

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.**

1.4 William Meyer

The new Lib Dem District County Councillor had expressed interest in attending a meeting of Group. **Tim would invite him to the next meeting.**

1.5 OVESCO (Ouse Valley and Estuary Energy Company)

Dinah had established that someone from OVESCO would be willing to come and talk to the Group on energy saving, including solar panels, insulation, wind power etc. **She would invite a representative but liaise with Tim about timing to ensure we didn't have two guests at the same meeting.**

2. Finance

2.1 The final £1000 had been received 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 send the large-scale map and ownership details to Chris Rowling at ESCC with a view to them persuading the landowner to use the alternative route suggested.**
- 3.2 Steve was now 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

- 4.1 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, mainly on the grounds that St Pancras Green should remain wholly an area of short grass.
- 4.2 With just one member objecting, the Council had agreed to ask the Action Group to develop its proposal for St Pancras Green and also to suggest alternative sites. **Steve would draft a paper.** It was thought that Iain Parkinson – i.parkinson@kew.org who worked for Kew at Wakehurst Place, might have helpful advice. In the meantime **Tim offered to check back through archived copies of the minutes of the KPC to see whether St Pancras Green had ever been formally reserved exclusively for sports.**

5 Litter

- 6.1 Responsibility for clearing litter from the trunk roads in the area lay with the local authorities but Lewes District Council said it had no money to do this and that part of the A27 which passed through its territory had had no litter cleared for three years. The Group campaigning to get the A27 cleaned up had therefore been trying to get the Highways Agency to assume the burden. However, despite the Group's best efforts there had been no liaison between LDC and the Agency and litter on the Kingston roundabout had recently been shredded by HA staff cutting back vegetation.
- 6.2 Various suggestions were made including involving the SDNP, Visit England (as tourism was important to the local economy), instituting a league table for litter clearance by local authorities and further publicity. **Barrie would put these forward to the anti-litter group.**
- 6.3 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. When Barrie

raised this at a meeting with the Highways Agency, he had discovered that the text of such signs needed to be agreed by the Agency. Discussions were underway on this.

6.4 Dinah would try and discover from contacts at Plastic-Free Lewes whether there was legislation requiring lorries carrying waste to have it covered and secured.

8 Sale of Easement Rights

8.1 Steve had written to the Parish Clerk with the list of suggestions for improving the village put forward at the last meeting. This had been acknowledged by the sale was still under discussion.

9. Planning

9.1 There were no significant planning applications in the pipeline.

10 Traffic/pollution

10.1 John Bewick's further attempts to contact Kirsty Smallbone at Brighton University about air pollution monitoring at the school had met with no response. He would send a further e-mail.

10.2 The application by the KPC for a further a traffic survey looking at cars entering the village from the garden centre end had now been agreed and would take place in October.

11 Next meeting

This would be held at 4.15 pm on Tuesday 15 October 2019 in the Pavilion. Members were asked to note the earlier time.