

Kingston Village Action Group Meeting 21 February 2017

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

Apologies: Will Dorman, Tony Wheeler

1 The **minutes of the previous meeting** held on 3 January were agreed.

2 Matters arising

2.1 Village web site

The Committee agreed that it would welcome its minutes appearing on the KPC web site, together with the Group's constitution. Fiona would talk to Jeanne, the KPC Clerk, to see whether – and if so when - this could best be done.

2.2 Blue Plaques

Steve would draft a new paper for the KPC in time for the next Group meeting.

3 Finance

3.1 The position was unchanged since the last meeting, with Steve still being owed £95 and £85 still to spend of the money either originally earmarked for bulbs or since donated. When these matters had been resolved, the account balance would total £270.

3.2 Steve had finally succeeded in obtaining and (almost) completing a form to amend the authorised signatories to the Bank account. He now needed to obtain the signatures of Beryl Burrell and Diana Arlett to give their consent to being removed from the authorised list.

4 Environmental update

4.1 Footpaths

The Parish Clerk had written to Tom Rea, accepting the offer of two new permissive paths on Kingston Hill rather than pursue the case for statutory rights of way.

Steve had met Jan Knowlson, the South Downs National Park Ranger, on 1 February to agree the precise location of the two new stiles. This work would be done in early April.

4.2 Bulbs

Martin and Terry Wallwork had made a generous "in-kind" donation of snowdrops and dwarf narcissus bulbs. These had been planted by volunteers on the morning of 21 February. This brought the total worth of contributions by villagers - in cash or kind - to approximately £200.

4.3 Ashcombe Lane footway

Steve had established from Jan Knowlson (SDNP Ranger) that her group of volunteers would not be able to help cut back the surrounding vegetation. He had contacted ESCC to see what level of responsibility they had for the surface of the path. The query had been acknowledged but not yet answered.

4.4 Waitrose Grant Application

The draft which had been circulated earlier was approved, subject to the deletion of any reference to the Group's role in attempting to mitigate the effects of traffic on the village. Steve would submit the text to Waitrose. It was thought unlikely that the Group would benefit by more than £100.

4.5 Tesco "Bags of Help" scheme

The beginnings of a draft application to this scheme were approved. Unlike the Waitrose scheme, which supported core funding, the Tesco community grant scheme required applicants to produce a time-limited discrete project. It was agreed that the best chance of success for the Group was for a scheme involving an extension to the existing plans for planting bulbs and wild flowers on public land in the village.

Permission to plant had been obtained from the KPC and ESCC in respect of land they owned, and, subject to certain minor caveats, from LDC. Support from the Church, Iford and Kingston School and the WI would also be sought before an application was made.

In the very recent past, the criteria for the scheme had been amended and it was now open to applications for indoor as well as outdoor projects. The maximum amount which could be awarded had been reduced from £5000 to £4000. It was thought that both these changes reflected a lack of applications.

5 Zero Heroes Money

5.1 It had now been established that the KPC did after all have the freedom to spend as they wished the remainder (£1135) of the sum of money allocated to Kingston.

5.2 Tim reported that the Heritage and History Group were keen on the notion of a leaflet describing a village walk, possibly an expanded version of the one written by Basil Cracknell ("A Walk Along The Street") which was still available. He would draft a text before the next meeting of the Action Group.

6 Constitution

Vicki's redraft of the Constitution - which simplified and greatly abbreviated the earlier version - was discussed in the light of further amendments proposed by Tim and Barrie. Steve would circulate the agreed text the day after the meeting.

7 Planning

7.1 Tony had been unable to attend the meeting because of illness but had submitted a report. There had been no new planning applications for some time. The Juggs had received permission to stabilise their wall on The Street. No decisions had yet been made on a number of outstanding applications, including the "redesign" of a house in Mushroom Field, an extension to the Annexe at the Old Forge and for a new house at the Top Yard on the Street.

7.2 The application for a Certificate of Lawful Use to confirm that on the balance of probability commercial shooting had taken place consistently on the Iford Estate for in excess of ten years before the date of the application had been turned down. Tony had sent a map showing the area concerned. This is attached. #

7.3 Fiona reported on the Extraordinary General Meeting of the KPC which had been called at short notice and held on 20th February. This meeting was to discuss a solicitor's request that the easement for access over KPC land was amended to include access to the five new dwellings on land on Saxondown farm for which planning permission had been obtained. At the meeting, it had been agreed that the KPC needed to obtain professional advice before responding fully to this request. The reply would therefore seek assurances that any costs arising from this advice would not fall to be paid by the KPC.

8 Next meeting

This would be at 4.45 pm on Tuesday 11th April 2017 at The Pavilion.