Report on behalf of KPC to The Annual Parish Meeting- 12th May.

I took over as Chair of KPC from Claire Rose in December 2025, and I would like to start by thanking the parish councillors who acted as chair on rotating basis during 2025, before Claire stepped in.

The Parish Council's role is to support the village, manage common assets such as the village greens, the sports fields, the village hall – a huge thank you to the Village Hall Management Committee for all their hard work – and the communal spaces and play areas. We are all committed to improving life in the village as much as we can.
Our main areas of activity during the year have been: Traffic and road safety, Sports fields and sports provision, the environment and support for the community activities and events.

We received a grant of £4000 from Oxfordshire County Council towards road safety and many of you will have no doubt noticed the smiley or not so smiley face on the 20 mile an hour traffic sign near the entrance to Kirtlington Park. Two more signs are planned for the village and together with other traffic calming measures we hope these will improve road safety and at least slow down some motorists if not all. We have also, with help from the management committee, installed CCTV at the village hall, using grant funds from Thames Valley Police and it has already been effective in identifying and addressing anti-social behaviour.

The sports field is still maintained by the volunteer groundsmen and our thanks go to them for all their hard work getting the pitches ready for use. Plans are progressing for an artificial cricket wicket, and discussions are underway as to how best to include this among other sports provision.

Our congratulations to the shop committee and the various sub committees for securing sufficient funds and investment to start work on the new Village shop.

Thanks to the Oxfordshire Conservation Volunteers for their beautiful hedge laying along the allotments we are delighted they will be back in the autumn to complete the row. Keeping the village communal areas in good shape is important: we hope to put up some posts to prevent parking on the greens and we are repairing the potholes where we are permitted to do so.

Thank you to the councillors and volunteers who turned out for a litter pick – we collected 13 bags of rubbish. A special mention and thank you to Freddie Allen (Tony Brett's grandson) who has been keeping the village litter free over recent months as part of his Duke of Edinburgh award.

We raised the Parish precept this year by 3% and this has allowed us to have a village fund to support a range of initiatives and activities, on request – including the new rewilding area on the old scout hut land, the installation of a permanent and safe cable for the Christmas lights on South Green. Funds for village improvements are available – please get in touch with KPC clerk if you have requests.

Some thanks and a plea for help
On behalf of the Parish Council I should like to thank all the advisors and volunteers who support the parish council: the sub-committee members- who give so much time and expertise on planning, traffic, buses, MCNP, KWAKS and the Allotments Committee, the Christmas lights volunteers and to our clerk Joanne Boughton. Huge thanks to Kay Chacksfield and Anthony Child who stood down as councillors at the last election, their advice hard work and wisdom will be sorely missed.

We have vacancies on the Parish Council and we need new councillors – if you think you might be interested please let me, or our clerk know.

Amanda Carpenter, Chair on behalf of KPC