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 11 January 2024

Present: Cllr Alison Street (Chair) , Cllr Lesley McLean, Cllr Fiona Mawson, Cllr Melanie Moorhouse, Cllr David Robey, Cllr Phil Wyse

In Attendance: Clerk – Rachel Faulkner
Apologies: Cllr William Easdown Babb, Cllr Doug Williamson

24/CO/001 Declaration of Interest: None.

24/CO/002 Minutes: the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October 2023 were reviewed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

24/CO/003 Action Points:
The Clerk informed the committee that work was underway on designs for signage at St Mary's Fields to give information about the fields and instructions about keeping dogs on leads during ground nesting season. Rhiannon Young (Wild Kidlington) is working with St Mary's Field committee on the design. The next meeting of the committee is on the morning of Monday 15th and they hope to make some progress at this meeting.
The Chair also reminded the committee that some work was needed to improve accessibility to the fields by widening the paths. The Facilities Manager is seeking quotes for this work.
It was noted that there has been a rationalisation of the recycling bins at Exeter Close which has made the area much cleaner although problems with fly tipping were still occurring. This will be kept under review.

24/CO/004 Facilities Manager's Report:
The FM's report was received in his absence with updates about recent works completed.
The Chair requested again that the dog bin be relocated in the Coronation Garden. **Action:** for Clerk and Chair to approve signage for garden and install where dog bin is currently located and move the bin at the same time.
It was noted that there had been a collapsed grave at Bicester Road Cemetery during the recent heavy rain. Grounds staff had responded quickly to make good but it was discussed that plot selection needs to be thought about more carefully depending on weather conditions.
New bins have been installed to replace those removed by the Canal and River Trust.

24/CO/005 Allotments Committee
The committee considered the minutes of the Allotments Committee. They confirmed their support of the pilot scheme at Blenheim Road to reduce water usage by providing a trough rather than a tap. It was acknowledged that this may not be popular with all allotment holders but needed to be considered as part of the council's environment policy.

24/CO/006 Annual Price Increases
The committee agreed price increases:
Allotments – to be increased by £1 per plot from January 2025
Burials – cost of Exclusive Rights of Burial to be increased to £400 for full burial and £250 for burial of cremated remains.

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Hall Hire – the proposed increases in charges were agreed.
The Clerk explained that the greatest increase in costs for the Council in 2024 would be staff and utility costs which reflects the need for an increase in fees whilst still remaining competitive and accessible to local users.

24/CO/007 Park Hill Recreation Ground
The committee received a report from the Skatepark Working Group. Cllr Robey asked to record thanks to the committee for the work done on this project.
The report concluded that the most suitable location for a Skatepark would be Park Hill. Following conversations with Kidlington Recreational Trust who lease the land it was realised that the temporary hut located on the site needs replacement. KRT agreed in principle to a redevelopment of the site that may include a new community building, skatepark, relocated MUGA and new play park. The committee noted that there is £100k committed in capital reserves for the redevelopment of Park Hill play area and that it may be possible to commit a further £200k to the Skatepark/Wheeled Sport Park project depending on other requirements. It was hoped that it will be possible to seek S106 developer funds and access grants for recreation facilities.
The committee **RESOLVED** to support the project in principle and allow the Clerk and the Working Group to further investigate options and costs. The item to be discussed at full Council.
It was noted that a new representative from the council would be required for Kidlington Recreational Trust.

24/CO/008 Kidlington Eco Group (KEG)
Cllr Street reported on activity from KEG. She explained that the group is made up of representatives from different organisations in the village all of whom wanted to address and work together on environmental initiatives. The committee received minutes from the last two meetings of KEG. The group is planning an Eco Fair event at Lyne Road Green on 11 May.

24/CO/009 Natural Environment Group
The group had met and designated a couple of areas for environmental improvement including some land at The Phelps where there are some dead trees that need removing before a plan can be made for environmental enhancements. **Action: W**orking Group to liaise with Rhiannon Young on action plan for the Phelps and Axtell Close.

24/CO/010 Wild Kidlington
The committee received an interim report from the Rhiannon Young, Project Officer for Wild Kidlington project which is funded by Cherwell District Council. Cllr Street commented on the excellent range of projects being worked on.

24/CO/011 KPC Events
The committee discussed the events held in 2023 all of which has been very well attended and well organised. They agreed dates for 2024:
Gala Day – Saturday 20 July
Fireworks at Stratfield Brake – Tuesday 5 November
Christmas Lights Switch On – Thursday 28 November

24/CO/012 Councillor Outreach
The committee discussed opportunities for them to connect with residents and better understand their aspirations and concerns. It was discussed that the Gala Day is a good opportunity to do so.

The meeting closed at: 8pm

Date of Next Meeting: 7 March 2024, 6.30pm at Exeter Hall

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