

Kingston Parish Council
Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at 8.00pm on 13 May 2010

Present:

Simon Draper, Chairman
Tim Fitzjohn
Julie Conder
Katherine Stalham
Fiona Whelan CCC (arrived late)
Tumi Hawkins, SCDC (arrived late)
Peter Stokes, Clerk
Public: Mr and Mrs A Bedford, Mrs B Green, Ms M-L Atiyah

1. Apologies

None

2. Election of Chairman and other officers

Chairman: Simon Draper indicated his willingness to stand, was proposed by Julie Conder, and elected unanimously.

Vice-chairman: Tim Fitzjohn indicated his willingness to stand, was proposed by Simon Draper, and elected unanimously.

Other councillors agreed to take office as follows: Footpaths Officer: Tim Fitzjohn; Finance Officer: Julie Conder; Village Hall Management Committee representative: Katherine Stalham; Playground User Group representative: Julie Conder.

Simon Draper on behalf of the parish council expressed his thanks to Helen Underwood and Mike Warren for their service on the parish council.

In regard to the parish councillor vacancy, it was agreed an item would be placed in the next issue of the parish magazine inviting eligible parishioners to contact the parish council if they were interested. **Action: Clerk.**

3. Minutes of meetings on 11 March 2010

Accepted

4. Minutes of meeting on 15 April 2010

Accepted.

5. Play area

It was decided to bring this item forward as it was the main item of interest to the visitors – this would allow them to leave the meeting if they wished after it had been dealt with.

- 5.1. Simon Draper referred to the email from Mr Bedford (see Appendix A) and asked Mr Bedford to summarise his request.

Mr Bedford explained that his house overlooks the playground. His family's enjoyment of their garden has been considerably reduced by the new play area, and the resulting increased presence of children and their attendant noise. He is concerned that any further development of the play area will exacerbate this situation, and in particular he and his family fear that a zipwire could be installed. He believes that this play item in particular will attract not only more children and noise, but will attract older youths in particular, and encourage misbehaviour at unsocial hours aggravated by alcohol misuse.

He submitted information he has received from a Haslingfield resident, who advises that they live close to a play area which has a zipwire, and have been disturbed on

many occasions by young people, who had been drinking alcohol, using the zipwire and making noise up to 4 a.m. Mr Bedford therefore asks that the parish council give him an assurance that a zipwire will not be considered in any further development of the play area.

Mrs Green expressed views and fears similar to those of the Bedfords.

Katherine Stalham said that she had spoken to a Haslingfield parish councillor who told her that noise is only an occasional problem, not necessarily centred on the zipwire. Ms Atiyah said that Kingston was different to Haslingfield – our play area is more isolated and difficult to monitor.

Julie Conder said that before reaching a decision she would like to discuss the matter with the Playground User Group.

Simon Draper said that the assurance sought by Mr Bedford could not be given at this time, but that a decision would be taken at the next meeting when feedback was available from the User Group. **Action: Julie Conder.**

- 5.2. Katherine Stalham reported that some volunteers have replanted the goal posts. The far goal post is now a few metres from the nearby bench, and the volunteers feared that someone playing football could injure themselves on the concrete structure of the bench. It was suggested that some hedging could be planted behind the bench to protect footballers from injury. No action agreed.
- 5.3. It was agreed that the tree trunk and play logs currently being organised by Katherine Stalham and Peter Stokes could go ahead. The Play Pathfinder funding has awarded a further £530 to cover items such as this, following the unexpected expenditure of a sum of money on reinstatement of the grass surface. **Action: Clerk, KS.**
- 5.4. The Clerk reported that the rails at the top of the slide have been replaced.
- 5.5. The Clerk reported that he is seeking a quotation to replace the surface under the swings with grass protected by 'safergrass'. **Action: Clerk.**
- 5.6. The Clerk reported that Playdale have agreed all outstanding matters and a revised invoice is awaited.
- 5.7. Julie Conder reported that at the User Group's last meeting it was decided that the playground Launch Party would take place on 31 May. (This date has since been changed to 17 or 18 July.)
- 5.8. Mrs Green advised that the drain across the top of Crane's Lane outside the play area is completely blocked with mud. Agreed that a working party would be organised to clear this out, and also even out the rough area close to the gate where the excess subsoil was dispersed. **Action: Clerk.**
- 5.9. The Clerk reported that although some work has been done by a contractor to restore the grass surface, the result is not satisfactory and the Clerk has met with the contractor on site to discuss this. The contractor has agreed to carry out some further work. Payment will be withheld until a satisfactory result is achieved. **Action: Clerk.**
- 5.10. Mr Bedford reminded KPC that he had offered to pay for or contribute towards some tree planting at the recreation ground, and had obtained some professional information on suitable tree types. He said he would be willing to water newly-planted trees at appropriate intervals if required. Katherine Stalham agreed to contact the Play Pathfinder people to find out if the grant funding can be used to pay for tree planting, and to talk to Peter Reynolds about trees for the play area. Clerk to provide a copy of Peter Reynolds' tree report to Katherine Stalham. **Action: KS, Clerk.**

