

KINLET PARISH COUNCIL.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING held on Monday 8th May 2017 in the Parish Hall commencing at 8.00p.m.

PRESENT:- Mr P. Kirton (Chairman), Mr D. Haywood, Mr C. Lloyd, Mrs J. Rowley, Mr S. Harris, Mrs M. Quick and Mrs. J. Burgess (Clerk).

Also in attendance Mrs. M. Shingleton and 3 parishioners.

1. APOLOGIES were received from Mr. P. Horsfall, Ms. Claire Fell and Mr. G. Butler.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2016.

These were read by the Clerk, approved and signed. (Proposed by Mr D. Haywood and seconded by Mr C. Lloyd)

3. MATTERS ARISING. None were raised.

4. ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017. This had been circulated to all councillors, was available at the meeting, in the newsletter and also on the website.

5. ORGANISATIONS' REPORTS.

a. Women's Institute. Mrs Smith reported on the W.I.'s activities which covered the period November 2015 to October 2016. In December they had enjoyed an excellent Christmas lunch at Kateshill House in Bewdley and in subsequent months had a variety of interesting talks including a display of smocks and smocking and an insight into how Co-Co worked (an organisation helping lonely and housebound people enjoy a more fulfilling life). They were still members of the Severn Group of W.I.'s and their 12 members enjoyed visiting the various institutes in the Group.

b. Parish Hall. Mr Haywood reported that the Village Hall continued to offer a variety of activities from quizzes to discos, bingo, skittles and a chance to win £40 a month through the 150 club. The hall was available for hire for private functions and regular hirers included the Parish Council, Women's Institute, the Bridge Club, Highley Band, Neen Savage Parish Council, the P.C.C. and Kinlet School. Improvements were always ongoing and at last the entrance, disabled toilets and bar were nearing completion thanks to a £10,000 grant from the Lottery and £1,000 donation from the Parish Council. The next job was rewiring and fitting out the new bar and removing the old bar.

c. School. Mr. Philip Engleheart advised that at the start of the summer term there were 42 pupils on the register with the challenge remaining of a very small population of children of primary school age living in the school's official catchment area and the resulting dependence on attracting from 'out of the area'. As well as having 3 teachers, the school was also fortunate to be supported by a very effective and cohesive team of classroom assistants which was important because a significant proportion of the pupils had special educational needs. Regular trips had been enjoyed by the children (including residential) as well as specialists visiting the school. Pupils also competed in a variety of local competitions and tournaments.

During the past year an extension of the main school building had taken place which allowed various teaching, tuition and pastoral needs to be better accommodated. The school playing fields were now able to be used for a greater part of the year than previously due to work on the land drainage. The school had also been successful in achieving an 'Awards for All' grant which had funded a 'tyre park' and new pond in the Forest Schools area.

Links with the community remained strong – both taking pupils out into the community (including the church) and the school welcoming in the community for events such as the annual fete and school productions. The school had appreciated the direct engagement of the parish council with the headteacher over matters of mutual interest or concern during the year and it was hoped this contact could be maintained on a regular basis.

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

e. Countryside Group.

This report was read by Mr. Engleheart and advised another productive 12 months with 8 members having been active for all or part of the time. They have continued to hold work sessions on a mixture of Saturday and mid-week mornings. The main emphasis had been on maintenance/clearing, improving way marking and surveying/stocktaking to identify future work needs.

Last summer they joined 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 Kinley-Chorley routes. A significant achievement during the year had been to establish a workable line for, and open up, the footpath connecting Kinlet Bank with Baveney Common down the edge of Brooks Coppice which involved putting in two new sleeper bridges which were a valuable and attractive addition to the usable network.

Whilst enjoying the camaraderie of getting together in the open air, they were able to get lots of necessary work done at a negligible cost to the public purse by helping to promote responsible and environmentally sensitive access to Kinlet's lovely countryside. New volunteers were always welcome for their sessions which were advertised in the Newsletter each month.

f. Neighbourhood Watch. Mr. Crawford reported that Kinlet continued to be a low crime Parish though garden shed break-ins was still a problem and KPNW will continue to highlight this problem with an awareness campaign. An A4 poster was available for notice boards and bus shelters which brought focus to the problem of these break-ins and also made the casual visitor aware that Kinlet had an active Neighbourhood Watch. There was a co-ordinators team of 9.

The Smartwater scheme for the whole area of Kinlet Parish was due to be implemented very shortly which was a pleasing aspect and the parish council were thanked for their support in this matter.

g. Local Joint Committee. Mr. Haywood advised that the Committee had met twice a year and he attended as honorary treasurer, although most of its work had been taken over now by the Youth Partnership as there was no funding at this present time. When the committee met it usually discussed matters concerning Cleobury Mortimer, such as the crossing by the Co-op, Diamond buses, crime matters and CCTV in the High Street much of which was irrelevant to Kinlet!

h. Bridge Club. Mr. Haywood reported that the Bridge Club still met every other week on a Monday afternoon for a game of bridge, cup of tea and a selection of nice biscuits for £1.50 per person. There were usually between 12 and 18 members attending and any newcomers would be made most welcome whether they could play or not.

i. Cleobury Mortimer Youth Partnership. Giving his report Mr Haywood advised that the Cleobury Mortimer Area Youth Partnership had evolved into a group embracing the schools, police, health, housing associations, St. Mary's Youth Project and South Shropshire Youth. It was supported by the local Parish Councils except Neen Savage. A grant of £9,000 had been obtained from the Awards for all Lottery Fund and some remaining funds from Shropshire Council. Funds were distributed to worthy youth projects e.g. Girl Guides, St. Mary's Youth Project, youth football training and gardening and activities for OAPs.

