

## **KINLET PARISH COUNCIL.**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017.**

At the commencement of the year in May 2016 Mr Peter Kirton was elected to the position of Chairman with Mrs Julie Barnes taking over the role of Vice Chairman with Parish Hall representatives Mr D Haywood and Mr Peter Horsfall continuing in this role and Mr David Haywood also continuing as our representative on the Local Joint Committee and Cleobury Youth Partnership. Mr Simon Harris took over representation on the Area Committee.

Following the resignation of Mr. D. Dixon and Mrs Melody Wilkinson, during the year we co-opted two new members – Mr Russell Stringer and Ms Claire Fell to bring the complement of councillors back up to nine.

After the cessation of the Quality Council scheme, for which we had received accreditation, much hard work was put in - which included considerable work on our website – and in January we were delighted to receive official Local Council Award status at Foundation Level having enjoyed a year's complimentary initial one year's membership.

The long outstanding matter of speeding through Button Oak took a step further in March/April 2017 when additional traffic calming measures were installed, retaining the speed limit at 30 m.p.h. to enable police enforcement to take place. Whilst the final cost of this work is not yet known, the Parish Council vigorously opposed the expenditure of thousands of pounds on this exercise when by returning the speed limit to 40 m.p.h. at a minimal cost would have had the same effect. We understand from Shropshire Council that the question of the speeding through Kinlet village will be re-assessed in the light of the Button Oak 'experience'.

Mr Steve Brown - Shropshire Council's Highways, Transport and Environmental Commissioning Manager – attended our meeting last September for an informal discussion relating to various road matters including road closures, diversion routes, signage and gritting procedures which enabled us to understand their way of working and some of the problems they encounter and we were able to pass on to him our concerns in relation to recent problems.

At the end of last year we appointed a Lengthsman to assist us in attending to minor highway problems which we anticipate will enable these matters to be dealt with sooner rather than having to be passed over the Shropshire Council Highways.

The annoying matter of litter is difficult to understand and the community effort of Mrs Mary Quick from Button Oak who, with a small band of volunteers, has taken on the task of collecting the litter along the main road is much to be commended.

During the year considerations have been given to 17 planning applications and our recommendations sent to Shropshire Council with the benefit of our local knowledge hopefully assisting them in coming to an appropriate decision with regard to their suitability and compliance with current planning laws.

The Parish Plan is currently under review and we had a discussion with a member of the Community Enabling Team from Shropshire Council last year in relation to the assistance they could give us in this matter and once the May elections are completed the matter will be put back on the agenda.

During the year we also had talks with 'We Don't Buy Crime' Smartwater Team assessing the benefits of this scheme and, after having obtained various grant including a contribution from the Parish Council, every household in the parish will shortly have the opportunity of receiving one of these kits completely free of charge which should assist crime prevention.

It has been pleasing to note that some areas of the Parish are now able to access higher Broadband speeds with the scheme being rolled out to other areas over the forthcoming months.

During the year we have made donations to Kinlet Parish Hall, the Bridgnorth Crucial Crewe Children's scheme, Kinlet School and Playgroup, Severn and Kemp Hospice's Cleobury Youth Partnership, Cleobury Mortimer First Responses and St. Mary's Youth Project.

As always we are grateful to our County Councillors – Mrs Madge Shinton and Mr Gwilym Butler – for their interest together with attendance at our meeting whenever their other commitments permit. Their depth of knowledge always provides useful advice which is much appreciated.

Whilst by its very nature a report such as this can only highlight some of our work during the year, apart from the above items the matters most frequently arising relate to problems re road signs, numerous potholes, blocked ditches, overgrown hedges and trees, vehicle activated signs and grass verges to name just a few.

In conclusion please be assured that the Parish Council works to represent all sections of the community to the best of our ability. Contact can be made by telephone contact with any councillor, by telephone or email to the clerk or by coming along to parishioners' time held at the commencement of each council meeting.