

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Kingham Parish Council held on Wednesday 19th March 2014 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present : K.Hartley (Chair), Councillors M.Drinkwater, J.Harvey, B.Hughes, S.Notman, R.Sale and J.Warne Clerk- Nicole Marina. County Councillor Hilary Hibbert-Biles and eight members of the public.

Apologies: Councillor F.Barnsley

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 20th March 2013 were approved and signed.

Chairman's Report

The new Parish Clerk, Nicole Marina, was introduced who had commenced on the 7th March. All matters concerning the Parish council and Village Hall should be referred to her, Her contact phone number was given out – 01608 659 658

The outgoing Clerk, The Chairman thanked Sharon Henley for her accomplishments of the past year.

Play Areas, Both play areas have been sorted and RoSPA reports have advised that they are both in a good and safe condition.

Christmas Tree, donated by Kingham Hill School for the Village Green, had been successfully pulled upright after one malicious knock down and two knock downs from high winds.

Benches on the Village Green, have now all been refurbished and should maintain a good standard for many more years.

Mowing, the Parish Council was pleased with the WODC's mowing last year. A quote for this years mowing was acknowledged with a 2.5% increase in cost. The quote was accepted and will go ahead for the following year.

Cotswold Table has held farmers markets during the year, raising £700 for the Village Hall from the proceeds. Consisting of £200 for the first donation and £500 for the 2nd donation. The first contribution being lower due to high initial start-up costs. The next Costwold Table event will be on The Green on March 23rd 2014.

Solar lighting in Village Car Park are in place and effective.

Posts in Church Street had been installed appear to be helping slow traffic down.

Damage to Verge in Moat Street, refuse company had accepted responsibility and had agreed to repair.

Signed 

(Chairman) Date 18.03.2015

Drainage, Councillor Hughes had seen a representative from OCC Highways and action had been taken to prevent flooding on Daylesford Road, Church Street and Cozens Lane. A further action was needed for the 2nd drain in Cozens Lane and would be seen to shortly.

Social Housing development in New Road Contractors bid was completed on the 9th Nov 2013. The next step was for WODC to select a housing association, hopefully mid-March and are keen to complete the whole project by Autumn 2015.

Defibrillator- was bought by the Events Committee and is in place in the bicycle shed at the side of the Wild Rabbit. The Parish Council has agreed to be responsible for its maintenance. OC Ambulance Service visited to show how it is used.

Big Festival- information was received about an application to increase the total number of people attending the event from 15000-19999. It was acknowledged that this does not mean that there will be that many people there. Parish Council reminded the Festival Committee about the traffic concerns of the Village and participant number creep.

Bus Stop Clearways, showing areas that are to be kept clear between the hours of 7am and 7pm have been put in place.

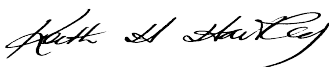
Table Tennis Table, Parish Council has agreed to fund a table tennis table to go in the play area near the Football pitch. It has been arranged and will be in place in the next couple of months.

Pathway between British Legion and Church Street- a new pathway has been considered by the Parish Council. As the Parish Council would be to pay for the pathway, Councillor Hughes is to investigate the cost.

Notice of Neighbourhood Planning Conference- due to the distance, being held in Devon, it was not attended.

County Councillor Hilary-Biles Report

- There have been County Council elections.
- A boundary review had taken place and the number of divisions had reduced by 11 (saving taxpayers over £100,000) so all councillors were effectively fighting a new division. The change in the number of Councillors means all divisions were enlarged.
- Kingham now comes under the Chipping Norton Division.
- Overall result was that the Conservative group missed an outright majority by 1 division, achieving only 31 out of 63 seats.
- Ian Hudspeth was re-elected as Conservative group leader and formed an agreement with 3 Independents to create the Conservative Independent Alliance to ensure a stable administration. He continues as Leader of council.

Signed 

(Chairman) Date 18.03.2015

-lan has appointed a cabinet with 50% female members, based on the best person for the job.

- Hilary Hibbert-Biles is the Cabinet Member for Public Health and the Voluntary Sector. Public Health has come to the local authority for the first time in 40 years.

- News in the summer of a further reduction in Gov't spending meant we had to find saving of an additional £64 Million, this is on top of the £201 million of savings already in place.

- some difficult choices had to be made- reducing workforce by 30%, reducing number of managers by 40%, pay freezes and reduced terms and conditions for remaining staff, reducing cost of pension scheme, increasing productivity, reducing number of Councillors, reducing number of offices, making more services easier to use online, haring services with other councils, outsourcing more services to the private or voluntary services, tighter contracts, introducing charging for services that were previously free e.g. Park and ride.

