

# 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 22 June 2023

**Present:** Cllr Alison Street (Chair), Cllr Lesley McLean, Cllr William Easdown Babb, Cllr Doug Williamson, Cllr Melanie Moorhouse, Cllr Neil Prestidge, Cllr David Robey, Cllr Phil Wyse

**In Attendance:** Clerk – Rachel Faulkner, Facilities Manager – Graham Kearney, Community Project Officer – Les Dent

**Apologies:** Cllr Fiona Mawson

**23/CO/328 Declaration of Interest:** None.

**23/CO/329 Minutes:** the minutes of the meeting held on 20 April 2023 were reviewed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

### **23/CO/330 St Mary's Field Management Group**

- **St Mary's Fields:** Julia and Peter Trowles briefed members on the history of the nature reserve which is managed by a volunteer management group on behalf of the Parish Council. The committee discussed the need to protect the area and it was agreed that visitors with dogs should be asked to keep them on leads whilst in the reserve, particularly during the nesting season. KPC to install a sign at each of the five entrance point to encourage this behaviour.  
The management committee would also like to install an interpretation board at the main entrance giving people information about the history, what they can see on the reserve, a map and information about getting involved with the ongoing care of the site. It was suggested that the management committee work with Wild Kidlington to design the board which would be funded by the Parish Council.
- **Stratfield Brake:** It was noted that new signage had been installed at Stratfield Brake to ask people to pick up dog mess and keep dogs under control during sports matches.
- **Gate Handle on St Mary's Cemetery Gate:** this has now been installed and working well.
- **Osier Willows:** Unfortunately, it was not possible to move the willows from the Hazel Walk allotment site to Bicester Road cemetery. They have now been removed but may still produce shoots which will need to be removed.

### **23/CO/331 Facilities Manager's Report:**

FM confirmed that perch seats are being installed at Lyne Road bus stop.

He reported that the office had received a complaint about the length of the grass in St Mary's burial ground during the height of the growing season. This was now resolved.

On investigating the option of placing recycling bins in play areas, the FM had sought advice from CDC Waste management who advised that this had been trialled previously and been unsuccessful. It was suggested that we trial again with one unit at Exeter Close play area.

### **23/CO/332 Exeter Close Decking area:**

The committee accepted a quote for £3,858.40 for the grounds work required to make good this area now that the decking has been removed.

### **23/CO/333 Coronation Garden:**

The committee accepted a quote for £5,360 to complete the initial grounds work to create a wild commemorative garden on the corner of High Street/Home Close. The Clerk to liaise with solicitor regarding the neighbouring property.

### **23/CO/334 Environmental Issues:**

- **Tree Planting:** the committee agreed to form a new Natural Environment Working Group to replace the Environment Group. The group would use the presentation created by Cllr Prestidge as a basis for its work to consider habitat improvement and tree planting. The members are Cllrs Alison Street, Neil Prestidge, Doug Williamson and Phil Wyse.
- **Removed Tree:** members raised concerns about a tree which was felled by OCC due to concerns about its safety. It was confirmed that OCC had been contacted about the haste of the felling. They apologised for not conveying the date and nature of the treeworks adequately. KPC has requested to be fully informed in future before trees are removed.
- **Kidlington Eco Group (KEG) update:** Notes from the last meeting were circulated to members for information on KEG strategy and framework. The group are using Thame's Green Living Plan as a model to audit environmental projects in Kidlington.
- **Wild Kidlington:** Members were reminded this funding agreement between CDC and KPC needed to be discussed for budget consideration – prior to March 2025 when current contract ends
- **Allotment update:** Members discussed how to reduce water usage on all allotment sites and agreed that although some allotment holders may not be happy it was important that the Council considered ways to reduce such as water butts and troughs. The next meeting of the Allotment Committee is 12 July and this will be discussed then.

### **24/CO/336 Forthcoming KPC Events:**

**Gala Day – Saturday 22 July** – Members were asked for help at the Gala Day – Cllrs; Street, Moorhouse and McLean confirmed attendance.

**Fireworks – Friday 3 November 2023** – A request was made for clear instructions/expectations for members prior to the evening. A further update on this event to be given at the next meeting. Plans are underway with recent site visit from Soundwave and Fireworks to discuss layout, crowd line and erection of staging for the fire performer ahead of the display.

**The meeting closed at: 8.40pm**

**Date of Next Meeting: 17 August 2023 @ 6.30pm - Small Hall (tbc depending on an August meeting of Council on the OCC consultation on the stadium)**