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**Minutes of the Kennington Community Forum Open Meeting
held on Tuesday, 28 March 2017 at 7.30pm at
St. Mary's Community Centre, Rylands Road, Kennington, TN24 9LL**

Present: Core Group members: Chris Woolgar (Treasurer): hosting the meeting, Sandra Dunn (Secretary), Tony Bartlett, Paul Graham, Lee Robinson.

Members of the community: Ray Berry, Bill Clark, Carole Cole, Chris Jackson, Cyril Marsh, Patricia & David Mann, Mike Paddy, Graham Skinner, Geoff & Jane Stanborough, Derek Standing.

Councillor Graham Galpin, Michelle Byrne (ABC Funding and Partnerships Officer), Helen Brown (Home Start), Deidre O'Neill & Sabrina Wakefield (Sk8side)

1. Chris Woolgar welcomed everyone to the meeting. She said that she was hosting the meeting because of the resignation of the Chair, Chris Morley. Chris has taken on an extremely demanding role and is now not in a position to carry on as Chair of the Forum. She thanked him for all his efforts on behalf of the community, which had been much appreciated. Chris then introduced the Core Group: Sandra Dunn, Lee Robinson, Tony Bartlett and new member, Paul Graham. Other Core group members are Ian Milbery and Erika Reynolds had provided their apologies for the meeting. Michelle Byrne was also kindly attending the meeting. She has been most helpful in providing support to the Core Group in managing the difficult situation we are in so that we stay legal.
2. **Apologies:** Cllr Andrew Buchanan, Cllr Winston Michael, Cllr Luke Powell, Ian Milbery, Jennie Litchfield, Erika Reynolds.
3. **Minutes** of the Open Meeting held on 31 January 2017 were accepted as a true record of events.
Matters arising:
 - 3.1. Aspire Landscape Management had been working hard in the area and tidied up the play area in Little Burton. James Laidlaw, the Grounds Maintenance Operations Manager, of Aspire, is moving forward with the issue of ABC taking over ownership of the bench that the Summer Fayre committee wishes to place onto the Spearpoint recreation ground. We hope to have a resolution of this matter in the next couple of months.
4. **Summer Fayre**
 - 4.1. Arrangements for the Fayre are proceeding well. Booking forms for the stalls have been sent out and the Arena events are being finalised. The focus has been on involving all the local schools.
 - 4.2. Finances have been simplified; stalls will now be paid for upfront rather the stallholders paying a percentage of the takings, and raffle tickets will also be purchased upfront for a small percentage of the ticket price.
 - 4.3. The fair will be held from 12 – 4pm on Saturday 24 June.
5. **Treasurer's report** (Chris Woolgar)
 1. There was a small error in the September/October 2016 statement which was corrected. This has had a knock-on effect on the subsequent statements. Copies of these were made available at the meeting.

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2. The balance for all accounts up to the end of February 2017 stood at £6,623.99 (£3,780.10 in the KCF main account and £2,843.89 in the summer fayre account). Income for the main account was £301.59, being £262.50 for newsletter sponsorship, and £39 for the raffle. Expenditure was £282.72, being £274.73 for public liability insurance and £7.99 for raffle prizes. Expenditure in the Summer Fayre account was £20 for the lottery licence. The bank balance as of midday 27 March 2017 was £6003.11.
3. The Forum is still holding £140 for the Spearpoint pavilion. Geoff Stanborough was asked to consider how this money should be spent.

6. Updates from ABC and KCC Members:

6.1. Cllr Graham Galpin

1. Cllr Galpin explained that his portfolio included the community forums and the town centre. He said that Park Mall has been a great success with just one shop being vacant. The S106 on the Imax cinema has been signed and work will start in Elwick Road soon, finishing in 2018. The college should be finished by April 2017 and a new office block is being constructed. The groundwork for the new housing in Victoria Way has been started. Work on the new Brewery in Victoria Way will be starting shortly and Aldi will be ready for Christmas trading. The Designer Outlet is ready for the first phase of its extension using the car park and bus area.
2. The railway signalling works have now been fully funded and will be completed by February 2018. There will then be three trains a day stopping at Ashford, two of which will go to Paris and access to the Mediterranean. The new generation Deutsche Bahn trains will be able to stop at Ashford although it has not been announced which trains will stop.
3. Cllr Andrew Buchanan is working to improve Bockhanger Square.
4. Cllr Jim Wedgbury has been deselected by the Conservative party. There will be a county council election on 4th May and Paul Bartlett has put himself forward as the Conservative party candidate for Jim's ward: Ashford Central.