- 5.11. It was pointed out that since the laying of land drains under the football pitch area a number of years ago, the surface has long, slightly sunken furrows, which could be hazardous to players. Clerk to obtain quotation to correct this. **Action: Clerk.**

6. Matters arising from meeting on 11 March 2010

- 6.1. **1.3 Youth bus in Caldecote:** Julie Conder and Katherine Stalham will visit the bus and report back. **Action: JC and KS.**
- 6.2. **4.2 Risk assessments:** Mr Bedford offered the services of his company's Risk Manager, to give advice to the Parish Council on the risks it faces. Agreed to accept this offer. Clerk to forward information to Mr Bedford. **Action: Clerk.**
- 6.3. **4.5 Field Road Green:** Ownership of this green is unclear. The Highways Department claim to own it, but there may be a co-owner. Clerk has found out procedure to follow to apply for designation as Village Green, which might not need the involvement of the owner. Agreed to follow this route. **Action Clerk.**
- 6.4. **4.7 & 8.9 Gate and litter bin at recreation ground:** the gate has been installed and the litter bin reinstated at a cost of £140. The cost of reinstating the litter bin is not worth claiming on our insurance as it is less than our excess.
- 6.5. **4.9 Litterpick:** no report.
- 6.6. **4.11 Trees in orchard growing into power lines:** Clerk has reported this to EDF, the owner of the power lines.
- 6.7. **4.12 Orchard work day:** Clerk reported that much useful work was achieved by the 3 volunteers who turned up.
- 6.8. **5.1 New Standing Orders:** as members had not reviewed the document circulated by the Clerk, it was agreed that the deletions and changes he proposed would be incorporated into the document, which would then be re-formatted, and circulated for review. **Action: Clerk.**
- 6.9. **5.2 Kingston Oil Club:** this has been launched but the number of participants or orders resulting is not known. Agreed that a reminder would be put in the parish magazine in September, and Agricole would be contacted in April 2011 to find out what business if any had resulted. **Action: Clerk.**
- 6.10. **9 Open Day at village orchard:** this has been set for 15 June. Jill Coleman is organising.
- 6.11. **Financial Regulations:** the revision to the Financial Regulations setting mileage rate at 40p/mile was approved.

7. Matters arising from Extraordinary Meeting on 15 April 2010

None

8. Correspondence

- 8.1. **Letter from Andrew Lansley MP re potholes:** see Minute 9.1.
- 8.2. **Protected verges:** Clerk advised that he has contacted the Ecology Officer on CCC who has reinstated uprooted 'Protected Verge' signs on Bourn Road.
- 8.3. **Email from Nancy Davies, Cambridgeshire ACRE re Community Plans (formerly Parish Plans):** after some discussion it was agreed that Kingston should consider compiling a Community Plan. Agreed that Tim Fitzjohn will find out more details and report back. **Action: TF.**
- 8.4. **Email from Chris Tucker, Rights of Way & Access Team:** there is some confusion as to whether or not KPC is a member of the Parish Paths Partnership (P3). Tim Fitzjohn is under the impression that we have joined by virtue of being in contact with the RoW&A Team but the officer responsible for this parish, Andrew

Stimson, says we are not. Tim Fitzjohn advised that a number of useful resources were available, e.g. an expandable map of footpaths in the county, and training courses in various subjects but it is not even clear what P3 is. Fiona Whelan to find out more and advise. **Action: FW.**

- 8.5. **Telephone call from Mrs Reynolds** pointing out that the bus shelter floor is regularly soiled by the droppings of swallows that nest in the roof. She suggested that Maggie Twyman – who already cleans the village hall under a paid arrangement – might agree to clean the bus shelter as an extension to this arrangement. Agreed that she should be approached. **Action: Clerk.**

9. County Councillor's report

See appendix B.

- 9.1. Fiona would like to carry out a survey of remaining potholes and pavement issues in the village. Clerk to help her. Fiona to contact Clerk with dates. **Action: FW.**
- 9.2. CVC will be full by 2013 due to increasing age of children from Cambourne. Children from Gamblingay will also attend CVC due to the ending of a cross-county border arrangement. Additional housing in feeder villages is adding to problem. Possibility of further parking and other developments on land opposite CVC.

10. District Councillor's report

See appendix C.

- 10.1. Tumi Hawkins has been 4 days in her new job as District Councillor. She would like feedback on how we see her role. KPC feels it is important that local councillors keep their eyes and ears open for issues that might be of interest to Kingston, such as a significant proposed development in a neighbouring parish, that do not fall into one of the official channels of communication.
- 10.2. Blue wheelie bins will be distributed in September 2010 and will start to be used on 11 October.

11. Status of land bordering footpath beyond Crane's Lane

The field on the east side of the path belongs to Mrs Heyman.

It is felt that the piles of logs on the west side of the path pose a potential hazard, particularly to children, as they could tumble if played on or disturbed, causing injury. It is not clear who owns this land. Tim Fitzjohn to enquire through the Rights of Way and Access Team.

Action: TF.

