


KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL 
Annual Parish Assembly Meeting

Held on 18th April 2024 at 1900hrs

DRAFT MINUTES

PRESENT	Cllr Eve White	Cllr Merv Freeman
	Cllr Suzannah Grant	Cllr Holly Rahder
	Cllr Joel Wakeling	Cllr Don Kelly
	SHDC Cllr Samantha Dennis	Cllr Sarah Banham
APOLOGIES	DCC Cllr Rufus Gilbert	
IN ATTENDANCE	Parish Clerk Lorraine Squire	

01.24	<p>Chairman's Introduction & Welcome: Cllr Eve White welcomed all councillors and Parishioners to the 2024 APA meeting. This Parish Assembly is held annually and is intended for me, as chairman of Kingston Parish Council, to tell you what we have done in the last twelve months. Normally there are ten council meetings held in the Reading Room where our business takes place and Parishioners are welcome to come and speak in the Open Forum then are welcome to listen in on our later discussions although at this stage of the meeting are not allowed to say anything.</p> <p>I would like to introduce your councillors who have all taken the lead for various topics of council business, Don Kelly- Neighbourhood plan/church/CAP (community action Plan)) Mervin Freeman (vice chair)- planning/parish web site Suzannah Grant -Newsletter/recycling And me Eve White (Chair) overall responsibility for budgets/reports in conjunction with the Parish Clerk (and anything else!) There were two new councillors who joined us last spring when Alison Lewis and Phil Anderson stepped down last year. Holly Rahder – footpaths Joel Wakeling playing field / trees. Finally Sara Banham (taking Heather Summer Nutting's place when she had to resign for health reasons)- Reading Rooms /allotments.</p> <p>Our very able Parish Clerk, Lorraine Squire, deals with the day to day running of the council answering questions, emails, phone calls, finding out information for us etc. 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 Councils news and information, advising and answering questions. They both generously supply us with small grants which we were able to use for things like the Recreation Grounds and defibrillator.</p>	
02.24	<p><u>Summary of 2023 Annual Reports</u> <u>Neighbourhood Plan</u> This is working well but will be reviewed in 2025.</p> <p><u>Recycling</u> Suzannah liaises with South Hams about the new inhouse recycling system introduced by SHDC last year. This seems to far more successful than the previous one but if you still have problems with this service, please, do not hesitate to contact Suzannah or the SHDC website where you can find out things like collections days and items you are allowed to include in your recycling and black bins.</p> <p><u>Planning Applications</u> There have been 14 planning applications and 3 appeals in the past 12 months, 1 planning and 2 appeals still waiting to be decided, there is a new portal on the SHDC website which has made searching easier (just type the property name) and provides a little bit more detail. Overall we have been satisfied with the decisions made by the planning team. Please be aware that although we are asked to comment on planning applications ultimately it is SHDC that make the decisions.</p> <p><u>Highways</u> This winter it seems that it is either pouring with rain or blowing a gale or both! This inevitably results in large puddles, floods and the new sport of dodging potholes! Ideally repairs should be done in dry weather but some of the holes are so bad they can't wait also other utilities need to do their thing, so we are seeing a rash of roadworks being done just now. Please be patient because the sooner it is done the better the roads will be. A big thank you to all the residents that took the trouble to clear any blocked drains as this headed off any potential flooding.</p> <p><u>Footpaths</u> We have 10 footpaths including the coastal path, two permissive ones and a bridleway, all are of varying degrees of difficulty. These</p>	

Signed By Chair Dated

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<p>02.24 Cont'd</p>	<p>are monitored and are frequently walked by everyone. Any repairs or maintenance problems are reported to Devon County Council.</p> <p>Newsletter We thank Katherine Harding and her team of newspaper boys and girls for the monthly newsletter that allows us to keep in touch with you all with the council's news, announcements of happenings, reports, adverts and many other things of interest to the village.</p> <p>Reading Rooms I expect you will be aware the Reading Room committee have plans afoot to improve the reading rooms and have drawn up plans to increase the area available and amenities for the benefit of the hall users so watch this space. It is a charity and because of the many changes ``to the rules`` a new constitution is being introduced to bring it up to date. There is a new Revival group created to modernise the uses of the RR, so if you have spare time to help or come up with ideas, please contact Juliet Manners or Jenny Kinder. The panto this year was again a resounding success again so well done to all concerned! The Fun Day is taking place again this year so any help that can be given to make this another brilliant day please contact KEG who would be very pleased as there is always much to do behind the scenes.</p> <p>Recreation grounds These are very popular with everyone and are very busy, from the little children to grandparents, all thoroughly enjoy themselves. Joel is heading up a group to revamp the skateboard park so if you are interested, please contact him. Any help with the ongoing repairs also needs volunteers even if it only to use a paint brush.</p> <p>Things to Note The AONB has changed its name to National Landscapes. The issue of water quality of the river Erme has become a pressing concern and KPC has become involved with various groups looking for a way forward. The loss of the mobile library service is disappointing but there are several ideas floating around to see if a local remedy can be found.</p>	
<p>03.24</p>	<p>Financial Report 2022/23 The monies we receive are mostly from our portion of the Council Tax, which is added to with various grants from DCC, SHDC and other fund-raising events. Although the total may seem a lot, we have many financial commitments including the maintenance of the playing field. As I said before the clerk is also our Responsible Finance Officer and she keeps a close eye on our spending. The government rules that local Councils need only use the Internal Auditor if there is less than £25,000.00 turnover. As KPC's 2023/24 accounts closed on 31st March 2024 with less than a £25,000.00 the External Auditors, PKF Littlejohn require only the proof of Exemption Certificate. For Openness and Transparency, the Council Accounts will be placed on the Kingston Parish Council Web Site for inspection.</p>	
<p>04.24</p>	<p>Devon County Council:- Cllr Rufus Gilbert – Annual Report GENERAL ROADS. a) Devon has 8500 miles of roads and 426 Parish Councils b) To put Devon's roads back to something reasonable would require about £1.2 billion c) Wettest year for 130 years and the system can't cope and was not designed to do so under these conditions. d) Highways will do there best to catch up in the summer e) Please keep reporting the potholes/flooding etc www.new.devon.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/report-a-problem</p> <p>DEVOLUTION. This is progressing well and for further information please visit: www.devonandtorbaydeal.org.uk</p> <p>DIY WASTE AND RECYCLING. For information please visit: www.devon.gov.uk/wasteandrecycling</p> <p>MOBILE LIBRARIES. Sadly this service has had to be discontinued due to lack of patronage and costs. No static libraries have been closed. Please contact you local library for information on books delivery</p> <p>LOCALITY FUNDING. Most of my parishes have been given some funding, which I hope was found to be helpful.</p> <p>GENERAL. I have attended to many varied enquiries and matters of concern across all my sixteen parishes and towns. Not least being SWW road closure in Modbury this year.</p>	
<p>05.24</p>	<p>South Hams District Council:- SHDC Cllr Samantha Dennis on behalf of SHDC Cllr Bernard Taylor</p>	

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06.24	Parishioners Question Time: - No Parishioners present.	
07.24	Closure of the Meeting: Cllr Eve White closed the meeting at 7.30pm	
	Meeting Closed 7.30 pm	

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