

MINUTES OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF KINVER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20TH MARCH 2024 AT 7.00PM AT 95 HIGH STREET, KINVER

Present: Councillors: S Charlesworth-Jones (Chairman), A Calloway (Vice Chairman), D McGirr, J K Hall (Ex-Officio), S Anderson, Mrs C Allen, P Wooddisse K Slade and co-opted members D Tibbetts and Mrs S Harris.

Also present: Clerk Mrs J Cree.

1. To receive and note apologies for absence

Apologies of absence were received from Cllrs K Hosell and Ms E Lord.

2. To record Declarations of interest regarding items on the agenda

None were declared.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 17th January 2024

The minutes of the meetings of the Leisure and Amenities Committee held on the above date, having been circulated previously, were approved and signed as a true record of the proceedings.

4. To receive presentations on branding from Wolverhampton University

The presentations were circulated to members to look at before the meeting.

Cllr D McGirr gave an update on the presentations that took place at Wolverhampton University.

The working party had come forward with 2 options to discuss and agree to put forward to the full Council. The winner will get £200 from the grant from Fibreheroes and testimonials to the other candidates to thank them for their work.

It was agreed to recommend to the Parish Council, that the Hollyhead presentation is the proposed winning brand. On a vote this was agreed.

The Working party will continue to meet to move the website forward.

5. Update on Projects

(a) Visit Kinver

The website has been launched, a lot of businesses have subscribed, and events are being listed by organisations.

(b) CA Newsheet

The Clerk has written to the editor, and offered the Council's support, and have asked her to keep in touch before making any decisions, as we would like to see it return in the form it was i.e. delivered to every household. The Clerk will make contact to get an update.

(c) To look at Jubilee Gardens

Cllr S Anderson reported on Jubilee Gardens - Some thoughts on the current situation.

- The gardens provide a few parking spaces – which are usually full, so appear to be useful.
- The war memorial and flagpole are prominent features but do make it somewhat sombre.
- The area is heavily shaded by tall trees.
- Although adjacent to the river, the water is barely visible from most of the gardens.
- The fencing between the gardens and river has a mixture of stiles.
- Although there are several benches few people sit on them – some are heavily soiled with sap, one is only a few inches from the ground, and none have anything to look at of note.
- The slabs are in poor condition.
- The signage in and around the gardens is cluttered and tatty.
- There is a noticeable 'desire line' where pedestrians are cutting across the gardens to shorten the distance to Legion Drive/Sterrymere Gardens from the High Street and vice versa. In short – it looks a bit like a graveyard

Potential Options

1. Established a surfaced path through the gardens – although the desire line is straight, a slightly more meandering path would be aesthetically more attractive. Surfacing a path to a standard that is DDA compliant will not be cheap but there may be some grant funding available.
2. Some of the benches could be relocated either side of the surfaced path.
3. Some benches may be end of life and best dispensed with.
4. Reduction of the tree canopy would help. As this is part of the conservation area any tree works will require permission. While crown reduction would help, this will require frequent repeat management. Ideally there would be fewer trees in the gardens altogether.
5. Identify areas for supplementary planting. There are large areas of grass that lend themselves to one or more of the following:
 - (a) spring bulb planting – daffodils, crocus, bluebells, etc
 - (b) summer pollinator plants/wild flowers,
 - (c) formal flower beds (especially closer to the war memorial),
 - (d) a sensory garden, or ornamental shrubs. Any supplementary planting will require ongoing management.

Other Considerations

Fence needs tidying up.

The area between Riverside Court and Jubilee Gardens is 'unadopted'. It may be worth trying to establish ownership, if only to provide a more attractive selection of plants/shrubs. The area round the bus stop is unsightly. Whatever is going to be done, it will cost money, and will need to be budgeted for.

It was agreed to recommend to the Parish Council to get costs for a DDA path, to look at costs for new benches and to discuss tree works with Gavin Pearce. On a vote this was agreed.

(d) CUA

Mrs S Harris has been to the school for an induction, and KFC are happy to book 4 sessions so that 10 people can use the gym for free, the bookings officer will be available before the sessions to do the inductions.

