

Notes from Annual Parish Meeting
Kinnerley Parish Hall
Monday 23rd March 2020 at 7pm

This meeting was held immediately prior to when Covid-19 guidance on meetings changed.

PRESENT

Cllr Nick Barclay (Chair), Cllr Charles Green (Vice-chair), Cllr Sharon Quayle, Ms Marian Giles (Clerk)

No members of the public were present.

APM 1/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Maurice Jones, Alan Lewis, James Peto, John Pinder, Richard Greening, Lorraine Jones, Peter Clarke, Mandy Chapman (all for Covid-19 advisory reasons)

APM 2/20 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 25TH MARCH 2019

Councillors **RESOLVED (unanimously) to accept the minutes** of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th March 2019 as a correct record of that meeting.

APM 3/20 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON PREVIOUS YEAR

Cllr Barclay opened the meeting with reference to the extraordinary circumstances reflecting Covid-19 restrictions. The public had been invited to raise queries or comments via e-mail to the Clerk, and the room was laid out in accordance with social distancing guidelines for the minimum 4 people present for the meeting to be quorate.

He described another busy year for the Council, with 10 full meetings of the Council, along with other working group meetings and representations of the Parish at County level meetings. In April 2019 the Parish Council had implemented the surrender of the tenancy of the Glebe Field Football ground, which involved having to provide a stock proof fence around the ground, before handing it over to Lichfield Diocese in June. Whilst the cost of this fencing created a slight over-spend in that area of the budget, it would create a considerable saving in future years. Operational savings made from this decision, and the changeover of street lights from the old orange SOX type to LED, meant that funds could be used in other ways to benefit the Parish, including increasing the donation made to both of our vital village halls. At the same time, the Parish Council decided that for 2020 they were able to avoid an increase in the overall precept for the third year running.

In April 2019 a new Grounds Maintenance Contractor, Martin Pritchard, was appointed, who performed very well and would therefore be offered a renewed contract in 2020. Key actions arising from the results of the most recent Tree Safety Survey were also implemented. The survey identified that remedial work was required to 15 trees in the areas which were the responsibility of the Parish Council. One tree was felled in the Kinnerley play area because of its poor health, but this will be replaced in 2020.

The new LED lighting was funded from the annual precept, and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) assisted with funding for new solar powered Vehicle Activated Signals (VAS) with digital speed warnings in Maesbrook, where the 40-mph road has proved to be of particular concern. Further speed reduction measures for other areas of the Parish will be considered as a priority in 2020.

Long awaited attention to the Play Equipment started in 2019 with repairs to the slide handrails and steps. An assessment was also made of the younger children's play area and how best to make improvements to the equipment and drainage in 2020. Consideration will also be given to the addition of play and exercise equipment for older children and adults.

Future use of CIL resources is an ongoing matter, and is regularly reviewed by the Council and its CIL sub group.

As in previous years, the Council considered a number of Planning Applications, taking care to give support where we felt appropriate, but opposing some proposals where they are out of step with the Kinnerley Parish Neighbourhood Plan, or other compelling reasons. In particular a scheme at West View, Knockin Heath, which was the third application to develop this unsuitable site since 2013, was met with strong objections.

Next steps in the Local Plan Review which will see Kinnerley Village designated as a Development Hub, leaving the remaining hamlets still designated as a Cluster, were awaited later in 2020.

The re-opening of the Cross Keys public house in Kinnerley finally became a reality in the year. Back in 2014 / 15 this was described as a 'failing pub' in the planning applications that were vigorously opposed. Now, thanks to Les Jones' refurbishments and the ability of the new landlords, the full potential envisaged during those difficult times was now being achieved.

Flooding was becoming a more regular occurrence in parts of Edgerley and Maesbrook, but February 2020 saw record levels of rainfall, which sadly increased river levels to such an extent to cause major flooding in Pentre village centre. The Parish Council will need to reflect on this experience, and to review emergency planning arrangements in the light of recent experience.

Cllr Barclay recorded his thanks to all Councillors for the hard work and diligence shown in their work for the Council. He also reflected on the resignation of Betton Cambridge from the Council, who had represented the Argoed Ward for many years. His extensive local knowledge was greatly missed. Three excellent applications had been received for the vacancy, with Dr Peter Clarke, with his extensive knowledge of the Neighbourhood Plan, selected to join the Parish Council in June.

Cllr Barclay also gave his thanks to the Parish Clerk, Marian Giles, for keeping the wheels of the Council turning, and in giving sound advice where needed.

APM 4/20 CLLR MATT LEE – SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT

No report had been received from Cllr Lee.

APM 5/20 MATTERS OF CONCERN OR INTEREST TO THE PARISH

a) Charles Matthews from the Parish Paths Partnership (P3 Group)

Mr Matthews had provided a short written update on latest developments from the group which currently had 26 members, with 10 regularly undertaking practical work.

- The Knockin and Kinnerley P3 groups assist each other in footpath maintenance across the two areas.
- We've been pretty active over the last year, installing new gates and stiles across the parish as well as chopping back the worst of the brambles and overhanging vegetation from the most well used rights of way. As there are approximately **115** in total across the parish, there are many that need more attention.
- We have a list of jobs for 2020 already agreed with Shropshire Council but the current pandemic has meant that all our plans are now paused for the foreseeable future. As well as the on-going maintenance work, we are also looking to re-open some of the near derelict rights of way along with others that have been deliberately blocked. The flooding around the Royal Hill has also severely damaged many stiles which need attention.

- Finally but perhaps most importantly, we do not require any funding in 2020 from the Parish. Shropshire Council continue to provide all the resources that we require.

b) Mr Ken Evans on behalf of 'Walking for Health'

A short written note from Mr Evans explained that owing to the Covid-19 epidemic, walks were currently suspended. The group has 47 registered members, with each walk attracting approximately 20 walkers. Walkers were of mixed ability. Winter weather conditions had resulted in most walks being on roads which highlighted the need to reduce traffic speeds on narrow and twisty roads in particular.

APM 6/20 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next Annual Parish Meeting was **APPROVED** as 22nd March 2021.

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Meeting closed at 7.20pm

Signed
Chairman of Parish Council

Date

DRAFT