KINGSMEAD
PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES

Minutes of a meeting of Kingsmead Parish Council Parks and Environment Committee held on Monday 13th July 2026

Present: Cllr B Boylan, Cllr Herring (Chair), Cllr Swift
Also present: Mrs W Maddock (Clerk & RFO)

The meeting started at 7.30pm

058	**Apologies** Cllr Logan (work), Cllr Reed (family)
059	**Declarations of Interest** No declarations of interest were made.
060	**Public Forum** No members of public were present.
061 061.1	**Maintenance & Landscaping** To receive updates from Countrywide and to approve actions as appropriate. ***Noted*** – that there is generally a good standard of maintenance across the estate and that reporting had improved this month. It was noted that the CW team had been seen using mobile phones again whilst carrying out jobs and the clerk was asked to re-iterate with the team that this is not acceptable.
061.2	To consider the following tree works: a) Cutting back along the boundary of 2 Kensington Way **Resolved** – to approve Caddis to carry out this work at a cost of £780 (+VAT). b) Creating a buffer zone at the rear of 25 Burwardsley Way and the houses of Stapeley Close, and to manage dogwood in the associated wildlife area. **Resolved** – to approve Caddis to carry out this work in the Autumn at a cost of £780 (+VAT). c) Removing a failed limb on an oak at Duke's Way and to cut back limbs on a cherry. d) To crown lift trees on the approach to Kingsmead school. **Resolved** – to approve Caddis to carry out the works in items c) and d) at a cost of £680 (+VAT). e) To cut back pine trees in Monarch park. **Resolved** – to approve Caddis to carry out this work at a cost of £280 (+VAT). f) Removal of a dead tree at the rear of 44 Lime Avenue and a small tree on SGF. **Resolved** – to approve Caddis to carry out this work at a cost of £980 (+VAT). g) Cutting back overhanging branches on Harewood Close and associated crown lifting. **Resolved** – to approve Caddis to remove the tree (instead of cutting back and crown lifting) at a cost of £980 (+VAT) h) Removal of a tree or trees on Harewood Close. **Resolved** – to approve Cheshire Tree & Garden Care to remove a dead ash tree at a cost of £300. i) To cut back and tidy hawthorn hedging along the A533 Kingsmead road. **Resolved** – to approve Caddis to carry out this work at a cost of £680 (+VAT).
061.3	To approve the following actions for Coronet pond: a) Caddis to raise the water level w/c 13th July as per the agreed maintenance contract at a cost of £1522.00 (plus VAT). **Resolved** – to approve raising the water level at the earliest opportunity. b) Delegation of authority to the Clerk and Chair to approve future "topping up" when required, to be applied for the duration of the current contract. **Resolved** – that further "topping up" can be authorised if the water level drops to the second course of bricks from the bottom of the overflow, without needing a meeting resolution to confirm the action. Instructions can be issued when two of the nominated approvers (Clerk, Chair of KPC and Chair of the P&E committee) agree that the conditions have been met. Caddis will carry out the topping up in line with the current contract.

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061.4	To consider the following grounds maintenance works: a) Securing a grit bin at Kensington Way. **Resolved** – to instruct Countrywide to secure the bin at a cost of £225 (+VAT). b) Carrying out a one-off cut-back of the hedging and verges on a path between Harewood Close and London Road. **Resolved** – to approve Countrywide to carry out a one-off cut of the hedging in Autumn, after the bird nesting season, at a cost of £1295 (+VAT).		
061.5	To consider adding the following works to the Countrywide grounds maintenance contract: a) Ongoing maintenance of the path between Harewood Close and London Road, to consist of 16x grass cuts and annual hedge cutting. **Resolved** – to approve adding this additional maintenance work to the Countrywide contract at a cost of £1365 (+VAT). This cost will cover all works to the end of the current contract period. b) One-off call out fee for ad-hoc maintenance/grounds maintenance issues. **Resolved** – to approve Countrywide's call-out fee of £95 (+VAT).		
061.6	To consider requests from residents to carry out additional grounds maintenance work at the following locations: a) Along the boundary of 2 St Georges Way. **Resolved** – following a review of the hedge in question by one of the committee members and, after checking records with Countrywide, it was agreed that this hedge had been cut correctly last year. Hedge cutting will therefore be completed in line with the annual schedule, i.e. in the autumn. b) At the rear of 1-3 Stretton Walk. **Resolved** – that this work will be carried out in line with the routine maintenance schedule in Autumn.		
061.7	To consider a quote from Northwich Town Council for remedial works to the bridges and jetty. **Resolved** – to defer a decision pending an updated quote from NTC.		
062 062.1	**Play Areas** To review the play inspection reports. ***Noted*** – that all play areas are being routinely inspected at least once per month.		
062.2	Dukes Way Play Area – installation of new park benches a) To consider feedback from residents to our consultation about the siting of the benches. ***Noted*** – that the council had received responses from three residents to its consultation (eight letters were delivered). The feedback generally acknowledged that a bench in the small area with the play equipment would be a useful addition, allowing people to easily supervise children using the equipment, However, there was also concern that any benches in the park would lead to an increase in anti-social behaviour. b) To agree next actions. **Resolved** – that 1x bench be installed in the actual play area, with the second bench purchased being re-located to the orchard area of St. George's field. The committee also proposed reducing the height of the hedging around the park so that there is improved visibility of the area.		
062.3	To receive an update about further damage to the ChildsPlay® surface at Kensington Way play area and to approve actions as appropriate. ***Noted*** – that Groundwork & Leisure had carried out further repairs of the play surface following the recent damage, which is most likely caused by people using bikes and e-scooters across the area. **Resolved** – to erect signs at all entrances to the park banning the use of these vehicles on the play surface.		
063	**AOB** Items to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. • Bin for the "triangle area" opposite Headworth bridge.		
064	**Next Meetings**	Kingsmead Parish Council	Monday 20th July at 7.30pm in Kingsmead School
		Parks and Environment Committee	Monday 14th September at 7.30pm in Kingsmead School

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

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