

Minutes of the Kingston Village Action Group Meeting held on 27 March 2018

Present: Vicki Scott, Steve Berry, John Bewick, Barrie Lambert, Tony Wheeler

Apologies: Tim Ambrose, Will Dorman

1 The **minutes of the previous meeting** held on 6 February 2018 were agreed.

2 Matters arising

2.1 Membership of the Group

No further suggestions had been made.

2.2 Hedge trimmer

Steve had now received this, courtesy of the Kingston Parish Council, but had yet to complete the risk assessment form necessary before the equipment could be used.

3 Finance

3.1 The situation had changed slightly in that Carole Walton had made a donation of £50, for bulb purchase. The bank balance was therefore now £790.19. Of this, £292.76 was owed to Steve for earlier purchases and a further £151.29 was earmarked for later purchases. This left an uncommitted balance of £346.14.

3.2 The penultimate stage in the process of amending the signatories to the account was completed at the meeting, with Barrie witnessing a “resolution form” listing the people being removed as signatories (Diana Arlett and Beryl Burrell) and those being added (Tim Ambrose and Vicki Scott). Steve would now send this to the bank and as soon as he had received their confirmation that their records had been correctly amended he would be able to receive the money owed to him.

4 Environmental update

4.1 Footpaths

4.1.1 There had been a meeting between representatives from Kingston Parish Council, East Sussex County Council and the landowners on the issue of horseriders using the footpath between Kingston and Swanborough. Representing both the Iford Estate and Melissa Leach, the other owner of the land concerned, Ben Taylor had offered to improve the surface of the path and widen it to 3 metres but only if ESCC were willing to accept a change of designation from footpath to bridleway.

The KPC had no power in this field but its representatives had drawn attention to the likely adverse consequences of resurfacing, including accelerated rainwater run-off and even flooding on Wellgreen Lane. The Group supported these views and felt further that ESCC should be strongly encouraged to use its authority under Section 122 of the Road Traffic

Regulation Act 1984 to save the footpath for pedestrians. It was agreed that we should contact the Ramblers' Association to see if they could offer any advice.

4.1.2 There was no further news about the proposal to improve the path between Wyevale and the Swanborough fishing lakes although it was understood that discussions between Lewes District Council and the Iford Estate were taking place on the question of the exact width of the path and its route.

4.1.3 Steve had taken no further action on the issue of getting two footpaths on Kingston Hill registered as public rights of way.

4.1.4 The KPC Clerk had been asked at the last meeting to write to the shareholders group of Kingston Hill Fields, to correct the impression given in an article in the March edition of *The Kingston News* that there were no rights of way on their land. In fact, a bridleway ran from the junction of Juggs Way and Kingstonridge towards Scabby Brow.

4.2 **Tesco "Bags of Help" scheme**

The application was progressing through the system. A reply – positive or otherwise – had been promised within six months of the application – i.e. by 21 April.

4.3 **Logs**

A few of the logs placed by volunteers to protect verges in Wellgreen Lane had been removed, for reasons unknown. Vicki offered others to replace them. The KPC had agreed to buy a mattock for the volunteers. Steve would arrange this.

4.4 **Litter**

4.4.1 Although some of the litter which had accumulated along A27 had been removed while the road was closed, the situation now appeared as bad as ever. The Volunteers continued to collect litter in the village on a monthly basis and were trying to liaise with LDC and a Lewes anti-litter group to tackle the problem along the A277.

4.4.2 The Group felt strongly that the refuse heaped on the land at the top of The Street known as Top Yard constituted an appalling spectacle and possibly a health hazard. There were five abandoned vehicles on this site as well as broken door frames and windows, car and tractor tyres, builders' rubble, old mattresses and a wide variety of other garbage. It was resolved, first, to ask the KPC to write to the landowner and ask that the land be cleared as soon as possible. If no action were forthcoming, then Lewes District Council should be asked to intervene as the land concerned lay within the Conservation Area which they had designated. If this also failed, then the South Downs National Park should be approached.

5 **Transport**

5.1 KPC was getting quotations with a view to the possible purchase of a Vehicle Activated Sign following agreement in principle at their meeting in March. Once the device had been used and data collected, they would also consider asking Costains

to carry out a traffic appraisal, at a cost of £500. The terms of reference for this appraisal would need to be tightly drawn for the report to produce a useful series of costed options for the future.

6 Planning

6.1 There had been no news from the SDNPA about the major development proposals which might affect the village.

6.2 County Cllr Vic lent had written to the SDNPA about their failure to determine the planning application submitted by the Iford Estate some nine months previously for an extension of shooting. In the absence of a decision, the application would shortly be deemed to have been successful.

6.3 A renewal of an existing planning consent had been sought in respect of two houses on Wellgreen Lane.

7 Parish Meeting

7.1 This would be held on 20 April, between 7-30 and 9-00, with the general theme being Community Activity. As Vicki would be presenting a report on behalf of the WI, Steve would take about the Group's activities, concentrating on its environmental work.

8 Zero Heroes Money/ Village information leaflet

8.1 In Tim's absence, there was no news on this item.

9 History of Kingston-near-Lewes

9.1 Steve had suggested in correspondence immediately before the meeting that the Group consider revising and updating this publication, first produced in July 1990, with a view to republishing it. The idea was generally welcomed. It had been reformatted as a Word document when last revised in February 2001 so provided that this digital record was still extant, the task would be made far easier. Steve would contact Joyce Taylor, the widow of the author.

10 Next meeting

This would be at 4.45 pm on Tuesday 8 May at The Pavilion.