

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 June 2024

Present: Cllr Lesley McLean, Cllr Fiona Mawson, Cllr Melanie Moorhouse, Cllr Phil Wyse, Cllr Doug Williamson, Cllr Nik Soheili

In Attendance: Clerk – Rachel Faulkner
Facilities Manager – Graham Kearney (FM)
Community Projects Office – Les Dent (CPO)

Apologies: Cllr Alison Street (Chair), Cllr William Easdown Babb, Cllr Naveed Barakzai Pace

24/CO/020 Declaration of Interest: none declared

24/CO/021 Minutes: the minutes of the meeting held on 18 April 2024 were reviewed and signed as a true record of the meeting.

24/CO/022 Facilities Manager's Report: The FM reported that the replacement memorial gates at St Mary's Church have been installed and the interpretation board, designed by Rhiannon Young, for St Mary's Fields is reaching completion and will be installed shortly.

A meeting to be arranged with Teleshore and ODS to discuss double depth burials at Bicester Road Cemetery.

Hand rail at Exeter Hall works are pending installation.

FM reported a continuation of fly tipping at Exeter Close despite the installation of new signage with a QR code signposting public to recycling centres. He explained the lengthy process of CCTV info needed for potential prosecution from CDC enforcement officer.

Action: Cllr McLean and Moorhouse to contact TVP team to seek advice ahead of the next Community meeting in September.

24/CO/023 Meeting Room/Bar Carpet Tiles: Three quotes were circulated ahead of the meeting for consideration.

Action: It was **RESOLVED** that Kennington Flooring undertake these works at a cost of £2,007.50.

24/CO/024 Wild Oxfordshire Officer: Cherwell District Council's funding of the Wild Kidlington Project Officer is due to end in March 2025 and members were asked to consider whether KPC wish to fund the post beyond that date. Cllr Street and the Clerk had met with Wild Oxfordshire to discuss options which were circulated ahead of the meeting. The committee agreed that the access to wildlife expertise had been very useful for their environmental projects and agreed that they would like to retain the service.

Action: To consider the budget implications at the next Community Committee meeting and request funding for this post.

Action: Cllr Mawson to investigate whether more funding may be available from CDC.

Action: Cllr Soheili to investigate potential funding support from local businesses

24/CO/025 S137 Grant Application Request: The committee **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £500 towards the purchase of a keyboard for The Big Sing 2024. Members of the committee to attend The Big Sing.

Comms: Cllr Moorhouse to provide information for the website.

Action: It was agreed that the grant application needs updating and it would be presented to Development and Strategy Committee for approval

24/CO/026 Footpath & Dog Bin Mapping: Cllr Moorhouse and Cllr Easdown Babb have produced digital maps which are to be installed on the KPC website to enable residents to report issues regarding overgrown footpaths and alleyways. The map will enable residents to find the ownership of the problem areas. The website will signpost residents to report issues on non-KPC areas via Fix My Street or Sanctuary Housing. The cause of the problems being reported was discussed and as, predominantly, they are areas which are the responsibility of the County Council, it was considered that the County's lack of resources is the reason for work not being completed.

Action: Cllr McLean to contact OCC to express concern about the lack of funding.

Action: KPC officers to upload both mapping systems on to the website with assistance from members if required.

24/CO/027 Parkhill Working Group: This group is due to meet to further discuss options for Play at Parkhill at Exeter Hall on 2 July 2024 at 12noon. Cllr Wyse updated members on a recent meeting with Kidlington Recreational Trust who lease Parkhill. He advised that they are keen to see improvements in the area.

24/CO/028 Public Realm Improvement: Members were shown proposals from RAW who had met with Cllrs Street and Wyse. The proposal included replacing the seated area at the top of the High Street, installing new benches and refurbishing the planters. Further work will include a replacement noticeboard, new bins and replacement bollards. The project will be taken forward by CDC officers who are financing the work.

It was noted that additional funds have been made available to CDC to install a new zoo trail at the south end of the village. The option to install maps and interpretation boards in all KPC parks was discussed.

24/CO/029 Kidlington Eco Group: Notes of the meetings in May and June were circulated to members

24/CO/030 Natural Environment Group: This group is due to meet on 11 July 2024 at 1.30pm. It was reported that the plans for the intended work at The Phelps had been well received by residents. Discussions were had about other areas in the village that could be enhanced if land ownership could be established.

Action: To ensure the website is updated with information about all the green and open spaces in the village.

24/CO/031 Allotment Sub Committee: Members were updated on reletting of recent plots and reduction of the waiting list. The introduction of water troughs at Blenheim Road had received some negative responses although members reported that it was not normal practice to provide water taps at allotment sites. It had been suggested that students completing Duke of Edinburgh Awards may be able to help with watering. It was agreed not to roll out the scheme to other sites at this stage but to consider for the future.

24/CO/032 Community use of KPC Premises: Members discussed ideas for events that could be run at Exeter Hall and the Pavilion for the community. It was agreed to go ahead with a fitness event

in September inviting local instructors to attend and provide a day of free taster classes to encourage residents to keep active.

Action: Cllr Wyse to contact the Rector at St Mary's as she has also shown interest in outreach with community groups.

24/CO/033 KPC Events – Budget requests: Members were updated on final preparations for Gala Day. A request was made to increase the budget to accommodate increase in costs by providers for all three events. **Gala Day £520 (for a bouncy castle), Fireworks £1,800 (for enhanced laser show) Christmas Lights Display (not the event) £1,642.27 per annum for 3 years.**

24/CO/034 OCC Highways Super Users: The committee discussed the benefits of having OCC Highways Super User volunteers. Cllr Moorhouse and Cllr McLean agreed to sign up with OCC.

Action: Cllrs Moorhouse and McLean to apply to OCC.

24/CO/035 TVP Community Forum: Cllr Moorhouse updated members on the recent meeting she attended. The possibility of having Community Speed watch was discussed.

Action: Cllr Moorhouse to provide posters from Reducing the Risk for use at Exeter Hall.

24/CO/036 St Mary's Burial Ground/Bicester Road Cemetery: It was agreed the budget should be increased next year to allow for seasonal outdoor staff to help with St Mary's Burial Ground.

Action: Include on budget requests.

The meeting closed at: 8.40pm

Date of next meeting: 6.30pm on 5 September 2024