

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 20 April 2023

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

In Attendance: Facilities Manager – Graham Kearney, Community Projects Officer – Les Dent

Apologies: Cllr Neil Prestidge, Cllr Melanie Moorhouse, Cllr Dorothy Walker

23/CO/320 **Declarations of Interest:** None received

23/CO/321 The minutes of the meeting held on 2 March 2023 were reviewed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

23/CO/322 **Facilities Manager's Report:**

Orchard Rec – HAGS, the contractors have completed the outstanding items which included removal of graffiti. Hardstanding for the new benches to be installed soon.

Exeter Close Park: We are awaiting parts for repair of the swing seats.

St Mary's Burial Ground: the new gate has been installed with the contractor to return to add an additional handle and bar assembly on the church side, as the gate was only opening on one side.

Bicester Road Cemetery: the new bench seats have been installed.

Bridge 229 Wooden Bridge Stratfield Brake: FM is awaiting guidance from Cllr Moorhouse's husband who is a civil engineer, ref insurance inspection.

Decking Area/Exeter Hall: The Open Spaces team have removed the rotten timber walkway to better understand the area. Iain Osenton/CDC Tree Officer to visit and inspect the trees next week before a decision on any works to be undertaken to this area. Cllr Street commented on the success of the recent cycle rack installation at the Health Centre.

Allotments: FM updated members on the recent councillor sites visit and meeting held on 19 April, with a plan to chase up the problem plot holders and additional works needed at each site. The significant works undertaken at Hazel Walk have now been completed. Compost areas at all sites are to be cleared, as agreed. Presently considering water troughs to aid with reduction of water usage with a view to eventually reduce and stop the use of hoses. The first site to be trialled with this incentive was agreed as Blenheim Road and monitored. A suggestion to set up a WhatsApp group was received, with a trial to be undertaken at Yarnton Road site. There are presently two plots to let.

23/CO/323 **Commemorating the Kings Coronation in Kidlington:**

The working group met to discuss and confirm a plan for this garden. Rhiannon Evetts/Wild Oxfordshire provided a draft plan with suggestions for species of plants, circulated ahead of this meeting, which KPC will work with. This is a work in progress and will not be completed in time for the Coronation. **Action:** Further ground clearance, tree maintenance, pathway work and planting to be undertaken, hopefully to include volunteers, with two benches installed at a later date. FM to seek quotes for the ground work above

23/CO/324 Actions to be taken regarding dogs in St Mary's Field & Stratfield Brake:

Both areas of the village experiencing problems were individually addressed during the meeting with a proposed plan as follows:

St Mary's Fields: After discussion, it was proposed the specific area of St Mary's Fields (not the surrounding fields) should have signage placed instructing owners that dogs are to be kept on leads at all times (St Mary's Fields Reserve Information pamphlet was circulated to members at the meeting - detailing the area as a designated wild life site). In addition, it was suggested that an interpretation board be installed giving visitors details of the flora and fauna on the site.

Action: To invite St Mary's Fields Group to further discuss how to engage with dog owners and how to present information about the wildlife area attractively.

(b) Stratfield Brake: The recent emails received from the sports clubs detailing occurrences of dogs off leads, fouling and concern for child welfare during sports ground use were discussed in detail.

Action: To organise a meeting to discuss the issues with Liam Didcock/CDC outlining the issues raised with dogs off leads, use of pitches for dog walking; to discuss renewed signage with recommendation to keep dogs on leads around all pitches. To update members at the next meeting on 22 June.

23/CO/326 Environmental Issues:

Ron Groves - Tree Planting: The revised tree planting location did not go to plan even after initial consultation with residents, with subsequent adjustments to location of planting and change of tree species/sizes. Again, unfortunately, the revised plan was not followed with three of the trees too close to residents' homes.

Action: To contact Iain Osenton/CDC Tree Officer to organise removal of the three trees planted in the wrong location; to consider where and when to relocate them.

KEG: Members received the notes from April and updated on the forthcoming Earth Day event on Saturday 22 April at Parkhill to construct a living structure; all are welcome.

24/CO/327 Forthcoming KPC Events:

Gala Day – 22 July 2023 – the slight increase needed for the budget for this event was discussed and approved to be covered from the EMR 317 events reserve.

Fireworks – 3 November 2023 – the request for a fire eater to attend this event to entertain the crowd as a build-up to the show was considered and approved by members as a good idea for pre-display entertainment. The cost for this to be covered within the budget.

Community Litter Pick 15 April 2023 – Members were updated on this community session held on 15 April with 21 local residents taking part with children attending. Cherwell Collective kindly provided refreshments and pastries for the volunteers afterwards.

Cllr Mawson asked for an investigation to install a seat at the bus stop at Lyne Road that serves the 700 service to the hospitals, a service frequently used by those less abled. **Action:** FM to investigate options

The meeting closed at: 7.50pm

Date of Next Meeting: 22 June 2023 at 6.30pm - Small Hall