**KINGSTONE & THRUXTON GROUP ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Minutes of a meeting held on Wednesday 4th May 2022

At 18:30 in Kingstone Village Hall

**Present:**

Cllr Nick Knudsen (Chair), Cllr Colin Knight, Cllr Denise Lloyd, Cllr Francis Milsom, Cllr Lynne Thorne and Cllr Colin Warrillow

**In attendance:**

Lisa Lewis (Parish Clerk), Ward Cllr Christy Bolderson, PCSO Carol Marsh and PC Steffan Hawes, Steve Madison (Sports Association) PFO Paul Neate (Parish Footpath Officer) and four members of the public.

**Apologies for absence** None noted

**Chairman welcomed those present to the May Annual Parish Meeting**

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| Agenda Ref | Minutes |
| **1.** | To Confirm & Sign the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meetings of 26th May 2021 these were accepted as a true record and signed by the chairman. |
| **2.** |  **KINGSTONE AND THRUXTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL****ANNUAL PARISH MEETING****CHAIRMAN’S PARISHES ANNUAL REPORT 2021 - 2022**This is my first report as Chairman having been elected to Chair the Council in the meeting after the last Annual Parish Meeting when both the incumbent Chair and Vice-Chair resigned their positions. At the same meeting the Clerk handed in her notice to leave at the end of Summer. This subsequently became a period of turmoil for the manning of the Council with Councillors M Walker, S Walker, A Vincent and A Williamson all resigning taking many years of expertise with them. I am pleased to say that we have welcomed the co-opted Councillors T Broomfield, C Knight, F Milsom and C Warrillow, with some more applicants awaiting to be co-opted. The balance of expertise amongst the Council is good but we would welcome more representatives from Coldstone Cross and Lowfield Meadow areas. We are now very ably supported by Lisa Lewis who has assumed the role of Clerk as well as taking on the role in Madley which is very useful to both Parishes.It has been a steep learning curve for many of us and we haven’t achieved all we wanted to during the last year. There has been some progress in key areas:* Allotments. We have formed an Allotment Committee to act on behalf of the Parish Council and are in the process of transferring ownership and responsibility for the land to the Parish Council. This is slower than hoped but the costs are being met by Lagan Homes there is no financial impact to the Parish.
* Speed Awareness Scheme. The volunteers from earlier times to support the scheme are no longer keen to be trained and we have yet to find more volunteers. This scheme is important, as it is a fundamental element of traffic calming.
* Traffic Calming Plans. Most will be concerned about the speed and lack of awareness of drivers on all the principal roads in the Parish. There was funding for Traffic Speed Indicator Devices and village gateways in the precept
* last year which we failed to commit as we found that all traffic calming measures must be details in the Neighbourhood Development Plan as a coherent whole and agreed at a Parish Meeting. This funding has been carried forward and we have also been awarded a significant amount of funding from the Lagan Homes Development. This work will include not only the procurement of the work but its long-term maintenance which will have to be met from the precept.
* Neighbourhood Development Plan. Work has started on the delivery of the next County Plan which will underpin changes to the Neighbourhood Plan but the core work is out of phase with our traffic calming plans. We are therefore completing a new standalone section for agreement within the Parishes and the County Council.
* Dirt Bike track. The Parish Council has agreed the business plan to deliver and manage a dirt bike track of the field adjacent to Lowfield Meadow which will be taken forward by our local PCSO and the Ward Councillor.
* Queen’s Jubilee Park. We continue to work on plans to develop the grassed area on Church View subject to the agreement of parishioners. Development funding will be provided by Lagan Homes.
* Drainage. A major survey of the drainage across Kingstone was carried out before Christmas but we await the plan to deliver the work needed from the County Council.

