

KIDLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington, OX5 1AB

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Minutes of the Meeting of Kidlington Parish Council Community Committee held at Exeter Hall at 6.30pm on Thursday 2 March 2023

Present: Cllr Alison Street (Chair) Cllr Lesley McLean
 Cllr Melanie Moorhouse Cllr Fiona Mawson
 Cllr Lucy Loveridge
 Cllr David Robey

In Attendance: Clerk - Rachel Faulkner, FM – Graham Kearney, CPO – Les Dent, Rhiannon Evetts/Wild Oxfordshire and one member of public.

Non-Attendance: Cllr Dorothy Walker

Apologies: Cllr Doug Williamson, Cllr Neil Prestidge

23/CO/311 Declaration of Interest:

23/CO/312 Minutes: the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2023 were reviewed and signed as a true record of the meeting. The Chairman updated the committee that OUFC/OCC are no longer considering Stratfield Brake for the new stadium location at this time.

23/CO/313 Matters Arising from previous meeting:

- **Honor Close:** – no response received from OCC.
- **Bridge 229 Wooden Bridge at Stratfield Brake** – FM arranging for structural inspection. Cllr Moorhouse offered assistance with a known contact.
- **St Mary's North Gate** – the new gate is due to be installed on Tuesday 7 March 2023
- **Replacement Bus Shelter on Mill Street/Evans Lane** – Installation of the bus shelter scheduled for 3 March 2023
- **Cherwell Collective Review** – Cllr Robey proposed forming a working group to review requirements and future plans of the Collective and current and future partnership arrangements. This exercise should be done with reference to Wild Oxfordshire to ensure that the Council is clear on how to implement its environmental plans and aspirations.
Recommendation: Full Council to confirm members of the working group.

23/CO/314 Environmental Projects:

Rhiannon Evetts, who leads the Wild Kidlington project which is being funded by Cherwell District Council, informed members about the current environmental work in the council's green spaces which includes works at Lyne Road Green, Foxdown Close, the Copse at Park Hill and St Mary's Fields. She is working with Harvest at Home to install hibernaculums at Hazel Walk allotments and Lyne Road green and looking at neighbourhoods where Hedgehog Highways can be introduced. The committee asked whether consideration could be given to improving the pathways through the Park Hill Copse.

23/CO/315 Facilities Manager's Report:

Quotes had been received to replace the decked area at Exeter Close. It was agreed that the decking be removed so that we have a better idea of the tree roots and how best to keep the area accessible but avoid the current problems with the decking which has needed regular repairs. The dishwasher has been replaced in the kitchen following failure of the old one.

There is a planned upgrade of the PA system in the main hall to enable the addition of 4 new microphones.

It was reported a new rubbish bin is needed after the new bus stop install at Mill End/Evans Lane.

23/CO/316 Commemorating the Kings Coronation in Kidlington:

The Clerk suggested that the area on the corner of High Street and Home Close be adopted by the Council to create a commemorative garden to mark the King's Coronation. A potential sponsor has been identified for this project. **Action:** a working group to meet to discuss and confirm plans for the garden with the aim of having it completed in time for the Coronation. Working group comprising Cllrs Street, McLean, Moorhouse, Clerk, Facilities Manager and Rhiannon Evetts to meet on Thursday.

23/CO/317 Environmental Issues:

Tree Planting: A date to be confirmed for tree planting at Ron Groves after confirmation of location of trees plus the additional Hornbeam alongside the gym to give shade when needed. **Action:** Chase CDC for date for tree planting.

KEG: Members were updated on the KEG meeting with positive presentation from Thame Green Living who are happy to give KEG help and advice with pointers on a strategy and repurposing. It was noted that KEG website was very informative.

Allotment Meeting: Members were informed that unfortunately the recently installed compost bins have not been used correctly by allotment holders leading to the need to have them emptied by a contractor. Concern was raised regarding the plan for planting Osier willow trees on redundant plots because of their size and the fact that they require a lot of water. CPO confirmed she had requested advice from Iain Osenton/Tree Officer/CDC. Comment was made on water usage over all sites with suggestion of alternatives on water saving measures. **Action:** CPO to confirm feedback once received and to revisit the water use figures requested by the allotment reps.

23/CO/318 Playground Improvements Programme:

The new park at Orchard Recreation Ground has been well received by residents. There is a small amount of graffiti that needs removal plus a replacement of a panel following a ROSPA inspection. Some of the grass area needs repair work, plus replacement of some hedging at the top of the park.

24/CO/319 Forthcoming KPC Events:

Members were reminded of the dates of the KPC events for 2023 as well as the events organised by Cherwell Collective.

The meeting closed at: 7.50pm

Date of Next Meeting: 20 April 2023