

## **KINLET PARISH COUNCIL.**

### **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on Monday 9th May 2016 in the Parish Hall commencing at 8.00p.m.**

**PRESENT:-** Mr P. Kirton (Chairman), Mr C. Lloyd, Mrs J. Barnes, Mrs J. Rowley, Mr S.Harris, Mr. C.Lloyd and Mrs. J. Burgess (Clerk).

Also in attendance Mrs. M. Shineton, Mr. G. Butler and 5 parishioners.

1. At the commencement of the meeting there was a presentation from Mr. M. Simpson of West Mercia Police in relation to the **Smartwater Scheme** which helped to identify and recover stolen property – mainly through second hand shops. The cost of each kit was £8.90 although grants may be available to help with the purchase and this matter would be discussed further at future parish council meeting.

2. **APOLOGIES** were received from Mr. D. Haywood, Mr. P. Horsfall and Mr. Rodney Crawford

#### **3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2015.**

These were read by the Clerk approved and signed. (Proposed by Mr C. Lloyd and seconded by Mrs J. Barnes) ‘

#### **4. MATTERS ARISING.**

1. It was felt that the 125 bus service was to be congratulated on its operation.

No other matters were raised.

5. **ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016.** This was read by the Clerk and outlined the activities and work of the Parish Council during the year.

#### **6. ORGANISATIONS’ REPORTS.**

a. **Women’s Institute.** Mrs Smith reported on the W.I.’s activities which included a cookery demonstration celebrating the centenary of the W.I. In other months they had a talk on dementia, learnt about the work of a helicopter pilot now a practicing chiropractor and Beauty the Old Fashioned Way. They had 13 members, with an average attendance at meetings of 11, and continued to be members of the Severn Group of W.I.s which enabled them to enjoy visits to other W.I.s in the Group

b. **Parish Hall.** This report was read by the clerk in Mr. Haywood’s absence and reported the starting of an extension to improve disabled access on the car park side together with a disabled toilet. The cost of the work was estimated at over £20,000 and £10,000 had been obtained from the ‘Lottery Awards for All’ fund with hard work taking place to raise the remaining funds through various events. Activity in the hall’s use was continuing to increase. The Kabin rent paid for most of the electricity used in the hall but there was concern over the car park with its heavy use, although no HGVs were supposed to use this parking facility.

c. **School.** Mr. Philip Engleheart advised that there was now 57 pupils on the register at the present time which was less than last year and this included a high proportion of special needs and challenging children. An Ofsted report has necessitated an action plan being put in place to address the points raised. The school had been involved in all aspects of the development of the new houses adjacent to the school field culminating with the planting of a tree on the opening day. The drainage of the school field during the development work would benefit the pupils greatly during the forthcoming months and he expressed the hope that the lines of communication already established with the Parish Council remained open.

d. There was no report from the **Playgroup** this year.

e. **Countryside Group.** It was reported that the group had had another productive 12 months. 8 members had been active for all or part of the year and had held 14 work sessions on a mixture of Saturday and mid-week mornings. These (together with some separate tasks carried out by individuals) had totalled some 136 person/hours over the year which had enabled plenty of valuable work to be accomplished. By 2015 most of the major programme of refurbishing or replacing stiles and other furniture on the network throughout the parish, which was started in 2008, was completed. Following this in 2015/16 their emphasis had shifted to maintenance/clearing, improving way marking and the start of a survey/stocktake to identify future work needs.

Later in the month they would be joining staff of the county council's outdoor recreation team to construct and install two bridleway bridges that urgently needed replacement (in the School Lane hollow and on one of the two Kinlet/Chorley routes)

They continued to welcome new volunteers to their sessions which were advertised in the Newsletter each month.

f. **Neighbourhood Watch.** Mr. Crawford's report read by the clerk advised that Kinlet continued to be a low crime parish, though there had again been a spate of garden shed break-ins. An awareness campaign continued to highlight this problem and an A4 poster was available for notice boards and bus shelters. The poster brought into focus the problem of garden shed break-ins and also made the casual visitor aware that Kinlet had an active Neighbourhood Watch. Mr. R. Crawford as Parish Co-ordinator had a new email address [rcrawfordl@tanglewood.eu](mailto:rcrawfordl@tanglewood.eu) and progress continued to be made on generating the area co-ordinator list and the expectation was to have a co-ordinator meeting in the next quarter. Continued interest was being shown in the Smartwater Scheme.

