

Minutes of the Kingston Village Action Group Meeting held on 8 May 2018

Present: Vicki Scott, Tim Ambrose, Steve Berry, John Bewick, Barrie Lambert

Apologies: Will Dorman, Tony Wheeler

- 1 The **minutes of the previous meeting** held on 27 March 2018 were agreed. It was agreed to amend para 5.1 of the minutes of the 13 February to reflect the fact that a representative from Costains had not, after all, been invited to attend the meeting on transport held on 23 January. It was also agreed that people's names should not – as a general rule – appear in the minutes, now that they were posted on the KPC website.

2 Matters arising

2.1 Membership of the Group

No further suggestions had been made.

2.2 Hedge trimmer & mattock

Steve had now received the hedge-trimmer, courtesy of the Kingston Parish Council. He had now bought his own mattock for personal use but was happy for this to be used in community work and there was therefore no need for the Parish Council to buy one for the Volunteers.

3 Finance

3.1 There had been no change since the last meeting. 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 What had been thought to be the last stage in the long process of amending the signatories to the account had been finalised in March. However, Lloyds had since sent additional forms for completion by the two new signatories (Tim Ambrose and Vicki Scott). Tim would sign first and pass the form to Vicki who would then send it to the bank, hopefully enabling Steve to receive the money owed to him soon thereafter.

4 Environmental update

4.1` Footpaths

4.1.1 It was understood that the Managing Director of the Iford Estate, [REDACTED], had withdrawn the Estate's offer to resurface the path between Kingston and Swanborough. This was welcomed by the Group although it did not mean that the path would not continue to be used by horses, a use which the Group felt was incompatible – on safety grounds - with its status as a footpath.

4.1.2 It was resolved to make further representations to ESCC to restore the barrier at the lower end of the path where it joined Wellgreen Lane, emphasising the safety aspect. Many

pedestrians using the path would be unaware that it was also used occasionally by horses and there was therefore potential for accidents involving free-running dogs or small children, especially on the very narrow stretches of the path. There was also a danger of children running at speed down the path and straight into traffic on Wellgreen Lane. Steve would draft a letter to ESCC highlighting these issues and circulate it to members of the Group, each one of which would then write their own personal letter.

4.1.2 There was no further news about the proposal to improve the path between Wyevale and the Swanborough fishing lakes although work on the Iford Estate's fishing lodges – planning permission for which had, it was understood, been contingent on path improvements – was well under way.

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.

4.2 **Tesco “Bags of Help” scheme**

4.2.1 The Group's application had been shortlisted which meant that we would receive a minimum of £1000 and a potential maximum approaching £4000. The two competing projects were both based at Rodmell, thus perhaps giving our scheme better prospects. Steve would alert villagers via the June issue of The Kingston News. Voting continued until 30 June. It was not yet clear how soon thereafter the money would be received. All of it would be spent on flowers and trees for the village.

4.3 **Logs**

Steve would appeal for donations of more logs in the July issue of The Kingston News.

4.4 **Litter**

4.4.1 A litter pick had been arranged jointly with a Lewes group along the A 277 on 13 May. There had been no response from Lewes District Council to various e-mails soliciting their involvement and assistance. The Volunteers continued to collect litter in the village on a monthly basis.

5 **Transport**

5.1 ESCC had recently installed traffic counters on Ashcombe Lane. KPC had requested estimates for a Vehicle Activated Sign. Once this 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.

5.2 There had been an article recently in Viva Lewes about traffic control measures in Ringmer. Vicki would follow this up with those responsible in case there was anything we could learn from their experience.

6 Parish Meeting

6.1 This had been held on 20 April with the general theme being Community Activity. As Vicki presented a report on behalf of the WI, Steve had spoken about the Group's activities, concentrating on its environmental work and drawing attention to the issue of the Kingston-Swanborough footpath.

7 Zero Heroes Money/ Village information leaflet

The designers were expected to have proofs of the leaflet by the end of May. The remaining issues would then be the cost of printing and the size of the print run. Tim would ask [REDACTED] company – which printed The Kingston News – for a quote. It was felt that at least 2000 copies would be needed, for distribution via The Kingston News and The Juggs.

8 History of Kingston-near-Lewes

Steve had suggested in correspondence in March that the Group consider revising and updating this publication, first produced in July 1990, with a view to republishing it. However, it transpired that the History and Heritage Group had already put considerable effort into a village history, taking up the story at the point at which a recent publication left off – i.e. around 1900. It was agreed under these circumstances that revising Roger Taylor's book would be inappropriate.

9 Open meeting called by Councillors

9.1 Steve spoke briefly about the meeting called by District and Vic Ient and Sarah Osborne, District and County Councillors respectively, to report back to the public on current issues. The meeting had been held in the Parish Hall on 4 May. It had been very well attended, although not by Kingston villagers. A summary of some of the points made follows.

9.2 There was a new scheme called Neighbourhood First. Dedicated staff would deal quickly with matters such as abandoned vehicles, fly tipping, pest control, fallen trees and anti-social behaviour.

9.3 The South Downs National Park Local Plan would be published in the week beginning 7 May. The Inspector would report to Government in August. Once agreed, the Plan would determine all policy in the area, subject only to the revised National Planning Framework which was currently in draft and would reduce protection from development within National Parks.

9.4 The application by the Iford Estate for a "Lawful Development Certificate" which would have enabled the Estate to expand its shooting operation to 1000 acres had been refused. Shooting would continue but would be limited – lawfully at least – to a total of 28

days between 30 September and 31 January. These limits applied to each shoot on the Estate (of which there were several) and would therefore be hard to monitor. In response to a question, it was stated that shooting across a public right of way was legal, provided that the weapon was more than 50 feet away.

9.5 A plan for a dual carriageway between Lewes and Polegate had been announced. There were several route options but each would have a dramatic effect on the landscape and local villages. The projected cost for the 10 mile stretch was £450,000,000 – **about £25,000 for each yard of road**. There were no current plans to ease the congestion at the Southerham and Ashcombe Lane roundabouts so the new road would simply exacerbate the problem, at vast cost.

10 Next meeting

This would be at 4.45 pm on Tuesday 26 June at The Pavilion.