12. Clerk's report

- 12.1. Bi-monthly report: see Appendix D

- 12.2. Invoices for payment:

12.2.1. Valerie Seekings	Internal audit fees	£40.00
12.2.2. Cambridgeshire CC	Gate for playground	£141.00
12.2.3. Wicksteed Leisure	Replacement rail for slide	£554.97
12.2.4. Kingston VHMC	Hire fees	£100.00
12.2.5. CPALC	Affiliation fee	£67.37
12.2.6. Suffolk ACRE Services	Insurance*	£657.49
12.2.7. CGM Cambridge	Playground grass reinstatement**	£293.75
12.2.8. Algar Signcraft	Sign for new play area	£143.35
12.2.9. Buchans Landscapes	Grasscutting	£406.83

12.2.10. Saunders Landscapes Planting gate, reinstatement of litter bin
£164.50

* The insurers offered options of a 3-year or 5-year commitment with certain guarantees on premium increases. It was agreed that the 3-year commitment would be chosen.

** The work has not yet been completed satisfactorily. Payment to be withheld until work completed. **Action: Clerk.**

All Approved.

13. Annual Parish Meeting

This will take place on 20 May. The usual invitations have been sent out.

14. Planning

14.1. S/0240/10/F extension to Bridgefield has been approved.

14.2. S/0169/10/F conservatory at Old School house has been approved

14.3. S/1622/09/F and S/1624/09/LB application for change of use at Kingston Pastures Farm: appeals have been made to the Secretary of state following refusal.

15. Accounts and Annual Return

The accounts for 2009/2010 were approved and all members agreed to the questions on Page 3 of the Annual Return.

The revised Assets Register was approved.

16. Items for next meeting

Since Helen Underwood is no longer a Parish Councillor and is likely to leave the area, the position of Webmaster is effectively vacant. Agreed to ask her to come to the next meeting to discuss this matter. Julie Conder said she might be able to take responsibility for the website. **Action: Clerk.**

17. Date of next meeting

8 July 2010

Meeting ended at 10.45 pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Appendix A

Email from Mr Andrew Bedford to KPC Chairman dated 4 May 2010

Dear Simon,

There are a couple of items I would like the parish Council to consider / comment on.

The first involves the planting of trees in the play park. I have taken some advice on the planting of trees and suggest the following would be suitable:

There are 6 trees for consideration.

Carpinus betulus fastigiata - Hornbeam
Prunus avium plena - cherry - double white flowers
Betula pendula - white birch
Pinus nigra austriaca - pine
Photinia x fraseri - red robin shrub
Pinus sylvestris - scots pine

This collection gives a good mix of native trees, both evergreen and deciduous, with particular seasonal foliage and flowering appeal. They are robust and once watered and bedded in should offer a low degree of maintenance.

If I was involved I would propose the specimens would be professionally installed by a respected company, including taking preventative measures to greatly reduce any ground damage, therefore not adding to the existing problems.

The second item is the future of the play park and any further development.

As far as I am aware there are no plans, but I would like your assurance that this is the case as it has been distressing enough for the immediate neighbours. Sitting in our garden is no longer a pleasure and the noise generated can only be appreciated when you live here. My concern is that any further equipment – in particular the Zip wire fills me with dread. This could be put down to another old person wishing to prevent kids enjoying themselves. That is not the point; these pieces of equipment can blight homes that are as close as ours to the play park. I have been doing some research and no doubt you will be aware of there have been considerable problems in Haslingfield. Here is an email from just one of the residents:

From: Paul Bonnington

Subject: Zip Slide concerns - past experiences in Haslingfield

Dear Andrew,

My wife Sarah outlined your concerns regarding the impact if a Zip Slide was erected close to your home in Kingston.

Your concerns regarding increased noise and anti-social behaviour, accentuated around late evening/early morning hours, that the proposed Zip Slide could attract are completely justified.

Sarah and I live approximately 50 metres from the newly erected Zip Slide in the Haslingfield village play area. There were a number of serious and loud disturbances last summer from both teenagers and young adults who had been using the Zip Slide in this area. These incidents occurred frequently (at least once a week) on weekdays and weekends throughout the summer from 11pm through to 4am. It was evident that the individuals and groups involved had been involved in drinking and their boisterous behaviour was only heightened by the use of the Zip Slide - it was the focus of their attention. The actual whirring/jarring of the Zip Slide during use was also disturbing.

I know that our neighbours and other families living close to the Zip Slide in Haslingfield have lodged formal complaints about it's use/associated problems. These complaints have been published in the Haslingfield Parish Council Notes (May-August 2009) although I'm not sure what the Council intends to do about the situation.

I hope this brief summary of our experiences helps. Sarah and I are generally very tolerant people but if we'd anticipated the problems outlined we'd certainly objected very strongly to the erection of the Zip Slide in Haslingfield. If you need any further information do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

Paul
24 Fountain Lane, Haslingfield. CB23 1LT

Simon, I am sure you appreciate the concerns in our household and other local families so I ask for some assurance that there is no additions to the play park planned, or would be sanctioned by the Parish Council. With this assurance we can at least be content it will not get any worse.

Kind regards

Andrew Bedford