g. **Local Joint Committee.** Reading Mr. Haywood's report the clerk advised that there was still no official funding from Shropshire County Council although they did have funding from the Arts Fund and the local Police Commissioner. They continued to meet 3 times a year and discuss issues as diverse as the Diamond bus service, the roads, youth matters, medical services, ambulance response times and any other matters which concerned members with County Councillor, Mr. G. Butler, chairing meetings this year

h. **Bridge Club.** Mr. Haywood's report read by the clerk advised that the Club continued to meet every other Monday throughout the year with 12 to 16 members attending for a friendly game of bridge. They had been pleased to welcome a young gentleman to the club who had never placed cards, let alone bridge, and if he could enjoy a game then anyone could. The invitation was to just come along where you would always be made welcome with a cup of tea and biscuits for the princely sum of £1.50

i. **Cleobury Mortimer Youth Partnership.** Mr. Haywood's report advised that the Youth Partnership met frequently on a Monday morning at Cleobury Mortimer Social Club. There was still a small budget plus parish council donations. The skate park in Cleobury Mortimer had occupied a lot of time over ownership and Mr. Mark Greaves and Mr. Richard Morley were still the key persons working with the youth in the town and doing a grand job. The Girl Guides had a large group with more than 100 girls on their books and seventy attended an overnight camp at Neen Savage Village Hall. Funding had been received from the Youth Partnership and the Local Joint Committee

## **7. SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS.**

**Mrs M. Shineton** reported another year with many changes across all services. Progress was slow in trying to achieve integrated care for everyone from first visit to the Doctor through to care at home, in a Community Hospital through to an Acute Hospital.

There was a shortage of qualified Accident and Emergency consultants throughout the country which affected A and E units at our two hospitals. Ambulance services still had a problem with response times and the red one (8 mins) target which in her opinion was unrealistic for this area. Everyone could help their response times by only calling an ambulance if it was really necessary.

It was fortunate that in the area there were two modern high quality Medical Centres, two pharmacies, an optician, extensive dental practice, access to chiropody plus various chiropractors and sports injury establishments and a number of high quality Nursing Homes. The Hospice through CoCo and the many volunteers provided support, companionship and advocacy with the well established voluntary car scheme (who always needed more drivers). The 2L bus saga was a sad tale of sloppy management and a watch dog (Traffic Commissionaires) who had proved to be toothless in the face of appalling service the public had received in spite of a formal complaint made to them. Shropshire Council were investigating the possibility and costs of alternative solutions which they had control over. Cleobury Country had taken over the running of the Library which fitted in with their training programmes and business support and the Farmers Market.

Whilst the planning system had been in some turmoil this year hopefully it was starting to settle down. A number of local affordable housing for local people had been permitted and a Kinlet Parish Council led development or rented dwellings had been completed.

**Mr G. Butler** advised that the past year had yet again been another challenging year and post the General Election it had been seen the ambitions of central Government come to light with major effects on the rural areas and Shire counties. The funding formula to local authorities had been changed dramatically and the Government had decided to withdraw the top-up to the revenue support grant (RSG) which would result in Shropshire losing a further £40 million. To make savings of a further £40 million would mean that hard decisions would have to be made around libraries, museums, leisure centres, transport, street scene, waste collection and the Council had now started open and frank discussions with all residents via the Big Conversation. It had also opened an open conversation with Town and Parish Councils and the voluntary sector to understand if there were new ways of working or precepting to maintain services.

The big question now being looked at was how involved did Parish Councils want to become in delivering services and working with Shropshire Council on maintaining and developing services if it was the wish of the local council. His biggest message was that this is not about now, but it was about how we shaped and maintained our community for our children and grandchildren and what type of infrastructure did we want for them? What type of place?

This was a huge period of change but also of opportunity and it would be down to everyone to decide how to move forward. Mr. Butler closed by saying he would try and provide any information which may be required and looked forward to working on whatever the council and parishioners decided.

**8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.** The question of possibly providing a 'loop' system in the Village Hall whilst the building work was being undertaken was raised and would be passed on to the Village Hall representatives.

**9. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS.** Mr. Kirton thanked everyone for attending and for the continued support and expert advice received from our County Councillors. He also expressed thanks to Mr. David Dixon, who had just retired from his time on the Parish Council and also to the Clerk for her hard work over the past year. The meeting closed at approximately 9.15 p.m.