

# KINGSKERSWELL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING



Meeting held on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023 6:30pm at The Pavilion, Kingskerswell

## DRAFT MINUTES

**Present:** Cllr J Radford, Cllr J Taylor, Cllr J Carter, Cllr T Elston, Cllr S Talbot, Cllr N Hayter, Cllr M Daniell

**Attending:** Cllr A Dewhirst, Mrs J Thompson (Clerk), Miss C Hill (Admin) and six members of the public

### 3573. Welcome and apologies of absence:

The Parish Council Chair opened the meeting at 6:32pm and thanked everyone for attending. Apologies were received from Cllr W Dixon, and Cllr M Haines.

### 3574: To agree the minutes of the previous meeting

It was proposed by Cllr J Radford, seconded by Cllr J Carter and agreed by all to accept the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 as a true and accurate record.

### 3575: Chair's Annual Report 2023:

This evening marks the end of the four-year term of the current elected Parish Council, I would like to thank all past Councillors and Clerk's for their professionalism and hard work for the benefit of the village. I am pleased to say that all Cllrs nominations were accepted and all have been elected unopposed to the next four-year term of office.

It has been a mixed year with the sad passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, but we are looking forward to the coronation of King Charles III. I would like to thank Reverend Michael Wilkie – Vicar of St Mary's Church, Kingskerswell for the service and remembrance book for our late majesty.

I felt very honoured to be elected Chair for a second year running in 2022, to carry on with what we have achieved in 2021.

With the demise of Covid, (which is hopefully coming to an end thanks to the inoculation programme) I would like to acknowledge the work of Kingskerswell and Ipplepen medical practice doctors, nurses and all the support staff, that have and still are working tirelessly to support all the residents of the parish; their newsletter and updates, keeping patients informed, is a credit to them all.

I would like again, to thank all councillors for their tireless work on committees, representing the village over the past year and with all our amazing achievements in the past 12 months. Special thanks to our clerk Juliette for her professionalism and because of her flexible working agenda, items have been concluded, also thanks to Cara our temporary Clerk's Assistant, who has stepped in and got up to speed with the role very quickly. We end this year with so much achieved, more to achieve, and with eight Councillors elected to stand again from the May meeting, I am looking forward to the next term.

Our achievements:

Our Pavilion:

Has been decorated by volunteer Cllrs, the Clerk and KSC committee members.

A new floor has been laid and new boiler for the showers installed, new economy lighting and a new microwave.

The Pavilion now looks clean and fresh and is enjoyed by all.

Devon Air Ambulance planning for a night landing site has been submitted and is awaiting approval.

The Changing Places Toilet module will be completed this year.

Churchway Lane field planning permission was granted for change of use.

Jubilee Gardens is nearing completion, with positive comments received from residents.

Two new defibrillators have been installed at The Hare and Hounds and Supa roofing – thanks to both for contributing towards the installation costs.

A management plan for Jubilee Woods has been started.

Ash tree dieback works are ongoing and below budget.

Three VAS cameras have been installed.

The trial litter pick started in the last couple of weeks.

Two new benches have been installed in the playing fields – thanks to KSC for the plaques.

Cllr volunteers have painted Water Lane toilets.

We have introduced many more policies and compliant documentation - too many to list here.

On training, many councillors have attended Zoom courses with our provider and spent numerous hours learning about legislation and all the legal aspects of becoming a good councillor. The Clerk and Cara have attended risk assessment courses to enable safe use of PC facilities and events.

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Thanks to the Recreation Ground Charity Committee for all their hard work over the year.

Thanks to the Kingskerswell Natural History Society, this has been another successful year and thanks to David Poole and his volunteers for the work they have achieved. Our regular meetings at the downs have been very rewarding and knowledgeable.

Churchway Lane field is an ongoing project and the navigators are enjoying it for their outdoor activities. We will be forming a sub-committee to explore ways of using the field – allotments etc. Thanks to Stoneycombe Quarry, who will be providing free hard standing for the parking area.

The Kerswella coffee mornings at the pavilion this year have been very successful and my thanks to the volunteers who make this happen.

I would like to thank all volunteers and groups in the village who have contributed so much during the past year. In particular John Yeo for his help with the Jubilee Gardens. The parish needs more volunteers like John.

Thanks to the planning committee for their meetings in the past year and their tireless work on controversial planning decisions which affect us all; I just hope Teignbridge do read and take into account comments the planning committee make on applications.

Kingskerswell Action Group has made the village a welcoming place to drive through, the flowers in spring and throughout the year have been a joy. Cole's Lane Garden is a hub for villagers to meet and a refreshing place to sit and chat – a good thing for our mental well-being. Thanks to Roger Jones and his volunteers for their tireless work.

