

## ***KIRTLINGTON PARISH COUNCIL***

### **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**Held in the Village Hall on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2019 at 7 p.m.**

Parish Council members present:	Ms Trudy Brock, Mrs K Buckingham-Fry, S Jenkins, D Richardson (Chairman), Mrs R Powles (Parish Clerk),
Apologies:	Cllr Barry Wood (Cherwell District Council)
County and District representatives:	Cllr Ian Corkin (Cherwell DC), Cllr Carmen Griffiths (Oxfordshire CC)
Parishioners attending:	Mr Jonathan Haynes, Mr Tony Summerfield, Dr Helen Macbeth, Mr Christopher Powles, Mrs Ann Mowat, Mr J East, Ms J Conway, Mr John Moore, Mrs Paula Harvey, Mr David Harvey, Ms Christine Marsh, Mrs J Duckworth, Mr P Clifford, Mrs Celia Hawkesworth

Cllr Richardson opened the meeting.

#### **1. Minutes of the previous meeting**

The minutes of the Annual Parish meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018 were approved.

Cllr Richardson invited Cllr Corkin to give his District report. Cllr Corkin thanked the Parish Council and the community volunteers for their work and stressed his belief in the value and necessity of local politics. He referred to Kirtlington's membership of the newly adopted Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan. He was personally committed to rural communities, especially in helping to prevent inappropriate development, supporting the reduction of excess traffic and maintaining rural amenities. He confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan now had statutory weight in planning assessments.

Cllr Griffiths outlined the current focus at County Council level, the most prominent local concern being the Oxford Cambridge Expressway on which she had asked for fuller public consultation.

Cllr Richardson invited questions from members of the public. Ms Conway commented on the local traffic impact of the A4095, which could otherwise be deemed a minor road. Cllrs Carmen and Corkin both recognized the problem as described in Kirtlington, and noted the increase in HGV traffic affected many satellite villages. Mr East observed that diversion from one village only displaced the problem to another and so an overall reduction in speed, but without causing drivers to brake and then re-accelerate, was a better solution.

*Cllr Corkin left the meeting at 7.30 p.m.*

Mr Clifford said he hoped the County Council would maintain sufficient levels of spending on schools in spite of central Government's plans to review spending.

#### **2. Chairman's Report (summarised)**

Cllr Richardson thanked all those who helped the Parish Council and the community, and said the Parish Council and the community were grateful for all the work done by the volunteers. The Parish Council's main occupation for 2018 – 2019 had been dominated by maintenance and repairs, such as the resurfacing of Church Lane (assisted by Cllr Griffiths) and ongoing discussion with Thames Water about the recent mains sewer repair. KWACS and Smiths had commenced work on the restoration of the Pond. Sam Tylor had repaired the fencing between the Park and the Sports field. The War Memorial would be cleaned later in the year, and the Play Area fence was due to be replaced. Special mention should be made of Jim Draper and Brian Cherry for their work in the Sports field, and Cllr Jenkins now assisted with this.

*Cllr Griffiths left the meeting at 7.45p.m.*

Ongoing work included full engagement in the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan, highway safety and measures to reduce speeding.

### 3. Financial Report

The Clerk presented the End of Year Financial Statement to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019. Receipts at £27,570 and payments of £22,113 were generally both in line with previous years and the Precept was again unchanged from the previous year at £24,000. The cash at bank at £41,492 included an underspend of £5,457 (which would be offset by the anticipated cost of the Play Area fence and likely purchase of more playpark) and provided for the ringfenced sums of £4,619 and target reserves of £29,384. The target reserve total would be kept under review and subject to other commitments it might be possible to reduce it.

### 4. Reports by Village organisations

#### **Village organizations, verbal reports:**

**Film Club:** Mr Moore described a successful year with income at about £2,400 and a profit of £320. Costs were made up of the licenses needed to put films on public show, rental and public liability insurance for the equipment. Ten evening films had been shown in the period, with an average attendance of 35 persons at £5 a head. The annual event dinner hosted 70, at £12 a head, with dinner provided by the Dashwood. It was also now possible to stream live events because of the Gigaclear broadband connection, and this should bring extra revenue in for the Village Hall.

