

KINLET PARISH COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT –Year Ending 31/3/2022

At the start of the year in April 2021 we once again held our monthly meeting via the Zoom facility and also the Annual Parish Meeting at the same time.

However, as the regulations for councils became relaxed we were able to start meeting in the Village Hall again for our Annual Parish Council meeting in May. At this meeting our nine newly elected councillors signed their declarations of acceptance of office and it was pleasing to welcome as a new councillor – Mr Kevin Shepherd – and Mrs Mary Quick as a returning councillor. Mr Simon Harris attended this meeting as one of our newly elected County Council Councillors with Mr. Gwilym Butler being re-elected to this position also. We have been very grateful to them both for their attendance, interest and advice in relation to Kinlet during the past year. At this meeting Mr. Peter Kirton was re-elected Chairman and Mrs Jackie Rowley again took on the mantle of Vice Chairman.

During the year we have sent our recommendations (and just a reminder that we are only able to make recommendations) on twenty planning applications and we hope our local knowledge and comments are useful to Shropshire Council in arriving at their final decisions. There are instances in the Parish of planning laws being ignored and we are disappointed with the apparent lack of action on the part of the Enforcement Dept. which we have expressed and this is being followed up.

As usual we have spent a lot of time and effort in endeavouring to ensure that repairs to the highways are carried out swiftly and in a satisfactory manner – which is not always the case - and in September there was an Open Meeting with representatives from West Mercia Police attending to address the concerns of the local Button Oak residents in relation to speeding through the village. As a result of this meeting it appears that regular speed enforcement is now being carried out by the Police and the Road Safety Team, for which we are grateful.

One continuing big problem has been the amount of litter which accumulates on the roadside and during the year we have organised 5 litter picks collecting over 100 bags each time and thanks are due to everyone (Parish Councillors and parishioners) who turned up to help – and also the continuing rubbish collection by the residents in Button Oak. However this is a disappointing illustration of the lack of care for the countryside of some people.

Last year we were gained re-accreditation of our Local Council Award at foundation level and in October representatives from S.A.L.C. attended to present us with our certificate. The clerk has attended regular Clerks' Network meetings which provides a valuable exchange of ideas with other clerks and an opportunity to catch up with new ways of working.

We have updated our Welcome Pack which is available to all new residents in the parish and also we distributed free of charge, as a one-off, additional Smartwater Kits to new comers since our initial parish wide distribution in mid 2017.

We have also regularly looked at our Action Plan for the year to decide if there needed to be any amendments and we currently have some additions and alterations to make to the Cleobury Mortimer Place Plan when it is revised in a few months' time.

In the Autumn of last year we entered a team in a Charity Quiz night which was held in the Village Hall which was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and the team came a creditable 4th.

We have made annual donations to Kinlet School/Kinlet Playgroup/Severn Hospice and Severn Hospice at Home/S.A.R.A/Midlands Air Ambulance/Bridgnorth Community First Responders and also a donation to Kinlet Parish Hall towards proposed work on the roof insulation and driveway improvements.

A committee made up of parish councillors and parishioners are currently finalising events for the Queen's Platinum celebrations and they in November planted spring bulbs on some verges and in December three (flowering?) trees were also planted by way of celebration.

There will be some boundary alterations coming in to force in the Autumn of 2025 and we have started initial discussions in relation to these. At the present time it is not clear quite what the proposals will be but it is intended, when more details are available, to discuss this matter further. Prior to these parish changes there will also be alterations to the some local County boundaries but again these are not specified at present. We are awaiting further details with interest as they could involve considerable alterations to the way we currently operate.

It is never easy to cover the many matters we deal with during a year and can only highlight some of them in this report, but we have also dealt with matters relating to V.A.S/ Flooding/Road signs/Blocked drains/Speed wires installation/Signage matters and White Line renewal to mention just a few.

We hope that anyone who has approached us with a problem has been satisfied with the manner in which the matter has been handled within the boundaries that our remit allows.

It is our wish to be approachable and available to everyone residing in the Parish and hope that anyone with a concern or problem will not hesitate to contact a councillor or the clerk or attend the specially allocated Parishioners' Time at the commencement of our meetings to discuss such matters with us.

(Prepared by Janette Burgess – Clerk)