

Minutes of the Action Group Meeting Held on 26 June 2018

Present: Vicki Scott, Tim Ambrose, Steve Berry, Barrie Lambert, Tony Wheeler

Apologies: John Bewick, Will Dorman

- 1 The **minutes of the previous meeting** held on 8 May 2018 were agreed subject to two changes.
In para 4.2.1 “Rodmell” should have read “Rottingdean”.
In para 5.1, a contractor had been responsible for installing traffic counters on Ashcombe Lane, rather than ESCC.

2 Matters arising

2.1 Membership of the Group

No further suggestions had been made.

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 Tim and Vicki had completed the latest form sent by Lloyds Banks in connection with the very lengthy process of amending the signatories to the account. This was the fourth such form and – it was hoped – the last.

4 Environmental update

4.1` Footpaths

4.1.1 Steve had, so far, failed to draft a letter to ESCC on the topic of the footpath to Swanborough, as agreed at the meeting in May. He would do so before the next meeting.

4.1.2 The Ramblers Association had contacted the KPC in connection with an apparently forgotten footpath which ran from some point in the field with the windmill, towards Audiburn, having passed around Castelmer Fruit Farm. No-one was aware of this path, which the RA wished to have restored. By 2020, it was believed, all rights of way had to be registered or lost.

4.1.3 Barrie and others had complained to ESCC about the overgrown state of the bike path parallel with the Kingston Road. The County had now officially adopted this path and were therefore responsible for maintaining it. ESCC had promised to send a Highway Steward to inspect its state.

4.1.2 Some work had been undertaken on the promised extension to the cycle path referred to above which would run from a point opposite Spring Barn Farm and then progress behind Wyevale to the Swanborough fishing lakes.

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 project had, so far, attracted more support than the other two candidate projects at the local Tesco store. With only four days of voting left, it was beginning to look as though *Colour in Kingston* might receive the maximum award of £4000. Steve had mentioned the situation in the July issue of *The Kingston News*.

4.3 **Logs**

Steve had appealed for further donations of logs in the July issue of *The Kingston News*.

4.4 **Litter**

4.4.1 The litter pick arranged jointly with a Lewes group along the A 277 on 13 May had collected more than 20 sacks of rubbish. Lewes District Council had removed this but had provided no other support. The Volunteers continued to pick up litter in the village and environs a monthly basis.

5 **Transport**

5.1 KPC were intending to get a portable speed sensor to measure the speed of all vehicles passing through the village. This machine would not, however, record number plates. The topic would be discussed at the next meeting of the KPC.

6 **Zero Heroes Money/ Village information leaflet**

6.1 2000 copies of this leaflet had now been printed. One copy would be enclosed with the July issue of *The Kingston News* and copies would be available at the Juggs, The Pavilion, the Church and Iford and Kingston School. The possibility of distributing further copies via the Tourist Information Centre in Lewes had been considered but rejected as the main target audiences for the leaflet were residents and people visiting them. A small sum of money remained in the Zero Heroes allocation and this might be used to produce worksheets for teachers.

9 **Neighbourhood First**

9.1 Steve had contacted this new scheme announced in May to ask whether any action could be taken by them about the accumulation of rubbish in Top Yard, which was part of the Kingston Conservation Area. Following a visit by Council officers, they had reported that nothing could be done as the land was private and there were no health hazards or

restrictions on access by others. Their report mentioned just one abandoned vehicle. There were in fact six, all of them visible from the road.

9.2 People found it surprising that although there were strict planning regulations concerning what could be done on houses in Conservation Areas, there appeared to be no comparable controls over the dumping of rubbish. Tim drew attention to a report on the Kingston Conservation Area produced by some consultants from Cirencester some years ago. This might throw light on the issue.

10. Planning

10.1 The original application for a mobile food van and static store at Kingston Farm had been refused. There had been 40 favourable comments on the website and few objections but some local residents had complained about odours, noise and disturbance and LDC felt that the proposal was out of keeping with the area. A new application had been submitted which would be considered by the Planning Applications Committee in August.

10.2 There had been an application submitted for a development of four new houses at Kingsbrook Farm, on a side outside the planning boundary. This had been “called in” and would now be considered by the South Downs National Park.

10.3 Tony had received complaints from some residents about garden bonfires in Kingstonridge and asked whether anyone was aware of any regulations or byelaws on this subject. Nobody was able to help.

11 Next meeting

This was to be held at 4.45 pm on Tuesday 14 August but (Secretary’s note) this meeting was later deferred by agreement to 18 September.