

# Kidlington Parish Council

Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington OX5 1AB

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## Minutes of the Meeting of Kidlington Parish Council Community Committee held at Exeter Hall at 6.30pm on Thursday 4 September 2025

**Present:** Cllr Melanie Moorhouse (Chair), Cllr Lesley McLean, Cllr Nik Soheili,  
Cllr Alison Street, Cllr Doug Williamson, Cllr Phil Wyse, Cllr Fiona Mawson  
Cllr Naveed Barakzai Pace

**In Attendance:** Community Project Officer

**Apologies:** None

**25/CO/41 Declaration of Interest:** None declared

**25/CO/42 Minutes:** The minutes of the meeting held on 19 June were reviewed and signed as a true record of the meeting, *with amendments* of Cllr Fiona Mawson apologies were sent in advance of the June meeting plus further clarification on SMF Interpretation Board.

**25/CO/43 To Consider Grant Applications:** There were none to consider.

**25/CO/44 Current Allotment Status:** CPO advised on considerable interest this summer with an increase of sixteen to the waiting list. All recently let allotments are being managed well. The next Councillor allotment site tour is scheduled for 7 October and rep meeting will be held on the following week.

**25/CO/45 Councillor Led Litter Pick Sessions:** The committee discussed how best to action regular litter picking sessions, including ways to engage community groups and schools, and to offer refreshments in the process. It was agreed a community-focused approach would be beneficial, given the challenges presented by reduced maintenance recently witnessed due to staffing issues from CDC/OCC, and for future needs. It was agreed that in the short term, 4 October to be publicised with Council members, FB and website, Next door etc as a start date; in the long term, Cllr Street to lead on a wider engagement project. **Action:** CPO to contact all members and social media for 4<sup>th</sup> Oct. In addition, CPO to contact Lisa Sweeting-White our OCC Local Area Coordinator to consult on a joined-up approach and liaise with Cllr Street on her suggestions.

**25/CO/46 Kidlington Eco Group:** The notes circulated ahead of the meeting for update and review were acknowledged. It was noted the St Mary's pathway works would begin mid-September, co-ordinated by KPC. Members were also updated on The Sustrans path works with concerns raised on water flow and historical issues with culverts, as well as proposals for wildlife engagement items. The KEG group is now a registered community action group (CAG), working to strengthen local energy saving initiatives in collaboration with the Oxford Low Carbon Hub. KEG members are submitting an application for a community grant for up to £5000 to West Solar Co-operative Ltd. They are collaborating with Kelly from the healthy place shaping team at CDC, with CRT local task force and Wild Oxfordshire on a proposal to raise awareness of the Kidlington canal stretch as an important ecological corridor to be made more accessible to the public for walking, cycling and appreciation of nature. Good news: the Kidlington CRT task force have been shortlisted for an environmental award.

**Action:** Statement to be added to Facebook ref the Sustrans work.

**25/CO/47      Natural Environment Group:** The notes circulated ahead of the meeting for update and review were acknowledged. Members were advised on swift bricks as part of the planning process and suggestion of the current Gosford Hill School development having these. Discussions included the proposal for planting a line of trees to afford shade at Exeter Close, parallel with Crown Rd and the colour schemes for next year's floral displays in the village. **Action:** Members to promote community involvement in nominating and locating areas for tree planting; to review the previous offer made by Dr Khan for a replacement tree. Cllr Soheili will continue to consult with the local estate agents for sponsorship as part of the tree plan. **Action:** Budget for the Exeter Close tree plan to be discussed at F&A,

**25/CO/48      St Mary's Fields:** The recent hay rake held at St Mary's Fields was acknowledged with another great turn out with thirty plus volunteers.

**25/CO/49      Local Schools and KPC's aims and objectives:** The CPO updated members on recent communication with the schools suggesting a fun initiative for the next Fireworks event on 5 November, to "build a guy". **Action:** CPO to progress this and update members.

**25/CO/50      Fields in Trust:** Cllr Mawson updated members on this item with suggestion members look at this as an option for KPC owned green spaces within Kidlington, to prevent future developers pursuing purchase. **Action:** this item to be further discussed at the natural environment group's next meeting on the pros and cons and costs involved, with potential funding from the AOG.

**25/CO/51      Current Events Update:** CPO provided an update on the Fireworks and Christmas Lights event planning. Efforts to streamline ticketing and enhance community participation in tickets sales were discussed; partnership with local businesses and social media strategies to promote pre-purchase of tickets. **Action:** CPO to progress this and update members and to request additional card machines to aid crowd access. CPO to update members on budget implications for future years.

**25/CO/52      Kidlington Green Spaces:** The progress on activities related to green spaces co-ordinated by Ruth and Rhiannon was reviewed with local community engagement continuing to strengthen with a growing number of volunteers participating in various ongoing initiatives.

**25/CO/53      Facilities Manager Report:** FM's report provided insights into the forthcoming Parkhill play area refurbishment works. A discussion was held on the recent costs KPC incurred associated with the parish church tomb and maintenance to these structures and responsibilities outlined by local government legislation. The need for better communication regarding the ANPR system soon to be installed was discussed, acknowledging some councillor confusion around parking enforcement and machines installation. The need for transparency of planning in this process was emphasised to prevent misunderstanding in the community. **Action:** Continue engagement with the community with more detail for the plan of the ANPR system to go live later in the Autumn.

**The meeting closed at: 7.40pm**

**Date of next meeting: 6.30pm on 6 November 2025**