**Kirtlington Good Neighbour Scheme, Kirtlington Care, Youth Club:** Mr Summerfield gave reports: the Good Neighbour Scheme had now been going for 3 years, and worked alongside Kirtlington Care (e.g. drivers), taking parishioners to surgeries and all hospitals and helping with bins and shopping. Anonymous donations had been received, and they had made various donations and had distributed food parcels. The Youth Club had 35 members between the ages of 10 and 16, including some from Weston on the Green, Woodstock and Kidlington. The club room had been refurbished. Funding was tight and they were grateful to their supporters, and had a dedicated committee and volunteers. More volunteers and funding were needed however.

**KWACS (Kirtlington Wildlife & Conservation Soc):** Mr Powles described the past year's meetings and ongoing work. Evening lecture topics had covered the decline of insects, urban wildlife, rewilding, badgers and dung beetles. The Anniversary Walks were complete and there had been a Dung Beetle walk in the Park, where experts were very happy with the number of species and the number of beetles. Work continued at the Pond, the Churchyard, with Kirtlington Hedgehog Street, and the KGB (Kirtlington Garden Birds) survey. He thanked the PCC for the use of the Church as the venue for the lectures.

**MCNP (the Mid-Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan):** Ms Marsh reported: eleven parishes surrounding the former Upper Heyford RAF base were combined in the Plan area. The 16 policies of the Plan were now statutory, and policy PD1 was of particular relevance to Kirtlington, dealing with Category A villages, of which Kirtlington was one. The Plan would be subject to review every five years. She and Dr Macbeth represented the Parish Council at the MCNP Forum.

**Public transport (buses):** Dr Macbeth shared the role of PTR (Public Transport Rep) with Mrs Shackleton. She said it was important to note that the future of the bus service after the end of the S106 funding from the Heyford Park developments depended on use.

**Footpaths:** Dr Macbeth would be happy to discuss future local walks including walks for young villagers.

**Sustainable Kirtlington:** Mrs Hawkesworth described the focus as climate change. The group had held a woodcutting day and an apple day and had a stall at the Fete. The main activity for the year was the clean energy projects at the Village Hall. A grant of £20,000 from Viridor and generous donations from the village had allowed the installation of solar panels, and the battery for the installation was due to arrive at the end of the week. The next project would be the installation of two electric vehicle charge points.

**The Kirtlington Charities:** Mr Haynes said income had increased slightly. The Kirtlington land provided £750 p/a and income from Ambrosden was up. The same sum had been distributed, at £35 each to twenty-two households. The trustees had accepted an offer for the Ambrosden land, which was part of the Arcott Bridge Meadows SSSI. He asked that anyone who wished to suggest potential beneficiaries for a distribution of funds should approach him or Mrs Mowat.

**Village News:** Mr Clifford reported they had had a good year. Subscriptions were the same as for the past 15 years and 40% were now by standing order; circulation was to 270 and about 10 copies were sold at the shop. Colour printing had been introduced and they had been able to make donations, including to the Pond and the Solar Panels at the Village Hall. He referred to the Village News offer to replace the tree planted to commemorate Lt Col Henry Shellard.

**Historical Society:** Mr Clifford reported this was combined with Bletchington and membership had increased from the 30's to 47.

**Written reports (*copies available on request from the Parish Clerk*) were presented as received from:**

Royal British Legion	School Endowment Trust
Kirtlington 1 <sup>st</sup> Scouts	Thames Valley Police
Village Hall Management Committee	Thames Water

**Reports not received:**

Allotments Association, Kirtlington Stars (under 10's Football)

**5. Any Other Business**

Cllr Richardson invited questions.

Mrs Mowat asked it would be possible for a volunteer to use the Parish Council's ride-on mower for the Churchyard, and would the Council's insurance cover this use; Cllr Richardson confirmed the Council would consider this.

Mrs Hawkesworth asked when the Play Area fence would be repaired; Cllr Richardson replied the Council was waiting for quotes.

Cllr Richardson closed the meeting at 9.20 p.m.

**Signed**

**Chairman**

**Date**