Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Kingham Parish
Held on Wednesday 20 March 2019, 7.30 pm 201903APM DRAFT

Chairman of the Parish Council: Cllr K Hartley
Clerk of the Parish Council: Anne Ogilvie
Attendees: Cllr Colston, Cllr Beaney, Cllr Hibbert-Biles, PC Cochrane, sixteen members of the public.

1 Apologies – Cllr Warne

2 Minutes
The minutes of the previous meeting were approved and signed.

3 Parish Council Chairman's Report
The Chairman, Cllr Hartley, gave his report, a brief overview of the Council's actions during the past year. He wished Michael Davies well following recent events, and noted that the Village Newsletter did not have a representative at this meeting.
Trees on the Green – The Council are planning to interplant the mature trees with saplings, so the trees remain an attractive feature for future generations. Indigenous species, between 10-12 feet have been chosen.
Council website – The new Council website is now live. Groups who would like to have a page organise and pay for this with a third party. Comments from residents are invited.
Telephone kiosk – This has been "bought" from BT using the "adopt a kiosk" scheme. The Council have asked for ideas for its usage, but have not received any yet. The Council is open to suggestions.
Defibrillators – The village now has two defibrillators, a new one on the Football Club pavilion, and the existing one at the Wild Rabbit. The Events Committee paid for the new defibrillator and the new parts needed for the existing one. The Council are now responsible for the maintenance of both.
Major expenditure – Major expenditure items this year have been the resurfacing of the car park by the Football Club pavilion - £2300, installation of a new surface under play equipment - £3120, replacement of railings and installation of bollards in the village car park - £3700, and repair to the one of the village noticeboards - £485.
Planning –
The Mill House Hotel – the plan to change it to a care community was withdrawn. The hotel has now been purchased by another company. Its future is unknown.
The sixteen house development off Church Street is nearing completion. The Council is not aware of anyone from Kingham moving into the social or low cost housing.
The application for three houses west of Greenacres, Churchill Road has been approved, but work has not started yet.
The application for an HMO at Fowler House for nine staff members has been approved. The grounds of Fowler House being used as a car park has been raised with WODC, and is being investigated.
Traffic – A traffic survey is being planned to obtain information about the size and speed of vehicle going through Kingham. There will be a "tube survey" at each end of the village.
New seats – Replacement seats have been put on the Green and the playing field, and a picnic bench on the playing field has been replaced. The back panel of old seat on the Green has been removed, and attached to the new seat.
OCC Councillor Priority Funding – Cllr Hartley thanked Cllr Hibbert-Biles for the funding from the priority fund which helped to pay for the railing replacement in the village car park.

4 Thames Valley Police Report
PC Chris Cochrane from Witney stood in for PC Rob Webb, who is currently on a training course.
He reported that crime rates across the country have risen over the past year, including in West Oxfordshire and Kingham, but West Oxfordshire has the lowest crime statistics in the Thames Valley Police area.

Signed (Chairman) Date

Thames Valley Police (TVP) priorities for West Oxfordshire are burglaries, domestic abuse, child exploitation and drugs. Problems which used to be thought of as urban issues are now becoming more common in rural settings, eg county line drug operations. Professional criminals from outside TVP area are coming in and systematically targeting villages. Cash, jewellery and high end cars are the main focus. TVP are working with cross-border agencies to counter these problems.
There were 16 reported crimes in Kingham in the last twelve months, eleven of these were burglaries. There has been a large increase in drug usage. Some young people are now using cannabis, in place of alcohol. Drug dealers from major cities come into Chipping Norton and the surrounding towns, and exploit local children into becoming distributors for them. These dealers have realised that they can sell drugs at higher prices in more affluent areas. TVP are working with councils, schools etc to help support those children who are more likely to be targeted by drug dealers to become part of the distribution ring.
TVP are increasing their presence in the local area. PC Rob Webb is going to manage four PCSOs from Chipping Norton. PC Cochrane's team from Witney will help cover absences as required. There will also be a "problem solving team" – officers dropped into an area to solve a specific problem, before moving on the next issue. TVP are currently short-staffed by 120 officers.
Neighbourhood Watch – TVP are keen to revamp the Neighbourhood Watch approach to community life, and would like to improve communication with residents. They admit to not having been very good at working with rural communities in the recent past, and are eager to change this.
The non-emergency telephone number for people to use to make reports is 101. There may be a 45 minute wait on this number, and 24-48 hours for a response. Reports can also be made via the TVP website, or using the community email address: WitneyNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. None of these should be used for reporting crimes, especially those currently taking place!

