

MINUTES OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF KINVER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19th APRIL 2023 AT 7.00 PM AT 95 HIGH STREET, KINVER

Present: Councillors: S Charlesworth-Jones (Chairman), Ms E Lord (Vice Chairman), J K Hall (Ex-Officio), D McGirr, S Anderson, Mrs C Allen and Mrs S Harris.

Also present: Clerk Mrs J Cree.

1. To receive and note apologies for absence

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr K Hosell, P Wooddisse and co-opted member D Tibbetts.

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

None were declared.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 15th March 2023

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. Update on Projects

(a) Information / noticeboards update re costs for artwork

The Clerk has spoken to Nicola the local designer and she has quoted £30 per hour to re do the artwork for the information boards. The Committee set an upper limit of £250 for the basic artwork. She is free to shorten as required the words within reason.

(b) Best Kept Village Competition Update

The application form and map have been submitted, judging starts the 1st May. Cllr D McGirr reported that he had informed members of the public of the competition and the great litter pick is on the 8th May 2023. The litter-pick is being publicised on the Facebook pages. The Council have provided black bags and some litter pickers. Rev Rich is doing announcements for the Coronation and he could report this also.

The Best Kept Frontages Competition will be advertised asap, with a cash prize for each category and judging will take place in July / August. It was agreed to Recommend to the Parish Council to increase the amount by an agreed sum by the Finance Committee.

(c) Community Use Agreement

No response to date on the Management Committee inaugural meeting has been received from the School. This is part of the formal legal agreement and should be formed within 3 months of signature. The agreement was signed on the 8th March by the Parish Council. A reminder needs to be sent to the school as we must receive confirmation of the first meeting by the 8th June 2023, as they will be in breach of the terms of their planning consent.

It was agreed that the Clerk write a further letter to the school to get a meeting to confirm the first Management meeting during week commencing the 9th May 2023 and copy in the relevant outside bodies, SSDC, Sport England, Staffordshire Active, Lisa Barratt, Head Techer and Laura (School), SSDC Cllr G Sisley.

The job vacancies need to be opened to perhaps a younger audience, as they are more likely to take the part time job with anti-social hours. The booking of the facilities is very difficult without permanent staff, if there are issues by users these should be reported to show there is an issue.

(d) Visit Kinver Website

The website has been published and information is coming in from businesses to be posted on the site and very nice, useful, constructive comments to improve the site.

5. Members reports on PROW Matters inc Grant application for 2023/24

The Community Paths Grant has been submitted for FP5a to help alleviate the flooding. However upon receipt, Paul Rochfort has sent the following email:-

“Hope you are well. It may be worth someone looking at this before we accept the form. The reason being that we have been working with Enville Estate to resolve this issue and their tenant has just undertaken additional ditching work. I went to have a look (in pouring rain) a couple of weeks ago and the path was much drier. I have asked Nina if the tenant would agree to replacing the stile with a gate and am awaiting the response.”

If this work is to be undertaken by discussions with the farmer, then an application to be put forward for Vermin Valley for 2 kissing gates and possible works to the bridge.

It was agreed to raise with Enville Estates if they could install paddle gates at stiles for dogs to get through their stiles, as it is difficult to get dogs over them.

FP23 has been assessed by the County Council, and works are being scheduled to make good the missing steps and hand rail. The stile at the top is proposed to be removed as it is no longer required.

The Coffin trail footpath has been reported to the County as the steps need to be reinstated and also the hand rail.

Footpath at Dunsley, stile needs replacing (it has several make shift steps as there is a drop coming down from the stile towards Dunsley Drive, with a proper structure and again reported to SCC.

6. Discussion in relation to canals and Rivers Trust sewage dump issues.

Cllr Mrs C Allen requested this agenda item to ask if we can have join discussions with Stourbridge/ Wollaston PC's or Dudley council as they dump into the river Stour, she also circulated photographs to all members of this issue. She would like to talk to other interested parties for dumping into the River Stour, perhaps with a discussion with Severn Trent.

The river Stour should be an asset to the village, and it was agreed to invite a professional such as the Environment Agency to speak to us on the current state of the River Stour, so we can make an informed decision on what to do next. The Clerk will prepare a letter and send it to relevant authorities and have this has an agenda item for the next meeting. The Clerk to contact other local Councils that have the river running through their Parish to ask what their experiences are.

7. Items for the next agenda

Environment Agency to speak to us river the Stour, updates on projects, CUA.

8. Recommendations to the Parish Council

It was agreed to Recommend to the Parish Council / Finance Committee to increase the amount of the prizes by an agreed sum by Finance.

9. Date of Next Meeting –

The next scheduled meeting is the 21st June 2023, however, if there are matters of importance that need to be discussed a meeting could be held on the 24th May after the Planning meeting.

The Chairman thanked members for their support over the past year whilst he has been Chairman.