

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL



Annual Parish Assembly Meeting

Held on 20th April 2023 at 1900hrs

DRAFT MINUTES

PRESENT	Cllr Eve White	Cllr Merv Freeman
	Cllr Suzannah Grant	Cllr Heather Summer-Nutting
	Cllr Phil Anderson	Cllr Don Kelly
	SHDC Cllr Bernard Taylor	Cllr Alison Lewis
APOLOGIES	DCC Cllr Rufus Gilbert	
IN ATTENDANCE	Parish Clerk Lorraine Squire	

01.23	<p>Chairman's Introduction & Welcome: Cllr Eve White welcomed all councillors and Parishioner to the 2023 APA meeting. Normally there are ten council meetings held in the Reading Rooms where our business takes place and Parishioners are welcome to come and speak in the Open Forum then just listen in on our later discussions although at this stage of the meeting, they are not allowed to say anything.</p> <p><u>Thanks</u> to the able team of Kingston Councillors who have all taken the lead for various topics of council business throughout the past year who are: -</p> <p>Cllr Mervin Freeman (Vice Chair) (Planning and the Parish Web Site)</p> <p>Cllr Heather Summer Nutting (General Data Protection Regulator/Reading Rooms)</p> <p>Cllr Alison Lewis (Recreation Ground)</p> <p>Cllr Don Kelly (Neighbourhood Plan, CAP (Community Action Plan), and the Church)</p> <p>Cllr Phil Anderson (Street Furniture and Highways)</p> <p>Cllr Suzannah Grant (Newsletter, Recycling and Employment Officer)</p> <p>And myself Cllr Eve White (Chair, Footpaths, Trees, and anything else!)</p> <p>We have a new Parish Clerk, Lorraine Squire, who has taken over the role from Sue Green. Sue having taken the decision to step back after 10 years of hard work, has successfully mentored Lorraine in dealing with the day to day running of the Council answering questions, emails, phone calls, finding out information for us, etc, and generally keeping us on the straight and narrow. The Clerk is also our Responsible Financial Officer having to deal with the accounts and making sure everything satisfies the Auditor.</p> <p>We could not do such a successful job without the support and help of our Devon County Councillor Rufus Gilbert and South Hams District Councillor Bernard Taylor who keep us up to date with Devon County and South Hams Council news and information, advising and answering questions and generously supporting us with small grants.</p>	
02.23	<p>Summary of 2021 Annual Report</p> <p><u>Financial Report</u> – The monies we receive are mostly from our portion of the Council Tax which is generously added to with various grants from DCC, SHDC and other fundraising events.</p> <p><u>Recycling</u> – Cllr Grant must have wished she had not volunteered to liaise with South Hams about the chaotic recycling introduced last year. Eventually it seemed to settle down and if you have problems with this service, please do not hesitate to contact Cllr Grant.</p> <p><u>Highways</u> – Cllr Anderson has spent a lot of time Trying to keep our roads up to scratch with varying degrees of success. Parking is always a problem so we must all remember to park safely and considerately. Complaints of speed around the village is an annual event. Please remember there are children, elderly, dogs and walkers popping up all over the place not always paying attention to the traffic, so the onus is on the drivers to take extra care.</p> <p>Another perennial complaint is dog poo. Please pick up after your dog and dispose of the bags responsibly.</p> <p><u>Footpaths</u> – We have 10 footpaths including the coastal path, two permissive ones and a bridleway, all various degrees of difficulty and are frequently walked by everyone.</p> <p>These were monitored by John Wurr, who sadly passed away just recently. If anyone would like to volunteer to be Kingston's new Footpath Warden to keep an eye on these paths, please step forward.</p> <p><u>Newsletter</u>- We thank David Carter and his team of newspaper boys and girls for the excellent monthly newsletter that allows us to keep in touch with you all with the Council's news, announcements of events, reports, adverts and many other things of interest to the village.</p> <p>David has decided it is time to pass the baton on to the next generation, so again we say a huge 'Thank You' for all his hard work.</p>	