5 County Councillor Report – Cllr Hilary Hibbert-Biles

Independent colleagues have supported the budget. We have taken difficult decisions in the past as we have to produce a balanced budget every year. Taking those complex decisions has meant we are in a more solid financial position however budgets are still tight, and we still have to deliver more savings through transformation and partnership working.
We have had some additional short-term funding which is good, but we really need to have a good settlement from the Spending Review and the new Fair Funding formula to ensure that we can deliver quality services in the future.
We altered the budget around the mental health proposals to put back the £100,000 towards the NHS mental health joint partnership budget and although it's been deferred by a year, there is still some saving of £600,000 over two years to reprofile the way some of our social work is delivered. We must either identify an additional £600,000 saving or make that difficult decision not to provide extra support to SEND adults. This will be a test of how we work with the NHS as the move is towards a more integrated system, however we do need a sustainable future for Social Care otherwise the NHS will not be able to deliver its 10-year plan. In this budget there is investment of almost £6m by 2023 to increase care packages to meet assessed needs for adults with learning and physical disabilities. An increase of £5.8m is proposed to be added to the budget in 2022/23 in adult social care to meet projected increased need given the aging population. The council's existing planning up to 2021/22 already includes provision for budget increases for £15.6m for adult social care.
There will be a £1 million fund for youth provision across the county. This fund will be available over the next two years to assist youth provision across the county; groups and organisations will be able to come forward with proposals before a cross party group who will determine the outcome. These proposals will be locally met with the support of the local Councillor.
We are investing £4m up to 2023 to support the increasing number of children qualifying for special educational needs school transport. And, recognising the growth in demand in special educational needs, we are putting up to £16.8m into a reserve over the medium term to manage demographic risk.

Signed (Chairman) Date

From 2010, when we started a savings programme to the end of this financial year, we will have saved around £400m. This has been set against a backdrop of the number of adult care packages we provide nearly doubling since 2010. The number of looked after children has increased by 60%, and demand for child protection services continues to grow. With these sorts of budget pressures, we must target our resources to provide vital services to those vulnerable adults and children who require them most. Here are just some examples of the services we deliver:

- Received over 13,500 new requests for adult social care services
- Providing long-term social care for 6,300 adults
- Organising a million hours of support a year, as well as assisting thousands of informal carers
- Assessing almost 6,000 children, including over 1,500 child protection issues
- Supporting 789 looked after children, and 602 on a child protection plan
- Working to turn around 974 families with real problems so they can thrive
- Registering 20,000 births, deaths and marriages
- Maintaining almost 3,000 miles of road
- Issuing or renewing over 30,000 concessionary bus passes per year
- Managing 285,000 tonnes of household waste in 2017/18
- Oxfordshire County Council Fire and Rescue Service responded to over 6,250 incidents in 2017/18

Demand for services continues to rise as our population grows and ages.

This year the government enabled us to increase Council Tax by an additional 1% in recognition of inflationary pressures on all services. The Council Tax has been raised by the maximum allowed without triggering a referendum of 2.99%.

To help deliver a thriving economy in Oxfordshire the government has recently provided an additional £7.4m for road repairs which when added to the £10m this year that cabinet agreed as part of the new £120m infrastructure fund, has given the highways team the opportunity to deliver real improvements to the road network. Following on from the bad winter last year they have repaired over 40,000 defects.

The 10-year capital programme means we can take a longer-term view of the costs and benefits of road repairs. We will be investing over £1 billion in Oxfordshire across our estate and schools, including a £41m street lighting improvement programme, with traditional lanterns to be replaced with more energy efficient LED lighting, saving money in the long-run.

Within the capital programme is the Oxfordshire growth deal, worth £215m which we are now seeing being delivered across the county including £60m to help deliver more affordable homes in Oxfordshire. These are large amounts of investment that will fund the infrastructure needed to support the predicted growth in jobs in Oxfordshire and ensure our economy continues to thrive.

We have recently submitted the Housing Infrastructure Fund bid for the Didcot area with £218m which will deliver vital infrastructure to help deliver more homes. We have been successful with this bid and have been encouraged to submit another HIF bid for the A40 corridor with around £140m to help relieve the pressure on businesses in the area.

With these two additional bids we could see additional funding of over £350m coming into the Oxfordshire economy.

Last year we started the Councillor Priority Fund to make sure that councillors and communities had a say in how money is spent, some was spent here on the village car park. The Councillor Priority Fund will continue alongside the new youth provision fund enabling local communities to deliver what's best in their area.

This budget for 2019/20 is increasing the funding on adult social care by £8.8m, increasing the funding on children's social care by £9m, and increasing the funding on education by £3m.