- with the budget in mind, lan decided to have road shows around the Country called 'Talking Oxfordshire'. The idea was to allow the public to talk directly to Joanna Simmons and the leader so they could understand the challenges they face.

- There were proposals concerning Home to School Transport, limiting it to the nearest school over 3 miles. No student who currently or will receive free transport from Sept 2014 will have it withdrawn. Students will still receive free transport but only to the nearest school.

- From Sept 2014 every secondary school in Oxfordshire will have a named school nurse in school from 9am-3pm each day.

- as a result of the Bullfinch Operation between Thames Valley Police and OCC a strong message has been sent regarding child exploitation and the public can contact the Kingfisher Team, a special unit set up to tackle this issue. (01865 335 276)

- Oxfordshire city deal has been signed. It will deliver growth to Oxfordshire. This means that around £55.5 Million of gov't funding can now be controlled locally to boost innovation and business growth. The deal is expected to be worth over £1.2 billion when private sector investment is taken into account. Plans we have developed include improvements to the A40 and A34. There is a proposal for a link road from the A40 to the A44 by Loop Farm roundabout, to help ease congestion on the A4095.

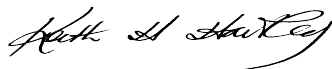
- announcement of better broadband across Oxfordshire with over 92% of premises connected by end of 2015. When full details of the Kingham area are known, we will be advised.

Signed 

(Chairman) Date 18.03.2015

- this year over the winter the concern was about flooding. Excessive rain was recorded which resulted in floods and road closures. However work undertaken in West Oxfordshire in 2007 meant we had little flooding in West Oxon.
- Strategic Housing Market Assessment has been published. Target for West Oxfordshire is going from 305 p.a. to 660-680 p.a. From the County Council perspective it is vital that we have correct infrastructure in place, especially highways and education.
- Budget was decided at the full Council meeting on the 18th Feb. An increase of 1.99% was agreed and whilst any increase should be avoided, this small increase of 46p per week for a band D property means that some valued services can be retained.
- Council is on track to have made £170 Million of savings from 2010- 2014 with a total of £265 Million of savings over the period 2010-2018.
- despite all savings and reductions there are positive announcements,
 - a. additional investment of £800 000 to end 15 minute personal care visits by extending the time of visits
 - b. an extra £350 000 available for setting up Multi-agency safeguarding Hub in Oxfordshire
 - c. £1M extra for general highway maintenance to be spent across the County.
 - d. £400 000 set aside for contingency to deal with issues stemming from flooding and other winter weather issues.
 - e. total of £315 000 will be invested in community budgets.
- On a Local Note- Discussions have taken place with officers at the County Council and Clinical Commissioning group of the NHS re. beds and nurses at Chipping Norton Hospital. Intention was for nurses to transfer the nurses across to the Order of St John, which would mean leaving the NHS. Many people opposed this originally. However it is looking positive to keep both the nurses and the beds with Oxfordshire Health and the NHS. Extra Care Housing is to be built in Chipping Norton and should be completed by the end of next year.
- Councillor Hibbert-Biles has only had this area as part of her division for the past year and we have not asked for a great deal to be done. Before she was elected there was an issue with works being carried outside the shop which seemed to have stagnated. Her department was asked to get this sorted, and it was.
- this year they have kept the 'Chill Out' fund. This means any group or council that needs funding for anything to do with youth e.g playground or funding for youth projects can apply. The decisions are made monthly and is part of Councillor Hibbert-Biles portfolio.
- there is also the 'Big Society Councillors' budget, although this has been halved to £5000. This is for groups and charities that need funding for particular events or projects or, as part of funds to keep them going. The forms for both these are on the OCC Website.

Signed



(Chairman)

Date 18.03.2015

Press Releases

- Council tax Freeze, services protected, grants safeguarded plus a pledge to invest in rural broadband.
- West Oxfordshire Local plan evaluated, 635-685 houses needed per year. A midrange of 660 houses.

Open Meeting

Big Festival- a resident raised concerns about the increase in the numbers of people attending the Festival and how capacity creep would want to be avoided. At some point there should be a capacity cut-off. It was suggested that local Councils be proactive now and talk to planners for the future. At this time the application was yet to be approved for this year. Kingham Parish Council would write a letter drawing attention to the views of the Village, as was done last time.


Village Car Parking-residents raised queries regarding car park signage for the Car Park next to the school, to make the signage clear that it is a Village Car Park. Chairman agreed to consider.

Wild Rabbit Car Park- have been asked to put up a car park sign, Council agreed to write again to have them put one in place.

Verge on the Corner of The Moat- Bob Lightfoot from WODC met with Councillor Hughes to inspect the verge. He agreed that it was the refuse truck that had done the damage and they will re-instate

Meeting Closed at 8.35pm

Signed



(Chairman) Date

18.03.2015