

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held at Kington & Dormston Village Hall
Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 7:00pm

Present: Cllr M. Tilt (Chair) Cllr E. Faizey
 Cllr I. Bull Cllr T. Richards
 Cllr P. Collins Cllr R. Drake
 Cllr V. Longmore Cllr S. Richins
 County Cllr L. Robinson

In Attendance: Clerk & 2 members of the Public were present

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – No questions

1. APOLOGIES – None

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th May 2022 were approved as true and correct.

3. ANNUAL REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN- CLLR TILT

Over the past year the Parish Council has been able to hold all meetings in person which is preferable to using zoom.

Cllr Tilt thanked all of the Councillors for their hard work and commitment to the Parish Council and the support given to the Chair, with special thanks to Ron and Victoria for all of their work on the Solar farm application.

Two new Councillors Steve Richins and Emma Faizey have been warmly welcomed this year with thanks to their input.

The Parish Council are also very grateful for the support of the County Councillor and District Councillor Linda Robinson who attends all of the meetings on a regular basis, keeping the Parish up to date with District and County issues. We are sad to be moved to the Inkberrow ward, but Linda will still be able to support us as County Councillor.

The Parish Council has dealt with several planning applications this year which have mostly be dealt with outside of the main meetings. It should be pointed out that the Parish Council have no influence in the final outcome of planning applications but can only put forward parishioners views.

The Parish Lengthsman, who is employed by the Parish Council but fully funded by Worcestershire County council has now unfortunately resigned but we are in the process of appointing a new one.

We no longer have a Parish Path warden so any problems with footpaths should be reported directly to the Footpath Officer Fiona Argle at the Countryside Centre in Worcester.

The biggest thanks must go to Lisa, our Clerk who has kept us informed and organised throughout- we could not work so efficiently without her.

4. PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS

The Clerk reported that the end of year accounts had been completed and sent to Mrs Powell who had undertaken an internal audit as well as approval from all Cllrs. Annual gross income for 2022/23 was £11,522 and the annual gross expenditure was £11,14

5. ANNUAL REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR- LINDA ROBINSON

As you are probably aware my tenure as your District Cllr has sadly ended after representing you at Wychavon for sixteen years. This is due to recent Boundary Changes that have taken your parish out of the Upton Snodsbury Ward and into the Inkberrow two member ward. However I shall remain your County Cllr for at least the next two years and am happy to help your new District representatives who are both new to Wychavon to settle in. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them both on their election and remind them that it has been an absolute privilege to represent you for that long .

Please feel free to contact me on any queries if I can be of any assistance.

For the purpose of the Annual reports for this evening as they are for the previous year, I am happy to cover both and answer any questions.

Budget update.

A five per cent rise in Worcestershire County Council's share of the Council Tax was approved last month. The £935million budget for the year ahead will fund delivery of a wide range of essential services including services to keep the most vulnerable people in the county safe.

As part of the budget, the council will be putting in place an uplift to its Council Tax.

The 2.94 per cent rise in Council Tax will help to fund the increased costs of delivering improvements for residents and businesses while an additional two per cent uplift in the rate for the Adult Social Care levy will support vulnerable adults.

Major improvements for Worcestershire residents which includes improving roads, pavements and street lighting, in addition to funding a brand-new school in Worcester to help with school places more of that later.

County Hall will spend £268million over the next 12 months to ensure residents who need Adult Social Care support will continue to receive it. A total of £146million has been allocated to ensure the County Council can continue to improve the lives of children and young people across the county. £91million is being invested into supporting people to live independently for longer, through the dedicated work of the county's Public Health and Communities teams.

The budget also includes investment to maintain bus services with £3.5million invested on top of the £1.5million commitment made this year.

An additional £500,000 to enable minor highway works to be actioned more quickly such as the pruning of trees and the replacement of damaged street furniture and signage.

The council is facing similar challenges too, from both the impact of inflation on costs of materials and services to increasing demand for services, all of which adds significantly to the pressure on our budget.

"With more vulnerable people needing our support than ever before and with the cost of this care increasing significantly, our budget for next year reflects this added pressure.

"Our Council Tax remains one of the lowest of any County Council in the country.

Highway's issues take up a large amount of my time as a County Councillor so here is some information you may find interesting.

Following the recent announcement of £200m additional capital funding for highways maintenance, the Department for Transport has now published individual allocations for local authorities. This is in addition

KINGTON & DORMSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Lisa Cope Email: kndparishcouncil@gmail.com Tel. 01386 860616

to the previous Dft funding and local additional monies already allocated for improving roads and pavements in the budget.

