

MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of Kingsmead Parish Council Parks and Environment Committee held on Monday 9th June

Present: Cllrs Herring, Hoey, Jewitt, Logan, Reed, Swift (Chair) and Cllr Weltman (joined the meeting at 7.31pm).
Also present: Mrs W Maddock (Clerk and RFO) and 2x members of public (KPC's Play Inspector and a representative of a play company).

The meeting started at 7.03pm.

021	<p>Chair 2025-26 To appoint the Chair of the Parks & Environment Committee for the forthcoming Civic year. Resolved – that Cllr Swift be appointed as the Chair of the P&E Committee for 2025-2026.</p>
022	<p>Apologies None - all councillors were present at the meeting.</p>
023	<p>Declarations of Interest No declarations of interest were made.</p>
024	<p>Public Forum The Play Equipment Inspector and representative of the play company were invited to the meeting to discuss options for different safety surfaces within KPC's play parks. It was first noted that the age of the play areas means that several (mainly those with timber play equipment) are coming to the end of their natural life; however, it was also noted that the parks are well maintained and provide good facilities within the constraints of the council's budget. It was discussed that the four alternatives to using wood chip are wet pour, bonded mulch, shock pads and grass mats. Each option has its own pros and cons, and cost implications, which would need careful consideration. A cost-effective option to addressing the problem of replacing play equipment and play area surfacing would be to use a design facility for future projects, which should be considered by the council.</p>
025	<p>Play Areas</p> <p>025.1 To approve actions to be taken regarding the refurbishment of the play surface at Campbell Close play area. Resolved – to request a cost indication for the replacement of wood chip surfacing at four play areas – Burwardsley Way, Campbell Close, Duke's Way 1 and Monarch Drive.</p> <p>025.2 To consider any actions needed for other play areas. Resolved – to obtain quotes to carry out remedial works as per the latest inspection reports.</p>
026	<p>Maintenance & Landscaping</p> <p>026.1 To receive last month's reports and updates from Countrywide Grounds Maintenance and to approve any actions as appropriate. Noted – that the reports have been delayed and will be made available at the next Full Council meeting.</p> <p>026.2 To receive an update following a review of all short-cuts and encroachments in Kingsmead. Noted – that quotes are still being collated for carrying out remedial works to re-instate the short-cuts and as such, issuing letters to residents has been put on hold. Cllr Hoey commented that talking to a resident had received a positive response to closing their short-cut and suggested this type of informal approach might be best. It was agreed to proceed with putting up "no access" signs.</p> <p>026.3 To receive an update about actions being taken to remove/repair a path at Claremont Close. Resolved – to defer any decision about the path pending receipt of more responses to the letter delivered to relevant residents; the deadline for responses is 27th June.</p> <p>026.4 To receive updates about the following works and to approve quotes as appropriate: a) Kingsmead tree survey Resolved – to defer a decision until further information is obtained from one of the suppliers.</p>

	<p>b) Cheshire railings at Moor Park Way Resolved – to approve a quote from Suddenstrike Ltd to straighten, repair and replace sections of fencing at Moor Park Way at a cost of £1257 (plus VAT).</p> <p>c) Cutting back trees in the SGF orchard Resolved – to defer a decision pending an inspection of the area by Caddis Ltd.</p> <p>d) Removing fly-tipped waste from SGF Noted – that a quote is still to be received from Countrywide.</p> <p>e) Cutting back trees on Sandringham Drive Resolved – to approve a quote from Cheshire Tree & Garden Care to cut back 3x trees and crown raise a cherry on Sandringham Close, at a cost of £700.</p> <p>f) Treating the box hedge on crown roundabout Resolved – to approve a quote from Northwich Town Council to treat the box hedging on the crown roundabout at a cost of £177 (plus VAT).</p>							
026.5	<p>To receive an update about installing solar powered lights on the Kingsmead wall. Noted – that a quote has been received from Kingsmead Electrical which is more than the council's threshold that requires a minimum of 3x quotes for consideration. Additional quotes will have to be obtained before a decision can be made.</p>							
026.6	<p>To consider if action is to be taken regarding overgrown shrubbery on Bridgemere Way. Resolved – to write to the resident requesting that the shrubbery is properly maintained.</p>							
026.7	<p>To consider any other updates and to approve actions as appropriate. There were no further updates to note.</p>							
027	<p>Strategy and Planning</p> <p>To consider next actions for progressing the council's strategy plan for the parks and environment. Resolved – that the work previously completed by Cllr Van Gordon should be circulated to all committee members for review. It was then to be considered whether a future strategy would be best split into specific sections covering play areas, woodland areas and trees, ponds and structures.</p>							
028	<p>AOB</p> <p>Items to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update on the ground's maintenance contract. • Timelines for tendering the GM and Ponds contract 							
029	Next Meetings	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Kingsmead Parish Council</td> <td>Monday 16th June at 7.30pm in Kingsmead School</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Finance Committee</td> <td>Monday 7th July at 7.30pm in Kingsmead School</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Parks & Environment Committee</td> <td>Monday 14th July at 7.30pm in Kingsmead School (TBC)</td> </tr> </table>	Kingsmead Parish Council	Monday 16th June at 7.30pm in Kingsmead School	Finance Committee	Monday 7 th July at 7.30pm in Kingsmead School	Parks & Environment Committee	Monday 14 th July at 7.30pm in Kingsmead School (TBC)
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