



**TUESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024 AT 7PM, THE PARK CENTRE, KINGSWOOD**

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

### **In attendance:**

Councillor Stephen Forsythe, Chair of Kingswood Town Council and Chair of the meeting  
Councillors Sean Rhodes, Alison Evans, Jim Corrigan, Diane Bentham and Richard Bentham. Mrs Charlotte Littlewood, Town Clerk.

Three representatives from Kingswood Rugby Football Club.

Two representatives from Friends of Southey Park.

One Representative from the Kingswood Heritage Museum.

One representative from Turtle.

One representative from Community Youth Network.

Two representatives from Kingwood Park Restoration Team, South Gloucestershire Council

### **1. To appoint a Chair for the meeting**

Stephen Forsythe, Chair of Kingswood Town Council, chaired the meeting.

### **2. To receive apologies**

Apologies were received from Damien Egan, MP, Councillor Maria Ingram-Cotton, Councillor Ken Rabone, Councillor Alex Massey and Becky Feather from The Week In.

### **3. An introduction from the Chair of Kingswood Town Council**

Councillor Stephen Forsythe introduced everyone in the room and thanked everyone for attending the first Annual Assembly of the council. He explained some of the work that the council has been undertaking in its first year, to set things up. This phase was coming to a conclusion and the council was now preparing to turn its ideas into reality, and move into an operational stage, with the employment of a community engagement and events officer, as well as seeing the results of extensive collaboration with local stakeholders.

### **4. An update from Councillor Sean Rhodes, Chair of the Project Working Party**

Councillor Sean Rhodes explained that due to the Parliamentary Pre-Election period, some of the council's announcements regarding its projects and the publication of its first Corporate Plan, would be delayed until July 2024.

He explained what a privilege it was to work with other councillors, and noted the breadth of interests, skills and knowledge amongst them. All were committed and motivated to serve the community and did so unpaid, by giving up evenings and weekends to get involved. Remembrance Day was the first event that truly galvanised local support and demonstrated to the newly formed council what could be achieved for the local community. Community events will form a significant part of the future plans for the council, as it brings people together in a coordinated manner.

The council was delighted that one of its first supported projects was the introduction of planters and baskets in and around the centre of Kingswood. Volunteer litter pickers had also recently made a big impact, and over the coming months it is hoped that councillors will become more visible as the projects come to fruition.



For anyone wishing to join the council, there are some current vacancies, and becoming a councillor is as a great way for people to get involved with their local community.

**5. Presentation from Kingswood Rugby Club      Ian Starr, Mark Phillips and Derek Golding**

Members of the Rugby Club shared their plans and aspirations for the coming years. Improvements were being made to the club house, to improve safeguarding, but also because membership is ever increasing. In addition, the club was able to fund sessions to support children with additional support needs as well as supporting parents who can't always afford to fund their children's membership. 2025 will be the platinum anniversary year of the club, and the club is hoping to improve further the facilities.

**6. Presentation from South Gloucestershire Playscheme      Ternaya Cummings**

Ternaya introduced the meeting to Turtle, formerly the South Gloucestershire Playscheme, which provides holiday activities to children aged from 5 to 11. In the last year activities have been attended by over 300 families from 150 different families. In addition to the play scheme, Turtle also runs courses for parents who have children who have had an autism diagnosis. They also run youth worker training, at level 2 and 3 as well as after school clubs for 6 – 11 age group.

**7. Presentation from Kingswood Heritage Museum      Paul Evans**

Paul shared with the meeting the activities and groups that are based at the museum, from the Men's Shed to a Ladies DIY club. As well as facing the challenges of increasing footfall and income to the museum, they museum was also wanting to undertake more community engagement, supporting more volunteers as well as finding new income streams for funding.

**8. Regeneration of Kingswood Park      John Morris**

John updated the meeting with the capital improvement scheme for the park, as well as the numerous activities that are planned over the coming three years. Support is being provided to the Friends of Kingwood Park, to galvanise their enthusiasm and recruit more volunteers to run events and activities, so that a sustainable legacy is left behind, once the building work project is complete. Year one activities will focus on school, heritage, oral history, with performances and youth activities to name but a few. South Gloucestershire Council were currently seeking tenders from contractors to undertake the capital works and it was anticipated that plans will be put in place in late summer, for work to start in the Autumn.

**9. KTC's Community Grant Scheme**

Councillor Alison Evans explained the new community grant scheme to the audience, and encouraged any group to apply as their idea might just be the project that is missing in the community. Closing date for the first tranche was 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024, with further opportunities to apply later in the year.

**10. To respond to written questions and take questions from the meeting**

There were no questions, either in writing, or from those present.

**11. Close**

Councillor Stephen Forsythe thanked everyone for attending. The meeting closed at 2055 hrs.