

## MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of Kingsmead Parish Council Parks and Environment  
Committee held on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February

Present: Cllr Herring, Cllr Logan, Cllr Reed, Cllr Swift (Chair)

Also present: Mrs W Maddock (Clerk and RFO) and four members of public

The meeting started at 7.30pm.

241	<p><b>Apologies</b> Cllr Weltman (family)</p>
242	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b> No declarations of interest were made.</p>
243	<p><b>Public Forum</b> Four members of the public attended the meeting to express their concern about the siting of one of the short-cut notices on top path. The residents felt they had not been adequately consulted about the plan, did not feel that the council had followed up on an earlier decision to treat each short-cut case individually and that the sign compromises their security. They did not agree that the short-cut could impact on local wildlife in a negative way or that it could affect other resident's privacy and asserted that it had been used since the houses were built. Cllr Swift outlined the process that has been undertaken by the council before taking any action and affirmed that action was taken because the council has a long-term responsibility for the preservation of the area. The members of public then asked how they could help with agreeing a compromise that was acceptable to everyone. The public forum was closed at 8pm and Cllr Swift thanked the members of public for attending the meeting to explain their concerns. The members of public then left the meeting.</p>
244	<p><b>Maintenance &amp; Landscaping</b></p> <p>244.1 Short-cuts and encroachments  a) <b>To receive</b> any feedback following the installation of signs by NTC along top-path.  b) <b>To consider</b> any additional actions to be taken regarding short-cuts.  <b>Resolved</b> – following a thorough discussion of the concerns raised in the public forum, it was resolved that any decision about the sign should be taken to Full Council for further discussion. The Chair asked for it to be added as an agenda item at the next meeting on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February.</p> <p>244.2 To approve a specification and contract for the maintenance of the ponds and drainage ditch.  <b>Resolved</b> – to recommend to Full Council that the revised contract be adopted, and that, given the specialist nature of the work, it be tendered by invitation only.</p> <p>244.3 To receive reports from Countrywide and to approve any actions as appropriate.  <b>Noted</b> – that the routine monthly works had been completed without issue, that the bark surfacing in the play areas has been raked and levelled, that shrub work is still ongoing around the estate (to be completed before the end of February) and that the new grit bin will be installed at Burwardsley Way w/c 02-Feb.  <b>Resolved</b> – to approve re-siting and securing the bin at Coronet Avenue/Regency Way at a cost of £175 (plus VAT).</p> <p>244.4 To consider a quote from Caddis for clearing the drainage ditch on Monarch Drive.  <b>Resolved</b> – to approve a quote to clear the drainage ditch at Monarch Drive at a cost of £540 (plus VAT).</p> <p>244.5 To consider a request for retrospective permission for access from Ellingham Way into the “buffer zone” alongside Poors Wood.  <b>Resolved</b> – to approve giving retrospective permission for the requested access, on the understanding that it is to be used only by the householder for the purposes of maintaining the boundary fence, and that any access gate is secured by a padlock or similar..</p> <p>244.6 To consider a request to cut back hedging at the rear of 24 Moreville Close.  <b>Resolved</b> – to approve a request for hedge pruning to allow reasonable access when the boundary fence is replaced.</p>

244.7	<p>To consider a succession plan for overseeing the green spaces in Kingsmead.  <b>Resolved</b> – that Cllr Swift, supported by Cllr Herring, will work with Cllr Reed to help ensure there is continuity in the manner that the green spaces in Kingsmead and maintained. Training courses are to be considered to help support this handover.</p>	
<b>245</b>	<b>Play Areas</b>	
245.1	<p>To note the annual play inspection reports.  <b>Noted</b> – the annual inspection reports received on 16-Jan. A summary of actions was provided, the majority of which are already being worked on. The remaining issues will be followed up by councillors and the clerk.</p>	
245.2	<p>To agree an appropriate programme for routine inspections of the play areas.  <b>Resolved</b> – to start again a programme of weekly visual inspections by councillors, which support the quarterly inspections carried out by the play inspector.</p>	
245.3	<p>To consider a quote to carry out remedial work on various items of timber play equipment.  <b>Resolved</b> – to approve a quote from Groundwork and Leisure Services to replace timbers (as identified in the recent independent resistograph report) at a cost of £2750 (plus VAT).</p>	
245.4	<p>To consider quotes for remedial works in the play areas:</p> <p>a) Replacement of benches at Dukes Way 1.  <b>Resolved</b> – to defer a decision about replacing the benches pending a quote for replacing only one of the benches.</p> <p>b) Repairs to the footpath in Capesthorne Close.  <b>Resolved</b> – to approve a quote from Northwich Town Council to carry out the required remedial works at a cost of £1250 (plus VAT).</p> <p>c) Various works on access gates.  <b>Noted</b> – that a quote is to be provided for the various gate works by Tatton Fencing, which will be considered at the next meeting.</p>	
<b>246</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
	<p>Items to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.  There were no items requested for the next meeting.</p>	
<b>247</b>	<b>Next Meetings</b>	
	Kingsmead Parish Council	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm in Kingsmead School
	Parks & Environment Committee	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March at 7.30pm in Kingsmead School
	Kingsmead Parish Council	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in Kingsmead School

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.