

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Committee  
Held at Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington on 9 January 2020**

**Present:** Cllr Chris Pack (Chair) Cllr David Betts (ex officio)  
Cllr Carole Pack Cllr Alison Street  
Cllr David Robey Cllr Neil Prestidge  
Cllr Doug Williamson Cllr Conrad Copeland  
Cllr Dan Clacher (substitute)

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

**Apologies:** Cllr Katherine Tyson (Cllr Clacher substitute), Cllr Tracey Wyse

**20/C0/35 Declaration of Interest:** None disclosed.

The minutes of the meeting of **7 November 2019** were agreed and signed as a true record.

**20/C0/36 Matters Arising (a) Solar Lights** – the Clerk updated members on the recent quotes received and cost being funded from OCC Cllr funds £2,500 from Cllr Griffiths, £3,500 from Cllr Billington. **(b) Teen Shelters** – the Clerk reminded members on the previous report circulated ahead of the November 2019 meeting on various options and designs; a need for costing and further discussion on option, design and where to position.

**20/C0/37 The Facilities Manager’s report was discussed:**

**Bicester Road Cemetery** – The Facilities Manager advised on the current works undertaken at BRC making good the pathways after the recent ditch works. The four benches along the hedge line are to be purchased and installed, as previously discussed with an additional bench being placed in the GOR area. The Clerk advised the new benches may be deemed a little low, so suggestion is to source a similar design to keep with existing or at least complements those already in place.

**St Mary’s Burial Ground** – the repair works undertaken recently on the wall was successful with the recent additional emergency works undertaken very swiftly.

**Allotments** – The Facilities Manager and Cllr Doug Williamson will be visiting all the sites around the end of January by which time all payments should be received. It was confirmed no-one is being offered a plot at Bicester Road. The few remaining holders will be encouraged to relocate to the other sites in the future. There have been a number of enquiries for plots recently and it is hoped that all workable plots will be used this year.

**Ron Groves Park Opening** – Cllr Robey reported on how successful the recent play park opening had been with a large number of families attending. **Corporate Christmas Party** was successful with a great band, good food and a festive and friendly atmosphere. The feedback received was positive. It was agreed to plan another party for next year, again to promote more community cohesion.

**Staff** – The Facilities Manager advised that Jimmy Rogers has resigned and the position has been filled by Jerry Pelly with additional support from Paul Bedford.

**20/C0/38 Bicester Road Cemetery Price Increase:** After assessment, members agreed the recommended price increase to the burial fees.

**20/C0/39 Exeter Hall/Pavilion Price Increase:** After assessment, members agreed the recommended price increase to the Hire Fees for Exeter Hall and Pavilion.

**20/C0/40 Bicester Road Cemetery:** Members were updated on the recent Drainage Works at BRC: it was suggested to continue with the plan to brief consultants on the options and to see what can be done next. The Facilities Manager advised on his effort to trace the ditch water to find the end destination. It was agreed to seek advice from Cemetery Development Services and to assess the ideas CDC have already given. It was agreed a brief be prepared by Cllr Betts and Cllr Robey asked for an increase of the capital project fund, to £100,000. It was agreed the BRC Working Group (Cllr's Betts, Thurling, Street; The Clerk, Facilities Manager and CPO) meet to discuss options.

Members were advised on the recent fly tipping with a proposal to lock the gate. To be further discussed by the Working Group.

**20/C0/41 St Marys Fields:** Members were updated on the excellent works undertaken by SMF volunteers, with the recent work recording wildlife and fungi, the path and pond clearance, butterfly ride, clearing of nettles, pollarding and recent planting of birch and hornbeam trees, left over from the KPC tree giveaway. Members were advised on the next meeting being held on Monday 13 January at 10am. Members asked that thanks be extended to the SMF group for all their hard work.

**20/C0/42 K5 Better Together/Healthy Place making:** Cllr Alison Street updated members on the CDC initiative. One of the project team members is basing herself at Exeter Hall every Friday to gain more knowledge about the area from staff and community organisations and understand the needs of the village. The committee discussed the option of safe and noticeable walking groups, such as the Blue Lines introduced in Bicester. The committee felt that it liked the idea of way finding routes but was not keen on reproducing the blue lines and would prefer a different treatment for Kidlington. There is a meeting of the K5 Kidlington Group at 6.30pm on 30 January – all members welcome to attend.

**20/C0/43 Climate Change Emergency:** Cllr Betts said that the Working Group needed to meet to discuss the Action Plan which is needed by the end of April. Cllr Street reiterated that, having declared a Climate Change emergency, the Council should be thinking of the environmental impact of all activities.

**20/C0/44 Historic/Cultural Action Group:** Cllr Copeland reported that he had been exploring the idea of an Historic Trail of Kidlington and surrounding villages. The aim being to create a better sense of identity for the area and identify sites of interest. Following a meeting with the Clerk and Ed Frape from the CDC K5 Better Together project team work was beginning on this project under that banner. The intention is to expand the project beyond a printed map with way finding signage, plaques, apps, website etc. Cllr Copeland to join the K5 meeting on 30 January for further discussion. The aim is to have the map produced for launch at the Gala Day on 11 July.

**20/C0/45 Review of Events:** Members discussed events held in 2019 and agreed to run the Gala Day, Firework Event and Christmas Lights Switch on in 2020. A Village Spring Clean is planned for 4 April 2020. Members were asked whether an additional event for VE Celebrations (marking 75 years) on the Bank Holiday Friday on 8 May needed consideration. Members were informed that an event was being planned raising money for Help for Heroes that evening by a member of the public. It is anticipated that there will be other events linked to the K5 Better Together initiative and the 800 Anniversary of St Mary's Church.

**The meeting closed at: 8.10pm**

**The next meeting to be held on 5 March 2020 at 6.30pm**