Buckinghamshire UA	£2,330,800
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough CA	£4,100,000
Central Bedfordshire	£989,200
Cheshire East	£2,319,600
Cornwall UA	£5,035,600
Cumberland	£3,005,600
Derbyshire	£4,213,200
Devon	£9,390,800
Dorset	£2,914,000
Durham	£2,638,400
East Riding of Yorkshire	£2,452,000
East Sussex	£2,360,000
Essex	£5,455,200
Gloucestershire	£3,958,400
Hampshire	£5,954,400
Herefordshire UA	£2,558,000
Hertfordshire	£3,952,000
Kent	£6,054,800
Lancashire	£5,122,000
Leicestershire	£3,156,400
Lincolnshire	£6,884,000
Norfolk	£6,356,800
North Northamptonshire	£1,494,000
North Yorkshire	£6,581,600
Northumberland	£3,872,000
Nottinghamshire	£3,312,000
Oxfordshire	£3,706,000
Shropshire	£3,662,000
Somerset	£4,997,600
Staffordshire	£4,456,400
Suffolk	£4,842,400
Surrey	£3,710,000
Warwickshire	£2,874,800
Westmorland and Furness	£3,005,600
West Northamptonshire UA	£1,896,800
West Sussex	£3,046,400
Wiltshire UA	£3,684,800
Worcestershire	£3,331,200

KINGTON & DORMSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Lisa Cope Email: kndparishcouncil@gmail.com Tel. 01386 860616

If you spot a Highways maintenance issue including potholes you can contact me or report it yourself on line to www.worcestershire.gov.uk/reportit with a precise location or do both and also send a picture if possible.

Our gritters have travelled 3 times around the world this winter!

The winter season has now come to an end but since October last year, we have carried out an impressive 54 gritting runs, spreading over 5,000 tonnes of salt, keeping our roads moving and safe for motorists. Nearly 70,000 miles were covered, which is the equivalent of three times around the circumference of our planet, from the six depots across Worcestershire.

Update from the Acute Trust at Worcs. Royal

ALL non-emergency operations will be moved away from the city's hospital in an attempt to cut the huge backlog for treatment and cut long waiting times.

The county's health bosses have agreed to a plan which will see only emergency and vascular operations performed at Worcestershire Royal Hospital in Worcester with the rest moved to the Alexandra Hospital in Redditch and Kidderminster Hospital by the end of May.

NHS England has tasked the county's hospital trust with cutting the longest waiting times – which includes 18-month delays and two-plus-year waits – for all 'planned' hospital appointments and treatment.

The ever-mounting wait for care has built up since the Covid-19 pandemic when a decision was made to pause all non-emergency care – with hospital staff told to focus only on treating the virus, most planned operations and cancer treatment.

A 'recovery' plan, which was published by the NHS in February last year, called for all two-year waits for care to be "eliminated" within six months, 18-month waits to be removed by April this year and year-long waits to be wiped out by March 2025.

The target before the Covid-19 pandemic for GP referral to treatment was 18 weeks but astonishingly the hospital is now having to battle to make sure people are seen within a year for some treatments.

Matthew Hopkins, the chief executive of Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, said two-year waits had been "largely eliminated" last September and the trust is currently focusing on cutting 78-week-plus waits before attention shifts to cutting 65-week and then year-long waits. "As the NHS looks to gear up elective capacity, theatre staff will be the group that becomes the sought-after nurses and allied health professionals... We have done quite well with overseas recruitment into theatres, that is going to be a particular challenge if we are increasing the actual quantum of operating theatres and lists.

"We're going to need more staff."

Bosses are looking overseas to fill the gap with the vacancy rates for nurses at the trust at around eight per cent – up from five per cent after more posts were created – and a recruitment drive in the Philippines is said to be “going well.”

Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust is also building two more operating theatres at the Alex to add to the seven theatres already in place. A further four theatres will eventually be built in Redditch with a completion date so far unknown.

The trust said its plan to separate its care in this way was in line with best practice guidance and would lead to shorter waiting times and reduce the risk of cancellation.

It would also help the recovery from the impact of the pandemic and ease pressure on urgent and emergency care, the trust said.

On a personal note, my husband was admitted to the Royal last week with acute pancreatitis and the care he received over seven days from being rushed into A & E on the first day of the Doctor’s strike was exemplary. My only criticism is the total lack of parking available on site which leads to unacceptable delays for relatives trying to visit patients.

Alternative Fuel Payment scheme expanded till the end of May 2023

The government recently announced that it has expanded the Alternative Fuel Payment scheme, supporting more households using heating oil, Liquefied Petroleum Gas, biomass and other alternative fuels.

The government has increased the period that applicants can provide evidence of the purchase of alternative fuels by three months to June 2022, instead of from September 2022. This means those eligible for £200 Alternative Fuel Payment can now apply using receipts from June 2022 until May 2023. This ensures that households who purchased fuel in bulk ahead of the winter can receive the £200 energy bill support they are entitled to. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/increased-flexibility-of-alternative-fuel-payments-so-more-households-will-be-supported-with-their-energy-bill>

6. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH- No report

7. ANNUAL REPORT OF VILLAGE TRUST -HANNAH FORRESTER

In recent months, our treasurer Marian Collins has sadly passed away and will be greatly missed.

In the Village Hall over the past year we have achieved the following:

A new concrete step outside the double doors

New cupboards in the entrance hall

The new sound system has been installed and is working well

The defibrillator on the outside of the hall has been installed and has already been used twice

The Festival Players will be making their annual appearance at the Village Hall, this year’s production is Twelfth Night.

KINGTON & DORMSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Lisa Cope Email: kndparishcouncil@gmail.com Tel. 01386 860616

Items awaiting work:

The area around Bill Smith's tree is about to be renovated with new gravel and a new edging.
The ditch in front of the Village Hall is about to be cleared.

The Hall is still regularly used by Seniors, WI and an Art Class as well as used occasionally by Young Farmers and for a quiz, bingo night and for one off birthday parties. It is also used as a Polling Station once a year.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS- None

Signed Chairman.....

Date.....