



Minutes of Kingsclere Parish Council General Purposes Meeting GP 03/22 Held at 7.30pm on Monday 14th March 2022 in the Village Club

GP 03/22 – Present:

Cllrs: Adams; Bowes; Conquest; Peach N; Sawyer J. Assistant Clerk – Read. 1 member of the public.

Not Present:

None.

03/22.1 – Apologies:

Cllr Farey.

03/22.2 – Declarations of Interest:

None.

Questions from the Public:

The resident identified themselves as the person who sent the request for comment on a possible re-routing of a footpath, due to be discussed in Item 9.

03/22.9 – Request for Comment Regarding Possible Re-routing of Footpath:

It was agreed to move Item 9 up the agenda as the member of the public wished to speak.

The Clerk received an email asking for KPC's comments on both the removal of a footpath on Rectory Lane, and the re-routing of a footpath between Ecchinswell Road and Sydmonton Road. The resident explained that the footpath on Rectory Lane leads across a field and directly onto the A339, with no adjoining footpaths on either end, and that they felt this was unsafe. The proposed re-routing of the footpaths from Ecchinswell Road to Sydmonton Road to a more direct route, would remove some of the distance walkers walk along Sydmonton Road, and would be a more pleasant walk as there would be access to 360-degree views at one point of the re-route. The footpaths at both locations are on the resident's land, and the proposed re-route would still be on the resident's land. The resident explained that Hampshire County Council had visited both sites and agreed the footpath on Rectory Lane was unsafe. The resident has also contacted the Ramblers and is organising to show them both sites. It was noted that KPC should not look to disadvantage future generations with the removal of rights of way. It was noted that rights of way may have already been lost on the side of the A339 opposite the Rectory Lane footpath, as this is now part of the golf course. After a short discussion the committee agreed it had no comments on either of the proposals, however it was noted others such as the Ramblers have yet to comment.

03/22.3 – War Memorial:

JS reported that the Kingsclere Royal British Legion is keen to support KPC in its efforts to repair the War Memorial. One of the members of the RBL is a construction engineer and it is his opinion that the damage to the War Memorial is more substantial than thought with the whole structure including foundations possibly requiring repair and rebuilding, and that the cost to repair could be as high as £100,000. It was noted that KPC has not had an engineer look at the War Memorial, only stonemasons. JS suggested that a community working group is formed, to organise fundraising and advocate to get the War Memorial repaired in the community. With the RBL already on board, other organisations to approach were suggested as the Heritage Association, St Mary's Church PCC, and the Women's Institute. It was noted that, as grant funding will need to be sought, it should be checked that KPC can apply for and receive funds, even though it is not a charity.

03/22.4 – Yew Tree in the Churchyard adjacent to Twist:

The Clerk received a phone call from Twist Hairdressers asking if the yew tree in the Churchyard, adjacent to the border with Twist's property, could be reduced in some way. Photos were circulated prior to the meeting and Cllrs agreed the tree looked like it needed tidying up. It was agreed for SA to ask the tree wardens for their opinion on what work should be carried out on the tree and to source quotes for the recommended work to consider at a future meeting.

Action: SA, Clerk.

03/22.5 – Fallen Trees on the Recreation Ground:

During Storm Eunice two trees fell on the Recreation Ground. Photos were circulated prior to the meeting. After a short discussion it was agreed to move both the trees more into the hedge, to decompose into the surrounding area.

Action: NP, RP.

03/22.6 – Holes in the Football Pitch on Recreation Ground:

A resident reported that there were numerous holes on the football pitch on the Recreation Ground. A Cllr investigated and reported that there were rabbit holes which are a trip hazard, and wear and tear holes in the grass front of both goals, obviously just from use of goals. It was suggested to use the soil removed by the lengthsman from the verge at the Holding Field to fill the holes and purchase some grass seed to scatter to establish grass growth in these areas. NP asked permission to drive onto the Rec to move the soil into place, this was approved. It was unanimously agreed to approve a budget £20 for grass seed.

Resolved: £20 budget for grass seed unanimously approved.

Action: NP.

03/22.7 – Grass Damage in St Mary’s Churchyard:

During February, grass damage was caused to St Mary’s Churchyard by the tyres of a delivery vehicle accessing the rear of a property on Swan Street. It was noted that there are vaults under the churchyard which may not withstand the weight of vehicles. After investigation by a Cllr, the responsible party was found and was asked to repair the damage. Since then, repairs have taken place and KPC is content that the matter is resolved satisfactorily. It was agreed to write to the resident responsible to reiterate that this was not an acceptable occurrence and thank them for remedying the situation. It was also agreed to write to properties that border the Churchyard to ensure that they are aware that no access is permitted or available to their properties through the Churchyard.

Action: CM, Clerk.

03/22.8 – Queen’s Jubilee:

JS provided an update from the latest Jubilee Celebrations Planning meeting. If the road closure for the parade is successful, it seems like it will be KPC’s responsibility to run and man it. It is not yet clear if the road closure will be available, as it is on a bus route. It was noted that KPC may need to check its insurance for the parade. SA mentioned that Greener Kingsclere may be asking the village to make village bunting, similar to the poppies that were created for the WW1 anniversary celebrations in 2018. IB noted that it seems like KPC does not qualify to apply for funding from BDBC for Jubilee events, only charities and community organisations. **Note:** at March OM BCllr Rhatigan addressed this and stated that KPC is able to apply for grants from this fund for Jubilee Events (Minutes ref: OM 03/22.11.)

03/22.10 – Health and Safety:

JS noted that he had reported numerous potholes and problems with the road surfaces on Ecchinswell Road and Foxs Lane. He also reported missing speed limit signage on both sides of the road on the Ecchinswell Road entrance to the village, and a faded finger post sign on the Winchester Road and Bear Hill junction.

03/22.11 – Planning Applications:

None.

03/22.12 – Matters for Future Consideration:

None.

03/22.13 – Date of Next Meeting:

Monday 4th April 2022 7:30pm in the Village Club.

Meeting closed 20:47

Signed:.....Chairman

Date:.....

Signed:.....Clerk

Date:.....

Distribution: Cllrs: S Adams; I Bowes; D Conquest; M Farey; S Jones; C Mussett; N Peach; R Peach; and J Sawyer.

Website: www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk.