

Kidlington Parish Council

Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington OX5 1AB

Tel: 01865 372143 www.kidlington-pc.gov.uk



Minutes of the Meeting of Kidlington Parish Council

held at Exeter Hall and on Zoom at 7.30pm on Thursday 23 January 2025

Present: Cllr Naveed Barakzai Pace, Cllr William Easdown Babb, Cllr David Betts, Cllr Dave Kanonuwa, Cllr Lesley Mclean (Chair), Cllr Melanie Moorhouse, Cllr David Robey, Cllr Nik Soheili, Cllr Alison Street, Cllr Doug Williamson, Cllr Phil Wyse, Cllr David Thurling, Cllr Linda Ward

In Attendance: Clerk – Rachel Faulkner

On Line: None

Apologies: Cllr Fiona Mawson, Cllr Ian Middleton

25/001 **Declarations of Interest** – none declared

25/002 **Public Participation** – no members of the public in attendance

25/003 The Council approved the minutes of the Council meetings on 19 September and 5 December 2024 and the Chair signed them as being a true record.

25/004 Cllr Dave Kanonuwa was appointed to Finance and Assets Committee, Development and Strategy Committee, Flood Defence Working Group and Recreation/Park Hill Working Group.

25/005 The Council discussed the Clerk's report. The Clerk confirmed that the Facilities Manager is investigating car park management options. Councillors acknowledged that there is no easy solution to managing the car park at Exeter Hall as there are a number of different user groups including the County Council, Doctors Surgery and other NHS services, Children's nursery and Bowls Club all of whom need access.

The Clerk presented the Council with a list of ideas for how the facilities at Exeter Hall could be used for more community events.

The Clerk reported that she had not been able to advertise for the role of Responsible Financial Officer because a Job Description had not yet been approved by the Personnel Committee.

25/006 The minutes of the Development and Strategy Committee meetings held on 12 December 2024 and 9 January 2025 were moved by Cllr McClean and the actions, recommendations and resolutions noted

Action: Communication WG to meet to agree Communications Policy

Action: It was confirmed that the Clerk had responded to East West Rail proposal to say that due to the lack of details in the proposals, KPC can only express concern about the potential loss of recreational space and to ensure that the applicants appreciate that their proposals lie within the Green Belt.

Action: It was confirmed that the Clerk had responded to ANPR on the High Street consultation to say that the council fully endorses the proposal and to comment on how

confusing the current signage is and to ask whether there will be cameras at the exit end of the High St to monitor cars entering illegally

- 25/007** The minutes of the Finance and Assets Committee meeting held on 12 December were moved by Cllr Soheili and the actions, recommendations and resolutions noted
Action: Representative from CCLA to attend next Finance and Assets meeting.
- 25/008** The minutes of the Personnel Committee meetings held on 9 and 23 January 2025 were not available for review but the Chair, Cllr McLean, confirmed that there would be an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on Thursday 30 January at 5pm.
- 25/009** The minutes of the Community Committee held on 7 November were moved by Cllr Street and the actions, recommendations and resolutions noted:
Action: To allocate £125k of capital and earmarked reserves to replace the existing equipment at Park Hill Recreation Ground.
Action: The Parkhill Working Group was expanded to look more widely at recreation spaces in the village. Cllr Dave Konanuwa was invited to join the Working Group. Cllr Street to arrange a meeting.
Action: Volunteering celebration – working group to meet to discuss arrangements.
Action: The committee resolved to fund the improvements to the paths in St Mary's Fields to improve accessibility. The total cost is currently quoted at around £42k and a grant is expected of up to £18k. The committee **RECOMMENDED** covering the shortfall up to £25k. It is anticipated that the costs will come in much lower than the original quote.
Action: The committee approved a S137 grant of £5,000 for Kidlington Football Club to erect fencing to be compliant with FA regulations.
Action: The committee approved the use of Exeter Hall free of charge for use by the OCC Youth Activity Team during half term for one day.
Action: Cllr Robey asked for clarity from the Finance and Assets committee about where funding would be coming from for these projects.
- 25/010** To receive reports from KPC Working Groups:
- Exeter Close Working Group** – Cllr McLean reported that the three selected architects had been contacted and asked to quote for the next stage. A copy of the letter was circulated to members in advance of the meeting.
- Communications Working Group** – Cllr Moorhouse to arrange a meeting.
- IT Working Group** – Cllr Barakzai Pace reported that the council's operating system would be changed to Microsoft 365 on 31 January.
- Flood Defence Working Group** – a meeting has been arranged with the Environment Agency, Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire County Council to investigate the problems with the valves. This may also be an opportunity to discuss the problems at Stratfield Brake. Meeting on Wed 5 February at 10am at Exeter Hall. Clerk to circulate info to all members.
- Stratfield Brake Liaison Working Group** – Cllr Wyse reported on the meeting with SB user groups.

- 25/011** To receive reports from KPC members representing the Council on outside bodies.
- Kidlington Recreational Trust – awaiting info about cost of replacing building.
 - Traffic Advisory Committee – Cllr Betts reported on the notes from the TAC meeting held on 15 January.
 - East Cherwell Rural Community Forum/Police Liaison – it was confirmed that Cllr Moorhouse is KPC’s representative on the East Cherwell Rural Community Forum.
- 25/012** The Council received a report from CDC Cllr Dorothy Walker.
- 25/013** The Council received a report from OCC Cllr Ian Middleton.
- 25/014** The Council considered its response to OUFC’s planning applications. Cllr McLean reported the details of her telephone conversations with TVP Planning out Crime officer in which he said he could not be drawn on his intended response to the application. Cllr Ward had presented the council with a working document and members were asked to ensure any comments were with her by 30 January in order to prepare the response to CDC. The Council is preparing an Open Letter which will detail their areas of concern and should be available to publish on the Council’s website by early February.
- 25/015** The Council considered its response to CDC’s Draft Local Plan. Cllr Ward had identified areas where the Council may want to comment and explained that a Part B form had to be completed for each area the council wanted to comment on. Cllr Ward allocated areas to Cllrs Street, Betters, McLean and Robey. Cllrs were asked to response to Cllr Ward by 6 February with their completed Part B forms so that she could submit by the deadline of 13 February.
- 25/016** The Council discussed the proposals for East West Rail. They had no further comments.
- 25/017** The Council discussed the Botley West submission. Cllr Robey explained that KPC’s position had been to object to the proposals but as Kidlington is on the edge of the planned solar farm and less directly affected, the Council had opted not to join the Steering Committee.

The meeting closed at: 9pm