

Minutes of the Kingston Village Action Group Meeting held on 24 October 2017

Present: Vicki Scott, Steve Berry, Barrie Lambert

Apologies: Will Dorman, Tim Ambrose.

1 The **minutes of the previous meeting** held on 5 September were agreed.

2 **Matters arising**

2.1 **Membership of the Group**

Chris Moulder had been invited to represent the KPC on the Committee in the place of John Crabb but was similarly unavailable owing to other commitments.

Tony had not asked at the Extraordinary Parish Meeting if anyone else might be interested in serving on the Action Group and no one had come forward.

2.2 **Village web site**

Steve had sent to the KPC Clerk the agreed minutes of the Group's meetings held since last February and these now appeared on the website. Jeanne had at the same time amended the reference from Steering Group to Action Group. Steve would in future send agreed minutes on a regular basis beginning with those for September.

2.3 **Unsung Heroes**

The framed certificate presented to the Action Group Volunteers had now been hung in the Pavilion, above the fire extinguishers. The Committee was grateful to Nigel Scott for having done this.

2.4 **Dog bins**

Steve had written a few lines about the bins for the Kingston News. He would now send a paragraph for inclusion with Vicki's report to the KPC for its November meeting, suggesting that Parish Council notices be erected in a small number of places drawing the attention of dog owners to the existence of the bins and asking them to act responsibly.

2.5 **Hedge trimmer**

Following the offer by the KPC to spend up to £200 on a hedge-trimmer for the Action Group Volunteers to help them in path clearance work, Steve had researched the subject and consulted the other volunteers about this purchase. He would provide Vicki with a few lines for inclusion with her report to the KPC.

3 **Finance**

3.1 Steve had ordered – and been sent - a further £200 worth of crocus bulbs using some of the £270 received from the Waitrose Community Grant fund. He had very recently produced an updated statement of account showing all the recent financial transactions. This showed a current actual bank balance of £740.19. Of this, £292.76 was owed to him for earlier bulb purchases and a further £151.29 was earmarked for later purchases. This left an uncommitted balance of £296.14.

3.2 Steve was still to obtain the signatures of Beryl Burrell and Diana Arlett giving their consent to being removed from the authorised list of those who could sign cheques but had left the requisite form with Beryl.

4 Environmental update

4.1 Footpaths

In Tony's absence there was no further information on the proposal to improve the path between Wyevale and the Swanborough fishing lakes.

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

4.1.2 Vicki had asked Jan Knowlson about the horseriders who had been riding along the footpath from Kingston to Swanborough but had been directed to raise this with ESCC.

4.2 Bulbs and other flowers

4.2.1 Steve had asked Jan Knowlson if she knew who was responsible for the attractive planting schemes at several points in Lewes – near the Victoria Hospital; near Waitrose; and on the Offham Road - but she did not.

4.2.2 Iain Parkinson, the Woodland Manager at Wakehurst Place, had visited the Kingston Hill Field site to talk about the creation of wildflower meadows but none of the Committee had been present.

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.

4.2.4 The Volunteers had planted approximately 3000 crocus on Snednore Green on 3 October. This had taken only six person hours, with six people being involved. Steve would need to contact Lewes District Council at some stage to try and ensure that no mowing took place before the bulbs had died down next spring.

4.2.5 Two more volunteers – Ray Harrison and Carol Walton – had offered to help with village tasks but Carol had an existing regular commitment on Tuesday mornings so would not often be able to help.

4.3 Tesco "Bags of Help" scheme

The application had at last been submitted and an acknowledgement received. The sum of £4000 had been requested but it was thought that even if our project (“Colour in Kingston”) were short-listed we were likely to come third out of three and receive “only” £1000. Even so, this would allow us to purchase several thousand more bulbs and hundreds of plug primroses.

6 Planning

- 6.1 Of those present at the meeting, only Barrie had attended the Extraordinary Parish Meeting on 20 October to discuss the draft South Downs Local Plan. Tony had given a very thorough and well-researched presentation – circulated since to Action Group members – but much of the subsequent discussion had been rather unfocussed and off the main subject, with a great deal of attention being paid to issues not on the agenda, including the speed of traffic in the village.
- 6.2 It was noted that although there were in place rigorous design principles for new buildings within the National Park, it was not apparent that these had been closely followed by the developers responsible for the most recently erected houses in the village – viz. those in Wellgreen Lane.

7 Zero Heroes Money

- 7.1 The History and Heritage Group had made further progress with the proposed leaflet describing a village walk and had circulated a draft text to Group members. Since then, various amendments had been made but not all members had seen later versions. It was agreed to invite Linda Douglas, the author of the text, to the next meeting. In the meantime Steve would ask her for the latest draft.

8 Speedwatch

- 8.1 Fiona had made some initial enquiries into how to monitor and report vehicles which were speeding through the village. Vicki had looked into the Community Speedwatch and discovered that speed guns could be freely borrowed from the Police. However, the written advice obtained from the Police on the conditions in which the equipment could be operated were not very clearly written. Barrie would ask Ray Harrison (a former Police Community Support Officer) to elucidate the text.
- 8.2 It was clear at least that to monitor speeding vehicles, a substantial number of volunteers would be needed, perhaps as many as 12.

9 Next meeting

This would be at 4.45 pm on Tuesday 12 December at The Pavilion.

