

## KINLET PARISH COUNCIL

### ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016

When preparing such a report it always difficult to know where to start as once again we have experienced a busy year dealing with the many varying matters which arise.

At our May meeting Mr. David Dixon was officially appointed chairman for the forthcoming year with Mr. Peter Kirton taking on the mantle of vice chairman. We have co-opted Mrs Jackie Rowley and Mr Simon Harris on to the council during the year and there is currently a further vacancy on the council for which applications are invited.

We have representatives attending meetings of the Local Joint Committee and the Local Area Committee. In November the clerk attended the Shropshire Association of Local Councils' annual general meeting and received her award for over 25 years service as clerk.

The question of the speeding problem through Button Oak has been on the agenda at the majority of our meetings with discussions taking place with parishioners, both in parishioners' time at the commencement of our meetings and at open sessions during the year. The attendance of representatives from West Mercia Safety Neighbourhood Team for some of these discussions has been appreciated.

After considering all the factors involved and opinions expressed over a number of months a resolution was passed at our February meeting to advise Shropshire Council we wished the speed limit be left at 30 mph through Button Oak with no enforcement and no traffic calming measures and as far as the Parish Council was concerned this would then close the matter. However, this was not to be the case as we have now received notification from Shropshire Council that, whilst they will support the desire for the existing 30mph speed limit to remain accordance with guidance from *Department of Transport Circular 01/2013 – Setting Local Speed Limits* and ongoing discussions with West Mercia Police, this will be done with the inclusion of suitable traffic calming measures that are sympathetic to the local environment.

This decision does not represent the express wishes of the Parish Council nor the residents of Button Oak as advised to Shropshire Council in February and the whole matter is being clarified at the time of writing this report.

The question of dog fouling in and outside the school, the walking bus and the handover to parents and the possibly of providing a firm footpath behind the telephone box have all been discussed. Mr D. Dixon and Mrs J. Barnes attended a meeting with the Head Teacher in November and were able to observe the walking bus which seemed to be working satisfactorily. The dog fouling inside the school grounds appears to have subsided, although outside the school it is an ongoing matter and the ownership and responsibility of the land and verge around Park Close is being looked into by Shropshire Council's legal department.

During the year many highway problems have arisen and with the co-operation of Shropshire Council, who we know are operating under considerable financial pressures, we have been able to get some of these rectified. However, there are still some matters outstanding and we shall continue to press for attention to these and other problems which are bound to occur.

We have carefully considered 17 planning applications this year (as against 22 last year) and made our recommendations to Shropshire Council using our local knowledge which we hope will be considered in their decisions

Earlier in the year some members of the council were available to attend the official opening of the development at Little Stocks Close and view one of the bungalows. Shropshire Rural Housing Association and the Parish Council are proud of this impressive development which has enabled local people to stay or return to the area.

This year we are looking to revise and update the Parish Plan and to this end are looking to form a steering committee from parishioners and members of the parish council as this is to be a community project intended to cover the aspirations of the whole parish for the next 5 years.

The new Transparency Code has come into being this year and we have been involved in changing our website provider and updating our website to enable the information required by the code to be displayed in a more user friendly way. This has involved quite a considerable amount of extra work and we have been able to obtain a grant towards the extra costs involved. We are also working hard on meeting the requirements needed to progress an application for the Local Council Award Scheme now that our complimentary initial one year's membership, as a result of our previous Quality Council status, has expired.

During the year the SamDev document, which includes a section for Kinlet, has been finally approved and this should add more weight to planning applications in the future.

It has been pleasing to learn that the Kinlet Newsletter will be continuing with new faces on board as this makes such a worthwhile contribution to the area with its local news. The previous editors are to be congratulated on their excellent stewardship over a period of many years.

This year we have made donations to West Midlands Air Ambulance, Severn and Kemp Hospices, Cleobury Youth Partnership, St. Mary's Youth Project, Kinlet School, Cleobury First Responders, the Trust Lewis Appeal and Bridgnorth Crucial Crew.

Briefly some of the other matters dealt with during the year include numerous road problems, road signage (new and damaged), road closures, drainage matters, flooding, vehicle activated signage, overgrown hedges, possible defibrillator provision, fly tipping, bus shelter damage and speeding in Kinlet to mention just a few.

We are grateful to our County Councillors – Mrs Madge Shingleton and Mr. Gwilym Butler for attending as many of our meetings as their other commitments allow and for their willingness to offer advice and assistance when required.

Please be assured that your views and concerns are always welcome as we endeavour to represent all sections of the community to the best of our ability. Contact can be made with the parish council by personal or telephone contact with any councillor, by telephone or email to the clerk, by attending one of our 'surgeries' or coming along to parishioners time held at the commencement of each council meeting.