

MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of Kingsmead Parish Council Parks and Environment Committee held on Monday 8th July

Present: Cllr Hoey, Cllr Jewitt, Cllr Logan, Cllr Swift (Chair), Cllr Weltman
Also present: Mrs W Maddock (Clerk & RFO) and 7 members of public

The meeting started at 6.32pm.

068	<p>Apologies Cllr Reed (family), Cllr Van Gordon (work)</p>
069	<p>Declarations of Interest No declarations of interest were made.</p>
070	<p>Public Forum <u>Kensington Way Park – Consultation</u> Members of the public are invited to speak about the project under consideration to install a multi-sports play surface (grass carpet) at Kensington Way Park.</p> <p>Several members of the public spoke about their concerns that installing the play surface could lead to more people congregating on the field, increased problems with litter and possible anti-social behaviour. One member of public asked for more details about the actual installation and suggested it might be better to install it on St George's field. A discussion was held about the cost of the installation and how this was being budgeted for. It was also suggested that making it more low-key (e.g. not marking it up or adding a set of goals) would reduce the possibility of it becoming an attraction for larger groups. Many of the public attending did support the proposal in principle, recognising that good facilities for children/teens to use is important, but did want to ensure there would be no negative impact. The committee members agreed to take all comments into account in their consideration of the project at agenda item 070.1.</p> <p><u>General Forum</u> Members of the public are invited to speak on other issues not related to the above consultation.</p> <p>Several of the public raised concerns about the grass verge and trees directly in front of 21-25 Simmonds Close, which require maintenance. It was discussed that this is not parish council land and the committee agreed to provide evidence for the residents to raise the issue with the housing group.</p> <p>The committee thanked all members of the public for attending the meeting and for their contribution to the discussions.</p>
071 071.1.	<p>Play Areas To consider next steps for Kensington Way park:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To receive any feedback from the consultation with neighbours. To consider responses to the RFQ. To approve a recommendation to Full Council regarding the proposed project <p>The committee discussed the comments received from members of the public and agreed that some compromises should be made on the proposed project to help minimise any negative impact on the park's neighbours. The committee then reviewed the three quotes received from five suppliers who were asked to quote against a standard RFQ.</p> <p><u>Resolved:</u> to recommend to Full Council that the project is approved, using Groundwork & Leisure Services to carry out the work, with the following amendments being included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The play surface is not marked up with white lines No goal posts are installed The PCSO is engaged to patrol the area to help reduce ASB No publicity is undertaken following the installation <p>It was agreed that a revised quote should be obtained from Groundwork & Leisure Services to amend the installation work as noted above.</p>

071.2.	<p>To receive recent play inspection reports and to approve next actions. Noted – the latest play inspection reports received (March-2024) and recent update provided by email from the play inspector (28.06.24). It was confirmed that several of the actions noted had already been carried out and that an instruction has been given for remedial works at Campbell Close. The reports to be annotated appropriately.</p>
071.3.	<p>To consider any other updates and to approve actions as appropriate. There were no other updates to receive.</p>
072	<p>Maintenance & Landscaping</p>
072.1	<p>To receive an update from Countrywide Grounds Maintenance and to approve any actions as appropriate. Noted – the summary monthly report received from Countrywide, which was discussed. It was noted however, that no schedule of works has been provided for July and last month’s play inspection reports have not been received. Resolved – to write to Countrywide expressing ongoing concern about works and also reports not being completed in a timely manner.</p>
072.2.	<p>To consider and approve quotes or advice from Caddis for the following works:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) 11 Dobell’s Road – cutting back overhanging trees adjacent to telephone wire (at a cost of £580 plus VAT). b) Capesthorne Close – woodland strip at end of close. c) Stretton Walk – woodland strip at the top of the road. d) 8 Prestbury Close – ash trees and hedgerow. <p>Resolved – to approve the works at 11 Dobell’s Road at a cost of £580 plus VAT. A decision about the other tree works was deferred pending information being provided by Caddis.</p>
072.3.	<p>To approve retrospectively the decision taken by the Clerk and Chair to authorise Caddis to carry out work to trees causing an obstruction over cycle paths (at a day rate of £680 plus VAT – work to take 1 to 2-days). Please note the PC has a responsibility to maintain trees at a minimum height of 3m above a cycle path. Resolved – to approve the works carried out, recognising that the Clerk and Chair acted promptly to deal with a health and safety issue. The work was completed in a single day at a cost of £680 (plus VAT).</p>
072.4.	<p>To consider and approve quotes for painting the lych gate at Kensington Way park. Resolved – to approve a quote from Paul Oakes for the lych gate painting at a cost of £790.</p>
072.5.	<p>To consider and approve a quote for installing a planter on spine road opposite SJD. Resolved – to approve a quote provided by Northwich Town Council to install a 1m square planter (with water and compost included) under the Kingsmead sign opposite SJD at a cost of £780 (plus VAT). Countrywide has agreed to provide suitable plants and maintain the planter in future.</p>
072.6.	<p>To consider and approve next actions for Coronet pond. Resolved – to approve a suggestion made by Cllr Boylan to use a square hopper to lift the height of the overflow at Coronet pond.</p>
072.7.	<p>To note a request for action to be taken to cut back trees adjacent to 29 Sandbach Drive and the response given by the Clerk/Cllr Reed. Noted – that the owner of the house has been advised that he can cut the trees up to his boundary but the height of the trees should not be affected. Countrywide has been asked to cut back the overhanging trees in the passageway adjacent to the house.</p>
072.8.	<p>To receive an update regarding maintenance of the orchard in St George’s field:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Feedback following a meeting with Heathfield Orchards and follow up advice provided. b) Proposal for a 3-year maintenance plan. c) Advice and guidance from The Orchard Project. <p>Cllr Hoey summarised a meeting held with Heathfield Orchards, where general maintenance was discussed along with pruning works to be carried out over the winter months. A 3-year maintenance plan has been proposed, with some initial works starting on 1st August (community orchard volunteer day) and perhaps the setting up of a “Friends of Kingsmead Orchard” group.</p>
072.9.	<p>To note an update from The Tree Council regarding applications for its “Branching Out” fund. Noted – that The Tree Council’s “Branching Out” fund is opening up again for applications from 1st August. The committee agreed not to make another application for trees at this time.</p>

072. 10	To consider any other updates and to approve actions as appropriate. Cllr Hoey asked that Countrywide trim back the brambles on top path. A discussion was also held about the state of weeds around Kingsmead and it was confirmed that this will be an agenda item at the next Full Council meeting.		
073 073.1	Strategy and Planning To confirm a walk round of Kingsmead to note current assets and their condition. Resolved – to set a date in mid-September for the walk round and inspection.		
073.2	To agree next actions for planning the council's future strategy for parks and environment. Resolved – that the strategy working group (Cllrs Van Gordon, Reed and Swift) will continue its work after the latest walk round.		
074	AOB Items to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. There were no items requested for the next meeting.		
075	Next Meetings	Full Council Meeting	Monday 15 th July at 7.30pm in Kingsmead School
		Finance Committee	TBC in September
		Parks and Environment Committee	TBC in September

The meeting closed at 8.54pm