

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Kingham Parish Council held on Wednesday 18th March 2015 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Present : K.Hartley (Chair), J.Harvey, B.Hughes, J.Dewar, M, Dare and J.Warne Clerk- Nicole Marina. County Councillor Hilary Hibbert-Biles. District Councillors, A.Beaney and N.Colston. Ten members of the public.

Apologies: Councillor M.Drinkwater and R.Sale

Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting held on the 19th March 2014 were read out, approved and signed.

Chairman's Report

New parish Councillors were introduced, John Dewar and Martin Dare. Thanks were given to the outgoing Councillors within the year – F.Barnsley and S.Notman.

Two major **planning results** for the Village were reported during the year.

a). Threshers Yard – where legislation has changed to allow industrial sites to be rezoned for residential. 2-3 of the units here have already been given permission to change usage, but still remain industrially used at this time.

b). Church St, 16 dwellings, development – was initially rejected for approval from WODC Planning due to the Committee voting against the proposal. 40 members of the public had written to WODC planning to oppose the development. At Appeal the development was approved. It was said that the Planning Officers on the day of Appeal were seen to be unprepared and unorganised. Letters had been written on behalf of the Parish to David Cameron MP, WODC District Councillors, The Planning Inspectorate and Ombudsman. All responses received did not offer any further recommendations. These letters will be held on file and can be seen through arrangement with the Clerk.

Village Projects – a vote was taken from local Villagers as to what Village Projects were to take place. The project with the most votes was a **footpath to the British Legion**, while the 2nd place project was for upgrades to the **Village Hall**. The Village Hall completed changes, those being new heaters and secondary glazing. The British Legion footpath had been delayed due to issue's overcoming levels and slopes from the current driveways. Another vote had been taken as there was an alternative path given. The winning vote was for a shorter path, starting at the British Telecom driveway.

Another successful project was the **Table Tennis Table** that had been installed in the Football field playground. A grant was successfully applied for by Cllr Harvey and Cllr Hibbert-Biles, saw this go ahead – Thanks were given to both parties.

Keep Clear Road Markings were on order through OCC Highways for both corners of Orchard Way and one side of the corner of Cozens Lane – Wild Rabbit side. These are scheduled to be done within the next couple of months.

Signed



(Chairman) Date 16.03.2016

New Road Social Housing – Sovereign Housing had been awarded the contract and had just put their plans in with WODC on the 6th March. The formal registration by WODC of this application had not been completed at the time of the meeting. EC Carter had been retained as the contractor. The project was hoped to be started by August/Sept 2015 to be completed in 2016. All houses were to be for affordable rent, as this is what was identified by WODC originally, as the main need within the area.

Big Feastival - The time for the recorded music programme for the Sunday night of the Feastival had been a concern. The organisers, after discussions with the local authority had agreed to compromise and run this until 11.30pm on a Sunday preceding a Bank Holiday Monday and 10.30pm for a Sunday on a non-bank holiday weekend. The organisers have arranged a meeting for local residents that will be on 21st April, at the Chequers Pub in Churchill from 6pm- 8pm. Email address for contact is localresidentsBF@tastefestivals.com (this information was received after the AGM).

Railway Bridge Hedge Trim - a local resident had taken action and trimmed it back. Further trimming to the pavement and overhang had been done by OCC arranged by Cllr Hlbbert-Biles. Thanks were given to both for their help in this matter.

Ralph Mann's Village documents – had been given to Chris Harvey. He and helpers were in the process of archiving and organising, so as to have these available to interested Villagers on request – Thanks were given.

Bus Stop Markings in Church Street had been done and completed early in the year.

The Owl Box in the Millenium Wood was up and it has been said that there is an owl living in it.

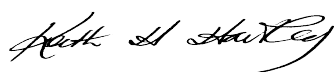
Kingham Village Car Park Sign – is up and visible.

Mobile Homes – a new application had been received for The Heyes, Churchill Road, Kingham. A proposed change of use of land into a touring caravan park for up to 12 pitches. The Parish Council would submit comments to WODC Planning.

Financial Report

Kingham Parish Council			
Income and Expenditure 2014-2015			
	£		£
Bank Balance b/f 2013-14	£41,546		
Income		Expenditure	
Precept	18,000	VAT charges	2336
Play Area (Table tennis grant)	500	Electric (Village Green)	184
Grass Cutting Grant and Car Park Donation	654	100 Club Prize money	880
100 Club Income	1740	Clerks Wages	5346
Adcraft Rent and other small income	289	Clerks/Cleaner PAYE & IN	£60
Cotswold Table donations and bank interest	1260	Admin Expenses	637
VAT refund	1796	Grass and Hedge Cutting (including reimburse for tr	3350
Total	24,239	in west street and Village Green Tree trim	
		Table tennis Table/concrete and Matting	784
		Village Maintenance (car park sign, car park posts	1028
		car park plants, skip hire, reflectors)	
		Insurance	862
		Expenditure on Village Hall Projects	11837
		Village Hall Insurance and Council tax	1256
		fees and subscriptions	300
		Misc. - donations, consultant fee	1437
		Rent - field	140
		Total	30,437
Bank + Income	65,785		
Less Expenses	30,437		
Bank Balance	£35,348		

Signed



(Chairman)

Date : 16.03.2016

County Councillors Report - Cllr Hillary Hibbert- Biles

2015-2016, Council Tax increase will be 1.99%. The number of District Councillors will decrease from 300 to 100, County Councillors will also decrease by 50%. There is an overall concern that there will not be enough staff. The remaining staff will be stretched.

