

Minutes of the Kingston Action Group Meeting Held on 3 September 2019

Present: Vicki Scott, Tim Ambrose, Steve Berry, John Bewick, Barrie Lambert, Dinah Morgan, Rob Watson, Tony Wheeler.

Apologies for absence: Will Dorman

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 June 2019 were agreed.

1 Matters arising

1.1 Kingston History and Heritage Group (KHHG)

The KHHG had, after all, decided to re-apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant to help it establish a web site. The offer from Tony's son-in-law - who had worked for the HLF - to advise on its presentation still stood.

1.2 Kingston News

Steve had reminded the editor of the Kingston News about Rhys Hayden's offer to allow his Kingston Village website to host issues of The Kingston News not so far archived but had not yet received a reply.

1.3 In Bloom

The judge, Reg Leach, who had been mainly responsible for establishing the Chelsea Flower Show, had visited the village on 27th June, escorted by Dinah and Tim, following the route of the trail in the leaflet designed by the KHHG. Dinah and Rosemarie Jeffery would attend the awards ceremony on Friday 13 September at the Amex Stadium in Falmer.

2. Finance

2.1 The final £1000 had been received from from the Bags of Help Scheme in July. Steve was still owed £584.31 and Tim, £4-00, leaving a balance of £411.69. Steve would produce a short statement of account at the next meeting to show how the £4000 had been spent.

3 Footpaths

3.1 The Parish Clerk had now contacted the Land Registry to establish ownership of the fields across which the Group had suggested re-routeing the footpath between Kinston and Swanborough to avoid the footpath being churned up by horses. Steve would now send the large-scale map and ownership details to Chris Rowling at ESCC.

3.2 Steve was in touch with Chris Smith who ran a website called Don't Lose Your Way. He might be able to help get two footpaths on Kingston Hill designated as statutory rights of way.

4 Future Management of St Pancras Green

The KPC had discussed the issue at their next meeting on 11 July. Various members of the public had attended, all of whom opposed the suggestions put forward by the Group. I

5 Tesco “Bags of Help” grant scheme

The last 25 of the 450 primroses bought with the Tesco money had now been planted.

6 Litter

6.1 Barrie had written an article for the July edition of The Kingston News. There were more details there but the A27 campaign was attempting to shame local authorities into taking action.

6.2 Although ESCC had agreed some weeks ago to the erection of signs along the A 27 asking people not to litter the highway no action had been taken. **Barrie would raise this with the Council.**

8 Sale of Easement Rights

8.1 It was not yet certain but the KPC might shortly have upwards of £170,000 to spend on improvements to and in the village. Members of the Group put forward the following ideas. None of these had been assessed or costed but it was thought that they might nonetheless be useful to the KPC as a stimulus to further thought.

- ✓ A boules/petanque court
- ✓ A wind turbine, along the lines of the one outside Beechwood Hall, in Cooksbridge
- ✓ Outdoor keep fit equipment
- ✓ Solar panels for the Pavilion or the Parish Hall or the School or all three
- ✓ Re-surfacing and widening the path to Spring Barn Farm
- ✓ Ditto the footway parallel with and above Ashcombe Lane (although this was partly outside the Parish)
- ✓ Improving the acoustics in The Pavilion
- ✓ Electric vehicles
- ✓ Paying for a fence and hedge in Kingston Hill Fields meadow, parallel with the existing hedge and Juggs Way. This would provide an alternative and mud-free route to the foot of the Downs, as well as a new habitat for nesting birds etc.
- ✓ As an alternative to the suggestions already made to the management of St Pancras Green, replacing some of the peripheral turf with turf with wildflowers already implanted. This would produce faster and more colourful results
- ✓ Helping the KHHG with its ambition to establish its own web site

- ✓ Making a sum of money (up to 1k or 5k or whatever) available to any village group or society who could convince the KPC of its case
- ✓ Assisting the school, church or Parish Hall with capital costs

8.2 Tim pointed out that any funds that the KPC might have could also potentially release other sums from outside sources in the form of grants etc

8.3 Dinah suggested we invite a representative from OVESCO to address a future meeting of the Group on renewable energy use in the village. **This was agreed.**

9. **Planning**

9.1 Strict conditions had been proposed by the planning officer in respect of the application for a new house on a vacant plot adjoining West Lane House in Church Lane. This application had been previously opposed by 15 villagers.

9.2 Tony had given an excellent presentation on planning matters to the Parish Meeting on 24 May.

10 **Traffic/pollution**

John Bewick had had contacted Kirsty Smallbone at Brighton University about air pollution monitoring at the school but had received no reply. **He would send a further email.** KPC were still considering a traffic survey application for cars entering the village from the garden centre end. Dinah mentioned earlier attempts to improve access to Wyevale for pedestrians. Tony provided information on work being carried out by POLO to facilitate better safety on the C7. A meeting focusing on air pollution was to be held in Lewes at the Town Hall on 12th July 8.00 pm.

11 **AOB**

It was agreed to invite William Meyer, the new District Councillor for Kingston, to a future meeting of the Group. **Tony would ask him.**

12 **Next meeting**

This would be held at 4.45 pm on Tuesday 3 September 2019 in the Pavilion.

