

## MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of Kingsmead Parish Council Parks and Environment Committee  
held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April

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

Also present: Mrs W Maddock (Clerk/RFO) and two contractors who had quoted for the ponds maintenance

The meeting started at 7.35pm – following representations from one of the contractors bidding for the ponds contract (see agenda item 294).

288	<p><b>Apologies</b> Cllr Weltman (personal)</p>
289	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b> No declarations of interest were made.</p>
290	<p><b>Public Forum</b> No members of public were present. The two contractors made representations to the committee outside the meeting forum.</p>
<p>Standing orders were suspended at 7.41pm so that the second contractor for agenda item 294 could present their quote to the committee. Standing orders were re-started at 8.15pm.</p>	
291	<p><b>Maintenance &amp; Landscaping</b></p>
291.1	<p>Countrywide a) To receive any updates and to approve actions as appropriate. <b>Noted</b> – the report received for March and that grass cutting for the new contract year had started w/c 23<sup>rd</sup>. It is expected that the flower beds will be planted by mid-May.  b) To note the new reporting process and use of the CW portal. <b>Noted</b> – that the Clerk had only received log-in details for the reporting portal on the day of the meeting and could not provide any worthwhile feedback. It was agreed that Cllr Swift should also have access to the portal.</p>
291.2	<p>To consider a quote received for the replacement of light bulbs in the Kingsmead clock tower. <b>Resolved</b> – to approve a quote from Kingsmead Electrical to replace the bulbs in the clock tower back lights with 3x LED lights at a cost of £390.</p>
291.3	<p>To consider possible tree works at the following locations: a) Regency Way (in front of 2 Mayfair Drive) <b>Resolved</b> – to approve a quote from Caddis Ltd to carry out the recommended tree works at a cost of £250 (+ VAT).  b) Duke's Way pond area. <b>Resolved</b> – to defer a decision about any tree works in this area pending further investigation by the committee.</p>
291.4	<p>To consider a request to remove the picnic bench at Kensington Way play area. <b>Resolved</b> – that the council will work with partner agencies to help reduce any incidents of ASB associated with the misuse of the bench. Local councillors will monitor the situation and help with the issue of litter. The committee will consider taking action in the future if ASB continues to be a nuisance.</p>
291.5	<p>To receive information from “Keep Britain Tidy” about minimising dog fouling. <b>Noted</b> – that “Keep Britain Tidy” offers posters and stickers that can be used to encourage dog-owners to be responsible in cleaning up after their dogs. It was decided not to purchase these for Kingsmead at this time and it was further agreed that KPC would not look to install dog-poo bag dispensers around the estate.</p>

292	<p><b>Play Areas</b></p> <p>292.1 To consider and approve a quote to carry out remedial works at Capesthorne play area. <b>Resolved</b> – to approve a quote from Groundwork and Leisure Services to replace 20x timber posts and the retaining boards in the play area at a cost of £900 (+VAT).</p> <p>292.2 To note work carried out at Kingslawn play area to repair the climbing wall. <b>Noted</b> – that the clerk had instructed Northwich Town Council to carry out emergency repairs to the climbing wall at Kingslawn play area. On inspection, NTC advised that there was more work required than expected, and that they would make the area safe before returning to complete the repair.</p>		
293	<p><b>Policy Review</b></p> <p>To consider and approve amendments to the KPC Play Area Inspection Policy. <b>Resolved</b> – to amend the Play Area Inspection Policy so that routine inspections can be carried by exception reporting. If no defects are found, councillors will confirm an inspection has been completed by providing a date stamped photo of the play area sign to the clerk. Where there are issues to be reported, the routine inspection report will be completed in full.</p>		
294	<p><b>Ponds Contract</b></p> <p>To review the two quotes received for the maintenance of Kingsmead's ponds and drainage ditch and to approve a recommendation to Full Council for a 3-year contract to start 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026. <b>Noted</b> – that the committee wished to thank both contractors who had made themselves available before and during the meeting to present their quotes and answer questions from committee members. <b>Resolved</b> – to recommend to Full Council that the contract be awarded to Caddis Ltd at a cost of £23,484 pa. This decision was reached based on the fullness of the bid they presented, their experience of the site and their expertise in wetland management.</p>		
295	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Items to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Benches to be installed at Duke's Way 2 play area</li> <li>• CW to be asked to remove the stag horn at the end of school path</li> </ul>		
296	<b>Next Meetings</b>	Kingsmead Parish Council	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm in Kingsmead School
		Parks & Environment Committee	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm in Kingsmead School
		Annual Meeting of the Parish	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm in Kingsmead School
		Annual Meeting of Kingsmead Parish Council	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> May – immediately following the Annual Meeting of the Parish

The meeting closed at 8.58pm.