I would like to thank all Cllrs for all their voluntary hard work and here is a list of a few things they have been doing in the last year:

Thanks to DCC Cllr Alistair Dewhirst and TDC Cllrs Mike Haines and Sheila Cook for their support as public servants. I wish Mike and Sheila all the best for their retirement.

Vice-Chair Cllr Jane Taylor:

Our Police Councillor Advocate representative and thanks to Jane also for setting up PCSO liaison meetings and introducing us to the Community Payback scheme.

Jane was also on the Teignbridge District Council Standards committee and sits on our Planning Committee.

She has led on the dog problem by leafleting and communicating on social media.

Jane has visited and helped residents with housing problem needs and Chairs the Kingskerswell and Ipplepen Patients Participation Group and continues to deliver J9 training events.

Jane also does the humorous monthly Parish Council meeting write up for the Mid Devon Advertiser, which is enjoyed by all.

And I thank her for supporting me and advising me throughout my term.

Cllr Janet Carter:

Janet sits on the planning committee, downs committee and Jubilee Gardens committees for the PC.

She was heavily involved with the winter warmer scheme and the Christmas tree festival held at St Mary's Church and is involved with the memory cafe.

She has been instrumental in pushing for youth facilities and plans for a youth council and also the parish emergency plan.

And is a champion of climate change, proactive in making the PC more compliant by suggesting solar panels, a composting toilet and electric vehicle charging points.

And of course, the very informative write ups for the parish magazine.

Cllr Wayne Dixon:

Who works long hours and is often away but has still managed to contribute immensely by chairing the planning meetings, championing against graffiti and litter – advocating for the village litter pick.

And of course, was instrumental in getting the long-awaited VAS cameras installed.

Cllr Tania Elston:

The Spikey the hedgehog campaign.

Regular checks of Water Lane Toilets and a member of the downs committee and Jubilee gardens committee.

Tania is a volunteer at Kerswella and was involved in the Christmas Tree festival.

She is a champion of wildflowers and natural habitats.

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And most recent role as Chair of the coronation event committee.

Cllr Steve Talbot:

Our huge thanks to Steve for saving the PC thousands of pounds in labour costs using his skills to repair the verti drain grills, unblocking toilets twice, carrying out minor repairs to the pavilion - guttering etc. Installing dog poo bins and replenishing the bags, painting Water Lane toilets, putting up signs and being a member of the planning committee, Christmas tree festival entry.

Cllr Nikki Hayter – a new member of the PC with lots of ideas for the future.

Nikki has also recently joined the Recreation Ground Charity Committee and is also on the coronation committee.

Cllr Mike Daniell – another new member of the PC has helped with Jubilee planting, mapping potholes throughout the village and was instrumental in obtaining the plans for the DCC highways cutting route and in doing so has managed to get £3.4K back from DCC to contribute to the PC's costs in cutting those verges.

Former Cllr Roger Jones – was instrumental in getting two defibs, and championed Jubilee gardens. Thanks for all his past work.

I would like to thank the sports club committee for their tireless work and successfully bringing sports for the villagers, with football and cricket. And we wish them all the best for the future.

Thanks to our two main contractors, who I have worked closely with, John Bartlett (Princes Groundcare) and Topp Tree Care, for all their hard work in the village. We all agree they have both done more than they were contracted to do - thank you.

And thanks to Nick Coffey for setting up the Responsible Dog Owners Facebook site and his attendance at PC meetings.

Future challenges – I have represented the village at DCC for the state of the roads and pavements in the village and with the Aldi supermarket and drive through takeaways it is this PC's ambition to stop traffic coming through the village.

A new up to date CCTV system is needed – as demonstrated phones have better visual than our current CCTV system.

On reflection, we have a forward thinking, modern, dynamic council, where all councillors, volunteers and helpers throughout the village have worked together throughout the year for the betterment of the village. It's been a great year and everyone should feel proud of all our achievements - well done everyone!

Cllr J Taylor added that John has been a fantastic, diligent and hardworking chair – well done and thanks.

### 3576: Open Public Session:

A resident of Churchway Lane requested that the PC carry out remedial works at the boundary of Jubilee Woods, which was originally agreed 2011. PC apologised and said that they would make their contractor aware and arrange a meeting to carry out the works.

A resident stated that they thought the recent traffic calming measures were not successful and asked for a review. Cllr A Dewhirst (DCC) reminded all present of the reasons for installing the traffic calming scheme and that the safety audit review for the scheme has not been done as the project has not yet been completed.

Cllr A Dewhirst reminded all that it was his job to chase up outstanding DCC highways issues and problems, if needed, but the PC felt that they were not getting adequate support from their DCC Cllr.

The meeting ended at 7:19pm and was immediately followed by the Kingskerswell Parish Council meeting.

Chair .....

Date.....