**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Kingham Parish**

**Held on Wednesday 15 March 2023, 07.30 pm 202303AGM**

**Chairman of the Parish Council:** Cllr K Hartley

**Clerk of the Parish Council**: Gemma Tindsley

**Attendees:** Cllr Wilson, Cllr Beaney, Cllr Saul, five members of the public.

**1 Apologies** – PC Chris Cockrane from Thames Valley Police

**2 Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting on 20 April 2022 were approved and signed.

**3 Parish Council Chairman’s Report**

The Chairman, Cllr Hartley, gave his report, a brief overview of the Council’s major actions during the past year.

Cllr Hartley began by thanking WODC and OCC for their continuing support over the year and attendance at the monthly Parish Council meetings.
**Yellow Lines –** After setting up a survey, posting it out on social media and the Parish Council website, the results concluded that the consensus was to go ahead with the placement of yellow lines on the Church corner. The Clerk has been in contact with OCC to begin the consultation process.

**Play Area –** The new equipment on the Playing Field has now been set up and is already being enjoyed by children in Kingham and the surrounding areas. This play area was made possible due to the generous donations from the Bamford Family, WODC and Kingham Parish Council.

An official opening will take place later this year. A bench has already been erected and a plaque is to be acquired to thank our kind donors.

**Jubilee Picnic –** the Jubilee Picnic that took place, despite the terrible weather, was a great success. A special thanks to Cllr Hunter for all her efforts in organising such a special event.

Cllr Hunter has now agreed to take on the task of organising the next big event for the village – a lunch in honour of the King’s Coronation – taking place on Sunday 7th May.

**Twinning with Pont-a-Marcq** - due to the lack of interest from anyone in the Village taking over the committee, the twinning between Kingham and Pont-a-Marcq has ended. Any money in the Committee’s account has been agreed to be passed over to Kingham Parish Council.

**Planning Applications** – the Parish Council has noted that there has been a significant increase in planning applications over the last year. The Parish Council has raised comments and objections, but have had little to no feedback from the WODC planning department regarding these.

**Road Conditions –** the Parish Council noted the bad condition of the roads in the Village. The Parish Council have a meeting on Monday 20th March with an OCC Highways Officer to come and look at the roads.

**Millenium Gate** – originally located at the back entrance of the school. The school wanted to replace the gate and therefore asked the Parish Council whether they’d like it to re-home. The Parish Council reinstituted at the gateway to the allotments.

**The Mill House** –the Parish Council has not yet heard back from Planning regarding the status of the application.

The Parish Council asked that any S106 money available be split between the Village Hall and Football Club for improvements. This has been agreed in principle by the Planning Officer.

**4. County Councillor’s Report**

 Cllr Saul gave us an overview of the OCC’s key issues:

* Inflation rate is above 10% for the first time in over 40 years.
* Adult social care issues keep increasing, particularly regarding finding appropriate care staff.
* Highway maintenance is still underfunded, despite a £1 million increase. The government has set a £200 million highways budget, £3.7 million of this is allocated to Oxfordshire.
* Council Tax will be increased by 4.99% which is the maximum that the OCC can increase it by. Money has been set aside for people that can't afford the additional Council Tax increase.
* Key positives:
* OCC has a budget for a new youth services initiative, including employment of new Youth Officers.
* Funding available for community hubs.
* Two new children's homes are being built, so that children do not have to move out of the County for a home.

**5. West Oxfordshire District Councillor’s Report**

WODC thanked the Parish Council for all the work that they’d put in this year.

Cllr Beaney and Cllr Wilson gave us an overview of the OCC’s key issues:

* there will be an increase of £5 in Council Tax and an increase of £5 for the green bins.
* residents will need ID for the local elections. The elections are still going ahead on 4th May, despite the King's Coronation taking place that week.
* The empty and second home proposal will be coming through in the next couple of years - a significant increase in their Council Tax.
* Community Crowdfunding Project - Council will put money towards projects.
* The Mill Development - Officer recommendation for approval subject to environmental/highways issues being resolved. Other recommendations were:
* WODC recommended that Kingham railway bridge be taken into consideration - possibility of widening the bridge or making the passing over the bridge safer.
* Also, a recommendation to upgrade the sewer systems and money towards reducing the speed limit.

**6. Thames Valley Police**

This report comes from the Neighbourhood Supervisor for the West Oxon area, PC Chris Cochrane, who supervisors the Police Community support officers in Witney, Carterton, Woodstock, Chipping Norton, Eynsham and all the villages and towns in-between.

Kingham falls under the Chipping Norton Neighbourhood and so all crime reported on the [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk/) website shows all crime in the Chipping Norton and surrounding areas crimes. This website gets updated with crime stats every 3 months. The Chipping Norton area is still waiting on the most up-to-dates stats. In January 2023 there were 6 reported crimes in Kingham (this is publicly available on the website).

Since December 2022 there has been a sharp rise in burglaries at farms, sheds and burglaries where high powered cars are being stolen. Thames Valley Police have increased the policing patrols in the A361 corridor and surrounding villages. As a result, in the last 5 weeks there seems to have been a decrease in the frequency of these types of crime in the Chipping Norton area.

During the last 2 weeks there have been attempted burglaries in Milton, Shipton and Charlbury. The Thames Valley Police believe these are the same people that targeted the area earlier in the year.

They are working with bordering forces and the offenders may be coming from out of this force area to commit these crimes. The rural tasking team within TVP has also been asked to patrol in these areas more often, and the local Neighbourhood teams have been providing reassurance, patrols and crime prevention advice to villages and farms in the area.

During the last year the West Oxon PCSO (Police Community Support Officer) staffing has fallen to 50% due to the PCSO’s joining the police service as Police Officers. PC Cockrane is happy to report that they are getting these numbers back up to near full staff but are still looking to recruit 2 PCSOs in the Chipping Norton and surrounding Villages in the near future.

If there are any questions or concerns that any residents would like to ask my email address is Christopher.cochrane@thamesvalley.police.uk

**7. Open meeting –**

A resident commented on the new speed limit along the road towards Kingham Station, that has been reduced to 40mph. They stated that it was a positive change, however were concerned about the speed at which vehicles were travelling on the road coming out at the other end of the Village – towards Kingham Hill and Daylesford (where the speed limit goes from 30mph straight to the National Speed Limit). Traffic is also highly likely to increase along this road if planning permission is given for The Mill. It was confirmed by the Councillors that the 20mph speed limit scheme should begin soon, and that the Traffic Officers would examine the areas around the Village and whether it’s current speed limit is suitable.

**Action:** Clerk to contact Highways Officer about speed limit along this road.

A resident mentioned the rough state of the Daylesford workshops.

**Action:** Clerk to contact Daylesford.

The Greenway issue were raised again. It was confirmed that the money was just for re-surfacing and not to change the use from a bridleway.

OCC confirmed that it would be a traffic free Greenway – this was noted in the OCC planning application.

It is understood that the council tax for second/holiday homes will be doubled.

**8. AOB-** Nil

**Meeting Closed at 8.40 pm**