

Kirtlington Parish Council Annual Parish Meeting
Thursday 5th May 2022, 18:30, Kirtlington Village Church

KPC Attendees: David Richardson, Stuart Jenkins, Kate Buckingham-Fry, Trudy Brock, Briony Enser, Jean Conway

Parishioners Attendees: David Pratt, Bob Wilkes, Helen Macbeth, Anne Mowat, Nick Woods, Margaret Forey, Mary Scraggs

Apologies: Ruth Powles

1. Review of meeting minutes from 30th April 2019. No meeting held in 2020/2021. No issues raised. Agreed and signed, to be returned to Ruth post meeting.
2. Chairman's Report

A significant amount happened throughout the past 2 years during the COVID pandemic. KPC has had to adapt to a new way of 'remote' working. Sincere thanks to all for their flexibility. Mid Cherwell Neighbourhood Plan – effect way of reviewing strategic development projects in the Neighbourhood Plan area. On smaller scale developments, KPC has been engaging with community as best as possible through the periods of lockdown to represent views of community. For example, on planning issues, objecting to the proposed 5G Mast. KPC supported the application to build houses at Jersey Cottages. However, planning permission was declined by CDC. This is now back on the agenda as the developer sought advice from KPC on improving their plans. Planning sub-committee input has been invaluable. There have been a number of issues in the village with Thames Water. Some remedial action has been taken but KPC will be reviewing the situation and dialogue remains open should issues arise.

Village groups and societies have also had to adapt during the pandemic. The KWACS pond rejuvenation has been a great achievement as has the Community orchard project. On highways issues, the Community speedwatch project still ongoing, subject to insurance and training and the Roads and Traffic sub-committee continues working with OCC, working to resolve challenges of increased traffic through the village, OCC Priority fund scheme (£14.5k). Huge amount of effort invested in the programme so far. Kirtlington has been chosen as one of 5 villages to pilot 20mph scheme, signs are already being erected.

On liaison with Thames Valley Police / Neighbourhood Watch a new reporting link has been set up via the village website and KPC has used Social Media efforts to help keep the village informed on a number of issues. Villager reporting has assisted KPC in ensuring Cherwell DC carry out ad hoc Quarry maintenance tasks.

Grateful thanks to the Parish councillors who are standing down: Councillor Brock for all efforts on so many matters. Councillor Jenkins for village maintenance and finance budget, Councillor Buckingham-Fry for roads and traffic sub-committee. Also special thanks to the Clerk, Ruth Powles.

3. Financial Report for year-end. Overspend of £601 in prior year. KPC's receipts and payments for 2021-2022 more or less aligned, at £32,222.73 and £32,824.68 respectively. Precept: for the second year this now £25,500. Held at £24,000 for several years, increased in 2020-2021 to assist with increased maintenance costs. Mowing Sports field and Greens is a high annual outgoing at £6,269 for the last season.

Exceptional expenditure for items such as pond repairs, cost mostly covered by grants and donations, also play area log cabin, cost covered by community donations. Target reserves for the year = £35,995.67. South Green repairs not sufficiently accrued for, to be reviewed.

1. Village organisation reports:

- a. Village hall report submitted to Ruth (Bob Wilkes). Good income in 2019/20. For year 2020/21, finances supported by OCC grants. Various maintenance tasks carried out, including repairs to the solar panel flashing and environmental updates (insulation). Bookings up for year 2021/22. Two members of the committee are standing down. New members wanted!
- b. Local Transport Rep - Helen Macbeth, KPC representative. Funding will cease on 31/12/22 for existing bus service, operated by Diamond Bus Company. (Funding from Heyford Park). Funding from CDC will only support Heyford to Bicester. OCC has no funding available to support privatised bus companies. The £3bn originally offered by central government was reduced to £1bn. OCC has made a request for some of these funds. One option is Demand Response Transport Schemes. Bletchington, Hampton Poyle, Kirtlington working together. Villagers funded flyer to all community emphasising urgent need for existing service to be better utilised. Nick Woods collected signatures of those in support of the bus. OCC bus officer being kept aware of critical need for the bus. Other part routes being considered but these need funding. A route to Kidlington is needed as a minimum, to link up with other routes. OCC waiting on government response to request for funding before decision can be made on the future of potential bus routes. Awareness of public transport concerns to be published in every Village News

Questions and points raised: Is a Commuter Bus an option? No, commercial bus companies are not willing to consider this. Nick Woods moved to the village in 2016 and chose Kirtlington because of its bus service, raised concerns over what services the village is losing. Point raised that the bus service is integrated into the planning & traffic sub-committee. Can pensioners who have a bus pass pay if they wish? No, this has been investigated and payment cannot be accepted.

- c. All other village societies' responses from their committees had been printed and handed out to all attendees, refer to circulated responses for detail.

Reports from: KWACS, Youth Club, KVHMC, School Endowment Trust, Kirtlington Charities, Allotments Society.

2. Any other business:

David Pratt – kind acknowledgement of the support given to KPC by David Richardson as Chair and by the other three councillors also standing down.

3. Co-opting new councillors? All present were asked to consider potential replacement nominees for co-opting on to the Parish Council.
4. Meeting closed at 19:35

Signed *Jean Conway*

Date 23/05/2023