

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 27 October 2022

Present: Cllr Alison Street (Chair) Cllr Lesley McLean
Cllr Doug Williamson Cllr Dorothy Walker
Cllr Neil Prestidge Cllr Lucy Loveridge

In Attendance: Clerk - Rachel Faulkner, FM – Graham Kearney, CPO – Les Dent and one member of the public

Apologies: Cllr David Robey

Non-Attendance: Cllr Fiona Mawson

22/CO/293 Declaration of Interest: Cllr Street advised an interest in regard to the replacement gate at St Mary's burial ground - in item 5.

22/CO/294 Minutes: the minutes of the meeting held on 1 September were reviewed, agreed and signed.

22/CO/295 Matters Arising from previous meeting:

- **Honor Close:** –OCC have not yet provided a Management Plan for the woodland at Honor Close. It was confirmed that they have planted 3 replacement trees in Garden City for the ones felled at Honor Close. They have also been informed about the dead Silver Birch in the High Street and have agreed to remove and consider replacing.
- **Potential Landscape Plan to replace decking at Exeter Hall/Doctors:** FM advised he was waiting on contractor ideas and costs and will circulate to members once received. A small working party of members will discuss this and advise results at the next Community meeting in January 2023.
- **Footpath to Ron Groves Gym:** after further clarification on the need for linking this path to the newly installed gym, originally discussed to facilitate more convenient access for those less able, Cllr Prestidge agreed to liaise further with KRT. It was noted that as long as the gate to the car park stays closed to prevent unwanted incursion, access for residents who are less able will continue to be via the turfed area.
- **Bridge 227 Grovelands:** No response from C&RT as yet, to clarify who is the owner and responsible for the repair works, prior to KPC organising. C&RT are aware of the need for these works. **Action:** the bridge will be monitored in the interim by the FM

22/CO/296 Facilities Manager's Report

- **Orchard Rec:** Work began on the refurbishment of Orchard Rec playground on 24 October and is expected to be complete by early December. Residents were leafleted in advance
- **St Mary's burial ground:** Members agreed to the quote for £3,500 for the replacement of the oak side gate at St Mary's using the same contractor that completed the work on the main gate.
- Members were advised on the installation of new benches at BR Cemetery.
- **Bridge 229 Stratfield Brake wooden bridge:** FM updated on a quote received and another pending. **Action:** FM to monitor its safety and to close off if it becomes hazardous. Members agreed his recommendation to plan the works in as soon as possible and approved the expenditure.

- **Allotments:** Members were circulated with an update prior to the meeting and advised there were 2 full plots and 5 halves to be let in November.
- **Warm Spaces:** KPC working with Cherwell Collective to provide warm space for residents on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

22/CO/297 Update on KPC Events:

Fireworks: To be held on 4 November at Stratfield Brake. Request made for members to help on the night.

Christmas Lights Switch On: to be held on 1 December. Members decided to reduce the time the lights are on to 4pm to midnight in order to save energy. Last year all lights were changed to LED to reduce energy consumption.

22/CO/298 Kidlington Environment Group (KEG) Update:

Ron Groves Park – 11 trees to be planted this autumn including a mulberry tree. In addition, 4 hornbeams being planted around the playground to provide shade and help with drainage. Tree locations to be marked in late November and FM to consult with KRT/Garden City FC to confirm locations are not problematic.

Members discussed how best to disseminate the information provided by an allotment holder regarding soil management and organic growing. It was confirmed that, following the recommendations of the allotment committee, the updated version had been circulated by email to all allotment holders. The committee agreed that KPC would print a small number (25) to be available for those who might not access information electronically.

Cllrs McLean and Walker agreed to attend the next meeting of Kidlington Eco Group (KEG) on 3 November. The Clerk advised on the planned Christmas Eco Fair – No Waste Noel to be held at Exeter Hall on 10 December. KEG to organise a series of short talks to run during the fair advising people on how to have a more environmentally friendly Christmas.

22/CO/299 Playground Improvements Programme:

Work underway to replace equipment and enlarge Orchard Rec play area. It was suggested to organise an opening event in December. **Action:** To advise members on completion date and opening.

22/CO/300 Community Budget Plans 2023

Members considered the proposed increases to cemetery fees for 2023 and recommended one alteration; increasing ERBs for cremated remains to £200.

Members considered the proposed increases to allotment plots and agreed the proposed increase from £42 to £44 for a full plot and £27 to £29 for a half plot.

Members reviewed the proposed Community budget for 2023/24 and discussed areas highlighted where savings could be made. They concluded that the budget was acceptable and no further cuts were recommended.

In relation to tree works Cllr Williamson advised there could be increases in future expenditure because of the nationwide prevalence of ash die-back disease.

The committee discussed the option of leasing an electric vehicle in order to bring the travel costs down and in line with the Council's Climate Change policy.

Commemoration of the coronation: The committee suggested that an earmarked reserve be made using general reserves to be used for commemorating the King's Coronation in May. Ideas to be discussed. These included planting a single mature tree in Lyne Rd Green, and providing small commemorative trees for each school. Such ideas would be in line with the King's environmental

priorities. It was noted that such planting would need to be done before end March 2023. A small group to be set up to identify species and how to implement plans.

Action: Members agreed to create an earmarked reserve of £3,000 from general reserves.

The meeting closed at: 8.20pm

Date of Next Meeting: 12 January 2023

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