

Notes from Annual Parish Meeting
Kinnerley Parish Hall
Monday 25th March 2019 at 7pm

PRESENT

Cllr Nick Barclay (Chair), Cllr Charles Green (Vice-chair), Cllr Betton Cambridge, Cllr Maurice Jones, Cllr Alan Lewis, Cllr James Peto, Cllr John Pinder, Cllr Sharon Quayle

Cllr Matt Lee – Shropshire Council

Ten members of the public were present.

APM 1/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Lorraine Jones

APM 2/19 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT ON PREVIOUS YEAR

Cllr Barclay opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees and gave a particular welcome to Cllr Richard Greening who was attending his first meeting.

Cllr Nick Barclay gave his report on the activities of the previous year in Kinnerley Parish Council. It had been another busy year, meeting as a Council on 10 occasions, with additional working group meetings looking at management of physical assets, the Local Plan Review, priorities for use of CIL, and Road Safety, together with attendance at other meetings within the County to represent the Parish of Kinnerley.

In April 2019 Cllr Lorraine Jones was co-opted to the vacancy in the Edgerley and Pentre Ward, left by the sad death of long-standing Councillor Bill Jones.

Later in the year the Parish Council learned of the illness of another long-standing Councillor, Sheila Bruce. Fortunately, Sheila's health had made some improvement, but as she was now living with her family in Gloucestershire, she had stood down from the Council. Cllr Barclay recorded a huge debt of gratitude to Sheila for all her hard work on the Council, the former Borough Council, and in the wider community, for which she was awarded the BEM in 2017.

In February 2019 the Parish Council were pleased to welcome Richard Greening to the consequential vacancy in the Argoed Ward, and were looking forward to working with him.

Cllr Barclay wished to record his thanks to all Councillors for the hard work and diligence shown in their work for the Council. "We all do our best to make a difference in our community, and sometimes it even gets noticed!"

Cllr Barclay also wished to thank the Parish Clerk, Marian Giles, for doing a magnificent job in keeping the wheels of the Council turning.

Throughout the year the Parish Council had examined various planning applications, taking care to give due thought to the pros and cons of each proposed scheme. Where possible the Parish Council tried to support reasonable proposals, but on occasions considering it necessary to give a reasoned objection. It was especially helpful in making those decisions to have heard from members of the public either in person at Parish Council meetings or in writing.

In total 16 applications had been considered during the year, and over that time Shropshire Council had decided upon 25 applications across the Parish. The guiding light on planning issues since 2013 had been the Kinnerley Parish Neighbourhood Plan, which was adopted by Shropshire Council as part of SamDev. The Council was now actively participating in the

process building up to a new plan taking over under the Local Plan Review. This would see Kinnerley Village designated as a Development Hub, leaving the remaining hamlets still designated as a Cluster. Cllr Barclay was hopeful that the new phase would work out well for the Parish.

The Parish Council had considered options for the use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), which is money received as a result of housing development in the Parish. Currently orders had been placed for the installation of two Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS) in Maesbrook, to helpfully reduce speeding traffic in the 40-mph zone. In due course the Parish Council would also look at possible locations along the Knockin Heath to Kinnerley route, and consider what speed reduction measures would work best in each location. The best use of accumulated CIL monies was a priority for the Parish Council in order to address the demands that new housing development placed on the Parish.

Funds from the Parish Precept and reserves had been utilised to replace the old SOX type street lighting with LED type lighting (in order to meet new environmental legislative requirements). An updated Tree Survey for the Parish had been commissioned in order to ensure that all trees on Parish Land are well maintained. A comprehensive programme of repair and improvement to the Kinnerley playground was also planned for early in the new financial year.

Cllr Barclay had reported in the previous year on the appointment of a new ground maintenance contractor, Groundforce, who had chosen not to renew their contract for a further year. A new contractor MI and TEM Pritchard had therefore been appointed to take over this contract from 18th March 2019.

The Parish Council's financial situation continued to look healthy, with an annual precept of £23,000 being carefully controlled by the Council. The parish Council had been able to determine that there will be no increase in the overall precept for next financial year, the second consecutive year this had been made possible by judicious use of reserves and ensuring value for money in all activities.