At the end of August last year I stood down as Cabinet member for Education and Public Health. I have one gear when I am working which is full throttle. Doubling up my portfolio meant I was having little home life and very long days. I was particularly sad to give up the Public Health portfolio I had

held for 5 ½ years. However I am now enjoying a more sedate life with much more time to give to constituents.
As ever it is a pleasure representing you at County Hall. Could I thank the Parish Council for all their work for the community which they do out of the goodness of their hearts and concern for the village where they live.
Please send my best wishes to Michael Davies for a speedy recovery

6a District Councilllor Report – Cllr Nigel Colston

Cllr Colston noted that WODC had been formed in 1973. It has 49 elected councillors. Kingham, Rollright and Enstone Ward is represented by two councillors. Within WODC 17 councillor positions are up for election this May, including that currently held by Cllr Beaney.
There is currently a huge amount of activity within the District Council. The major issues of the last few years have been settled, or are on hold.
Local Plan – The Local Plan was adopted last autumn. This includes the requirement to build 650 homes per year, subject to market forces (if houses built are unsold, the requirement to build more is put on hold). Development in Chipping Norton to build is in the first stages of consultation.
Unitary Council – This appears to be off the agenda for the present. OCC and District Councils are currently working together so this change does not appear to be urgently required.
Publica - Four councils sharing the services provided by Publica, has contributed to savings of about £350,000 per year to WODC. These savings help to keep Council tax at a low rate.
Ubico – After a shaky start, the waste service provider appears to be operationally sound now.
Planning – The application for the Mullin Museum, plus 24 luxury homes, on the airfield at Enstone is causing considerable discussion at the moment. This would be a major visitor attraction, but is causing some local disquiet.
National Park – The concept of the Cotwolds AONB becoming a National Park is still on the agenda, although this would be a long term plan. A committee will be reporting back to Michael Gove this autumn regarding this plan. WODC is not supportive of this plan. There are concerns regarding the loss of planning control which would occur if the area was part of a National Park.
Cllr Colston expressed his concern that the area was losing its ruralness, and was worried that becoming part of a National Park would make this worse.
He concluded by stating that Kingham was a great place to live, and commended the Parish Council on its project to plant more trees on the village green.

6b District Councilllor Report – Cllr Andrew Beaney

Cllr Beaney remarked that Council tax is just over £99.30 for a Band D property.
The creation of Publica has produced savings of £350,000 per year. Some services have had to be cut, for example the garden waste service now has to be paid for by residents directly.
He asked the meeting for its views on the AONB becoming a National Park.
He informed the meeting that CIL will be introduced this autumn. A Parish Council with a Local Plan would be eligible for 25% of the fund, rather than the 10-15% it might otherwise receive.

7 Open meeting and Questions

7.1 Cllr Hibbert-Biles was questioned regarding OCC co-ordinating with TVP on the issue of County Lines and children being involved. She confirmed that they are working with TVP, especially concerning the targeting of vulnerable young people.

7.2 Cllr Hibbert-Biles was questioned about the problem with the Primary School roof and windows. She did not have an update regarding the situation.

7.3 Cllr Hibbert-Biles was questioned about potholes. She stated that there is now a 5-year plan for resurfacing roads rather than continually filling and re-filling potholes. Unfortunately, as the rural roads don't suffer from the heavy traffic of the major routes, they are seen as a lower priority.

Signed (Chairman) Date

7.4 Cllr Colston queried the existence of the Councillor Priority Fund with Cllr Hibbert-Biles. Cllr Hibbert-Biles was happy with this OCC policy which enabled her to put much needed safety measures into the local community.

7.5 The damaged wall between Fowlers Road and the new development was raised as an issue. It was felt that people were using this as a short-cut. The owner of the wall is unknown. It was agreed to put this on the agenda for the next Parish Council meeting.

7.6 It was commented that the new saplings on Fowler Road needed larger stakes and better protection.

7.7 Blocked drains in West Street and Cozens Lane were listed as a concern. Cllr Hibbert-Biles agreed to investigate this issue, and also the gully in Cozens Lane which needs to be cleared.

7.8 The Parish Council stated that it could see advantages and disadvantages to Kingham being part of a National Park.

7.9 Concern was raised with the District Councillors by the Parish Council regarding the under-resourcing of the District Planning Department. It was felt that most planning decisions are now being delegated, that fewer are now going to the Planning Committee.

8 AOB

8.1 The Council informed the meeting that the Council has a vacancy for a Councillor until the election next May.

8.2 Residents were reminded that Kingham Tidy Up would take place on Sunday 31 March. It was noted that Julie Slatter and her son had recently collected four bags of rubbish from the verges of the Daylesford Road.

Meeting Closed at 9.30 pm

Signed (Chairman) Date