

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF KINVER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th JANUARY 2021 AT 7.00PM VIA ZOOM SOFTWARE

Present: Councillors: P Wooddise (Chairman), S Anderson, Mrs C Allen, G Sisley and Mrs S Harris.

1. TO RECEIVE AND NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies of absence were received from Councilors T Talbot-Webb (Vice Chairman), J K Hall (Ex-Officio), M Smith due to work commitments and co-opted member J Glover who is shielding.

2. TO RECORD DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

None were declared.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The minutes of the meetings of the Leisure and Amenities Committee held on 11th November 2020, having been circulated previously, were approved and signed as a true record of the proceedings.

4. PRESENTATION FROM THE CANALS AND RIVERS TRUST

Mr Stevens updated members on the following items that are happening in the Parishes stretch of the Canal and River:-

- He has 9 full time staff that work in this area, with 1 paid team leader and also a team of volunteers.
- He is responsible for the day to day running of the area, and also identifying future works that need to be completed, costing that work and putting it forward for budget approval and scheduling.
- The tow paths in the area do need attention and 2 sections of paths have been scheduled for works in July this year. The section from Prestwood to the border with West Midlands is hopefully to be upgraded in the following financial year 2022/23.
- Hyde Lock slope has been repaired and pot holes filled in.
- He is looking to set up a local volunteer group to help clear overgrown vegetation, replant missing hedges and clear areas like the picnic area by the rear of Kenrose Mill. New planting in that area will also take place to cover a large length of a red brick wall.
- An orchard is also planned along the canal, along with works to thin out the wood near the community station, and the wood felled will be used to make new fencing to replace rotten fencing along this stretch of the canal. In addition a linear wood.
- With this proposed improvements, he is hoping to achieve a Green-flag status for the area, which is a very prestigious award.

Concern was expressed over some of the boats that are moored at Kinver, and also a sunken boat at Stourton. He stated that all boats have to have an annual safety certificate to remain on the canal.

The boat at Stourton was believed to be sunk by the former owners and was being looked into by the Enforcement Team, to see what should happen with it. It was suggested perhaps it could be an eco-project for wildlife.

With regard to a few boats which appear to be in disrepair, the Canals and Rivers Trust are working with the owners of the boats to remedy this situation.

The Canals and Rivers Trust are committed to maintain the wildlife balance, and would not remove foliage just for cosmetic purposes, all work has been looked at with their Ecologist that works on the team.

The Beech trees (which there are only 2 remaining) on the bend in the canal by Dunsley Hall, are going to be replaced. Mr Stevens has managed to get 400 free trees from Country File which will be planted in the area he is responsible for.

5. FUTURE PROJECTS

Giants Well

The Clerk has submitted the application to do a quote to reinstate the water supply to the drinking fountain.

It was noted that a recycled noticeboard would cost £499.00. The Chairman has contacted Councillor E Simons and he is looking at preparing a few words on the topic for the information board.

Additional rights of way – update on walks

The deadline for submission to include paths on the definitive map is 2026. Members discussed previously the following paths as needing to be included:-

FP98 – Stewpony
Hyde Lane to the A458
Prestwood Drive to Woods
Hyde track to the Playing fields
Permissive paths on Severn Trent Land off A449

It was agreed to invite Paul Rochfort to the next meeting to discuss various issues relating to PROW. In the meantime the Chairman is also in discussions with local rambling groups re what paths may be in the Parish that can be put forward for possible re-instatement.

Bus Service

Councillor S Anderson has contacted County Councillor Mrs V Wilson to look into what options may be available and the process to request changes to the services. No further update has been received. The Clerk to progress this with the County and Councillor Mrs V Wilson.

Plastic Free Communities

Attached as appendix 1 to these minutes is the Kinver Eco Collective – Our vision for a new 'greener' village destination.

The Kinver Eco Collective have completed 2 tasks for in relation to becoming a plastic free community, with the support of Kinver Parish Council and 5 businesses signing up to becoming plastic free businesses.

Wild Flowers on verges

Due to covid and lockdown a meeting with the County Council to look at areas for the planting has yet to take place.

Councilor Mrs S Harris has had many volunteers come forward to offer to help plant the flowers.

Planting times for the flowers are late Autumn and Spring.

Walking route / circular walk from the village to Kinver Edge

Councilor S Anderson reported that he had worked out a route from the rock houses to the village, going on FP34 towards Astles Rock on FP56, then walk along the Compa to by the Scout Wood and come back into the village on FP32. This is being put to the National Trust for further discussions. Support may be requested from Kinver Eco Collective as this is a joint project to purchase some discs to mark the route.

They are looking into the possibility of adding this information and trying to create a Visit Kinver website adding maps etc and general information.

It was proposed by Councilor S Anderson and seconded by Councilor Mrs C Allen to Recommend to the Parish Council that the Council support this initiative and if general tidying of ROW paths and possibly installing some additional way markers the Technicians can help. On a vote this was carried.

Community Wood

The idea of a Community Wood has been discussed inline with trying to replace trees that are cut down and allow people to buy a memorial tree to remember a loved one. In developing a community wood or a linear wood (as discussed under item 4) could also possibly have an area to scatter ashes under the trees. Councilor S Anderson will look into this matter further and report back to a future meeting with more ideas / details.

Community Orchard

At Brockleys Walk there are several fruit trees planted in a small orchard, Councilor S Anderson agreed to open a dialogue with SSDC to see what options may be open to look after these trees, expand the area etc and report back to the next meeting.

