

KINLET PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report- Year Ending 31/3/2025.

At the start of this year – the last year of this present Council's term of office – Mr Peter Kirton continued in the role as Chairman with Mrs Jacqueline Rowley again assisting him as Vice Chairman.

All meetings have been held on the second Monday of the month commencing at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall with public participation the first item on the agenda which enables any resident the opportunity to discuss with the Council any matter.

Mr Simon and Mr Gwilym Butler have been our County Councillors for the last time – Mr Harris not standing for re-election in May 2025 and with the change of ward boundaries Mr Butler will be standing for re-election in the Cleobury Mortimer ward. We have appreciated very much their interest and advice on our behalf and wish them well in their future roles.

We provided representatives on the Village Hall committee – Mr David Haywood, Mr Peter Horsfall and Mr Richard Oakley (until his resignation from the Council at the end of 2024). Mr Kevin Shepherd has been our representative at the Area Committee, although his attendance has been somewhat limited due to their meetings being held on the same night as our meetings. However, after some lobbying, this will be changing, with their meetings being held on a different date in the month.

Frustration with Shropshire Council has continued with the problems of highway maintenance and repairs. The FixMySteet system is still not fit for purpose in our opinion and urgent matters – often presenting potential dangerous situations – are not dealt with quickly on many occasions with much time and effort being spent on our part trying to get a quick solution. Enforcement has also caused us much frustration when obvious disregard of planning requirements are not heeded and enforcement is slow or non-existent.

We have again been looking into the possibility of a bus-pull at the Kinlet bus stop as vehicles do pull out to pass stationary buses just before meeting traffic at the cross roads. Such an exercise will prove very expensive and in view of the financial situation at Shropshire Council we have been unable to make much progress in this direction. Our Lengthsman – Mr Ray Ingram - has worked hard during the year assisting in various highway matters.

Many highway matters are dealt with during the year such as road closures and sign positioning, crash barriers, floods, salt bins filling, road cleaning, blocked drains, ditch clearance, numerous potholes, fly tipping to name a selection.

There has also been initial discussions with Atlas Tower re the possibility of improving mobile phone coverage locally by way of the siting of a mobile phone mast. However these discussions are only at a very stage.

All planning applications put to us for recommendations (we do not have the power to actually grant approval) are carefully considered and discussed prior to arriving at a recommendation. 10 applications have been commented on – a smaller amount than previously.

Litter along the roadside is a continuing eyesore and 2 Litter Picks have held and thanks are due to both councillors and residents who have assisted us in this matter.

We have made donations during the year to Cleobury Mortimer Men's Shed, Kinlet School and Playgroup, S.A.R.A., Severn Hospice and At Home, Midlands Air Ambulance Charity, First Responders and we also gave Worcestershire Marble a donation towards a defibrillator for general use. We have purchased a special flag to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of V.E. Day.

As we move on to a New Year, there are uncertainties in relation to this with a new County Councillor to be elected in May, vacancies on the Parish Council to be filled by co-option and the amendment to Parish boundaries being undertaken this year with the outcome of this probably changing life as we know it at present.

However we face these challenges with optimism and enthusiasm, confident that we shall be able to meet them – whatever they may be – in the knowledge that we have the capability to deal with most matters.

We hope that Parishioners will consider that we have served them well during the year and that any particular problem that has been raised with us has been dealt with satisfactorily.

Thank you for your support.