

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Great and Little Kimble cum Marsh held on Wednesday 8th May 2024 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 Joanne Bourke and Pauline McBride (Clerk). In addition, Sue Howgate was in attendance in her capacity as the chair of the Kimble Stewart Hall Committee.

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

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

1) Welcome

A warm welcome to you all to your Annual Parish Meeting. This, I remind you is not a Parish Council Meeting but a public meeting for the Parish, which we as the PC facilitate.

2) Planning Applications

Your PC has reviewed 45 planning application over the last year as one of the mandatory consultees. The majority of those reviewed are deemed acceptable, but where it is felt that the application is inappropriate in some way or detrimental to the principles of our Neighbourhood Plan these views are forwarded as comments to be reviewed by Buckinghamshire Council (BC) Planning Committee. This work was led by the PC's Planning Sub-Committee of Councillors Delia Burton, Harvey Alison and initially James Good.

3) Neighbourhood Plan – New Houses

In the last year there has been significant works on a number of sites approved under the Neighbourhood Plan. These developers have kept the PC advised of their plans and on a number of occasions sought our opinion on aspects of these.

4) HS2 & Road Disruption

This project continues to blight our landscape and cause major disruption to our transport links. The PC continues to suggest steps to mitigate the damage, but these appear to receive little, if any, notice. Road disruption is exacerbated with the numerous housing and road projects of which there appears to be no coordination by the County Council, with periods when one is unable to travel the short instance to the hospital without going through up to three sets of lights.

5) Kimble Stewart Hall

The KSH continues to offer a safe and welcome venue to all manner of events and remains a core part of our community. There are a number of projects for improvements which the hall committee are seeing through to ensure the hall remains compliant with regulations. On behalf of the PC and all residents I would thank the team of volunteers that comprise the hall's committee for their dedication and hard work in ensuring the smooth, efficient and safe operation of this venture. *This small band are always looking for support and more volunteers, so if you can spare some time*

6) North West Chilterns Community Board

Councillor James Cripps continues to represent us on the Community Board and the Transport and Road Issues Action Group. This is a means of raising our concerns about the increasing traffic problems and poor state of our roads, footpaths and bridleways in the parish. However, it appears to us that this Board, although a laudable communications vehicle allowing Buckinghamshire Council, to say "we are listening" but it appears to be another layer of bureaucracy with no real power or influence as the Council appears to reject virtually all of the Boards recommendations.

7) Playground(s)

Our thanks to Councillor Delia Burton who manages the maintenance of this popular communal space which continues to be well used and appreciated. Our priority is always to ensure this remains a safe and friendly environment for all.

This is one area where Community Board does support with its grants. This along with monies from Community Infrastructure Levies fund this maintenance and new developments. Also, the PC is liaising with our local developers to ensure that the planned recreational spaces are fully implemented.

8) Litter & Fly Tipping

We continue to engage **Sunnyside Rural Trust** to conduct monthly litter picks. They are a small local project for young people and adults with learning disabilities offering training and work experience for over 150 vulnerable people in the local community.

Fly tipping has not diminished. We would urge everyone to be vigilant and report all instances to BC, just type in Fly Tipping into the search on their website. If you can note down any vehicle numbers all the better

9) Bus Shelters and Village Gates

The maintenance and repairs of the Bus Shelters and Village Gates is one of the PC's responsibilities and you are encouraged to report any damage to the clerk if spotted.

10) Verges, Pavements, Footpaths and Bridleways

Whilst none of these are the PC's responsibility all issues and concerns are reported to BC. The PC also contracts out grass cutting for the verges during the summer months since BC would only cut them twice.

11) Your Parish Council

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank James Good, who left the council last year for his exceedingly good work. He was the expert project lead for our Neighbourhood Plan and headed up our Planning Sub-committee for a number of years

That then leads me to welcoming Joanne Bourke whom we coopted on to the council to fill the vacancy. She resides in Kimblewick so we are now have a spread of Councillors representing all our areas: Great Kimble, Little Kimble, Marsh and Kimblewick.

Thanks, must also go to all the Parish Councillors who are dedicated and give freely of their own time to run the Parish. It may be that the PC has little power only influence, but through their hard work we have a voice which can and has been heard.

A final thanks to Pauline McBride, the Parish Clerk who has with her wealth of experience in finance and accounting worked hard to update our Council practices and improve our governance.

12) Council Meetings & Information

Lastly, you are all reminded 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 noticeboards. These 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 (2023-24)

3. Report from the Kimble Stewart Hall Committee:

Stewart Hall Report Parish Council May 2024

There would be no Village Hall without the dedicated group of volunteers who manage the various tasks that are essential to the successful management of a Village Hall.

Thanks are also due to the Parish Council for supporting electrical maintenance and fire risk measures.

Unfortunately the committee are currently rather burdened by the Challenges facing the administration of the hall

- Increasing costs
- Updating of Health and Safety requirements
- Arranging necessary works and maintenance
- **Ill-Health and Life Events that have impacted on the availability of individual members of the committee**
- Resignations from the committee

Hiring

Regular hirers include: Chiltern Ladies, Horticultural Society, Whist, Drama Classes, Pilates, Art, Dog Training and Masonic Lodges. Two regular hirers have stopped hiring the hall. One potential regular hirer is finding external economic factors are reducing her numbers so it is not viable.

The Committee is examining ways or increasing income through increased publicity

The Car Park

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 to relieve traffic congestion in Church Lane. Chiltern Ladies use the carpark for parking for their trips. Some neighbours also use the carpark if they have many guests arriving.

Finances

David Cooling continues to check the accounts. Many thanks are due to David for agreeing to continue this role. Increased hire charges in place from 1st April 2024. We do have to consider the deterrent factor in raising charges. We review the charges regularly; our main concern being the much-increased gas and electricity costs.

A loss of around £500 was made for the financial year April 2023-March 2024

It costs around £13,000 to administer the hall in an average year.

We will be looking for a new treasurer in the new future due to a house move.

Security

The committee have a rota for daily checking of the hall to assist in keeping the facility as we would wish. We are so fortunate to have a committee of pro-active people as well as neighbours of the hall who are very watchful. Checking is subject to the availability of committee members and with recent events has proved problematical.

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 Current Personnel

Gavin Collins, Sue Howgate (chair), Maggie Kaye (secretary) Richard Needle, Gerald Redding, Julia Meads and Peter Parsons (representing hirers) and Penny Standen (treasurer). Booking Secretary: Liz Collins; (Delia Burton has resigned from the committee)

Cleaner: Doreen Tietjen; Small Maintenance: Terry Kaye

As ever many thanks to all for their hard work.

Sue Howgate May 24

4. **Open forum:** Since there were no members of the public in attendance, there were no comment and the meeting was closed.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed.....