

KINLET PARISH COUNCIL.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

held on Monday 12th April 2021 via Zoom

commencing at 8.00 p.m.

PRESENT:- Mr P. Kirton (chairman) Mr D. Haywood, Mr. P. Horsfall, Mr C. Lloyd, Mrs J. Rowley, Mr P. Robinson, Mr Simon Harris, Mr R. Oakley and Mrs J. Burgess (Clerk)

Also in attendance Mrs M. Shingleton and 2 Parishioners.

1. APOLOGIES were received from Mr. R. Crawford.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2019. These had been circulated to all councillors and copies were available on the website. It was taken as read and approved after having been proposed and seconded.

3. MATTERS ARISING. No matters were raised.

4. ANNUAL PARISH COUNCIL REPORT 2020/21. This also had been circulated to all councillors and was on the website. It was taken as read and approved after being proposed and seconded and was unanimously approved.

5. ORGANISATIONS REPORTS.

a. Women's Institute. Mrs Lee's report read by the clerk advised that at the time of lockdown membership was looking strong with 19 ladies on the register. They had been able to keep in touch with members mainly via the internet and also managed a few meetings outside, socially distanced, to catch up with all the news. They were looking forward to meeting again monthly when restrictions slackened.

b. Kinlet Village Hall. In his report also read by the clerk Mr. Haywood advised that the Hall had remained closed during the past year. As they came out of lockdown it was badly in need of painting due to damp from lack of use. They had received 2 grants from Shropshire Council over the year, without which the hall would have run out of money - with insurance, licence, water rates, fire safety cheque, gas and the cleaner all having to be paid. They were still looking for new members with fresh ideas to join the committee and on the bright side they had a new treasurer – Mrs Terrie Walton from The Woodlands.

c. School. In his report Mr P. Engleheart advised that this had been a year like no other. The school had generally only been open for children of key workers with on-site learning for a small number and with distance learning online. Key Stage 2 Assessments had not taken place and would not take place this year. School numbers were moving in the right direction, being in the mid 30's, with a new intake in September adding to this number. Some funding had also been received from the Government.

d. Playgroup. From Mrs Z. Pearson's report read by the clerk she reported that 2020 started fairly normally and they were working towards one of their busiest terms ever from April. This went awry when everything closed for the first lockdown at the end of March. Staff posted several learning ideas to the Facebook page with emails also and the children continued to grow and adapt. They re-opened for 3 days in July 2020 for some

fun sessions and then re-opened as normally as possible in September 2020. The lockdown at the beginning of 2021 saw attendance levels at roughly 50% but they were now back up and running at 100% with 25 children from the local area (Kinlet and Highley mostly) on their books. There had been some staff changes and they had different topics planned during 2020/2021 academic year to provide a well-rounded curriculum for their children with close links as ever with Kinlet C of E School. They anticipated hosting a summer party for the children and hopefully reception class/Kinlet School too. Unfortunately due to Covid 19 and other paperwork issues they had not been able to carry out any or their planned groundworks and playground improvements but hoped to do so in the very near future.

e. Countryside Group. Mr. Engleheart reported that the Group had not met during the past year due to the Covid 19 situation. However, they hoped to start meeting again shortly and carry on with their maintenance of the footpaths, stiles etc.

f. Neighbourhood Watch. Mr R. Crawford's report read via the clerk advised that Kinlet continued to be a low crime Parish, though garden sheds break-ins continued together with some local trailer thefts. A new campaign was being instigated to highlight this problem which would bring into focus the problem of these break-ins and also make the casual visitor aware that Kinlet had an active Neighbourhood watch. Progress would continue to be made on generating the area co-ordinator lists and the expectation was to have a co-ordinator meeting during 2021 – regulations permitting. *(Rodney Crawford as Parish Co-Ordinator's new email address was rcrawford@cornelva.com)*

g. Bridge Club. Mrs Haywood had advised via the clerk that the Club had not met since last March, when lockdown came into force for the first time. Before lockdown they had averaged 12 players, although the numbers had dropped a little over the winter.

h. Cleobury Youth Partnership/St. Mary's Youth Project. Mr. Haywood had reported to the clerk that there had only been one meeting last year and with the small amount of money available to them the Youth Partnership had made a grant to St. Mary's Project.

i. St. John the Baptist Church. Mr. Harrop spoke about having to close the Church during much of last year. There was concern re the future of the church with no new worshippers of a younger age. There had been a loss of income streams through the closure of Kinlet Hall for weddings, together with no visitors to the church and they had only been able to pay half their share of the Parish Share - the church could not survive without funding. The small P.C.C. had lost 3 members during the past year but the churchyard /graves had been maintained. The question was did Kinlet want a church? *(A full copy of the Churchwardens' Report for the year can be provided upon request from them or the Clerk)*

6. Shropshire Councillors' Reports. Due to the conditions imposed by purdah there were no Councillors' annual reports this year, but there had been monthly reports to the Parish Council. Mrs M. Shinton was not standing for re-election in May and she reported that there was considerable disquiet at Shirehall about the highways situation and the unsatisfactory repairs carried out by Kier. It had been decided that Kier would now take on the 'big projects' and the other matters such as potholes, blocked drains etc. would be carried out 'in house'. There was a large staff turnover happening at all

levels and also many new councillors expected after the May elections. Mr. Kirton thanked her for her assistance and interest over the past years and wished her a happy retirement.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS. No matters were raised.

8. CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS. Mr. Kirton thanked everyone for their reports and looked forward to a return to normality, hopefully in the not too distant future. He also thanked Mr. S. Harris, who was not seeking re-election this year, for his hard work and commitment during his time on the Parish Council and wished him well in the future.

The meeting closed at approximately 8.30 p.m.

(These Minutes have yet to be formally approved)