APM 3/19 CLLR MATT LEE – SHROPSHIRE COUNCIL REPORT

Cllr Matt Lee gave a verbal report in which he highlighted the importance of communication between local residents and their elected representatives. He was interested to know about the methods used for communication with the wider community in Kinnerley Parish, and reported that he had set up his own Facebook page so people could keep in touch with his activities. He also reported that within Shropshire Council the Highways Team were being restructured in order to ensure that it aligned with the demands on the service throughout the County.

Cllr Lee congratulated the Parish Council on being one of the few that had not raised their precept for the new financial year.

APM 4/19 OPEN SESSION – “WHAT ARE THE KEY ISSUES FACING THE PARISH?”

a) Mark Cuthbert-Brown from the Parish Paths Partnership (P3 Group)

Mr Cuthbert-Brown described how the P3 group had been established in the wake of the Parish Plan of 2013. They worked closely in partnership with Shropshire Council staff to maintain footpaths (rights of way across the Parish. The Group had 20 volunteers who met bi-monthly to report on activity and discuss needs and plans. The main activity of the Group was snipping and clearing, recceing and leading community walks, co-ordinating and reporting on landowner failings, and together with Shropshire Council staff – installation of kissing gates and stiles. With over 100 Rights of Way in the Parish, it was

necessary to prioritise their efforts, and the focus was therefore primarily on those paths that serviced local people. The Group were also developing a guide to local walks. With recent announcements from Shropshire Council about further reductions to staff in the Outdoor Service, the Group were concerned about the potential withdrawal of financial resources and staff support that would be required to continue with the installation of kissing gates in particular. These cost about £300 each. Any financial assistance from the Parish Council in continuing their work would be welcomed. Mr Cuthbert-Brown also informed the meeting that he was standing down as Chair of the Group, and the new Chair would be Mr Charles Matthews.

b) Dr Peter Clarke on behalf of the Peels' Plantation Trust

Dr Clarke welcomed the support received from the Parish Council in meeting their public liability insurance policy costs annually. The Trust had no other income and were reliant on volunteers to assist with maintaining the plantation. Their recent tree safety survey identified additional work required to trees of a more substantial nature than can be managed by volunteers and requires professional assistance. The Plantation is a valuable amenity and community asset for the village and wider Parish, and the Trust would welcome the opportunity to develop a medium term plan with the Parish Council to address and finance the required tree works over a number of years.

c) Mr Edward Nicholas from Knockin and Kinnerley Cricket Club

Mr Nicholas updated councillors on the planned expansion of the cricket pavilion which had aimed to construct a second floor to the existing pavilion. Unfortunately their architect had overlooked the requirements of the Equality Act which meant that a lift would be required to service the second floor. This had been estimated to add an additional £25k to the cost which was not considered viable. The club were still committed to extending and developing cricket for women. Financial support from the Parish Council (and others) would be necessary for the club to achieve its vision for the future.

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

Mr Evans explained the role of Walking for Health, which was a national scheme aiming to help local groups to develop and offer organised and supported walks. Third party liability insurance cover for the group is provided by Shropshire Council. Walks started at the Parish Hall on a Monday and usually had about 10 – 12 walkers. Each walk was designed to be no more than 90 minutes in length. Local roads were narrow and the groups had experienced difficulties with speeding traffic and stiles. Mr Evans would like the Parish Council to consider financial support for the group, stating that every £1 invested in fitness generated £7 worth of benefit.

Cllr Quayle asked if walks could also be organised at times when working people might be able to participate eg at the weekend.

e) Mr Mike Chapman – Maesbrook resident

Mr Chapman raised the issue of unsafe/inadequate footpath provision in Maesbrook. The existing footpath needed to be extended beyond the Black Horse Pub to the next road junction as it was unsafe for people to walk in the road owing to the speed of traffic. Traffic volume was also likely to increase with additional housebuilding in Llanymynech with the road through Maesbrook being used as a 'rat run'.

f) Mobile signal coverage/reception

The issue of poor mobile 'phone reception in the Parish was raised. Mr Ken Evans (in his capacity as Church Warden a St Mary's) stated that the feasibility of using the church tower for a mobile phone antenna was being explored with the diocese.

The date of the next Annual Parish Meeting **TO BE CONFIRMED** as 23rd March 2020.

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

Meeting closed at 7.40pm

Signed
Chairman of Parish Council

Date

DRAFT