



**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
Held at 7.30pm on Monday 20th March 2023
in the Village Club – Hosted by Kingsclere Parish Council**

Present:

41 Members of the Community.

1. Welcome: Kingsclere Parish Council Chairman Clive Mussett opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

2. Apologies:

Emma Rivers, St Mary's Church; Mary Bushnell, Kingsclere Singers; Father Patrick Tansey, Portsmouth Diocese; Brian Watts, Bowls Club; Eleanor Read; Cllr J Sawyer, CCllr T Thacker

3. Minutes:

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23rd May 2022 were agreed and signed.

4. Guest Speaker:

Cllr Mussett introduced Rachel Campbell from Citizens Advice (CA) Tadley, Rachel is the Chief Officer and has been with the CA for 12 years. Rachel gave a very interesting insight into the work that CA does which covers a vast array of issues relating to Benefits, debt, housing, family, law, courts. In the year 20/21 CA Tadley had 75 Clients from Kingsclere and the top issues were Benefits and Universal Credit. In 21/22, 85 clients with 388 issues the top issues again being benefits and universal credit but then unsurprisingly in 22/23 Clients were 100 with 337 issues with Benefits and now Utilities being the top enquiries. January 2023 saw more Utility related enquiries than any month ever recorded. Cllr Mussett asked how the village can help the CA and Rachel asked if the village can spread the word about what they do and any fundraising is always welcome. There is a walk taking place on 14th May at the Wasing Estate £5 which will help raise funds.

5. Reports from Village Organisations: Reports were received from Busy Bees, Primary School, Local Community Support Officer, Greener Kingsclere, Community Association, Library, Local History Association, Neighbourhood Plan, Performing Arts and Youth Centre, Photography Club, Royal British Legion, Volunteer Transport Scheme, Village Club, Youth Football, Kingsclere Tower and Hampshire County Councils Community Ranger. It was a very informative evening and reports if submitted digitally will be placed in the Annual Report.

6. Chairman's Review of the Parish Council 2022 – 2023: Cllr Clive Mussett thanked all who provide their time freely within the Council and all the village organisation, once again huge thanks to John Sawyer who was chairman up until May 2022. Cllr Mussett also mentioned KPC's staff and our Assistant Clerk who had recently left the Council. Thanks to our PSCO and to Basingstoke's Community Support Officer who have been a tremendous support to the Council Team and residents. Out 2 tree wardens who have now left the village are missed and Cllr Mussett thanked them both to for giving their time and explained we still have Vacancies for Tree Wardens.

There is an endless pipeline of planning applications small and large, and some require a lot of time and research to check through the Neighbourhood Plan for compliance. Thanks, in particular to Cllr Sue Adams for her dedication to the Plan and to the research that goes into planning. There are village plans underway for the Coronation and Cllrs are getting involved. Cllr Mussett reported that some councillors will be stepping down in the elections in May so anyone who is interested in being a Cllr please do speak to someone at the meeting or contact us through the website.

Full Report will be in Annual Report 22/23.

7. Reports from County and Borough Councillors: Cllrs K Morrow and S Frost were in attendance and Reports where submitted are attached as appendices (Appendix 1). Cllr Tom Thacker sent in a report which was circulated during the meeting also attached. (Appendix 2)

8. Public Questions and Comments:

Questions were raised about speeding on George Street and potholes around the village – particularly bad, Hampshire CC are only doing temporary repairs until weather improves. They will prioritise potholes where speed is higher. Cllr Mussett replied that a 20-mph limit would not be possible, and speed reduction options had been looked at in the past.

Dog fouling on recreation Ground – signs need to be replaced they have all been removed – it was suggested maybe to smart watered (a security tag) if being taken for scrap. Leaves and gutters in Ashford Hill Road, will report again. War memorial structure not good, RBL would like to assist last time KPC sort

repair costs it was over £10,000. The EV charging points in Anchor Road were being used by cars not charging report to Basingstoke.

Meeting closed 21.40

Signed:.....Chairman

Date:.....

