



[For Environment and Community](#)

Core Team Meeting 28th January 2026

Present: Kate Moss (Chair), Molly Bartrop (Secretary), Charles Tomalin (Wildplaces Officer), Mike Henchy (Treasurer), Peter de Voil, Mark Ayres, George Smid, Kieran Haycroft

Apologies: Anna Stockley, Isabelle Garnett, Allan Wall, Lisenka Klompenhouwer

Food Group

- Mini Allotments:
 - Everyone has renewed the mini-plots (fully occupied) and the rent has been paid.
 - The plan to take over the top plots has not happened yet as **Lisenka** needs to get two or three people interested first.
 - **Lisenka** will notify us when a work party is needed to take some of the sheds down. Could the wood go on the village bonfire (Charles Atkinson)?
 - Solar panels at the allotments: **Lisenka** will research getting someone in to advise. Would need to be a specialist in remote solar panel installation, such as those on caravans/boats. This is on hold.
 - Mark has emailed Rob Meadows re keeping water supply to the allotments on the PC agenda. No response as yet. **Mark** to update us as and when something happens.
- Community Orchard: Going OK but fruit production remains low. Hopes for next year and a community day to celebrate.

Transport Group

- Bikefix: No activity at the moment, looking at the first weekend in April to plan next session.
- Discussion on the logo, and which colours to use. We decided to stick with the TKC blue and green, however we will need to ensure we get an exact colour match. **Mark** will look into this.

Energy Group

- **Mark** is going to take over the thermal camera duties and trying to get the equipment off April.
- **George** is going to think about doing something around home energy. This could be as simple as writing an article/blog to share with the community,

e.g. interviewing folk who have successfully installed and benefitted from air-sourced heating, solar energy etc.

Tree Planting

- No further news from Anna about the fund from Kier to enable planting of trees next to highways. **Anna** will look into this and report back – a typical candidate would be Forest Approach.

Wildplaces

Workparties since last report - August 2025

After the haymaking season, we cleared put Maltings Green Pond area as usual, before attacking Meadow Junction on the railway path. The pond here was cleared of debris and a lot of overgrowth cut back from the path itself. We revisited the hazel coppicing in Millennium Wood and also tidied up the brambles on KC Meadow for the annual winter grazing regime.

59 Steps project

All the materials have been procured and delivered - mainly oak sleepers, chicken wire, gravel and stobs - and work has started. We have replaced the 28 steps at the wood lane entrance to the railway path, and a number of steps have been wired in preparation for installation. There are 4 around the entrance to KC Meadow, and then the staircase at Meadow Junction and also at second drift. These will require logistic support to transport the sleepers to each site. Most likely will be Ian Burrows' landrover. The Steps should be complete before the end of March, for the grant deadline, but informally we could extend beyond this date.

After this, we have the boardwalk in the cutting and the Horsewater seat to install.

Parish Council

Charles has now joined the PC Amenities committee, and we have had a couple of walk rounds and a separate meeting.

Charles is leading a walkaround for the officer for local nature recovery, from Nene Rivers Trust in February. Both our PC chair and clerk should be joining us, strengthening our ties with the council on biodiversity matters. It is hoped that NNC will also come along.

Lucy Hawes, from NNC, is presenting at the PC in February. Her remit is the creation of the Greenway public accessible routes across Northamptonshire. Her attention has recently returned to our area, and she wants to explain that Kings Cliffe is seen as a hub, and discuss possible routes - including a cycle link from Fineshade to KCA and possibly beyond to Apethorpe and Stamford.

The Common

The amenities committee have agreed the plan to fence and graze The Common. This will be presented to the full PC for approval at the February

meeting.

In preparation, we have permission to clear scrub from the entrance to KC Meadow on our February workparty.

If passed, we will work with the PC to obtain the necessary grant, and get the fencing organised. Craig Baxter, the grazier, has previously agreed to put his sheep on as required. However, he is disposing of his Hebridean sheep this year for commercial reasons, so the grazing will use 'standard' sheep which may require additional care in bramble management.

Village Field

Works have begun on creating the cricket pitch. However, they do seem to have respected the planned adder zone, and a good margin has been left on the northern edge.

We will keep a close eye as the project progresses.

