

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF KINGS HILL PARISH COUNCILS' CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 06 JULY 2023 AT 7.00 P.M. IN THE KINGS HILL COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT: Cllrs. Colman, Mclymont, Petty & Sherlaw

ALSO PRESENT: Cllrs. Kirk, MacKay, and Rush
Officers. K. Bell (Clerk to the Council) & D. Bayley (Assistant Clerk)
7 residents

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Barker

Cllr Petty opened the meeting and welcomed all present to the first meeting of the Parish Councils Climate Change and Environment Committee.

Cllr Petty suspended standing orders and invited residents to ask questions. 5 residents present requested the Parish Council to rethink its plans for Anson Avenue where an environmental project was currently being undertaken whereby swathes of grass was cut creating natural pathways whilst the remainder was left to form natural habitat. Residents asked the council to revert to the previous maintenance regime where the grass was cut on a regular basis and highlighted that one reason for doing so was that whilst the councils environment project was admirable it had inadvertently taken away an outdoor facility where the children played. Two residents put forward an opposing view and expressed how beneficial it would be for the environment if the council continued with the more natural and ecological maintenance regime.

Cllr. Petty thanked residents for expressing their views, having listened to both sides the council would be reviewing the issue later in the meeting. Cllr. Petty then took the opportunity to advise residents that the council was currently considering upgrading the play equipment provision in Anson Avenue and over the summer months would be putting the matter out for consultation and seeking residents' views.

CC & E 01 TO ELECT A COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2023 / 2024 CIVIC YEAR: Cllr Petty proposed, seconded by Cllr. Mclymont that Cllr. Colman become Committee Chairman. There were no other nominations. It was:
RESOLVED: That Cllr. Colman become Committee Chairman.

Unanimous

CC & E 01 TO ELECT A COMMITTEE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 2023 / 2024 CIVIC YEAR: Cllr Petty proposed, seconded by Cllr. Colman that Cllr. Mclymont become Committee Deputy Chairman. There were no other nominations. It was:
RESOLVED: That Cllr. Mclymont become Committee Deputy Chairman.

Unanimous

CC & E 03 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: It was proposed, seconded and:
RESOLVED: To approve the apologies of Cllr Barker (Family Commitment)

Unanimous

CC & E 04 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND / OR LOBBYING: There were none
These minutes are not a verbatim record of the meeting, but a summary of discussion and decisions made at the meeting.

Committee Chairman: **Date:** 07 September 2023

CC & E 05 TO DECLARE AN INTENTION TO RECORD: There were none

CC & E 06 TERMS OF REFERENCE: It was proposed, seconded and:
RESOLVED: That the Terms of Reference be approved. **Unanimous**

CC & E 07 CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES: It was proposed, seconded and:
RESOLVED: That on the agenda for the next committee meeting would be an exchange of views and ideas on the issues which the committee would like to take forward on behalf of the Parish Council. **Unanimous**
It was noted that NALC had confirmed that KHPC was a member of their Climate Emergency Network.

CC & E 08 ENVIRONMENT ISSUES

CC & E 08.1 Open Spaces: Following a discussion, it was proposed, seconded and:
RESOLVED: That the environment project currently being undertaken at Anson Avenue would be bought to an end and that immediate arrangements would be made for the grass to be cut. **Unanimous**

CC & E 08.2 Kings Hill Tree Wardens: It was reported that the tree walk which took place on 04 June 2023 attracted approx. 20 residents and 3 primary school children who were engaged and asked questions. A direct outcome was that Kings Hill School had requested the Kent Tree and Pond Wardens and Tree Wardens hold a tree Workshop for KS2 children. This was a great outcome in terms of engagement with our local schools on ecological, climate change and tree matters. It was hoped to arrange for the workshop to take place at Kings Hill School in September and that the other 2 schools will follow suit.

CC & E 08.3 Phase 1 Play Equipment Improvements: Following a discussion, it was proposed, seconded and:
RESOLVED: That a community wide consultation would be undertaken over the summer with feedback being considered at the September meeting. **Unanimous**

It was further.
RESOLVED: That at the September meeting the committee would consider its recommendations for full council. **Unanimous**

CC & E 08.4 TPO's: The following were noted. **Noted**

- No new information had been received from TMBC.
- TPO request submitted in respect of the two Silver Birches under risk from the proposed development of 50 Gibson Drive.
- KCC were progressing with the request for remedial works to be undertaken to the trees within the ancient woodland off Gibson Drive.

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Committee Chairman: **Date: 07 September 2023**

CC & E 09 Allotments: Following a discussion, it was proposed, seconded and:
RESOLVED: That there would be an annual meeting between CC & E Committee Representatives and allotment holders.

It was further:
RESOLVED: That quarterly onsite meetings would be held between CC & E Committee representatives and allotment holders.

It was further:
RESOLVED: That the CC & E Committee would meet with the Kings Hill Allotment Representative.

It was further.
RESOLVED: That the CC & E Committee would consider site improvements such as the following:

- Pedestrian gate alongside existing vehicular access
- Wilding and bees between the two allotment sites
- Solar power on the “Big Shed” communal area
- Variations to approved shed colours.

It was noted that regular proactive weeding of the allotment paths had been included in the ground's maintenance contractor's remit.

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Committee Chairman: **Date:** 07 September 2023