

MINUTES OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF KINVER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17TH APRIL 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 and co-opted member 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, K Slade, Ms E Lord 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 20th March 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. Update on Projects

(a) Visit Kinver

Cllr D McGirr reported that there is a working party meeting coming up to promote the new website. The new website has been uploaded with 30+ businesses. Cllr A Calloway has created a how to get here page to find Kinver with car parks and other useful facilities on the map. He will also merge the 2 websites so all the organisations from the other Kinver website are on the new Visit Kinver.

The traders meeting has sent back positive feedback on the site and they would like to see the Visit Kinver Branding when its available.

Cllr D McGirr has also contacted Staffordshire County Council re the license for the Staffordshire knot.

(b) CA Newsheet

The costings on the production of the newsheet were passed forward from the previous editor. They are not continuing to produce the CA Newsheet.

Grant funding could be sourced for preparing a newsheet and it would need a small group to run a newsheet. A working party needs to be set up if this is progressed.

It was agreed to recommend to the Council to post on social media / traders / noticeboards to see if there is interest in the community to help look at running a future newsheet and perhaps set up a working party to discuss ideas if there is an appetite for it.

If there appears to be a want for the newsheet then it was agreed to contact former advertisers and also groups to see if they would like to write a piece for the newsheet in the future.

Cllr D McGirr and Cllr A Calloway agreed to sit on any future working party.

(c) To look at Jubilee Gardens

Previous minute - 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.

The Clerk is awaiting costs for the path and will chase Gavin Pearce the Arboricultural Officer for advice.

(d) CUA

Cllr A Calloway is still waiting for a meeting with the school re the booking system.

The meeting with Kinver Colts has taken place as they do currently hire a pitch at KH, but in a limited capacity, due the continued bookings by teams outside of the Parish, but have been told they can book more when they become available. The Chairman has contacted Mark Moore to express his concerns with the situation to see if he can help in any way.

Mrs S Harris is running 4 free sessions from KFC, they have done 2 weeks and the usage has increased each week. There have been 10 inductions and 15 enquires so far, there were 8 in the gym last week which worked well and was positive. This Thursdays 5 new inductions are taking place and they have 2 hours booked this week. There are potentially 8 people looking for induction next week. Most people attending are wanting monthly membership, this has been passed to the school. It is also difficult for people to book a weekly regular slot due to the lettings officers work times and hours. There is also an issue on the training side and preparing exercise programs for users.

If slots are prebooked and then cancelled with less than a weeks notice, then the user will still be charged. This is also off putting to users.

It was agreed that the Clerk summarises these points (and from previous meetings) for the next review meeting with the school.

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

The order has been placed for the new equipment (Phase 1) delivery date has not been confirmed.

It was agreed to recommend to the Parish Council that the Clerk will get a cost from a contractor to paint the equipment, it is powder coated so it can't be painted. Therefore the Clerk will get quotes for replacement equipment and Cllr S Anderson will look at funding. It was suggested to look at other locations in the Parish also for the equipment.

The Clerk will seek crime prevention advice on the area, and report back.

(f) BKV

The Chairman reported that the children's posters are completed. There will be a mini litter pick , cleaning etc around the Parish on the 9th June. Street Scene are able to help with some works, and to let Cllr Mrs S Dufty know of any areas requiring attention.

(g) Kinver Market

The Chairman reported that each month there is a profit of just under £200. There is a balance from last year of £1656.77 and so far income for April is £320.

If any future gazebos are purchased new then sizes should be looked at to get smaller ones for the High Street.

Cllr S Anderson and Co-opted member Mrs S Harris left at this point at 8.10pm.

It was agreed to recommend to the Parish Council to purchase a second hand gazebo (of the same type as the existing ones) for the cost of £200, and on a vote this was agreed.

A regular member of the market has a tens licence, and only 1 is required per market, and this could possibly be shared with the other alcohol vendors. This cost could be split across the 3 stall holders. This will be looked into by Cllr A Calloway.

5. Members reports on PROW Matters

None were reported.

6. To discuss an update on an events policy

Cllr S Charlesworth-Jones has prepared an events policy which is being worked on.

7. To discuss the 80th D-Day anniversary

The beacon is set up ready to use, it requires a gas bottle propane, the Clerk can get one of these for £70 for a 47.5kg bottle.

The flag has arrived ready.

8. Items for the next agenda

Visit Kinver, CA Newssheet, Kinver Market, Christmas.

9. Recommendations to the Parish Council

It was agreed to recommend to the Council:-

- to post on social media / traders / noticeboards to see if there is interest in the community to help look at running a future newssheet and perhaps set up a working party to discuss ideas if there is an appetite for it.
- the Clerk will get quotes for replacement equipment and Cllr S Anderson will look at funding. It was suggested to look at other locations in the Parish to locate these pieces.
- to purchase a second hand gazebo for the cost of £200.

10. Date of Next Meeting – 15th May 2024 – Cllr P Wooddisse gave his apologies.

The Chairman reported he is putting himself forward for Chairman again, but if he is not successful he thanked everyone for their work and support and he also thanked the Parish Clerks for their help also.