Kinver Map

This again is an item to be looked at and being added into a Visit Kinver Website, possibly using Kinver Civic Society Maps.

6. MEMBERS REPORTS ON PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY MATTERS ONLY

Fp47 from Kingsford Lane to the County Boundary has been cleared.

FP16 the path is narrow and being used by cyclists. This has been reported to SCC and their response is below:-

“A cyclist who rides on a footpath commits trespass against the owner of the land. This would be a civil matter for the landowner to address if he/she chooses to do so. If a cyclist rode recklessly on a footpath and endangered other users this could be a criminal offence and would need to be addressed by the Police using their powers under the Road Traffic Act 1984.

We don't have any legal mechanism to install gates to address this situation and the Council cannot therefore install them or authorise their installation without being in breach of legislation. There are very limited circumstances where gates can be installed on a public right of way and these generally relate to livestock control.

A bicycle is not considered a 'natural accompaniment' to path users and a person commits trespass even if they carry or push one along a public footpath.

Whilst SCC 'No Cycling' waymarks are present on this footpath, we do not have any powers to enforce this and the signs are therefore just advisory. You may wish to see if the landowner can be identified to see if they wish to consider the addition of further notices.

Caz – please can you make as a records only on CAMS?

Kind regards, Paul

Paul Rochfort
Principal Rights of Way Officer”

The Chairman will report back to the complainant with this information.

BP.86 to FP74, this path is very churched up and flooded, it was agreed the Technicians will have a look and take some photographs, to see if there is anything that we can do as a Parish or if the matter needs to be referred to the ROW Team.

7. COMMUNICATION / CORRESPONDENCE TO THE CHAIRMAN

None has been received.

8. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA

Items for a future agenda –

Invite Paul Rochfort to the next meeting; Becoming a Wildlife Friendly village.a meeting in January.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting 17th March 2021 at 7pm.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

The following recommendation was made to the Council that the Council support this initiative and if general tidying ROW paths and possibly installing some additional way markers the Technicians can help.

Appendix 1 to the minutes of the Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting held on the 13th January 2021



Kinver Eco Collective – Our vision for a new ‘greener’ village destination

When the Kinver Eco Collective was set up, it was firstly with the ambition to provide hope to future generations and give them back some control to help tackle climate change and other threats to our ecosystems, but also to ensure the long-term sustainability of Kinver and its community. By marketing it as a ‘green’ destination, both as an eco-village and for its surrounding countryside, we believe we have the opportunity to attract more visitors, ideally travelling sustainably.

In partnership with Kinver Edge

The link with Kinver Edge & the National Trust is a natural partnership which can be mutually beneficial and has the potential to bring far greater prosperity to the future of the village and its traders.

The Edge is a fantastic natural asset which hasn’t been fully capitalised on by Kinver to date, however with rising visitor numbers and a new desire for people to connect with nature, think about the planet and be eco-friendly, we have the perfect opportunity to really put Kinver on the map.

Attract visitors to the village centre

The time is also right, as the National Trust has a new desire to connect with the village and is currently reviewing all of its pathways and printed and digital maps and has agreed to signpost a new route through to the village centre.

The Eco Collective has mapped out a suggested route (see attached) which the National Trust will sign-post on their land and then the Parish Council will be asked to continue the signs from the edge into the village centre.

Visit Kinver

The Eco Collective’s longer-term objective is to create a Visit Kinver website which can be linked to from the National Trust’s site, to include the route map on it from Kinver Edge which visitors can download, along with other maps of interest.

Over time we aim to build a collection of maps to take in all of the village’s natural assets including the canals and its rich history.

Car free travel

There is real scope to extend the maps further and promote the green agenda, encouraging visitors to leave their car at home and include downloadable cycle routes to Kinver, including via the canals. We will also look at trail runs to and around Kinver and over the sheepwalks or along the canals and around Kinver Edge. We have a rich landscape to draw on.

Steve Anderson has also floated the idea of redirecting the bus, so it stops at the top of Meddins Lane by Kinver Edge, to promote more use of public transport, which both the National Trust and Kinver Eco Collective believe is a fantastic idea. If more visitors use the bus it will make it more viable, helping to secure this vital asset for the village.

Promote business in Kinver

The website would provide a platform to promote the village and its traders and the many amenities and independent shops they can visit. By helping to bring more business to the traders, our hope is it will open them up to promoting green initiatives such as our Plastic Free Kinver Campaign or becoming a refill station for water bottles for walkers, runners and cyclists.

Through backing ‘green’ business in Kinver we will attract more eco-traders to the village, which will enhance its reputation and provide even more reason to visit its centre.

Links with the community

We are currently building strong links with the schools and Brindley, in particular, is partnering on a number of projects with the Eco Collective. They have expressed an interest to get involved in the website and use the children to help identify and write about each of the businesses and points of interest on the walking routes from the Edge and around the village; and so help play a part in promoting the village and their community.

Kinver Online

We are currently in discussion with Andy Calloway and Kinver Online about extending this platform to become more of a Visit Kinver website. We feel we need to explore this option first, as it's already established, and Andy has the technical ability and willingness to work with us.

We will also look to apply for funding to extend the website and create new illustrated maps and marketing collateral to promote our work.

Partnering with the Parish Council

We have been delighted with the support from the Parish Council to date and wish to work in partnership to achieve our objectives and to move forward we ask you consider the following:

- Signage from the Edge to the village
- Adopting a new 'green' Kinver logo for village wide routes
- Working with the bus companies and County Council to re-route the bus
- Working in partnership to help develop the Visit Kinver website