This year there will be no Big Society fund, no Chill Out fund, no area Steward fund. Road works are set in place to help with the congestion on the A40. Transport to local Hospitals - we hope to improve, as one development as put £228,000 towards transport. 7 men have been charged in the Child exploitation case. Oxfordshire has set in place many systems and procedures to help stop this from happening again. There are School help nurses in every secondary school. A specialist unit, the King Fisher unit, is in place specifically to deal with Child Exploitation. The County had never before seen crime like this. These new procedures had been rated as Good by Ofsted. Health was likely to be covered in the future by County Council. Health Checks were promoted and GP's were going to have extended hours.

District Councillor Report – Cllr Beaney

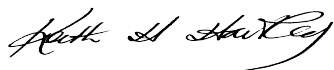
West Oxfordshire District Council and Cotswold District Council have shared services, which in turn led to a 0% council tax rise. i.e. £81.63 tax for Band D. Grants to Village Halls will continue. Rural Broadband is set to cover 95% by the end of the year. Local Plan was out on the 26th February 2015. This was for 31 years. 435 p.a houses needed in previous plan, now raised to 660 p.a. 1400 Houses in the Chipping Norton area, 220 have already been started – this will include a new sports Hall and Primary school. A recycling station in Oxfordshire - not one at this stage. Cllr Colston was present to talk about Planning and answer questions in regards to the Church Street Development – this took place in the Open Meeting.

Open Meeting

One resident asked the question, Why don't Planning Inspectors enforce the planning Conditions? This questions was in relation to a particular resident and their personal complaint. Cllr Colston had spoken to the Enforcement Officer who had dealt with this case and they had seen the case as compliant. In regards to Planning in general, many Planning Officers had moved on, the Planning department was under staffed and Cllr Colston would like to see more funds given towards Planning, particularly in Rural areas. Planning Staff are under pressure and enforcement had suffered. Most District Councillors are uncomfortable with the amount of houses they are asked to approve. Currently Witney and Carterton will take the brunt, but Chipping Norton will have to take some housing too. A question was asked – will there be a by-pass for Chipping Norton, as currently the road through the town is already over used. Cllr Colston expected this to be covered by Planners.

The PC encourages development i.e. the New Road development, however when a development arises, that gets such a reaction from local residents, as with the Church Street Development (40 resident letters of concern were received by WODC), it seems that the Planning Inspectorate ignore local points of view. OCC Highways were also aware of one of the concerns – traffic down Church Street, even before the application went through.

Signed



(Chairman) Date 16.03.2016

An inspector had come to the Village to see if anything could be implemented to help control this already, increased, traffic flow. Highways gave support to the development as long as monetary means were given from the developer. There did not seem to be any arbitration system that could help in issue's as these, as even the further letters sent asking for explanations from WODC, David Cameron MP etc – the responses only seemed interested in if the proper procedure was followed and if so, nothing could be done to change the outcome. The Ombudsman could not help in this regard as the PC is a public body. Cllr Colston strongly advised getting a Neighbourhood Plan together, as even though this may be expensive, they held greater weight in Planning Application decisions. The PC agreed to put this on the Agenda for next month's meeting. The PC also expressed frustration that our District Councillors are on the Planning Committee so could not be called upon for advice in any Planning matters. Another point was raised that because at the time of the hearing the Planners could not supply a 5 year plan, as there was none – this was a positive point for the developer. It was mentioned that the Planners must have known that there was one just about to be published, as it came out on Feb 26th 2015.

The proposed Caravan park was mentioned – what was the PC planning to do. It was pointed out that in 2010 the PC had objected to one caravan being approved to be used as a dwelling. One of the deciding factors of the application being granted in 2010, in which cultural needs of the applicant were taken into consideration when granting the application was due to certain legislation covering those cultural needs. This same piece of legislation was then rescinded 6 mths later. The PC intended to raise concerns with WODC Planning. One resident then read out a Newspaper article about people and businesses being offered suitable disposable containers for cigarette butts. One resident had done a clean-up along Station Road, past the Church, up to the Wild Rabbit and outside the British Legion. Most of the rubbish was cigarette butts. He asked if both establishments could be asked to clean up on the footpath. Letters will be written to ask for Clean-up help to both.

No other Business, Meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Signed



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