

## MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of Kingsmead Parish Council Parks and Environment Committee  
held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October

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

The meeting started at 7.31pm.

124	<p><b>Apologies</b> None – all committee members were present.</p>
125	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b> No declarations of interest were made.</p>
126	<p><b>Public Forum</b> A member of the public attended to complain about the hedge cutting carried out on school path on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October and the impact it had on his house. It was requested that in future the hedge is cut only by hand, i.e. not using a flail, and also that it is reduced in height along this particular boundary. The committee agreed to discuss the issue during the meeting. A second member of the public attended to comment about several aspects of grounds maintenance; the lack of tree management on Tatton Close, the way the wildflowers have been allowed to grow in an unsightly way on the A533 and now need re-seeding and properly maintaining, the lack of edging work carried out along paths and roadways and the obstruction caused by over hanging trees at the corner of Registry Close. It was discussed that some of these issues are already under consideration and that work to the trees at Registry Close is being actioned by the residents who they belong to.</p>
127	<p><b>Minutes</b> <b>To approve and sign the minutes of a meeting of the P&amp;E Committee held on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September.</b> <b>Resolved</b> - to approve the minutes of a meeting on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, which were then signed by the Chair.</p>
128	<p><b>Budget Review</b> <b>To review the YTD expenditure on Parks and Environment and to consider a budget request for the 2025-2026 financial year.</b> <b>Noted</b> – that overall expenditure is on target at this point of the year, although tree works is ahead of budget as additional work has been needed. The committee acknowledged that the trees on the estate are all now mature and work will increasingly be needed to correctly manage them, which will need to be reflected in future budgets. <b>Resolved</b> – that the next committee meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> November will be used to only consider the P&amp;E budget for 2025-26 by reviewing all expenditure on a line-by-line basis, and a budget request will be finalised by December. It was noted that a tree survey should be considered in 2025.</p>
129 129.1	<p><b>Maintenance &amp; Landscaping</b> <b>To receive the latest reports and updates from Countrywide Grounds Maintenance and to approve any actions as appropriate.</b> <b>Noted</b> – the updates received regarding routine works completed in September and the ongoing plan for hedge cutting in October. It was commented that the hedge cutting has generally been very good this year, but it was further acknowledged that there had been issues for the resident at the end of school path. This will be managed better in future years to minimise any impact. The committee did not agree that the hedge should be lowered in height in this one area.</p>
129.2	<p><b>To consider and approve quotes for the following works:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Tree works adjacent to 6 Lavister Close <b>Resolved</b> – to accept a quote from Caddis for this work (removing limbs of an oak, removing a maple and a willow) at a cost of £780 plus VAT.</li> <li>b) Felling of a tree adjacent to 36 Shavington Way <b>Resolved</b> – to accept a quote from Caddis for this work (removing a beech tree) at a cost of £280 plus VAT.</li> </ul>

	<p>c) Tree works at Saughall Close <b>Resolved</b> – to accept a quote from NorthHort for this work (pruning back overhanging trees) at a cost of £700 plus VAT.</p> <p>d) Management of trees adjacent to 17 Calveley Close <b>Resolved</b> – to accept a quote from Caddis for this work (removal of a large silver birch) at a cost of £980 plus VAT.</p> <p>e) Maintenance of the woodland strip at Coronet Avenue. <b>Resolved</b> – that this work be carried out by Countrywide as part of the hedge cutting schedule.</p> <p>f) Tree works in the play areas <b>Resolved</b> – to accept a quote from Caddis for tree work (dead wooding of an oak, removing the lower limbs of the oak to clear the lamppost and removal of a cherry) at Duke’s Way 1 at a cost of £780 plus VAT. <b>Resolved</b> – to obtain alternative quotes for the outstanding tree works at Duke’s Way 2, Campbell Close, Burwardsley Way, Kensington Way and Kingslawn Close play areas. The Clerk to review all quotes from the three companies quoting (Caddis, NorthHort and Cheshire Tree Care &amp; Garden Services) and to place instructions based on the cheapest quote received.</p> <p>g) Removal of ivy from trees at Tatton Close <b>Resolved</b> - to accept a quote from Cheshire Tree Care &amp; Garden Services to cut the ivy at the base of each tree and allow it to die off, along with other tree works on Tatton Close at a cost of £1060.</p>							
129.3	<p><b>To receive an update about the review of the grounds maintenance contract.</b> <b>Resolved</b> – that a meeting be held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November to review the work to date on the contract.</p>							
129.4	<p><b>To receive updates about the management of the wildflower strip and orchard area of St George’s field. To approve any actions as appropriate.</b> <b>Noted</b> – that the wildflower strip has been prepared ready for sowing, which will be done by Cllrs Hoey and Reed, after which Caddis will roll the ground. The bark will be laid in the orchard by councillors to create a path. A quote was requested for pruning in the orchard.</p>							
129.5	<p><b>To consider a request for an additional dog-bin at Pulford Close</b> <b>Resolved</b> – that an additional dog bin is not required at Pulford Close. Any issues with dog fouling should be reported to the police via 101 or to the PCSO.</p>							
129.6	<p><b>To consider any other updates and to approve actions as appropriate.</b> There were no further updates to note.</p>							
130	<p><b>Strategy and Planning</b> <b>To agree next actions for planning the council’s future strategy for the management of the parks, environment and structures.</b> <b>Resolved</b> – that Cllr Swift will take responsibility for progressing the strategy planning for the council.</p>							
131	<p><b>Policy Review</b> <b>To review and update as appropriate the council’s “Tree Policy”</b> <b>Resolved</b> – that the Tree Policy does not need amending and should be approved in its current form.</p>							
132	<p><b>AOB</b> Items to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quotes to be obtained for pruning of the fruit trees.</li> </ul>							
133	<table border="1"> <tr> <td rowspan="3"><b>Next Meetings</b></td> <td>Full Council Meeting</td> <td>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October at 7.30pm in Kingsmead School</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parks and Environment Committee</td> <td>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in Kingsmead School (TBC)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parks and Environment Committee</td> <td>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in Kingsmead School</td> </tr> </table>	<b>Next Meetings</b>	Full Council Meeting	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October at 7.30pm in Kingsmead School	Parks and Environment Committee	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in Kingsmead School (TBC)	Parks and Environment Committee	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in Kingsmead School
<b>Next Meetings</b>	Full Council Meeting		Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October at 7.30pm in Kingsmead School					
	Parks and Environment Committee		Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in Kingsmead School (TBC)					
	Parks and Environment Committee	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm in Kingsmead School						

The meeting closed at 9.12pm.