

Minutes of the Kingston Village Action Group Meeting held on 11 July 2017

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

Apologies: None had been submitted.

1 The **minutes of the previous meeting** held on 23 May were agreed.

2 **Matters arising**

2.1 **Membership of the Group**

Since John Crabb had replaced Fiona Harrison as one of the Group's two KPC representatives he had not attended a meeting nor sent apologies. People wondered whether Chris Moulder might be more likely to come.

Tony Wheeler's hope that one or two of those who people who had recently moved into the village might be interested in joining the Group had not been fulfilled. No-one had any further suggestions about how to elicit interest.

2.2 **Village web site**

Although the Group's minutes now appeared on the KPC web site, as did the revised constitution, the change in the Group's name had not been reflected and the most recent minutes on the web site were those of its meeting in February.

2.3 **Unsung Heroes**

Beverley Wakeford-Brown had yet to ask the Pavilion Committee whether it agreed that the framed certificate presented to the Action Group Volunteers could be hung in the Pavilion, perhaps above the fire extinguishers.

2.4 **Speedwatch**

Tony had agreed at the May meeting to ask the KPC whether it would support another effort to slow the speed of traffic passing through the village by means of volunteers using equipment to measure vehicles' speed but it was not known whether this request was made and if so what the outcome was.

3 **Finance**

3.1 The position was unchanged since the last meeting, with Steve still being owed £95. The most recent cash donation (made in March) meant that the total authorised to spend on bulbs and other flowers was £105. When these matters had been resolved, the account balance would total £270.

3.2 Steve had finally obtained the signatures of Beryl Burrell and Diana Arlett giving their consent to being removed from the authorised list of those who could sign cheques. Tim and Vicki signed the form which would enable them to co-sign cheques in future.

4 Environmental update

4.1 Footpaths

Steve had taken no further action in pursuit of getting two footpaths on Kingston Hill registered as public rights of way.

4.2 Bulbs and other flowers

No further donations had been received in the last two months. More primroses were still available to collect from Peggy Nicholson's garden. These might not now be removed until the spring of 2018.

The path between St Pancras Green and The Street was now a riot of colour as wildflowers from packets of seed donated in May had begun to flower as had the sunflowers, grown from seed by Katherine Mondon and planted here in June.

4.3 Hedge-trimmer

On behalf of the volunteers, Steve asked whether the Group would support a request to the KPC to buy a hedge trimmer for use when clearing paths. This would save a huge amount of effort. The Group agreed that KPC should be asked.

4.4 Waitrose Grant Application

Steve had submitted the redrafted application to Waitrose. It was thought unlikely that the Group would benefit by more than £100.

4.5 Tesco "Bags of Help" scheme

ESCC had confirmed that a cultivation licence would indeed be required before anything could be planted in verges in their ownership and that such a licence would only be granted if we as applicants had first demonstrated that all the landowners adjacent to those verges (in Wellgreen Lane and Ashcombe Lane) had expressed support for such planting.

After discussion, it was agreed that the application to Tesco's should proceed on the basis that we would plant only on land owned by Kingston Parish Council and Lewes District Council.

4.6 Dog and litter bins

The new bins had not been emptied since their installation and were now overflowing. Once this, presumably temporary, problem had been resolved it was suggested that the KPC consider erecting notices with a map showing their whereabouts and encouraging the public to make full use of the bins. These might read:

"Act responsibly and clean up after your dog". Or perhaps –

“Don’t give your dog a bad name. Use the bins provided”.

6 Planning

- 6.1 There would be an opportunity for members of the public to make their views known about the current controversial planning issues affecting the village at the next meeting of the KPC to be held on 12 July. Consultations with the wider public would then take place over the new draft of the SDNP Local Plan over an eight week period beginning on 1 September.
- 6.2 KPC were opposed to the scale of the proposed development - consisting of 11 houses - at Castelmer Fruit Farm, in terms both of the number of houses involved and the land allocated which extended the planning boundary too far. There were considerable doubts about the development anyway because it appeared that not all the siblings who had inherited the land concerned were in complete agreement about its future.
- 6.3 Discussions over the easement issue at Saxondown Farm continued.

7 Zero Heroes Money

- 7.1 The History and Heritage Group had made considerable progress with the proposal to draft a leaflet describing a village walk. Tim introduced a PowerPoint presentation featuring many of the historic buildings and other features of interest in the village. This was welcomed very enthusiastically by all present.

8 Next meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be at 4.45 pm on Tuesday 5 September 2017 at The Pavilion.