Footpaths. Unfortunately, Paul Wright our Rights of Way and Footpaths Officer resigned last year. He has been succeeded by Paul Neate who with his dog Fenton has walked every footpath in the 2 Parishes. He is ably assisted by Keith Band. We now know the problems with the paths and the problems are reported. Rectification work has been ably supported by local farms and estates and parish funding in the absence of timely support from the County Council.Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. The range of activities has been advertised separately and planning is well advanced to provide a memorable celebration.Lengthsman Support. We failed to use the Lengthsman last year due to a lack of understanding of the contractual arrangement through Balfour Beaty. We now understand how the system works and are planning a major clean of the Parishes. This will be aided by a drainage grant for cleaning the kerb sides, drains and gullies. We would really like to hear the views of parishioners on what tasks they would like to see caried out by the Lengthsman.Finance. We raised the precept again this year by £3000 which is still the lowest in South Hereford. This has resulted in a small increase in the individual council tax but with the scale of new housing will return to the previous level next year. The aim now is to ensure that we have the long-term funding in place for Lengthsman activities and the maintenance of traffic calming equipment that we intend to purchase during the next year.Donations. We will continue to donate to groups and organisation at the heart of Parish life and would welcome more requests for support from those that deliver support and benefits across our Parishes.Communications. We are trying to improve communicating about what the Parish Council does for the parishes. A monthly column in the TTN is a start, a re-vamped website is to follow, and we hope to use Facebook.Thank You for your Support over the last year and we look forward to your support over the next year as we take many plans forward. |
| **3.** | Kingstone Village Hall Report Bookings remain good. Quotes awaited to proceed with the extension.   |
| **4.** | **Ward Councillor’s Report:-**Main points to note locally – the Bike Track is progressing. Hope to have more news on the cycle path in the next week. There is a new project manager in respect of 106 monies. Elements of the footways will move forward. There was a request for drawings of the proposed footpaths to link with the traffic calming plans, Cllr Bolderson will inform the Parish Council in due course. **Full Report:-****Green bin campaign** The Green bin campaign ‘Getting it right’ aims to help people put the right items into green bins and clear recycling sacks.  Each year, the council’s recycler, Envirosort, has to reject 2,900 tonnes of material that can no longer be recycled because of things placed in the wrong bins. That’s enough rubbish to fill over 250 waste collection lorries. The most common thing residents struggle with is what to do with plastic packaging. All plastics people can crush in their hand, including cling film, pet food pouches and crisp packets, need to go into general waste bags.  Food and unwashed food packaging is also unfit for recycling. All leftover food needs to go in with general waste. Firm food containers – like the plastic trays ready-meals are packaged in – need to be quickly rinsed before being put out with other recycling items. Other things not accepted in recycling bins and sacks include: Batteries, Black sacks and other soft plastics, Drinking glasses (plastic and glass), Electronic equipment, Food, Garden waste including flowers, Knives and saucepans, Nappies, Textiles and shoes and Tissues.  Black plastic also cannot be recycled yet as Envirosort’s scanning machines are unable to detect it.**Reaching for the stars**Do you know someone who lives in Herefordshire and did something special during the pandemic and went out of their way to help others during lockdown? If so, Herefordshire Council would like to hear about them via the reaching for the stars campaign.  These stars went largely unnoticed - they checked in on their neighbours to ensure they had everything they needed. They collected goods from shops and prescriptions from chemists. They spread good news to make others feel better. They volunteered and listened to others on the phone to keep loneliness at bay. They donated money, food, clothing and more. [Submit](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/playyourpart) your story on the Play Your Part website and view the [archive of photographs from lockdown](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-3/stay-home-stay-safe/4)**Latest Consultations and Resident Feedback*** [Hereford Travel Survey](https://consultations.herefordshire.gov.uk/consultations/article/76/hereford-travel-survey-2022) - The survey, which is required as part of the Department for Transport Access Fund, will seek to provide data on changes to travel patterns, including changes during and post-pandemic, and the impact of more widespread home working. The data will support future travel and transport planning and will be shared with the Department for Transport. The online survey will run until Wednesday 25 May. It is open to anyone aged 16 and over who lives or works in the county.
* [Local Plan - Policy options consultation](https://consultations.herefordshire.gov.uk/consultations/article/75/local-plan-policy-options-consultation) - The Local Plan 2021- 2041 will set out the planning framework for the county and will cover issues such as housing provision, the economy, retail and town centres, infrastructure provision and the environment. It will also set out policies by which planning applications will be determined, in addition to allocation land for housing, employment and other uses.  We have now reached the stage where consideration needs to be given to any policies that are to be included in the Local Plan. The responses received during this consultation, together with a number of evidence base studies, will help form the draft Local Plan. The consultation runs from 4 April 2022 until 16 May 2022.
* [Signs of Safety Survey](https://consultations.herefordshire.gov.uk/consultations/article/74/signs-of-safety-survey) - Survey to gather feedback about how well Herefordshire Council are working with children and young people and their families in the county. Consultation has been extended to Friday 13 May 2022.

**Covid-19 update as of 23 April 2022**Case rates have increased from my last report with the seven day rolling rate of new cases by specimen date ending on 23 April 2022 being 248.4 cases per 100k people (down from 819.5 in my last report) compared with cases in England at 198.1 per 100k population.   For more information on Coronavirus see [Herefordshire Council website](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-3) and local data [Understanding Herefordshire Covid-19 summary website](https://understanding.herefordshire.gov.uk/health/covid-19-summary/) **Neighbourhood Matters from West Mercia Police** Neighbourhood Matters enables residents, businesses and community groups to keep in touch with our local West Mercia Police teams and learn more about what they are doing in your community. It’s free to sign up and is a great way to know what’s happening in your area and what is being done about it.   You can choose to receive updates on crimes and latest information on on-going incidents. You can also hear about positive police action, good news stories and be able to play an active part in helping with public appeals.  To find out more and sign up, visit the [Neighbourhood Matters website](http://www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk/#SignUp).**Highway or Footpath Defects**Rather than contacting the Locality Steward directly, please can I encourage you to report any defects and potholes by phone 01432 261800 or by logging onto the Herefordshire Council website<https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads>.You can report the following items online: * [Faulty street light](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/info/200196/roads/611/report_a_faulty_street_light)
* [Flytipping](https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-fly-tipping)
* [Public right of way problem](https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-public-right-of-way-problem)
* [Highway drainage issue](https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-highway-drainage-issues)
* [Overhanging tree](https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-maintenance-required-to-trees-or-hedges)
* [Pavement needing repair](https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-pavement-needing-repair)
* [Pothole](https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-a-pothole) or use the [ReportingApp](https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/reportingapp/)
* [Road needing resurfacing](https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-road-defects)
* [Road sign defect](https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-road-signage-defects)
* [Worn road markings or missing cats eyes](https://myaccount.herefordshire.gov.uk/report-worn-road-markings-and-missing-cats-eyes)
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| **5.** | **Open Discusssion of Parish Matters:*** A resident passed on her congratulations to the Parish Counil on the production of a very well done Jubilee Picnic leaflet.
* 2 residents confirmed their interest in volunteering for speedwatch
* Speeding along the C1221 was discussed with the Police. There was a suggestion of scarecrows with Hi-Vis placed around the village and they confirmed that speed monitoring has been and is being carried out around the village.
* A resident noted concerns over the increase of the precept for this year. This was discussed and a request for a list of jobs carried out through the village to be placed on the website.
* Footpath map request – it was confirmed that these maps are available on the website
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**SIGNED………………………………………………………… DATED……………………………**