

# 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 19 June 2025

**Present:** Cllr Melanie Moorhouse, Cllr Lesley McLean, Cllr Nik Soheili,  
Cllr Alison Street (Chair), Cllr Doug Williamson, Cllr Phil Wyse,

**In Attendance:** Community Project Officer and one member of public

**Non-Attendance:** Cllr Fiona Mawson

One member of Public was in attendance.

**Apologies:** Cllr Naveed Barakzai Pace

**25/CO/27 Declaration of Interest:** None declared

**25/CO/28 Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on 7 February were reviewed and signed as a true record of the meeting, with amendment to the numbering for accuracy.

**25/CO/29** The Council unanimously RESOLVED and confirmed the acknowledgement of the elected Chair and Vice-Chair for 2025/26 for the Community Committee.

**25/CO/30 WISH:** Dr Emily Connally attended this meeting to update on this project and its aim to engage the community in reducing carbon footprints by building a circular economy. Its concentration being on community connections, nature engagement, waste reduction and consumption decrease which are its' four foundation pillars. She outlined the significant achievements, including funding details, fostering community support and job creation. Its upcoming focus includes building renovations, enhancing community hubs, and development of regional waste strategy. Her full presentation is available by request. Emily was thanked for her attendance and informative presentation on its' wonderful initiatives. Emily left the meeting.

**25/CO/31 GRANT APPLICATIONS:** (a) **Zumba Gold & Bingo** It was agreed to **honour their requested discount** on hall hire charges, (b) **Garden City** – It was agreed that **£2,000** will be awarded by KPC and will be sent once confirmation of work has been completed (c) **West Kidlington** – The Committee agreed to **award £250**, as requested. Members were updated on the changes to improve financial control and ensure grant decisions undergo detailed reviews before being processed. The committee discussed the importance of clear communication with grant applicants regarding the criteria and conditions for securing funding. The process for grants is for Finance & Assets to evaluate the grant request firstly then for Community to issue and confirm the amounts. **Action:** CPO to make contact to all those who were successful, confirming the outcome of the award.

**25/CO/32 VERBAL UPDATES: Volunteers Celebration Evening:** Was a remarkable success with a request to repeat next year as appreciated by attendees. *Follow up:* outreach to more diverse audiences, with suggestion of weekly promotion leading up to the event. Members expressed interest in holding a separate event for young volunteers, plus guidance on dress code for clarity, plus name tags for attendees would foster networking between them. **Action:** To choose a date, communicate an earlier agenda for more lead time for the event, enabling advertising, fundraising, and planning. A budget to be agreed by F&A even though sponsorship options would be explored.

**Litter Pick Session:** A date to be confirmed and volunteers, members notified to enable early promotion. **Park Hill Recreation Ground:** This project will commence in September with Active Landscapes being the successful tender for this project. Further review of the green spaces of Kidlington alongside five other parishes are also underway by CDC. This is to facilitate effective utilisation of existing park spaces. Members will be updated at next stages. **Interpretation Board:** The unveiling of the board on 14 June was well attended and welcomed by all with attendees expressing an interest in future guided tours. **Allotments:** members acknowledged the notes circulated with a review ongoing with potential of water troughs for the upcoming season. An addition to be made to the current contract regarding planting of trees within plots and preferable species. **Football Tournaments:** These tournaments are well co-ordinated by each of the football clubs with no area of concern, resident notifications are managed by the clubs ensuring the public is aware in advance.

**25/CO/33 Kidlington Eco Group:** The notes circulated ahead of the meeting for update and review were acknowledged. The group are planning to have a stall at Gala Day. It was reported the recent Draft Busters project recently aided older residents struggling.

**25/CO/34 Natural Environment Group:** The notes circulated ahead of the meeting for update and review were acknowledged. Consultations are ongoing concerning tree planting with liaison with the football club to discuss design parameters, whilst reinforcing the importance of tree planting and developing stronger outdoor spaces. **Action:** Update members at the next Community meeting in September on progress.

**25/CO/35 St Mary's Field:** The notes circulated ahead of the meeting for update and review were acknowledged. Members were reminded of the approaching Hay Rake session held each year. This year's event will be 24 August.

**25/CO/36 Local Schools and KPC's aims and objectives:** More dialogue with the local schools to ensure relevant objectives across the board are progressed. **Action:** To continue communication and report back to the next Community meeting in September with suggestions.

**25/CO/37 Fields in Trust:** Request Cllr Mawson for more information on the benefits and restrictions. **Action:** To report at the next Community meeting in September.

**25/CO/38 Gala Day 2025 Update:** Members confirmed their availability for this event. All activities are booked and finer details to be confirmed, on rota and plan for the day. The Councillor gazebo will be there to engage with people. **Action:** The Clerk to organise a stall for members at the market for a pre-Gala Day engagement event to determine interest on the consideration of "village or town status." Requested date of **12 July** for this pre gala day initiative.

**25/CO/39 Kidlington Green Spaces:** Members to review the commitments details on the website on green spaces. **Action:** To review the current plan and report for the next Full Council on 18 September. This item will be a standing agenda item.

**25/CO/40 Facilities Manager Report:** The notes circulated ahead of the meeting for update and review were acknowledged. A suggestion was made for the Fireworks event whereby primary schools "build a guy." **Action:** CPO to consult with primary schools initially to gauge interest.

**The meeting closed at: 8.28pm**

**Date of next meeting: 6.30pm on 4 September 2025**