She will circulate a public post with the details over the next 4 weeks on a Thursday from 6 – 9pm. Cllrs Mrs C Allen and Ms E Lord attended the Support Staffordshire event, and funding was discussed with regard to the facility and they were asking if funds could be applied for to reduce the entrance fee, to get people to use the facilities.

Cllr S Charlesworth-Jones met with the school to discuss the school pitches with Kinver Colts, and he has written to Laura and set up a meeting with the interested parties and discuss the long-term hire of the pitches. He also mentioned opening up membership to parents first, using the existing parent pay system. 13 users so far have used the gym and one regular user.

(e) Childrens play area quotes and discuss the gym equipment

The 3 quotes were presented to the committee.

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs C Allen and seconded by Cllr S Anderson to recommend that when the funds are received we would support the proposed site of Produlic at a cost of £19,000 for phase 1 and £29,350 for phase 2. On a vote this was carried.

We have a budget from S106 of £30,000 White Hill funds, and £13882.28 from Hyde Lane and £5000 from reserves.

It was noted that lighting is required on the site to prevent vandalism on the site. It was agreed that the Clerk will ask for a cost to improve the lighting near the park, due to increased vandalism.

It was agreed that Cllr S Anderson who will look at putting in a bid with SSDC for funding a project for local groups and for gym equipment. There is a grant master class being run at SSDC and Cllr S Anderson will attend. Also, the Clerk will get a cost from a contractor to paint the equipment.

(f) Blue Plaques, the first 8 should be up shortly, they are being erected by Roger Howe when they are ready.

(g) BKV – the Chairman met with the organisers and has a list of jobs that need to be attended to. The benches need to be cleaned and the flag poles and signs also need to be cleaned. The noticeboards need to a bit of TLC.

A working party of Cllrs will look at getting together and undertake this work in their own time.

6. Members reports on PROW Matters

FP23 works to repair the steps and stile has been completed.

FP22b has been reported for stile and steps again (reported in July when installed and also the path leading to the area, stile changed by land owner from a kissing gate.

FP5a – reported again as its flooded, and copied to Enville Estates by the County Council.

FoKos have developed a permissive footpath and canals and Rivers Trust will do some path work, and the contractor will put in ramps from the bridge and SSDC are going to connect the path.

7. To receive an update from the organisers of the works to the Cliff by the Church

It was noted that further works have taken place, and 7 volunteers helped to clear the view. They will look at doing further works in September and have created a wild hedge to line the public right of way. This to be on the agenda for July.

8. To discuss the possibility of printing new Kinver Maps

The Clerk circulated costs from 2021 for preparing a pdf map and the printing costs onto a map board. This was deferred to the Visit Kinver Group.

The walk maps prepared by J Glover for the Parish Council, the Clerk to send copies to Mrs S Harris will run them and record the details.

9. To discuss forming a working party to prepare an events policy

It was agreed to have a meeting in the Parish Office with Cllrs A Calloway, S Charlesworth-Jones, Ms N Owen and S Anderson and Mrs S Harris.

10. To discuss 80th D Day anniversary in June

It was agreed to purchase a flag at Council,. Mrs L Hingley is organising an afternoon tea at the Senior Citizens Club.

We have had permission from the Ranger to light a beacon which has been purchased the Clerk to register the beacon and sort out the timings and report back.

11. Items for the next agenda -

Clearing the view to the Church – September. Visit Kinver website, CA Newsheet, Jubilee Gardens project, CUA, Gym Equipment and refurb (Health and Well Being), events policy working party, 80th D Day anniversary 6th June.

12. Recommendations to the Parish Council

It was agreed to recommend to the Parish Council

- the Hollyhead presentation is the proposed winning brand.
- to get costs for a DDA path, to look at costs for new benches and to discuss tree works with Gavin Pearce.
- when the funds are received we would support the proposed site of Produlic at a cost of £19,000 for phase 1 and £29,350 for phase 2

12. Date of Next Meeting – 17th April 2024