

MINUTES OF THE KINGSDON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY MAY 8th 2014 IN THE VILLAGE HALL AT 7.00pm

Present: Mr A Masters (Chairman); Mrs. A Saunders (Vice-Chairman); D. Morris, M. Clode, and P. Waters (Parish Councillors); Mr. D. Ruddle (County Councillor); Mrs. K Hatt (Parish Clerk) plus 10 parishioners.

Apologies: Mr. J. Calvert (District Councillor)

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish meeting held on May 9th 2013 were read, agreed and signed. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Chairman's Report.

The Chairman, Mr A Masters, gave the following report:

It is disappointing that Council has operated with two vacancies throughout most of the year despite continually advertising the post. However Phillip Waters has latterly volunteered, and has been co-opted onto the council, introducing a younger element which is very encouraging.

The precept for the year has been set at £8000. This covers routine expenses and additional costs such as the repair of walls to the recreational field and village pound and setting up a village web site. This also includes an allowance for un-predicted circumstances. The annual grant to the village church has been increased by £100 to £500. All 31 allotments have been let for £217 for the forthcoming year. We have Mick Conway to thank for replacing the allotment gate at no expense.

Wally has done a splendid job mowing the recreational field for which we are all extremely grateful not forgetting the work Phil & Simon do, cutting the verges and the village green.

As a result of parishioners' concern regarding the speed of traffic in the village, County Highways set up a speed monitor which has shown that speeds are within limits.

Council have spent considerable time documenting procedures relating to Code of Conduct, Standing orders, Freedom of information etc which have been duly adopted.

Also, a vote of thanks to Mike Brown for all the work on the children's playground. Thanks to John Yates and team for all their work on the telephone box.

Report from Dean Ruddle (County councillor)

It has been a frenetic first year since I was elected to represent Somerton and the surrounding areas. Compton Dundon, Keinton Mandeville, Long Sutton, The Charlton's, Barton St David, Kingsdon and Kingweston on Somerset's County Council.

Although my first year has been a rite of passage and a rude awakening to local party politics it has been my privilege to represent and serve us all at County Hall, whilst continuing to sit on Somerton Town Council as chairman of the access and highways committee. I enjoy attending similar meetings around this Division to keep me fully briefed on the difficulties and challenges we all face in these difficult economic times.

It is against this background that I, as a one of 55 County Councillors, have had to be party to some very difficult decisions especially in respect of necessary cuts to public services. In endeavouring to maintain current spending on education and welfare we have focused on eliminating waste, and bringing about efficiency savings. This has allowed us to freeze Council Tax for the last four years and I hope this will continue.

We have been left with a monumental £350m debt legacy, equivalent to more than £1,500 for each and every household in Somerset. We are working hard to reduce this liability so as we will be able to cope with future cut backs.

Each year county councillors get given an allowance to give to worthwhile causes in their parishes.

This allowance was cut back in 2013 from £10,000 to £5,000.

I decided that this money should be divided up equally to all parishes, so to this end £700.00 was given to

Kingsdon.

Those who know me will attest to the fact that I am a man of my word and ready to fight our corner whatever the odds. My time is your time.

I hold a morning 'Surgery' on the third Saturday of every month in the White Hart Inn, Somerton 9.30-12.30 and look forward to touching base with more of you then. In any event, please do contact Anne Yates using her Email address, anne.yates@btinternet.com, or telephone (01458 274 865) and I will be in touch.

Report by District Councillor John Calvert:

None was provided by John Calvert.

Village Hall Report by Marilyn Elliott.

The Management Committee have met twice in the year to maintain the smooth running of the village hall.

Since the last meeting Belinda Moger has finished as cleaner, her mother Yvette taking over the job.

Due to the increase in the cost of running and maintaining the hall it has been necessary to increase the hire charges, the first increase in nearly ten years.

The hall is regularly used by Short Mat Bowls, Table Tennis, Ladies Club, Seniors Club, Art Club, Yeovil District Canine Society, Keep Fit classes, All Saints' Church and The Parish Council. The hall was used on 327 occasions.

Winslow Bassham has carried out a full survey of the electrics in the hall and has a priority schedule of work that will be carried over the next year. He has already repositioned the meters for ease of reading. A new 120w equivalent LED bulb has also been fitted in the store room to aid reading of the meters.

In the hall the spot bulbs in the beams have been replaced with LED bulbs due to the old type continually becoming defective. A 6' florescent tube and fittings has been fitted at the rear of the hall replacing a defective 8' tube. As a result of an EU directive 8' tubes are no longer made.

The Village Hall AGM is to be held on Friday 16th May to which everyone is welcome.

Neighbourhood Watch Report by Martin Singleton, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator:

Since last year's report to the Parish Council I am only aware of the theft of some domestic heating oil, three gas cylinders from Kingsdon Woods and a vehicle from Lodge Road.

I had to replace the Neighbourhood Watch Sign in Kingsdon Hill twice due to damage caused by high winds.

Fiona Wilson remains our PCSO

The *Kingsdon Chronicle and e-mails* have also been used successfully to circulate relevant information to residents, for which we thank Wally Elliott. Anyone who does not yet receive such e-mails and wishes to do so should ask Wally to add them to his list. Further items of interest relating to Neighbourhood Watch will be displayed on the notice board in our Community Shop.

We must however not be complacent and be always vigilant as to our surroundings. In an emergency dial 999 or if you have information about any crime, phone the police on 101 (This has a connection charge of 15p, none of which goes to the police) or you can call anonymously to the independent charity CRIMESTOPPERS 0800 555 111. For general information about Neighbourhood Watch nationally there is a website www.ourwatch.org.uk

Kingsdon Chronicle report by Wally Elliott:

The Chronicle has continued to be published monthly without fail, as it has since it was first published on 15th October 2007. This month's issue will be the 82nd.

All printing and paper costs have been financed by 100+ Club, which 120 people have joined, together with voluntary contributions and the annual contribution from the Parish Council.

Income for 2013 was £1,808, expenditure was £1,319 resulting in a surplus for the year of £489

In January this year I had major computer problems, Alan Hayward of DC Computer Repairs diagnosed major damage to the hard drive. In order to carry on producing the Chronicle a new computer had to be purchased together with an external memory which cost £570. Added to this I now have a monthly software charge of £7.99. This charge means I always have the latest versions.

As of 1st May 2014 the balance was £1,037

Anticipated expenditure for the remainder of the year is £1,000 and income of £300.

It is not too late to join the 100+ club, application forms are available from me.

Kingsdon Cricket Club report by Marilyn Elliott (Club Chairman):

Since the last report the new pavilion has been used for home games since April 2013. There is however still some work to be done such as installing wash basins. A rainwater tank and pipe work has been installed for flushing the toilets.

Connection to the main's electricity and water, two very costly items, will be done as and when the finance is available. A gang mower is also urgently required to reduce grass cutting costs and this is high on our shopping list.

The day to day cost of running the club has continued to increase. Last year ground maintenance cost over £1,000, Insurance £900 and already this year machinery maintenance and repairs have cost £676 and new practice nets almost £100. This has meant players have had to endure a further substantial increase in their annual subscriptions to £140. In 2 years this has increased by 40%

I would like to thank those generous residents who have supported the club financially by becoming Vice-presidents and have helped out to just keep our heads above water!

Anyone who would like to join as a Member or Vice-President would be more than welcome.

The Club will be holding a Halloween Barn Dance on 31st October

T. Masters asked for any issues or comments that the parishioners wished to be discussed, there was none raised.

The meeting ended at 7.15pm.