

Kingston Village Action Group

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11 August 2020

1 Present, virtually: Vicki Scott, Tim Ambrose, Steve Berry, John Bewick, Barrie Lambert, Dinah Morgan, Rob Watson, Tony Wheeler. **Apologies:** Will Dorman

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 7 July were agreed.

3 Membership

Steve had sent the constitution and last minutes to Rosa Zammit who had expressed interest in joining the Group.

4 Finance

4.1 Steve had now been paid the sum of £409.57 to cover the cost of snowdrops bought in January but had not yet cashed the cheque. The true balance was now £196.45.

4.2 It now seemed that the "Community Chest" fund set up by a chain of pubs and restaurants run by Hall and Woodhouse and to which Steve had applied had either been postponed or abandoned. Grant schemes announced earlier in the year by the South Downs National Park had definitely been postponed.

4.3 On the brighter side, Kingston Parish Council was discussing its own grant scheme. No details were available but the Action Group might be eligible to apply.

5 Management of the village greens

5.1 The contractor had continued to cut only the areas on the village green first marked out by volunteers on 9 June. No photographic record had yet been made but a number of wildflowers had appeared in the uncut areas including common mallow, Achillea, ragwort and a species of hawkbit.

6 Allotment

6.1 A tenancy agreement had been sent to Steve on 27 July. This gave the date of the beginning of the tenancy as 1 April 2020. However, the first condition of the tenancy stated that the tenant of the allotment must "accomplish a state of reasonable cultivation" within eight weeks of the start of the tenancy – i.e., in this case, 1 June.

6.2 It was agreed that Steve would ask for the beginning of the tenancy to be put back to 1 October 2020, or even 1 April 2021. It was assumed that Lewes District Council still intended to trim the site in September, as previously agreed.

6.3 Both Rob and Steve had begun to expand the paper on the allotment written earlier by Tony. Steve would circulate a draft within the next few days, before sending it to the KPC before 21 August - their deadline for the September meeting.

6.4 As agreed in July, Steve had made an appeal via Lewes Freecycle for some of the items that would be helpful in running the allotment. These included water butts, wheelbarrows, sleepers, compost bins, garden tools and – in the longer run – perhaps a shed and even a greenhouse. Only one offer had been received – a water butt – and this had since been collected. It might be worth trying the Next Door Kingston network.

6.6 An article written for the September issue of The Kingston News would invite those interested in helping with the allotment to re-register with Vicki. It also included an appeal for help with clearing the site and asked for donations of useful items.

7 Environmental Policy for Kingston P C

7.1 Following an e-mail sent to Steve on 8 July by the KPC Chair, Steve had amended the original draft in the light of comments received and forwarded an amended version to the KPC.

7.2 The KPC Chair would now convene a small group with representatives from both the Group and the Council. It was agreed that the Group would be represented by Tim and Tony.

8 Planning

8.1 The Iford Estate had applied for retrospective planning permission not to fit the fishing lodges as Swanborough with planted roofs – a condition of the original consent. This application had been called in by the SDNP. It was agreed that the Group should contest this application and that it would be helpful if individual members also did so. John agreed to raise the matter with the KPC whose objection would carry more weight than that of the Group. The reference was SDNP/20/01237/CND

9 Conservation Area Character Appraisal

9.1 Two meetings had been held with the SDNPA about the renewal of the Character Appraisal for Kingston's Conservation Area, one involving Parish Councillors and one – with the SDNPA's Conservation Officer – involving William Mayer, Tim and Steve. The boundaries of the area would not be extended.

9.2 The SDNPA would now draft a report for comment by the KPC and the Group. This was expected relatively soon. A revised version would then be sent to all households in the Parish.

10. Litter

The KPC Chair, Vicki, Barrie and Katherine Mondon had met the owner of the burger bar in the morning of 11 August. He had been quite positive and was now employing someone to collect litter around the bar twice a week. He had also made efforts to dissuade customers from parking in the bus stop area.

11 OVESCO

All agreed to Dinah's suggestion of another approach to OVESCO, but the talk needed to focus this time on energy-saving measures that the village itself – and individual villagers – could make. A Power Point presentation was possible via ZOOM. Dinah would make contact with her acquaintance in OVESCO.

12 Parishes in Bloom

Kingston's entry had been submitted in time to meet the deadline.

13 Next meeting

This would be on Tuesday 22 September at 5-00 pm.