Signed By Chair Dated

Kingston Parish Clerk – Lorraine Squire, Tomar, 3 Church Park, Kingston, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 4PP
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02.23 Cont'd	<p><u>Reading Rooms</u> – The Reading Rooms Committee have plans afoot to improve the Reading Rooms and are in the process of drawing up plans and other options to increase the area available and amenities for the benefit of the hall users, so watch this space.</p> <p><u>Funday</u> – It was good to see Kingston Funday back after Covid and was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Gemma, Hayley and the team who made this event a great success.</p> <p><u>Recreation Grounds</u> – Cllr Lewis thanked the Playing Fields Monitoring Team who worked wonders keeping an eye on the facilities. Colin Moore had volunteered to take on some of the maintenance jobs for which we are very grateful and thanks also to Cllrs Anderson and Freeman who have also helped across the season. Due to the age of the play equipment, repairs and maintenance are now on a continuous basis but we have a healthy set aside of over £2,000 which will help towards the ongoing costs. Last year we held a village Jubilee event including children's races, storytelling, a regal teddy bear, crown colouring, royal hedgehog hunt and the most outstanding opening to the whole proceedings, a display by the one and only Red Barrows!</p>	
03.23	<p><u>Financial Report 2022/23</u></p> <p>Kingston Parish Clerk Lorraine Squire presented finance documentations by e-mail to all Councillors for the finance year of 2022/23 in preparation of the APA meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Annual Audit Return 2022/23 Accounting Statement 2 Itemised Income and Expenditure figures 3 Opening Current A/c April 2022 Total £5,004.58 Closing March 2022 Balance £4,944.49 4 Opening Business, A/c April 2022 Total £1,837.85 Closing March 2023 Balance £1,841.36 5 Income 2021/22 £16,216.13 Income 2022/23 £13,330.27 6 Expenditure 2021/22 £13,311.09 Expenditure 2022/23 £13,386.85 <p>The government rules that local Councils need only use the Internal Auditor if there is less than £25,000.00 turnover. As KPC's 2022/23 accounts closed on 31st March 2023 with less than a £25,000.00 the External Auditors, PKF Littlejohn require only the proof of Exemption Certificate.</p> <p>For Openness and Transparency, the Council Accounts will be placed on the Kingston Parish Council Web Site for inspection. Clerk thanked all councillors for their hard work and support to her throughout the year.</p>	
04.23	<p>Planning Applications:- Cllr Freeman reported it had been a very quiet year with regard to Planning and only 4 applications had been made and all had gone the way as agreed by Kingston Parish Council.</p>	
05.23	<p>Devon County Council:- Cllr Gilbert's ANNUAL REPORT 2023</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Well, 2022/23 has been another very challenging year for local authorities and government..... 2) The housing of our Ukrainian guests and getting their children in to school, on top of assisting the Afgans and Hongkongers has been challenging and continues to be so for DCC. 3) Covid-19 The winter did not see another major outbreak and the flu also seemed not to have been a major problem. 4) Avian Influenza. This has proved challenging on top of the human virus and influenza. 5) Coronation celebration road closure party applications have predominantly been going well. 6) Scams are still proving a terrible blight and effecting some people horribly across Devon. 7) Highways. We had made headway in catching up with potholes and clearing drainage gullies, but the winter rains and frosts have set things back a bit. We are starting to catch up again and the recently announced £200M announced from Govt to help, giving DCC £9.4M will help. 8) We now have a new Chief Executive and head of Children's services which should prove beneficial for all and not least the DCC budget. 9) This has been the most difficult DCC budget to set in memory. At one point it looked to be the end of DCC 10. Devolution deal for Devon to include Plymouth and Torbay at Level 2 has been agreed by the Levelling UP Minister subject a final business case being agreed by all parties along with parliamentary approval. This will assist in providing improved housing, public transport and Investment opportunities <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Plymouth & South Devon Freeport. This is now up and running well, with CEO and Chairman etc being fully employed. I am a Director. b) LEP's. Local Enterprise Partnerships were dissolved at the last budget statement and the roles will be undertaken by my DCC portfolio of Economy. The reason being to make the delivery of the service more democratically accountable. <p>LOCAL ISSUES.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) I have forwarded to you all latest info on new bus services 2) Regrettably the hatched lines at Wonwell have proved challenging and at present unobtainable. 3) I have attended most of your PC's and attending to various matters in your parish. 	

06.23	<p>South Hams District Council:- Cllr Taylor reported that it had been a less eventful year post Covid. The Waste was now back in-house and proving to be very successful. Most of the costs incurred had been financed by the penalties levied on FCC's failures to comply with their contract. 12 new recycling trucks had been ordered 8 small and 4 large so by Autumn SHDC hope to offer a full recycling service including food waste, etc to the community. SHDC finances were healthy and a positive financial team at SHDC had the books balanced with reserves to ensure a good service can be provided.</p> <p>SHDC had been very proactive hosts to our Ukrainian guests and an event held at the Watermark in Ivybridge had seen 160 Ukrainian guests come together for lunch and entertainment. Hopefully this will be repeated across the summer using the various play parks around the district.</p> <p>Cllr Taylor expressed his thanks to Kingston Parish Council and hoped to see them in May and to continue working together for the community. He was disappointed to see Cllr Anderson step down but understood the difficulties which has been faced.</p>	
07.23	<p>Parishioners Question Time:- SG raised the question of re-introducing the 'Welcome' letter to new residents to Kingston again post Covid. It had been greatly appreciated by residents on moving to the village and made them feel most at home. The Reading Rooms had held 'Welcome' Meetings but the last of these had had to be cancelled. SG would be willing to deliver the letters. To be discussed further by Kingston Parish Council at a future meeting.</p> <p>SG expressed her thanks to the Parish Council and SHDC Cllr Taylor for all their hardwork</p>	
08.23	<p>Closure of the Meeting: Cllr Eve White closed the meeting by saying that there are more new households in the village again this year who are very welcome. You will soon get to know us all and find out what a great place this is to live. She thanked everyone for all their help and support and if you have not been mentioned by name, rest assured that your help has been greatly appreciated by us all and this is what makes our village such a special place to live.</p>	
	<p>Meeting Closed at 7.30pm</p>	

Signed By Chair Dated
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