

KINGSTONE & THRUXTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGSMinutes of a meeting held on Wednesday 8th May 2024

At 18:30 in Kingstone Village Hall

Present:

Cllr Leah Dunsmuir, Cllr Neil Howard, Cllr Colin Knight, Cllr Denise Lloyd, Cllr Colin Pugh (Chairman), Cllr Paula Rawbone, Cllr Christina Richards, Cllr Lynne Thorne, Cllr Colin Warrillow

In attendance:

Wendy Knudsen (Sports Association), Lisa Lewis (Parish Clerk), PCSOs Carol Marsh and Hayley Warne, PFO Paul Neate (Parish Footpath Officer), Ward Councillor Richard Thomas, Lynda Wilcox (HALC) and fifteen members of the public.

Apologies for absence Cllrs Bailey and Rea

Agenda Ref	Minutes
1.	The chairman welcomed those present to the Annual Parish Meeting. He gave a short presentation outlining the key points from his written report and detailing the achievements of the parish council over the last year.
2.	To Confirm & Sign the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meetings of 17th May 2023 these were accepted as a true record and signed by the chairman.
3.	Matters arising for Kingstone and questions:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lagan Homes Drainage Works • Memorial Garden Consultation • Speeding on the C1212. Members of the public were urged to take down registration numbers where possible and report to 101 or online. The chairman confirmed that the parish council have a meeting arranged with West Mercia to address speeding in the village. An item will be added to the next parish council meeting agenda. • Speed Indicator Devices • Highways Improvements and resurfacing • Potholes – members of the public urged to keep reporting. PCSOs advised of an app called 'Fix my Street' which seems to receive a quick response for repairs.
4.	Matters arising for Thruxton and questions:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nothing raised.
5.	Lynda Wilcox from HALC provided an informative presentation about the importance of reviewing the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). Key points to note were:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herefordshire Council are changing all their documents and policies relating to planning and the parish council's NDP must not conflict with any. • Volunteers will be needed to review the current NDP and as such a steering group will be in place and a planning consultant should be appointed who will streamline the review. • There will be a government grant for review of the NDP. • NDP should be reviewed prior to Herefordshire Council finalising their policies. • The parish should get a planning consultant to carry out the work who will ensure that the NDP contains tight terminology to safeguard the important parts.
6.	PCSOs Carol Marsh and Hayley Warne provided a report of the crime rates in the area over the last 12 months and provided the following information:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the bike track has been in place there has been a reduction in anti-social behaviour reports of 50%.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They have been working closely with the Primary School and Young Hopefuls to create community ties. • A survey had been carried out in the village with 317 responses. The results were highlighted. • Communication channels were noted – Crimestoppers, 101, West Mercia Website and Neighbourhood Matters subscription. • Information was provided to the parish on Community Speedwatch. It was noted that at least 6 volunteers are required, full training is provided by West Mercia with all equipment and insurance cover being provided. • Operation Snap – any speeding offences can be captured and sent in directly and depending on the speed the offender will receive a letter or fine. <p>Questions: Newsletter</p> <p>It was noted that 101 had been really helpful to a resident, with very quick response times. The chairman thanked Carol and Hayley for their ongoing support.</p>
7.	<p>Wendy Knudsen, Committee Member of the Kingstone Sports Association provided an interesting presentation about the history of the Sports Association, what goes on currently and the future plans. A copy of the full report is appended for information. The main points to note:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History of the Sports Field and constitution of the charity. • It is an approved landing site for the Air Ambulance. • The site is run entirely by volunteers. • There are 5 new members in place. • Play equipment is to be improved using S.106 money received from the Housing Developer. • New building to be erected to store maintenance equipment. • There are vacancies on the Committee. <p>Questions: Can the use of the field by other football teams be increased. Advertise maintenance days so that more people are aware and can assist. Advertise the craft fair.</p>
8.	<p>Chairman Colin Pugh summed up the Parish Council Annual Report 2023 – 2024 and highlighted how lucky the Community is to have an abundance of willing volunteers who give their time to make the community a better place. He emphasised that the parish council would like members of the public to bring forward their ideas and positivity so that all groups can work together.</p> <p>Written report:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">KINGSTONE AND THRUXTON GROUP PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2023 - 2024</p> <p>This is my second year as Chairman having been re-elected to Chair the Council in May 2023. I am pleased to say that we have welcomed several new councillors this year and now have a full complement for Kingstone with one seat to be filled for Thruxton. The balance of expertise amongst the Council is varied which makes us a strong council. We are very competently supported by our clerk, Lisa Lewis who qualified in local council administration by gaining her CiLCA in October 2023.</p> <p>The parish council has achieved some significant success this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of the bike track which is being enjoyed by many. • The transfer and allocation of the allotments.