Other stuff

We now have wardens for seven sites, where individuals keep an eye on general issues and report anything which needs attention –

Railway Path east	Mike Bunting
Village Field	Ian Froggatt
Millennium Wood	Ian Froggatt
KC Meadow	David Bedding
The Common	Kieran Haycroft
Maltings Green	Lisenka Klompenhouwer
Horsewater	Ian Burrows

Footpaths

Kate mentioned the application years ago to make the permissive footpath from the Beech tree up the side of Howard's field a formal footpath. This application was made when access was withdrawn several years ago. At the time we were told that it would take at least 5 years to be processed, and it's now been longer than that. From a walking perspective it's considered very important as it links Willow Lane with the official forest footpaths. **Kate** will talk to Rob Meadows to see if he can find out the application status.

Finance

Ideas for projects: The Pytchell and water sourcing on the allotments could be candidates for some spend.

Starting balance: £8622.42 (includes TKC Wildplaces grant for 59 Steps)

Outgoing:

TKC Wildplaces: £3901.04

Insurance: £259.55

Email Hosting: £15.60

Allotment Rent: £25.00

Incoming: None

Ending balance: £4421.23

Could we keep some of the money in an easy to access saving account?

Would that be allowed? **Mike** to investigate.

Communications

- Facebook page ticking along nicely – please continue to post and share on relevant topics - **ALL**. Be careful about which posts you approve from others, make sure you follow the rules and ethos of the page. If in doubt don't approve.
- Website. **Charles** to review Wildplaces content. More content needed to get BLOG going – photos of events etc. **All**
- £2-300 for banner agreed, one general and one for bikefix – **Mark/Kate** to present design to group. This cannot happen until we get some good photos from various sub-groups. Please send some quality photos of your subgroup to Mark or Kate, preferably via email – **All**
- Not everyone is in WhatsApp group so use email for important comms. **All**
- Mark has put a process in place to send emails to our Members list. If you would like to do so, please send the email to mark@transitionkingscliffe.org.uk and ask him to send it out. The members email address should no longer be used. **All**
- **Mark** is going to create a generic secretary@ email address that Molly can use, and subsequent secretaries.

Events

Summer green gardening event date decided for the afternoon of Sunday 19th July. **Kate** to book the upper community room at KCA and coordinate getting speakers sorted. Suggested speakers as follows:

- Gareth surname? RHS Gardener. **Anna** to ask if he can attend.
- Sheila & Mark Grout... Kings Cliffe's answer to the Good Life. **Kate** to ask if they can attend.
- Nick Bailey – **Kate** to ask if he would like to attend again this year.
- **Mark** will give us a rain garden update (as we will be building it this Spring).

If some of these speakers can't make it, we will have to look elsewhere (Bunny Guinness? Peter mentioned a garden designer in Easton called Ken Rawson?).

Ideas for future talks:

- Adders by Ian Frogatt, NNC Restoring Nature strategy.

- Home Energy success stories. Anna? Bob Gamble? David Lewis (Ketton Climate Action).

Organisational Stuff

Keep going with use of TKC rather than the word Transition – **All**. Use TKC as an umbrella word, so sub-projects become, for example, TKC Wildplaces, TKC Orchard, TKC Allotments, TKC Events, TKC Trees, TKC Energy Group, and so on.

The Secretary is no longer responsible for submitting our article for the gazette each month. Instead, submit your individual entries to Jo: gazette@kingscliffe.church. Make sure you mention that it's to be included in the TKC article. Deadline is generally around the 15th.

The Pytchell

Mel Peel has handed in her notice. **Kate** is going to send a proposal to the Parish Council for us to take over the maintenance, in collaboration with the PC. Baseline agreement to keep the Pytchell 'tidy' – what this means to be agreed with the PC. Beyond that there are ideas for sub-projects that will be managed and funded separately, for example:

- Getting the broken water pump working or possibly replacing it.
- Improving the orchard.
- Large community fruit cage at the top where the ducks/chickens were (a lot of clearance is needed here).
- Community seating area.
- What to do with the area by the Willow Brook, beyond the gate?
- Planting ideas/plan.

In addition, there is some essential maintenance work needed:

- Himalayan Balsam by the gate to the area by the Willow Brook needs to be removed asap.
- Wall collapse adjacent to Craig's garden.
- Tree management.

AOB

If the PC run a **Christmas Fair** again this year, **Kate** may help with promotion. This will mean TKC get a share of the proceeds, especially if we can also provide some volunteers on the day.

Next meeting

Wednesday 22nd April for the next meeting at 7.30pm, location TBC closer to the time. Likely to be the club.