KINGSMEAD
PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of Kingsmead Parish Council Parks and Environment Committee held on Monday 10th June

Present: Cllr Hoey, Cllr Jewitt, Cllr Logan, Cllr Reed, Cllr Swift (Chair)
Also present: Mrs W Maddock (Clerk & RFO) and two representatives of Countrywide

The meeting started at 7.33pm.

041	**Apologies** Cllr Van Gordon (work), Cllr Weltman (work)
042	**Declarations of Interest** No declarations of interest were made.
043	**Public Forum** No members of public were present.
044	**Minutes** **To approve and sign the minutes of an extraordinary meeting held on Thursday 30th May 2024.** **Resolved** – that the minutes were a correct record and should be signed by the Chair.
045	**Maintenance & Landscaping**
045.1	**To receive an update from Countrywide Grounds Maintenance (who will be attending the meeting) and to approve any actions as appropriate.** **Noted** – the update from Countrywide who acknowledged that recent performance had not been acceptable and that action had been taken last week to make good all areas of the estate. The council stressed the need for consistency going forward and welcomed steps taken by CW to strengthen its management team, which it hoped would help ensure this consistency. It was agreed that the Chair would write a letter to CW thanking them for their attendance and detailing what was discussed. **Resolved** – that hedge cutting can be carried out in park areas to maintain ease of access and where overgrown hedges are a safety issue.
045.2	**To consider and approve quotes or advice from Caddis for the following works:** a) 19 Buckingham Drive – 2m clearance of woodland adjacent to boundary b) Monarch Drive – alder tree next to the bridge c) 17 Calveley Close – cutting back of silver birch d) 11 Dobell's Road – cutting back overhanging tree branch adjacent to telephone wire. e) 24 Moreville Close – cutting back/thinning out of trees at rear of the garden (adjacent to the Burwardsley play area) . f) Regency Way – low hanging trees at the Duke's Way end of the road. g) Wheelock Close (adjacent to No.3 and opposite 3-7) – cutting back of trees, removing dead trees in the side access and dealing with bamboo in the woodland patch. h) Stretton Walk – woodland strip at the top of the road i) 8 Prestbury Close – ash trees and hedgerow **Resolved** – to approve the quotes received for works at 19 Buckingham Drive (£450 plus VAT), Regency Way (£180 plus VAT) and Wheelock Close (an initial cut-back at a cost of £580 plus VAT, with further work to follow). The remaining works were deferred to the next meeting pending the receipt of quotes.
045.3	**To consider and approve quotes for new or replacement bins at:** a) Kingslawn Close play area – additional standard litter bin b) Blandford end of Top Path – replacement dog bin **Resolved** – to replace the dog bin on Top Path, but to defer purchasing an additional bin at Kingslawn Close, which will be monitored to see if one is required.

045.4	**To note that the road and path at 23-27 Kingslawn Close is owned by CW&C and therefore any remedial works to the railings (as requested by a resident) is not KPC's responsibility.** **Noted** – that any remedial works to the railings should be carried out by CW&C; the clerk will write to the resident to explain how this can be reported.
045.5	**To note any update received from CW&C regarding maintenance of the crown hedge roundabout and to approve actions as appropriate.** **Noted** – that no update has been received from the CW&C Communities and Engagement Team regarding the hedge maintenance being undertaken by KPC. **Resolved** - that the clerk should write to the CEO of CW&C and the Leader of the Council expressing concern about this lack of engagement and outlining that this will be reported to the media outlets who ran recent stories highlighting the crown hedge.
045.6	**To consider actions for maintenance of the orchard in St George's field:** a) Confirmation of a community volunteer day to tidy up the orchard b) Attendance at an orchard workshop early next year c) Contacting a local orchard specialist **Resolved** – that a date will be confirmed by Cllr Hoey for a community volunteer day, that 2x places will be requested on the CW&C orchard workshop and contact should be made with the local orchard specialist. **Noted** – that Cllr Reed will liaise with the school about a project to produce an orchard information board.
045.7	**To note information received from The Woodland Trust regarding care of the trees donated and planted earlier this year.** **Noted** – the information received and the advice regarding the removal of the tree spirals. It was further agreed that advice would be sought from Caddis about the condition of some trees along the spine road.
045.8	**To consider any other updates and to approve actions as appropriate.** There were no further updates to receive.
046	**Play Areas**
046.1	**To note the RFQ that has been issued for the installation of a multi-sports playing surface at Kensington Way.** **Noted** – the final RFQ that has been issued for consideration to the following companies – Groundwork & Leisure Services, Massey & Harris, Horticon & Ground Inc., Creative Play and BSK Landscapes. A consultation letter will now be finalised for engagement with local residents.
046.2	**To receive any update from CW&C with regards to the drainage issue at Kensington Way.** **Noted** – that Cllr Jewitt and the clerk had a Teams meeting with a flood risk management engineer from CW&C. He confirmed that there was no scope to install a drainage system at Kensington Way park and that the original herring-bone soak away installed by the developers would only ever have had a life of up to 25-years. He concurred with the plan of action under consideration and suggested that planting willows and/or installing a pond could also help.
046.3	**To receive a quote for the refurbishment of Campbell Close play area and to consider whether to continue with this as a proposed course of action.** **Noted** – that a quote has been received of £8,840 (plus VAT) for a complete refurbishment of Campbell Close. It was further noted that the annual play inspector has advised that work to improve the safety surface is not urgent. **Resolved** – that an overhaul of Campbell Close will be deferred until the next financial year (and included in next year's budget), but that remedial works to the swing and mushrooms will be undertaken immediately. It was also agreed that the surface should be raked to improve the coverage.
046.4	**To confirm who will carry out play inspections at Kingslawn Close and to review latest weekly inspection reports.** **Resolved** – that Cllr Jewitt will carry out the inspections of Kingslawn Close. All councillors were reminded of where the inspection reports could be found in the P&E Committee WhatsApp group, and it was noted that an additional field has been added to the report template allowing photos to be uploaded.

046.5	**To consider any other updates and to approve actions as appropriate.** There were no further updates to receive.		
047	**AOB** There were no agenda items requested for the next meeting.		
048	**Next Meetings**	Full Council Meeting	Monday 17th June at 7.00pm in Kingsmead School
		Parks & Environment Committee	Monday 8th July at 7.30pm in Kingsmead School
		Full Council Meeting	Monday 15th July at 7.30pm in Kingsmead School
		Finance Committee	Monday 2nd Sept. at 7.30pm in Kingsmead School

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.