Signed:.....Clerk

Date:.....

Distribution: KPC Cllrs: Newbury Weekly News. County and Borough Cllrs; KPC Website
Website: www.kingsclere-pc.org.uk.

Appendix One:

Kingsclere Annual Town Council Borough Report – Kerry Morrow

Approaching the end of my first year representing the people in my ward, I have to say what a pleasure it has been. Kingsclere has a wonderful community and I always have a smile on my face when I cross the A339 and enter the village.

The first few months as a borough councillor were a steep learning curve and I had a lot of anxiety about fulfilling the role, however that anxiety has eased as time has progressed and I've got to carry out the everyday tasks required of me. Such as chasing garden waste bins at the bottom of Swan Street, discussing large planning applications with concerned residents, and attending my regular committee and full council meetings in Basingstoke.

However, its not all positives I too suffer the same frustrations as residents. I went around in circles trying to get a salt bin for the bottom of Field Gate drive to salt Pope Hill, only to realise it was not possible, at least now I understand a little more the world of salt bins!

The highlight of my year has been the grant money that has been found to support CA Tadley. Their work has doubled during the cost-of-Living Crisis and I think they are the true heroes of recent times. A massive thanks to the work of Kingsclere Parish Councillor David Conquest who helped bring together, Greenham trust and Basingstoke and Deane who then brought about a new Cost of Living Community Fund that CA successfully applied for. Round two of funding is on the horizon. I'm also very happy to have put half of my Cllr Grant towards a laptop and mobile that allowed CA to find two new Cost of Living Advisors. Rural poverty is a very real issue and I hope that we can continue to support CA Tadley, so that they can extend their reach.

I will end with the future and an exciting project on the horizon. 24 Swan Street has been put back on the market and Kingsclere Performing Arts and Youth Centre Community Interest Company has until 14th September to bid for the Basingstoke and Deane owned building. Although there is no obligation from B&D to accept the bid, there is strong support from the ward councillors, portfolio holder and cabinet which should get the sale over the line. I will be doing everything I can to make sure it happens.

I will be putting forward my first motion on Thursday to develop a Community Asset Transfer policy at the Borough, which if adopted would provide a clear and transparent process to deal with community asset transfer in the future, setting out clear stages and time frames for everyone involved.

I fully back the project at 24 Swan Street and I hope to see the fruition of their community plans, that will help bring the community together and provide extra facilities for the young people in Kingsclere.

Thanks for listening, its great to see you all and feel free to invite me to any of your groups at anytime and contact me with any issues you have.

Appendix 2

Annual Parish Update 2023

Tom Thacker

County Councillor, Whitchurch and the Cleres Division

New Cabinet

At the start of the Council Year, Councillor Rob Humby was elected as the new Leader of the council, with Roz Chadd as his Deputy. Following a review of cabinet responsibilities, this is the Cabinet:

Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services	Rob Humby
Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Hampshire 2050 and Corporate Services	Roz Chadd
Executive Lead Member for Universal Services	Nick Adams-King
Executive Member for Younger Adults and Health and Wellbeing	Jan Warwick
Executive Lead Member for Children's Services	Edward Heron
Executive Member for Education	Steve Forster
Executive Member for Performance, Human Resources, Communications and Inclusion and Diversity	Kirsty North
Executive Member for Countryside and Regulatory Services	Russell Oppenheimer
Executive Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health	Liz Fairhurst

Budget and Council Tax

Hampshire County Council's £2.6 billion budget for 2023/24 has been approved. HCC's council tax precept for the coming year will increase by 4.99%, of which 2% will go specifically towards adults' social care, in line with Government policy. This equates to an annual charge of £1,460.25 for a Band D property – an increase of £69.45 per year.

Leader of the County Council, Councillor Rob Humby, said: "Each year, the County Council is tested to the limits in continuing to deliver a balanced budget, which is required by law. Planning for this upcoming financial year has been no different, and we have had to navigate further intense pressures resulting from the cost-of-living crisis, inflation and workforce pressures which are pushing up costs, and growing demand in key areas such as social care for the most vulnerable children and adults in our communities – which far outweighs available Government funding.

