

# Minutes of the Kingston Village Action Group Meeting held on 5 September 2017

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

**Apologies:** Will Dorman, John Crabb.

- 1 The **minutes of the previous meeting** held on 11 July agreed, subject to an amendment to para 6.2 which should now read:

*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.*

## 2 Matters arising

### 2.1 Membership of the Group

It was agreed to invite Chris Moulder to represent the KPC on the Committee since John Crabb was not available to attend.

It was also agreed that the village meeting in October would represent a good opportunity to ask if anyone else in the village were willing to join the Action Group. Tony would do this.

### 2.2 Village web site

Steve would send the KPC Clerk agreed minutes of the Group's meetings held since last February so that these could appear on the KPC website. He would at the same time ask for the change in the Group's name to be reflected in any references to it.

### 2.3 Unsung Heroes

Beverley Wakeford-Brown had now obtained the agreement of the Pavilion Committee to the framed certificate presented to the Action Group Volunteers being hung in the Pavilion, perhaps above the fire extinguishers. Vicki would ask her husband to do this.

### 2.4 Speedwatch

**2.4.1** Fiona would contact the organisation Community Speedwatch to attempt to discover whether speed guns could be rented from the Police and if so at what cost. It was thought that evidence suggesting large-scale breaches of the speed limits through the village would have to be gathered over a period of time to stand any chance of being taken seriously.

**2.4.2** One possible solution to the speeding problem might be the installation of red lights automatically triggered by speed sensors. This would require cars exceeding the 20 mph or 30 mph limits to stop and only continue after a timed delay. The practical effect of this would be to compel cars to keep within the official limits as exceeding them would bring about

instant delays. This could be a possible use of the Public Works Loan Board Funds. Steve would write to the Clerk of the KPC on the topic.

## 2.5 Dog bins

The problem of the bins not being emptied regularly had been resolved thanks to the intervention of the KPC Clerk.

Steve would write a brief paper for the November meeting of the KPC asking the Council to consider public notices along the lines discussed at the July meeting of the Group reminding people both of the existence and the location of the bins for dog poo. It was agreed that these would best be located at key road junctions. Steve would also write a few lines for the October edition of The Kingston News.

## 2.6 Hedge trimmer

The KPC had agreed it would spend up to £200 on a hedge-trimmer for the Action Group Volunteers to help them in path clearance work. Steve would consult the other volunteers about this purchase and inform Jeanne of the result.

## 3 Finance

3.1 The position was about to change for the first time in many months as the Group had been awarded £270 by the Waitrose Community Grant fund. Steve would therefore order another £200 worth of crocus bulbs with this money, after which he would be owed £295. This would still leave a further authorised £105 for the purchase of more bulbs and other flowers as decided at earlier meetings of the Committee. When these matters had been resolved, the account balance would total £340 (consisting of the £270 recorded earlier plus £70 of the £270 grant from Waitrose).

3.2 Although Steve had 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 and sent these to Lloyds Bank, the bank had since written to the effect that they no longer held either Beryl's or Diana's signatures! Steve would therefore have to repeat the process before the matter could be resolved and before he could be repaid the money owed to him.

## 4 Environmental update

### 4.1 Footpaths

Members of the Group had responded to Tony's request for comments on the proposal to improve the path between Wyevale and the Swanborough fishing lakes. He had responded to LDC accordingly, suggesting that the width of the path be 1.5 metres, rather than the 1 metre planned. The Group felt it important that no concessions regarding other public rights of way in the vicinity were offered to the applicant – the Iford Estate - by LDC as *a quid pro quo*.

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

**4.1.2** Some horseriders had been riding along the footpath from Kingston to Swanborough. Vicki would write to Jan Knowlson about this inappropriate use which would quickly make the path – used by children walking to school – impassable during wet weather.

#### **4.2 Bulbs and other flowers**

**4.2.1** Several members of the Group had noticed with approval the stunning planting schemes at several points in Lewes – near the Victoria Hospital; near Waitrose; and on the Offham Road. These were a mixture of wild and cultivated flowers. Steve would ask Jan Knowlson if she knew who was responsible for these if not SDNP.

**4.2.2** Tim had been in touch with Iain Parkinson, the Woodland Manager at Wakehurst Place. He was willing to come to Kingston to give a talk about the creation of wildflower meadows. Tim would follow this up.

**4.2.3** More primroses were still available to collect from Peggy Nicholson's garden. These might not now be removed until the spring of 2018.

#### **4.3 Waitrose Grant Application**

See 3.1 above.

#### **4.5 Tesco "Bags of Help" scheme**

This would be submitted before the next Group meeting.

## **6 Planning**

- 6.1** The SDNP Authority had announced that its draft Local Plan would be issued on 26 September. An eight week pre-submission consultative period would follow. The final draft was expected to go to the Minister in February 2018 before the Plan was adopted in July, although this timetable was subject to change. The KPC was working closely with the Sussex Association of Local Councils to ensure that its submissions were made effectively. A detailed article would appear in the October issue of The Kingston News. There would be an opportunity for members of the public to make their views known on this and other current planning issues at a village meeting on 20 October.
- 6.2** It was suggested that the KPC could and should comment on the general issue of shooting on the South Downs; and on the design principles for new buildings within the National Park.

- 6.3 Kingston Parish Council and some members of the Action Group had submitted objections to the Authority to the application by the Iford Estate for a “lawful development certificate” which would enable them to extend partridge shooting on the Downs. Objections would carry more weight if they referred to the draft SDNP Local Plan. The deadline to register comments had been extended to 22 September.
- 6.4 KPC had asked the District Valuer to negotiate terms with the potential developer of the Saxondown farm site regarding easement.

## **7 Zero Heroes Money**

- 7.1 The History and Heritage Group had made further progress with the proposed leaflet describing a village walk. A draft text would be circulated to Group members for comment shortly.

## **8 Next meeting**

It was agreed that the next meeting would be at 4.45 pm on Tuesday 24 October 2017 at The Pavilion.