

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF KINGS HILL PARISH COUNCILS' CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 09 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 6.00 P.M. IN THE KINGS HILL COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT: Cllrs. Colman, Petty, Mclymont & Sherlaw

ALSO PRESENT: Officer. K. Bell (Clerk to the Council) & Resident Mr A Mtchell

APOLOGIES: Cllr Barker.

Cllr Colman opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

CC & E 30 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: It was proposed, seconded and:
RESOLVED: To approve the apologies of Cllr. Barker (Prior Commitment)
Unanimous

CC & E 31 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND / OR LOBBYING: There were none.
Noted

CC & E 32 TO DECLARE AN INTENTION TO RECORD: There were none.

CC & E 33 MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

CC & E 33.1 It was proposed, seconded and:
RESOLVED: That the minutes from the meeting held on 05 October be approved. **Unanimous**

CC & E 33.2 Matters Arising not included elsewhere on the agenda:
There were none. **Noted**

CC & E 34 CLIMATE CHANGE ISSUES

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CC & E 34.1 EV Charging Points at Parish and Town Council facilities: It was reported that KCC had a funding scheme available for local councils with car parks, village halls, community centres etc to install EV Charging Points. Following a discussion, it was proposed, seconded and:

RESOLVED: That the Clerk would discuss with KHEM to ascertain the feasibility of a coordinated project.
Unanimous

CC & E 34.2 Climate and Ecology Bill: It was reported that Zero Hour was seeking the support of KHPC for the Climate and Ecology Bill which was due for its second reading on 24 November 2023. It was noted that as of 05 October 2023, 168 parish and town councils across the UK had indicated their support. Following a discussion, it was proposed, seconded and:

RESOLVED: That whilst the information would be noted with interest, no action would be taken.
Unanimous

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Chairman: **Date:** 07 December 2023

CC & E 34.3 Pollinator Action Plans: It was reported that a growing ecological concern, observed by scientists globally was a decline in insect populations. It was further reported that Kent Wildlife Trust and Buglife through their national flying insects survey, Bugs Matter had reported a 54% decline in flying insects between 2004 – 2022 and the decline seemed higher for Kent. It was noted that at a local level parish and town councils had a fundamental role to play as landowners, managers or influencers of the use and management of green space, road verges and other sites in their neighbourhoods. It was noted that a key action for Kent Plan Bee this coming autumn and winter was to start engaging Kents parishes, towns, and local community groups to start developing their activity and even writing their own Pollinator Action Plans. Following a discussion, it was proposed, seconded and:

RESOLVED: That the information be noted, and no additional actions be taken as the CC & E Committee were well advanced in their consideration of Pollinator Action Plan for Kings Hill. Attention was also drawn in this respect to ongoing discussions between the CC & E Committee and the Golf Club who were developing their own Pollinator Action Plan. **Noted**

CC & E 34.4 Carbon Footprint: It was reported that a model carbon footprint for Kings Hill had been sourced from Centre for Sustainable Energy. It was further reported that Mr Mitchel (resident) had offered to develop the model into a more accurate carbon footprint for Kings Hill. Following a discussion, it was proposed, seconded and:

RESOLVED: That the CC & E Committee would be delighted to accept the kind offer from Mr Mitchell to develop a carbon footprint for Kings hill.

Unanimous

CC & E 35 ENVIRONMENT ISSUES

CC & E 35.1 Kings Hill Tree Wardens: No new information had been received. Following a discussion, it was proposed, seconded and:

RESOLVED: That the Clerk would invite the Kent Tree and Pond Wardens to a meeting to discuss the promotion of the Kings Hill Tree Warden Scheme. **Unanimous**

CC & E 35.2 Greening Up Britain: It was reported that during October, Create Streets launched their “Greening up” report which was supported by the Berkeley Group. It was noted that the “Greening Up” report explored the good, the brave and the ugly in the struggle to bring greenery into our streets and squares and provided practical and policy recommendations on how to make greening a right not a fight. Following a discussion, it was proposed, seconded and:

RESOLVED: That the information be noted. **Noted**

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Chairman:**Date: 07 December 2023**

CC & E 35.3 2024 / 2025 Grounds Maintenance Requirements: It was reported that the committee had been asked to consider including additional grounds maintenance works within the environs of the SP in the 2024 / 2025 budget. Following a discussion, it was proposed, seconded and:
RESOLVED: That the Grounds Maintenance Requirements for 2024 / 2025 be confirmed and would not include additional grounds maintenance works at the SP.
Unanimous

CC & E 36 ALLOTMENTS

CC & E 36.1 Raised and accessible “beds” on the unusable plots: It was reported that two quotations had been received; and one more was awaited following which this matter would be considered at a future committee meeting. **Noted**
 It was noted that an allotment holder had recently left the allotment site and had left behind some items including accessible raised beds which if not claimed would be recycled.
Noted

CC & E 36.2 Installation of Pedestrian Gate: Following a discussion, it was proposed, seconded and:
RESOLVED: That the matter would be deferred and placed on hold for the time being. **Unanimous**

CC & E 36.3 Solar Power on the “Big Shed” Communal Area: It was reported that the solar powered security lights had been delivered. Following a discussion, it was proposed, seconded and:
RESOLVED: That the security lights would be affixed to the shed by Cllr. Sherlaw accompanied by either Cllr. Mclymont or the caretaker. **Unanimous**

CC & E 36.4 2023 Annual Meeting between the KHPC Allotment Panel and the Allotment Holders held on 06 October 2023: Attention was drawn to the following:

- The Minutes from the meeting **Noted**
- The allotment holders present were in favour of the installation of accessible raised beds on the unworkable plots **Noted**
- The suggestion of offering smaller plots was discussed and the view of those present was that we should not reduce the size of the plots. **Noted**
- The possible installation of solar panels on the “big shed” was well received. **Noted**
- The new colour guidelines from KHEM for painting sheds **Noted**
- The allotment community were keen to replace the damaged sun bubble with a polycarbonate greenhouse. The allotment community had a commercial rotavator which they were looking to sell to raise funds towards this purchase. **Noted**

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- Bindweed was present on both sites and the lack of weed control membrane on the paths was not helping the weed situation. It was noted that weeding the allotment paths was now included within the annual scope of groundworks maintenance. **Noted**
- The Quarterly meeting dates were 10 December 2023, 24 March 2024 and 28 June 2024. **Noted**
- The allotment holders had asked if they could use the spare area on the new site for a potting up area, to improve the area outside the allotment gates at the original site to make it more welcoming and to add an accessibility space at the entrance to the old site.

Noted / for future consideration.

CC & E 36.5 Allotment Recycle Policy: The allotment recycle policy was reviewed. Following a discussion, it was proposed, seconded and:

RESOLVED: That the policy be updated and taken to full council for formal approval. **Unanimous**

CC & E 37 2023 PLAY EQUIPMENT ROSPA INSPECTION: It was reported that the inspection was carried out on 30 October 2023 and the report had concluded that all the equipment was fit for purpose. It was noted that a few items required monitoring. **Noted**

CC & E 38 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING: Confirmed as 07 December 2023

There being no additional business the meeting concluded at 19:30 hours.

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Chairman:**Date:** 07 December 2023