

Kingston Village Action Group Meeting 11 April 2017

Present: Vicki Scott, Tim Ambrose, Steve Berry, Barrie Lambert.

Apologies: Tony Wheeler, Fiona Harrison

1 The **minutes of the previous meeting** held on 21 February were agreed.

2 **Matters arising**

2.1 **Village web site**

The Committee had agreed at the last meeting that it would welcome its minutes appearing on the KPC web site, when finalised. The Group's amended constitution might also appear there.

2.2 **Blue Plaques**

Steve had still to draft a new paper for the KPC but hoped to do so in time for the next Group meeting.

3 **Finance**

3.1 The position was almost unchanged since the last meeting, with Steve still being owed £95. However, a recent cash donation of £20 meant that there was now £105 to spend, taking into account the money either originally earmarked for bulbs or since donated for that purpose. When these matters had been resolved, the account balance would total £270.

3.2 Steve had still to obtain the signatures of Beryl Burrell and Diana Arlett to give their consent to being removed from the authorised list.

4 **Environmental update**

4.1 **Footpaths**

Just before the new stiles on Kingston Hill were to have been installed by the SDNP Ranger Jan Knowlson and her volunteers, permission for them had been withdrawn by the landowner.

Jan had since left a message for the landowner in the hope that he might change his mind but no response had been received. It was agreed that Fiona would be asked to make an informal approach to him before any other action was taken.

4.2 **Bulbs and other flowers**

Martin and Terry Wallwork had followed their earlier generous “in-kind” donation of snowdrops and dwarf narcissus bulbs with another. This consignment had also been planted by volunteers and brought the total value of contributions by villagers - in cash or kind - to approximately £250.

Another resident – Parviz Behdad – had offered to buy 1000 crocus bulbs. Steve would order these but they would not be delivered until August at the latest.

Several other villagers had responded to the appeal for support in The Kingston News. Both Chris Moulder and Peggy Nicholson had supplied primrose plants and six others had offered to nurture the plug primroses to be bought if the Tesco application were to succeed. The volunteers had planted all the primroses so far supplied, most recently on the day of the meeting. About 200 were put along the path between The Street and St Pancras Green and another 50 or so on the bank below The Green and above Wellgreen Lane.

In addition, Rosemarie Jeffery had offered wood chippings which would be ideal as a mulch for the cleared path where most of the bulbs and primroses had been planted. Steve would talk to her to see how best to collect the material.

4.3 Ashcombe Lane footway

There had been a less than helpful reply from ESCC about this footway, although it was at least clear that they accepted responsibility for its condition. Steve would write again, incorporating the point that Tim had made in a separate e-mail to ESCC concerning the dangers of an unevenly surfaced path which was unlit but nevertheless sometimes used in the hours of darkness.

4.4 Waitrose Grant Application

Steve had yet to submit the redrafted text to Waitrose but would do so very shortly. It was thought unlikely that the Group would benefit by more than £100.

4.5 Tesco “Bags of Help” scheme

Only a little progress had been made with this application since the last meeting, with letter of support (in response to requests) having been received from Geoff Daw and the WI. Individual villagers had also sent supportive e-mails following an appeal in The Kingston News.

5 Zero Heroes Money

5.1 The History and Heritage Group were meeting very shortly to discuss the proposal to use some or all of this money on a leaflet describing a village walk – or walks.

6 Constitution

The text agreed at the last meeting had been circulated. Since then, a further amendment had been suggested – by Tony, who had had to miss that meeting. This would move the current fifth objective to a new section headed “Reporting”, which would immediately follow “Objectives”. The first and only point in this section would read “The Group will report its activities to the Parish Council on a regular basis”. This wording was agreed.

7 Planning

7.1 Tony had been unable to attend the meeting but had submitted a report. There was a new planning application for the demolition of Woodstock House on The Avenue and the construction of a larger replacement. This had yet to be considered by the KPC.

7.2 Iford and Kingston School intended to extend the hatched – no stopping – area outside the school but to retain a restricted “dropping off” section.

7.3 The application for a new house on the land known as Top Yard (at the top of The Street) had been turned down, principally, it appeared, because the area was outside the planning boundary.

8 Parish Meeting

No-one present was certain of the date but Vicki suspected that she would be away at the time. Steve would draft a report of the Group’s activities before Vicki left, on 25th April.

The main speaker at the meeting would be from the SDNPA.

9 Next meeting

This would be at 4.45 pm on Tuesday 23 May 2017 at The Pavilion.