Meetings were held in Cleobury Mortimer Sports and Social Club on a Monday morning, usually every other month.

j. Church of St. John the Baptist, Kinlet. Mr Harris reported that this had been a successful one for the Church with themed services taking place which included Remembrance Sunday together with a celebration of Kinlet WI, Anniversary of the Battle of the Somme and a St. Valentine's service to celebrate marriage and love. All four services had received advance publicity resulting in a very good attendance and these services had made an 'one off' positive contribution to church funds.

The undoubted highlight of last year had been the final and complete restoration of both clear and stained glass – some of which was believed to be medieval. The church was in the fortunate position of having all its beautiful plain and stained glass now in excellent condition. Repairs had been carried out to areas of decayed parquet flooring and a new and much more effective and energy efficient heating system had been installed in the nave in early 2017 and at the same time related wiring in the building had been renewed to current standards. Routine maintenance had continued throughout the year and the PCC greatly appreciated the dedication shown by volunteers who regularly worked inside and outside the building.

The PCC endeavoured to ensure that the graveyard was kept in harmony with its surroundings in accordance with the Diocese's guidelines. This was a sensitive issue but it was recognised that the PCC needed to protect the traditional character of a rural churchyard. Volunteers had maintained the graveyard and kept it tidy. So much was owed to the many who volunteered to not only maintain its beautiful fabric, but ensure that, while parts dated back to nearly a thousand years, it is very much a place of living Christian worship

The challenge facing the PCC and regular congregation was to work out how best to engage with the 500 souls in Kinlet whom they rarely met and to continue to show that they were a thriving Christian community.

6. SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLORS' REPORTS.

In her report **Mrs M. Shineton** confirmed that highway repairs would continue to need close monitoring and only large resurfacing work would be carried out where absolutely necessary because budgets very tight, despite Shropshire using every opportunity to bid for any pots of money Government made available. The re-lining of the B.4363 through the village had steadied down the traffic and she would welcome comments from locals. Also the Button Oak work was at the final stage and again would she would welcome comments re its effectiveness. The damaged road surfaces on the B.4363 and B4.555 as a result of land slippage were being investigated and there was ongoing information collection re Borle Mill road.

The additional houses built at Little Stocks Close had blended in well with the area and some initial groundwork problems had now been resolved. Shropshire was examining the SamDev local plan and Kinlet had sent in comments for any amendments they thought were needed for the Parish.

Wide ranging discussions for the provision of Health Care had continued with all stakeholder groups and the main proposals for the future of the two hospitals had again had to be put on hold until after the general election before they could go forward for public consultation. Parish and Town councils had taken part in various discussions.

The Area Youth Partnership continued to flourish and as Chairman she was grateful to the Parish Council for their continued support and in closing expressed her pleasure at last year being able to present the Parish Council with its foundation award in the Local Council Award Scheme.

Mr G. Butler's report was presented by Mrs Shingleton in his absence and he reported that the year had again been as challenging as expected. However they had managed to deliver a balanced budget by using one off receipts on sale of assets. This had given a breathing space to put in place different ways of delivering for their libraries, leisure services, adult social care and internal working. In general Town and Parish Councils working in partnership with Shropshire Council had risen to the challenge to help redesign services which was a great achievement and showed the true spirit of Shropshire.

Post-election they were lobbying hard for central government to look at funding for adult social care in line to how they funded education. In respect of education, a new funding formula was on its way which would see a slightly better picture for rural areas although it all still put pressure on small schools to federate.

Shropshire had its 5 year land supply and with the SamDev now adopted they were seeing more control over open market development but could not be complacent as the new refresh local plan was looking at needs up to 2036.

Highways had been a major concern over the past administration and with the current supplier's contract coming to an end shortly and a new contract being issued they would be looking at hopefully doing things differently.

On a national level he sat on the Committee of Rural Services Network SPARSE which was a lobbying organisation to influence government on all issues being placed on rural communities. He enjoyed doing this and trying to chip away at central policy to enable anyone who lived in a rural environment to have a fairer share of funding and services compared to those who lived in urban areas.

Finally he thanked the Parish Council for all its hard work in the past year and its co-operation in moving things forward.

7. Any Other Business.

The question of a lack of faster broadband to Button Oak was raised and it was agreed to take this matter up with B.T. via Shropshire Council.

8. Chairman's Closing Remarks.

Mr Kirton thanked everyone for their reports and welcomed back Mr Butler and Mrs Shingleton on their re-election and for keeping the council on the right track and up to date with county matters. He also thanked the clerk for her hard work during the year especially that involved in obtaining the Local Council Award scheme qualification for the Council and expressed thanks to Mr R. Stringer and Ms C Fell who had not stood for re-election this year.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

(These minutes have yet to be formally approved)