7. Open discussion on the Forum's activities (Chris Woolgar)

- 7.1. The Community Council will come into being in 2019. The forum needs to keep going until then.
- 7.2. After Chris Morley's resignation, the Core Group met and took advice from Michelle Byrne. The remaining Core Group members did not feel that they were in a position to keep all of the activities going that were under Chris Morley's chairmanship. Agreement was reached to continue with the following:
 1. Summer Fayre: this is progressing well under the guidance of Erika.
 2. Newsletter: we would like to thank Robin Britcher for kindly completing the last edition. Paul and Lee have agreed to work together on the up-coming editions. We would still be interested in hearing from any budding journalists or anyone who could help with the production side. The main caveat is that the newsletter must break even in terms of cost, therefore the number of issues will be reduced to three. Currently we anticipate they will be published in August, November and next spring. Paul and Lee have to manage the cost of production against sponsorship and Paul will be consulting

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with the sponsors for their views on timings and costs. Geoff Stanborough thanked the 26 distributors and added that there were, however, some parts of Kennington that are not being covered. The number of copies had been reduced to 4500. The number of pages will also depend on sponsorship receipts. Michelle said that it might be possible to get members' grant money to help with costs.

3. Website: Sandra is currently managing this new KCC-provided site and hopes to have assistance from a volunteer from the Volunteer Centre facilitated by Lee.
4. Facebook: Paul is taking a look at this to see how we can best manage this aspect of social networking. Graham Skinner, who moderates the Friends of Bybrook Nature Reserve Facebook group, offered to collaborate. **We have decided to close down the Twitter account.**
5. Community Council: Tony, with the help of Paul, has taken this under his wing and will be guiding us through the processes required by the Forum. If there are any volunteers that would like to assist in the Working Party that Tony is setting up then please get in touch. When the community council comes into force sixteen councillors will be required and the community council will also require a professional clerk.
6. Bank Signatories: We have, of course, had to cancel Chris Morley as a signatory, but our resolution in 2011 stated that there should be three. Lee has kindly volunteered to be that third person with Sandra and myself. **This was agreed by the meeting.**
7. Meetings: We have decided to reduce the number of Open meetings to the AGM in September and one other meeting, the date of which will be decided after the Core Group have had the opportunity to review any comments. Other meetings can be arranged or facilitated when issues arise.
8. Chair: So far the Core Group has worked without a Chair as no-one within the group wished to take on the role. Michelle has advised us that if someone would like to take on that role, we can co-opt them until the AGM. **Prior to the AGM, nomination forms will be made available for membership of the Core Group and the position of Chair.**
9. KCF Contact Information – the Core Members would **provide new email details for the Community which would also be added to the Website and if possible Facebook.**
 - Secretary: kenningtoncfsecretary@gmail.com
 - Treasurer: kenningtoncftreasurer@gmail.com
 - Newsletter: kenningtoncfnewsletter@gmail.com
 - Summer Fayre: kenningtonsummerfayre01@gmail.com
 - Community Council: kenningtoncc@gmail.com

7. Any other business

- 7.1. The Friends of Bybrook Nature Reserve AGM will be on Wednesday 26 April at Bockhanger Community Centre starting at 7pm. There will be an opportunity to tour the Reserve before the meeting from 5.30pm to 6.30pm.
- 7.2. Helen Brown said that Homestart would be receiving money from the Co-op community fund and she urged people to nominate Home Start as the charity they would like to support. Home Start helped 150 families in Ashford last year. KCF donated £500 to Home Start last year, matching the donation from the Summer Fayre committee. Helen thanked all those who had given their support.

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- 7.3. Deidre O'Neill is Director and Senior Youth Worker of Sk8side. She said that Sk8side had won the contract from KCC to provide youth services in Ashford district for the next 5 years. Over the next couple of months she would be carrying out research in certain areas of Ashford identified by KCC Commissioning and Early Help. Kennington / Bybrook is one of those areas. Deidre wished to find out people's views on youth issues, problem areas and hotspots. She can be contacted on 01233 624156, 07896 724216 or deidre@sk8side.org. Deidre also advised that Sk8side would like a stall at the Summer Fayre and has been provided with Erika's details.
8. **Next meeting.** Date to be advised. The AGM will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 26 September 2017 at St Mary's Community Centre, Rylands Road.