Notes from Annual Parish Meeting

Held Remotely by Zoom

Monday 22nd March 2021 at 7pm

**PRESENT**

Cllr Nick Barclay (Chair), Cllrs Charles Green (Vice-chair), Mandy Chapman, Peter Clarke, Richard Greening, Lorraine Jones, Maurice Jones, James Peto

Three members of the public were present.

**APM 1/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Sharon Quayle

Cllr Lorna Baker

**APM 2/21 APPROVE MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 23rd MARCH 2020**

Councillors present at the meeting **RESOLVED (unanimously) to accept the minutes** of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23rd March 2020 as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

**APM 3/21 CHAIRMAN’S REPORT ON PREVIOUS YEAR**

Councillor Barclay read his annual report out to the meeting.

*“This is my Annual Report for Kinnerley Parish Council for the year ending March 2021.*

*My report in 2020 was presented to the Council on 23 March, just one hour before the first full lockdown was announced, for the Covid- 19 pandemic. That was the last time the Council met ‘in person’, and since then our activities, and life in general, have been dominated by the spread of this disease and its devastating repercussions.*

*Our meetings in April and May had to be cancelled, and on the 22nd June we held our first virtual meeting using Zoom, which has enabled our normal pattern of meetings to resume. This method has proved quite successful and enabled members of the public to join us as appropriate, but it also has its limitations and I hope meetings in person can resume at some stage in mid-2021.*

*From the start of the first lockdown, our Parish Clerk, Marian Giles, took it upon herself to continue her monthly report on Parish Matters, which has all helped to keep matters ticking over. So I would like to thank Marian for all she has done throughout these difficult 12 months, all on a working from home basis, arranging our Zoom meetings and carrying out the many actions needed behind scenes to keep our Parish Council performing as effectively as it does.*

*I am sorry to say that in June 2020 our long standing councillor John Pinder sadly died after a short illness. John, along with the late Bill Jones, had represented the Edgerley / Pentre Ward for many years, and they are both much missed by us all. Later in the year we were able to welcome Pentre resident, Lorna Baker, to the Council.*

*In early 2020 work continued to complete the refurbishment of the children’s Play Area in Kinnerley Park, along with improvements to the drainage of the site. Further improvements remain to be considered when Covid restrictions are eased. Our grounds maintenance contractor, Martin Pritchard, has continued to perform well, and the new LED street lights seem to be widely accepted now, with a few adjustments where these have been requested.*

*We have continued to maintain a healthy financial position, meeting our various obligations, and providing donations to our village halls, churches and other local organisations. At the same time we have managed to avoid a rise in our precept for the last three years, due to the gradual increase in the council tax base across the Parish, and careful management of our expenditure.*

*The Council has continued to assess a number of Planning Applications, taking care to give support where we feel it appropriate, but opposing some proposals where they are out of step with our guiding light, the Kinnerley Parish Neighbourhood Plan and precedents set by our earlier decisions on particular schemes. In June 2020, a scheme we had opposed at West View, Knockin Heath, was turned down on appeal. We still await the next steps in the Local Plan Review which will see Kinnerley Village designated as a Community Hub, but we have requested that the remaining hamlets be taken out of the Community Cluster.*

*Following the severe flooding experienced in February 2020 in parts of our Parish, I am sorry to report that similar levels of flooding occurred again in January 2021, with some residents in Pentre once again having to vacate their properties. During the Autumn of 2020 we learnt of proposals to form a dam in the River Severn, which along with other engineering options, could have seen parts of our Parish and neighbouring areas taking even higher and more frequent flood waters. We are relieved that that the recent planning application for the North West Relief Road has confirmed that this idea has been shelved for now.*

*We have now formed a Flood Protection Working Group, which is working with our local MP and the Environment Agency to try to avoid measures that would increase flooding, and to look at improvements that could be made to our local argaes and drainage infrastructure to minimise the effects of future flooding.*

*Finally, this is my opportunity to thank all our Councillors for their commitment and diligence over the last year working together to serve the council, both behind scenes and on practical work on the ground. Along with Marian’s work, I am very grateful to you all.*

**APM 4/21 MATTERS OF CONCERN OR INTEREST TO THE PARISH**

No matters of concern or interest to the Parish were raised by the members of public present

**APM 6/21 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next Annual Parish Meeting **APPROVED** as 28th March 2022.

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

Meeting closed at 7.15pm

**Signed ................................................... Date ...........................................**

**Chairman of Parish Council**