- Footpaths – the parish council purchased maintenance equipment last year and with agreement from Herefordshire Council, our Footpath Officer, Paul Neate has been extremely busy clearing and maintaining many paths through the village. This is all done on a voluntary basis for the parishes and I, on behalf of us all wish to express our sincere gratitude for all his hard work. Paul regularly walks the paths in both parishes and reports problems to Herefordshire Council, he also managed to achieve the repair/replacement of some footbridges with the work being carried out by HC.
- Drainage work in the village and the wider network has been completed.
- Lengthman Support – we changed the lengthsman’s contract at the end of last year and Matthew Cobb was successfully appointed to look after the roads in the parishes. He has now carried out several maintenance days in the village and Thruxton and we are working closely with him to achieve the parish council’s objectives.
- The Herefordshire Council 106 Project team have provided us with draft PDF’s of the highways plan which will be amended slightly, however, we have been informed that the final plan will be ready within the next couple of weeks. Once finalised this significant piece of work including the village gate features, new road signage, speed indicator devices and traffic calming measures through the village will be funded under the S106 funding route and will be able to move the project forward. We have funding set aside from last year’s precept to add to this project if necessary.
- Planting of barrels at the triangle by the church and plans for a new tree and a bench, together with the planting of bulbs around the village have had a positive impact across the village and show as a community, we really do care about where we live and are committed to improving Kingstone and Thruxton. All of this planting was kindly carried out by volunteers.
- Funding was obtained from the National Lottery Community Fund to enable us to set up the Kingstone Food Share. This is running successfully with a number of people in attendance and is led by Councillor Paula Rawbone.
- A new litter Picking Group has been set up recently and there has been community engagement with the Primary School and Police, this is being led by Councillor Leah Dunsmuir.
- Plans for a Memorial Garden on parish council land at Whitehouse Drive have been drawn up and we are keen to hear people’s views to enable us to take this project forward. The funding of this will be from S106 money from the Whitehouse Drive Development, but ongoing maintenance will be met by the precept.
- Donations - We will continue to donate to groups and organisation at the heart of Parish life and welcome any requests for support from those that deliver services and benefits to our local community.
- Communications – we have made improvements in our communications with the parish and now post more on social media, as the projects move forward we will keep the parish up to date via social media, our website and the TTN monthly column. The new noticeboards for Kingstone, near the Doctors Surgery and Thruxton near the Church are ready to be installed.
- Finance - we raised the precept this year by £8,636 to £27,536. This has resulted in a increase in the individual council tax, but as there was an increase in the number of properties in the parish this has kept the impact down slightly. Based on a band D property this equates to an additional £1.37 per month. The aim now is to ensure that we have the long-term funding in place

	<p>for all the activities undertaken by the parish council and for the maintenance of traffic calming equipment that we intend to purchase during the next year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not forgetting Christmas, with the addition of a Parish Christmas Tree in the Bull Ring Inn garden this year which was funded by the parish council and made possible with kind permission and support of the Bull Ring Inn. It was an excellent event that attracted lots of parishioners. <p>As a parish council and a Parish councillor it's very easy to become jaded and affected by what, at times can be constant negative feedback. But on this occasion, I think we should all take a minute to be proud of what has been achieved so far this year under the remit of the Parish Council.</p> <p>As always, thank you for your support.</p> <p>Councillor Colin Pugh <i>Chairman, Kingstone & Thruxton Group Parish Council.</i></p> <p><u>List of Donations 2023/2024</u> Village Hall Committee, contribution to replacement Fire Doors - £2,000 Dore Community Transport - £300 Coronation Event - £200 Scarecrow Competition - £150 Sports Association £1,300</p>
9.	<p>Meeting closed at 8:11pm. Members of the public were invited to stay and enjoy refreshments whilst perusing the information on display for the Memorial Garden Plans and Highways Improvements and Police statistics.</p>

SIGNED.....

DATED.....

KINGSTONE SPORTS ASSOCIATION**HISTORY, WHAT GOES ON CURRENTLY, AND THE FUTURE****HISTORY**

Starting from 27.5.53, when George Phillips sold some land to Herefordshire County Council to be used as recreational facilities for the inhabitants of the Parish of Kingstone. More land was added in 1961, and then again in 1966.

