheme to install water troughs to decrease water usage was in line with the Council's environmental agenda. **Action:** It was agreed that plot holders would be advised in advance and a clear explanation of the rationale behind the decision be given. It was also agreed that this message should be made clear in the Council's newsletter and other platforms.

24/CO/019 Quotes Received for consideration:
(a) Blenheim Road allotment water supply and trough install – Haynes & Son @ £3,246. **Action:** This item was discussed and agreed in principle - to be formalised at the P&F meeting on 14 March
(b) Upgrade of Reception Foyer Lighting – Andy Darby @ £894.04. **Action:** this item was discussed and agreed on the FM's recommendation - Budget EMR code 318 EH.
(c) Exeter Hall internal hand rail around the lower level of the hall – Lemon Tree £4,157.36. **Action:** this item was discussed and agreed the FM recommendation, for reasons of health and safety – Budget EMR code 318 EH.

24/CO/020 Public Realm Report: Members agreed a response to the CDC commissioned report. **Action:** Clerk to submit to CDC

24/CO/021 Cherwell Collective:
Members discussed the requirements of Cherwell Collective from April onwards. There had been some disinformation reported in the newspaper regarding the Council's support and the Chair had written to the paper to clarify the situation.
At P&F, the committee agreed, in principle, to support the Collective to a similar degree as they currently do with a discount of 60% from the advertised rates. The council is awaiting S137 grant applications from the Collective with clarity about their requirements.
The committee agreed in principle to the Collective's use of three allotment plots in Hazel Walk – grant applications awaited.
It was agreed by both parties that Cherwell Collective will no longer be catering for events at Exeter Hall except on the days they have booked the hall and kitchen.
It was agreed by both parties that Cherwell Collective will no longer be operating Harvest @ Home in KPC's green spaces and that KPC would take these under their control. Work would be required at Park Hill in particular and concerns were raised about the unicorn installation.
The Council will need to consider future staffing requirements and these will be discussed with the Clerk.

24/CO/022 Environment Matters:

(a) **Kidlington Environment Group (KEG) –** members were updated on current activities of KEG. It was felt that they may be a good source to find volunteers.
(b) **Lyne Road Green –** the committee would like to source an old English Oak to plant at Lyne Road Green.
(c) **Honor Close** - Members asked what had happened to OCC's management plan for the Honor Close/Alexander Close woodland. **Action**: to ask Cllr Middleton to chase OCC officers.

24/CO/023 Communications/Councillor Outreach:
Members discussed how best to communicate with residents and stressed the importance of story telling to help residents better understand the Council's values, aims and objectives and ensure that the Council is visible and people understand the role of the Parish Council. It was understood that KPC staff have regular interaction with the public. It was stressed that it is important that councillors make attempts to interact on a personal level with residents.
Action: It was agreed that in future it would be helpful if communication points as well as action points are highlighted in Council minutes.

The meeting closed at: 8.25pm
Date of next meeting: 18 April 2024 at 6.30pm

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