

## Minutes of the Kingston Action Group Meeting Held on 7 May 2019

**Present:** Vicki Scott, Tim Ambrose, Steve Berry, John Bewick, Barrie Lambert, Tony Wheeler.

**There were no apologies for absence.**

**The minutes of the previous meeting** held on 19 March 2018 were agreed.

### 1 Matters arising

#### 1.1 Membership of the Group

Steve had written to Mark Bell to invite him to join the Group on a permanent basis but had not yet had a reply. **It was agreed to invite Dinah Morgan to re-join the Group if it could be established that she would be returning to Kingston on a permanent basis and also to invite Robert Watson, who had recently moved to the village, expressed interest in becoming involved in environmental work and who had already taken an active role in planting wildflowers.**

#### 1.2 Kingston History and Heritage Group

In the last week of April, the KHHG had submitted its application – via the Action Group - for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to help it establish a web site. It hoped to hear the outcome within 4-5 weeks. Earlier, a special meeting of the Action Group had met to agree minor changes to the Group's constitution. These were necessitated by the need to comply with HLF regulations. They concerned paragraphs on Finance and Dissolution.

On Finance, the Group Treasurer was now obligated not just to “keep a clear record of expenditure supported by receipted invoices” but to “provide regular financial reports and annual accounts to the Group”.

In addition, the existing single line on Dissolution was now expanded to a paragraph though with no practical change in meaning.

**Steve would therefore need to produce accounts covering at least the last two financial years and get them audited.**

#### 1.3 Logs

Steve and Barrie had arranged with the owner of Flintstones, to collect the logs he had offered on 8 May. **They would be installed in verges in Wellgreen Lane to replace those which had been recently removed.**

#### 1.4 Kingston News

Rhys Hayden had agreed to allow his Kingston Village website <http://kingstonvillage.org/>, to host issues of The Kingston News not so far archived, though the Editor had yet to send any. She had told Steve that as she would be leaving the village – after more than 40 years - she had been too busy to do this but **would do so as soon as possible after her move to Ringmer on 21 May.**

It was agreed that the Secretary would write to the Editor on behalf of the Group to thank her for all her work on TKN over the last few years.

## 1.5 Telephone Box

The telephone box had been removed in April. Steve had just been advised by the Parish Clerk that this had been at the instigation of BT. The Council had been asked some years ago whether it wanted to buy the installation but at that time there had been no public interest in its future fate and it had therefore declined the offer.

The Group expressed regret at what had happened but agreed that nothing further could be done.

## 2. Finance

2.1 Since the last meeting, Steve had been paid £500 of the £1084.31 owed to him. This left a balance of just £7-04 in the Group's account. However, it was confidently expected that Tesco would release the outstanding balance – in the sum of £1000 - of the grant offered **as soon as Steve had completed the final report.**

## 3 Footpaths

3.1 Tony had sent to Jeanne the large-scale local map on which Barrie had marked an alternative route for the footpath between Swanborough and Kingston suggested by the Group earlier in correspondence with Chloe Rowling, the Rights of Way Officer at ESCC in response to her earlier request. Jeanne had not yet replied to the request that she should contact the Land Registry to establish ownership of the fields which this new route would cross. **When this had been done, the map and ownership details would be sent to ESCC.**

3.2 At the last meeting it was reported that the Iford Estate did not plan any further work on the extension to the cycle path running parallel with the Kingston Road from a point opposite Spring Barn Farm and then progressing behind Wyevale to the Swanborough fishing lakes. The surface here was rough and unstable and negotiable with difficulty even on an off-road bike. However, some efforts had nonetheless very recently been made to improve the surface. It was now better than before but still somewhat soft.

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

## 4 Future Management of St Pancras Green

4.1 Steve had written the proposed article for the TKN having first obtained the agreement of the KPC to the text. The essence of the proposal was to amend the

management of sections of St Pancras Green in order to increase their value to wildlife.

- 4.2 The article set a deadline of 30 June for comments, to be made to the Clerk of the KPC. Several people had already given their support to the idea.

## 5 Tesco “Bags of Help” grant scheme

- 5.1 In April and early May, the remaining wildflowers had been planted by volunteers. These consisted mainly of 250 primroses and around 50 each of ox-eye daisy, field scabious, hedge garlic and black knapweed, all selected for their value to wildlife and butterflies in particular.

- 5.2 A selection of much smaller numbers of other wildflowers had also been planted, predominantly below the hedge in the green above the north side of Ashcombe Lane, the hedge itself having been established by Action Group volunteers some previously. Some primroses had also been planted in the bank immediately above the road and a few others on the verge on the Lewes Road, below Appleberry Cottage. These last two locations had been chosen as there were already small colonies of primroses established there.

## 5 Traffic

### 5.1 Traffic speed

KPC had been refused a licence by ESCC to use a portable speed sensor. This followed an analysis of the results of the ESCC’s own traffic survey conducted in October 2018. Although this had found that more than one third of vehicles exceeded the speed limits along Ashcombe Lane and Wellgreen Lane, it was claimed that the *average* vehicle speed did not reach the necessary threshold of 10% over the speed limit plus a 2 mph further leeway – i.e. 35 mph. Since much of the traffic at peak times would necessarily have been travelling extremely slowly because of congestion, the Group felt that ESCC’s arguments were weak and unjustified.

- 5.2 John would convey the Group’s disappointment at this outcome, together with the Group’s concern about the recent semi-erasure of the speed control bumps in Wellgreen Lane. He would also raise with the KPC the possibility of a further traffic survey, based this time at the Wellgreen Lane end of the village. This was likely to be supported by the new Councillor for the village (and extended area) elected on 3 May.

### 5.3 Pollution

The meeting involving John Bewick, representing the KPC, Kirsty Smallbone from Brighton University and Andrew Dobell, the Head Teacher at the village school to see whether measurements of emissions at the school entrance could be taken had

been very positive and it was now very likely that the school would be one of the venues for the trial of the device to test particulate levels.

## **6. Litter**

6.1 Barrie had now received from LDC the promised long-handled litter picker. He had also ordered two signs with the words "Caution: Litter Pickers". These cost £116 but would be paid for by the KPC. He and Katherine Mondon continued to attend meetings of the anti-litter group focusing on the A 27. As the Chair of this Group, Millie Manley, had recently been elected as a Green Party Councillor for Castle Ward in Lewes, there was more reason to hope for progress on the anti-litter front generally.

6.2 Although ESCC had agreed to the erection of signs along the A 27 asking people not to litter the highway no action had been taken.

## **7. Planning**

7.1 The application to build a house next to the Old Police House had been refused. Another application for a house on a vacant plot at the top end of Church Lane had been opposed by 15 villagers.

7.2 Developers intending to build five houses had offered £170,000 for the easement on land between Saxondown Farm and the lower end of Church Lane to allow access to the area in question. KPC had held a special meeting with those residents who would be most affected but none of them had voiced objections. KPC were minded to accept the offer, subject to some improvements in the conditions attached to it.

7.3 **Tony would report on this and other planning matters in a presentation to the Parish Meeting on 24 May. Steve would, very briefly, present the Group's report for the year at that meeting.**

## **8 Next meeting**

This would be held at 4.45 pm on Tuesday 18 June 2019 in the Pavilion.