"We are also acutely aware of the very difficult decisions Hampshire residents face in their own household budgets to make ends meet, but reluctantly, in order to help deliver a balanced budget for 2023/24, we have no other choice but to increase the council tax precept. This is a decision we have not taken lightly. But even after this increase, we are still left with a £50.8 million shortfall in our revenue budget which we will have to fill using our reserves – built to buffer this and next year's anticipated budget shortfalls."

The increase will generate £37m of vital extra income towards the delivery of crucial, high performing services to the people of Hampshire in 2023/24, and still means that Hampshire has one of the lowest council tax precepts of any county in England.

Consultations

Consultations, reviews and surveys in the year included consulting on the Local Transport Plan, On-street electric vehicle charging, Supported Passenger Transport/Concessionary Travel Scheme, Post 16 Transport Policy, 20 mph Speed Limits

Cost of Living

Hampshire Children's services have been providing support and advice to families feeling cost of living pressure last year and this. Many local organisations, charities and community groups are also offering support. Details about what is on offer, including foodbanks, can be found on our directory:

<https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/home.page>

Homes for Ukrainian Refugees

Hampshire has also responded to the need for support for Homes for Ukraine:

- Providing free Bus passes for refugees
- Free school meals for Ukrainian children
- Payments to sponsors and home visit checks
- Establishing a Ukraine Connections groups in Hampshire libraries to offer a welcoming space for Ukrainian guests to meet and find out more about HCC services, begin to meet others socially and to find out more about life in their new temporary home.

Reporting Highways Problems

HCC Highways have introduced a new tracking system, which allows County Councillors to track the progress of highway reports and repairs in their own area.

Allowing Councillors to see updates in near-real time will be a huge help when dealing with the very many queries we get about traffic problems. It allows me to not only see whether something has already been reported, but also see what progress is being made in resolving a problem. I understand that, in due course, Hampshire hopes to create a public facing version of the system.

Lengthsman Scheme

The County Council's parish lengthsman scheme has been maintained for the coming financial year. The scheme funds a local 'lengthsman' to carry out straightforward and low risk maintenance activities on footways, highways, and rights of way. The scheme is administered by the Parish Councils themselves.

Councillor Grants

My grants scheme pot remained unchanged at £8,000 in the year. I try as far as possible to ensure that I support events and projects across the communities in my division. Last year I was able to give £1,000 each to projects in 8 of the 10 parishes in my patch:

- Newtown Village Hall Charity, To provide effective disabled access to the Village Hall and to the Village Hall garden area and improve road safety in the immediate area.
- St Martin's School Association Phase 2 New Playground Surface
- Ecchinswell PTA Updating the school library to be modern, inviting and diverse and encourage children to read, develop and flourish
- Westridge Trust To dismantle an old dilapidated Garage and to replace it with a new storage unit.
- Hurstbourne Priors Parish Council To replace the old unsuitable Cess Pit with a sewage treatment plant.
- Ashmansworth Parish Council Defibrillator Purchase
- Whitchurch Silk Mill Trust Collections Management at Whitchurch Silk Mill To improve the archive & collections.
- St Mary Bourne Parish Council Towards Community Cricket Nets.

My 2023/2024 member grants stream opens in early May this year. Any applications for helping with events to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III can be submitted earlier.

HCC grants team will create an extra tile on the website below the current Member's Grants tile and call it 'Member's Grants for the Coronation'. Any application should be below £1,000 - that will allow the team to use the simpler, short version of the application form that will be available through the tile.

HCC will open the grant window from 1 April to 21 April. This provides a clear cut off date in good time to get all applications approved, processed and paid before the date of the Coronation. Applicants will fill out the form and it will go through to the grants team. Bank details are captured at this point.

The grants team will then contact the relevant Member to ask if they wish to approve the application.