

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Great and Little Kimble cum Marsh held on Wednesday 12th May 2021 at Kimble Stewart Hall at 8pm

Attendance: Cllr John Austin, Cllr Alun Jones, Cllr James Cripps, Cllr Delia Burton, Cllr David Williams, Cllr Harvey Alison, Cllr James Good and Tracey Martin (Clerk)

1. **Welcome by the Chairman of Parish Council:** Councillor Austin opened the meeting

2. **Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report**

Welcome

A warm welcome to you all to the Annual Parish Meeting. I'd like to start on behalf of the Parish as a whole and thank my fellow Parish Councillors for their support and work throughout the last year.

Planning Applications

A reminder that the PC is invited to comment on all Planning Applications for properties in our Parish. Although the PC has no power, we advise Buckinghamshire Council of our views, positive or negative, on the applications and any inconsistencies with the Neighbourhood Plan. This is overseen by a committee of three Parish Councillors and if Parishioners have views on any application that they would like the Committee to consider please let us know.

Neighbourhood Plan

Whilst no ground has been broken on any of the sites outlined in the NP, planning applications for two have been approved. These have, however, stalled as the Bucks Council planning department has introduced 'reserved matters' which must be resolved before there can be any further progress.

HS2

During the last 12 months we have all seen the sheer size of the devastation to our local landscape as this project ploughs on. Councillors have been continually engaging with the Project co-ordinators to try and minimise the local impact. Noise reduction/mitigation was a major concern against the actual railway and the Stoke Mandeville relief road. This has been investigated by HS2 and based on their Sound Survey the theoretical estimate is that there will be no material noise pollution, but they are now looking at mitigation against light pollution. If in due course there is empirical evidence of the contrary we will challenge HS2 further.

A4010/B4009

One identified problem is increasing traffic through our Parish, particularly on the B4009 now and when upgraded to A status. The PC will be monitoring this and engaging with the relevant planning authorities.

Kimble Stuart Hall

After the hiatus of lockdowns, the KSH has returned to being fully open for business. On behalf of all of you I thank the Hall Committee for their sterling work in running this vital asset and draw your attention their Chairs report.

North West Chilterns Community Board

Councillor Cripps has been heavily engaged with the NWC Community Board and sits on the traffic sub-group. The Board members include representatives from local Town and Parish Councils and the Board has a budget from Bucks Council to support projects for Community Resilience, Economic Regeneration, Environmental and Climate Change, and Transport and Road Issues. We are applying to the Board for funding to support tackling road safety concerns in our parish, including pedestrian safety crossing the main roads by the Swan PH and close to St Nicholas' church.

We have also made received a s.106 contribution from Bucks Council for the A4010 suitability study, which is the other side of Church Lane from the St N church. We should also be making two grant applications to HS2 for traffic calming measures before the end of the month.

Playground

The playground is as ever a popular communal space for our youth and families and the PC continues to manage and finance this facility. Our aim will be to ensure this remains a safe and friendly environment for all.

We have applied to the Community Board for a grant for improving /maintaining the playground equipment and this should be granted at the next meeting in July, albeit for only £2,000 of the planned expenditure of £16,266 following CB budget cuts.

Bus Shelters

The Bus Shelters in the Parish are maintained by the PC and we organised repairs during the year, especially after the winter storms.

Village Gates

The boundaries of our villages/hamlets are marked by Village Gates on the main access roads. These were found to be in a state of poor repair and have now been replaced. We hope you all agree that these new gates are a fine welcome to our Parish.

Marsh Kerbing/Pinch Point

It has long been recognised that speeding through Marsh is a concern to all that use that road, especially walkers for whom there are no paths. This had led to several incidents in the vicinity of the narrow pinch point near the village entrance from Bishopstone. After lengthy attempts to get this addressed by Transport for Bucks, we have managed to initiate traffic calming measures.

It is understood that TfB is considering whether to approve a feasibility study (rather than do any actual work) on the pinch point at the entrance to the village (not near the double bend).

HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

A small group of residents led by have pulled together to organise a series of events so that our community can join in the nation-wide celebrations between 2-6 June. Full details are due to be sent out to every household in the next few days – so you all invited to come along to one or all of these. In a lasting tribute a Holm Oak has been planted on the green adjacent to the playground.

Your Parish Officers

You should all recognise the dedication and time that your Councillors put it on your behalf to run this, Parish. It may be that the PC has little power only influence, but through their hard work we actually have a voice which can and has been heard. So, my thanks to the team, who have all contributed to the workings of the council.

Parish Clerk

I'd like on behalf my fellow councillors to take this opportunity to thank Julie Bunker who after 11 years dedicated service left the post to explore other avenues. We wish her well.

The Clerk's post was then filled by Tracey Martin, who came fully qualified for the position and with a wealth of experience as the part-time clerk for two other local Parishes. Unfortunately for personal reasons Tracy has just recently decided that she will need to relinquish the post. She stays with us whilst we advertise and find a replacement. My thanks to her for her very informed support over the last 8 months.

Council Meetings & Information

Hopefully you are all aware that your PC meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, here at the KSH Committee Room, normally at 7:30 p.m. The agenda is published 5 days before on the website and meetings are open for all to attend and contribute. Previous minutes are available on the website along with links to planning applications around the Parish and other useful information. Please visit our website www.kimblecouncil.org

If you have matter you would like addressed, please contact the Parish Clerk (clerk@kimblecouncil.org) or 07494 691605.

John Austin
Chairman (2021-22)

3. Report from the Kimble Stewart Hall Committee

Unfortunately, the Chair had been unable to attend but had sent in a report ahead of the meeting.

Hiring during the last year has been intermittent depending on the Covid regulations. We have maintained a dialogue with the regular hirers and there is also now more hiring of the hall for one off activities. However, our income has been much reduced at the same time as incurring additional costs, including additional cleaning. We have returned to 'normal'; though the signs and sanitising tables remain in situ.

A small number of parents of Great Kimble C of E School continue to use the car park to facilitate walking along the footpath and across the fields to the school in order to relieve traffic congestion in Church Lane. The WI/Chiltern Ladies use the carpark for parking for their trips.

Finances

David Cooling is checking the accounts for the year ending March 22. Many thanks are due to David for agreeing to continue this role. Inevitably the Hall's finances have taken a hit. Fortunately, we have received the local authority grant payments available to village halls. To encourage return of hirers 25% discount was offered to regular hirers. This was in place to the end of December 2021.

Maintenance

The car park perimeter fence was significantly damaged in February's winds. This has now been repaired. Part of the ceiling of the Committee Room collapsed (due to old age) resulting in the whole ceiling needing to be replaced. That work is in progress at the moment. Thanks are due to the Parish Council for their contribution to the replacement ceiling.

Security

The committee have had a rota for daily checking of the hall to comply with insurance conditions during lockdowns and assist in keeping the facility as we would wish. This is continuing. We are so fortunate to have a committee of pro-active people as well as neighbours of the hall who are very watchful.

The cleaning of the hall

Our cleaner, Doreen Tietjen, is very conscientious, flagging up potential issues and is prepared to offer flexibility with the cleaning times. We are so fortunate to have her services.

Terry Kaye continues to maintain the main hall floor and additionally is setting the heating controls and carrying out small maintenance tasks. His experience is invaluable.

Stewart Hall Personnel

Delia Burton (vice chair), Sue Howgate (chair), Maggie Kaye (secretary) Richard Needle, Gerald Redding, Peter Parsons (representing hirers) and Penny Standen (treasurer).

Booking Secretary: Amanda Robinson; Cleaner: Doreen Tietjen; Small Maintenance: Terry Kaye

As ever many thanks to all for their hard work.

We are actively seeking some more members on the hall committee to help share some of the tasks that have to be carried out.

4. Open forum: As there were no members of the public in attendance there were no questions and the meeting closed at 8.20pm

Signed.....

11th May 2022