On 4.1.87 Hereford and Worcestershire County Council sold this land to Kingstone and Thruxton Parish Council and the Kingstone Sports Association was set up manage it on behalf of the Parish Council. The Trustees (2 of which were members of the Parish Council-by Constitution) are Officers of the Committee.

In September 1999, Mrs Hughston, then Trustee and Secretary to KSA, contacted Gabb and Co regarding the 1987 sale. The deeds are held by Gabb and Co, and all documents were sent to Mrs Boyce, who was clerk to the Parish Council, and from whom Gabb and Co received their instruction.

On 5.6.13, Herefordshire Council approved the planning application of Archihaus, which included an emergency access route directly across the playing field.

Subsequently Sport England put a stop on the application (it was confirmed that all steps for the application that Herefordshire Council had approved were not carried out in accordance with planning legislation).

On 28.10.13 Kingstone Sports Association registered the land, Seven Site Playing Field to safeguard it from developers. Please note that there was no legal requirement to register the owner of the land in 1987.

WHAT GOES ON CURRENTLY

Kingstone Sports Association (from its constitution), exists to work with others, to promote, foster and encourage active participation in the widest range of sporting and recreational activities which can be pursued through the use of the facilities on the Seven Site.

Whereas at one time eight clubs played football and cricket on the pitches, we now only have two teams using the facilities, one of which uses it as a multi sport facility.

However, you will seldom see the field empty. It is regularly used by people walking their dogs, there is a children's play area, and a youngster's play area. It is also an approved landing site for the West Midlands Air Ambulance.

The committee, volunteers working to improve recreational facilities for the Parish, are responsible for the running of the site-which includes cutting the grass (no little job), marking the pitches, maintaining and cleaning the changing rooms and generally maintaining the site. As recently as last week some members helped clear a fallen tree that was a hazard.

The Committee are duty bound to the legal requirements of the Charity Commission and Sports England and the requirements of the Sporting Associations.

FUTURE PLANS

Historically, the Kingstone Sports Association held one or two fund raising events each year, the most recent being a post Covid party in September 2021; we have lost income through lack of team use of the site, and indeed our committee numbers also dwindled.

However, we now have 5 new members to complement the 6 “old timers” - those who have been on the committee for over 20 years, or nearly so.

We thank the Parish Council for funding the majority of our expenses, which are increasing (insurance, fuel, utilities etc), whilst our income has diminished (less clubs and awful weather) but are determined to share more responsibility for raising funds ourselves. Starting in an albeit small way with a cake, plant and craft sale in the village hall on 25.5.24, of which I am delighted to say at least one member of the Parish Council is helping with.

We also have access to funds (£106), to replace the majority of the play equipment, which we plan to do this year.

And we are in the process of arranging the building of a new storage unit to accommodate the various pieces of equipment we own to maintain the site, currently stored elsewhere.

Thank you for your attention, and this presentation is a synopsis of the pamphlet which I give to you.

You may also be delighted to know that we have vacancies on our committee and no truer is the maxim “many hands make light work”

I hope that by making this presentation that we can co-operate more to make the most of what is a wonderful facility within the village.

08/05/2024

27/5/53 George Phillips sold some land to Herefordshire County Council.

18/5/61 John Wathen sold 1.926 acres to Herefordshire County Council.

8/3/66 Cecil Watkins sold .65 acre to Herefordshire County Council.

14/1/87 Hereford & Worcestershire County Council sold this land to K&T PC

Original Trustees (14/1/87)

Eric Coleman of Tigstump, Cockyard.

Harvey Morgan of Exchequer Court, Thruxton.

John James of Rowden House, Kivernoll, Much Dewhurst.

Duncan Jordan of 22 Whitehouse Drive, Kingstone.

Interim Trustees (1997-2007)

William Warren, Jane Warren, Barbara Hughston,

Bill Fleming, Damian Holloway, Cliff Rose, Sandra Greeves, Alison Coupland.

Current Trustees

Steve Madison,
Michael Williams,
Richard Williams.
Jimmy Greenly.

Current Committee Members of KSA

Steve Madison	Chair	2003	T
Jeremy Patterson	Secretary	2021	
Michael Williams	Treasurer	2007	T
Richard Williams		1987	T
Jimmy Greenly		1987	T L
Jim Gullis		1989	L
Colin Pugh		2023	
Wendy Knusden		2023	
Lara Wickham		2023	
Jill Beattie		2023	
John Beattie		2023	
Colin Knight		2024	

T=Trustee. L=Life Time Member. Year shown is when Committee member joined.

Current Users of Playing Field:

Dore Valley Football Club.
Fairfield High School.