

MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held at Kington & Dormston Village Hall
Monday 13th May 2024 at 7:00pm

Present:	Cllr M. Tilt (Chair)	Cllr E. Faizey
	Cllr T. Richards	Cllr S. Richins
	Cllr P. Collins	Cllr R. Drake
	Cllr V. Longmore	District Cllr N. Dawkes

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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME – No questions

1. APOLOGIES – Cllr I. Bull & County Cllr L. Robinson sent their apologies.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 9th May 2023 were approved as true and correct and signed by the Chair.

3. ANNUAL REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN- CLLR TILT

Cllr Tilt thanked all of the Councillors for their hard work and commitment to the Parish Council and the support given to the Chair over the year, and that previously.

The Parish Council are also very grateful for the support of the County Councillor Linda Robinson who attends all of the meetings on a regular basis, keeping the Parish up to date with County issues and the new addition of District Councillor Nick Dawkes also, as the Parish has been moved over to the Inkberrow Ward.

The Parish Council has dealt with several planning applications this year which have mostly been 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. 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.

Cllr Tilt explained that she will be sad to leave the Parish Council this year after 21 years but has enjoyed contributing to the community and wishes the Parish Council all the best for the future.

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 2023/24 was £11,216 and the annual gross expenditure was £11,385, being under £25,000 this meant that the Parish Council can claim exemption from an intermediate review.

5. ANNUAL REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR- NICK DAWKES

Little to report , however a new splash park has now opened for children in Abbey Park, Pershore.

6. ANNUAL REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR- LINDA ROBINSON

Good evening and thank you to those of you attending your Annual Parish meeting.

I am so sorry not to be able to be with you in person but I am away participating in a Local Government Association peer review at Boston in Lincolnshire for the whole of this week. I think it is the first of your Annual Parishes I will have missed since I was first elected as your District Cllr. back in 2007. It is now three years since I became your County Cllr. as well and then as a result of Boundary changes at the last District elections could no longer continue as your District Cllr. although I still represent the rest of the Upton Snodsbury Ward at Wychavon. I will leave it to you as to whether I was a hard act to follow but Nick knows he has my support and that I am always on hand to offer advice on District matters if needed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank your Parish Cllrs who work tirelessly and with great enthusiasm on your behalf as does your clerk Lisa who helps keep me updated and informed between meetings. I am disappointed not to be with you tonight as I had hoped to formally wish Miriam well as she steps down as your very long serving Chairman. She was very welcoming to me when I first started my journey as a Councillor and it will seem strange to no longer see her at the front of the hall conducting the business and keeping order when opinions differ.

I hope to continue to see Miriam at the Kington & Dormston Seniors club and sincerely thank her for all she has done for your community. I look forward to working with your new Chairman and am always available if any advice or just a chat is needed and hope that will work both ways.

Much of my time across our Upton Snodsbury County Division is spent on Highways' issues and Kington & Dormston is no exception especially as it includes the problematic A422

The abnormally high rainfall experienced this winter totalled 720mm over the last six months alone which would normally have equated to an average years' worth. This is off the scale compared to decade averages since 1980 and exceeds anything going back to 1960 in reference to data from our local weather station at Wychavon Civic Centre. Surface water levels have been abnormally high and the gulleys and ditches at the side of the roads are struggling to cope but efforts are made to keep them clear where possible.

Please report any Highways issues you spot direct to Highways on <https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/council-services/travel-and-highways/tell-us-about-road-highway-or-travel-route-issue/report>. with a precise location. Alternatively, e mail me on lrobinson2@worcestershire.gov.uk and I will report it to my Highways liaison officer. This also applies to any fly tipping you spot at the side of the road. The increase in littering along our country lanes is a big concern and much of it is just thrown from car windows when passing. WCC has a duty to litter pick the 'A' roads regularly and it is sad to see the amount their operatives find to put in their blue sacks ready for collection. I am glad to see that you are doing some Community Litter picks as untidy areas often seem to attract more littering so thanks to all involved.

As many of you may be aware County Hall remains partially closed in its upper storeys due to the presence of defective cement known as RAAP. Surveys and quotes are being undertaken to assess

KINGTON & DORMSTON PARISH COUNCIL

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repair costs. Obviously, we cannot afford the risk of re opening with any danger of collapse. Some NHS buildings are evidently also affected.

Council & Planning meetings are being held at District Council offices with many having been at Wychavon which is convenient.

Some difficult decisions had to be made in the 2024/2025 budget

The recent rise in the County Council tax precept by 4.99% included a 2% Adult social care precept in order to contribute to existing cost pressures due to Worcestershire's ageing population.

Voluntary redundancies have also been offered to Management & Staff with quite a good uptake and it is anticipated that these Budget proposals will significantly reduce our current overspend.

In last year's report I mentioned a proposal to build a new Secondary School between the hospital and Newtown Road. This is currently on hold due to spiralling costs with the opening date delayed until at least September '28.

If there are any questions for me, please pass them onto your clerk or contact me directly on my WCC contact details.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH- Report sent from Claire Hughes

Summary of Activity for 2023/24

During the year of 2023, we held 4 formal meetings including an AGM. We have had one formal meeting so far in 2024. I would like to thank the coordinators for their continued support. The committee still stands as:

Claire Hughes – Chairperson
Debbie Stanley – Secretary
Adam Lancaster – Vice Chair
Duncan Heenan – Treasurer

Other Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators include Adam Lazenbury and Vivienne Heenan.

Treasurer's Report

The balance held at 28 February 2024 was £30.50 held in cash. There have been no expenses this year.

Crime and incidents in the Area

We received 9 notifications of crime in the area in 2023 with burglaries and attempted burglaries. So far we have received 3 notifications of crime in 2024 with theft of a vehicle and a trailer and attempted break-ins at local properties. These were posted on the Neighbourhood Watch 'Our Watch' Platform and the Kington and Dormston Neighbourhood Watch Facebook page.

Smartwater

Although we had a poor response from residents, the Neighbourhood Watch Association have voted to continue efforts to progress the scheme with further advertising. We will assess the position at our next meeting in July. Claire Hughes and Adam Lancaster attended the Flyford Flavell Smartwater roll-out and obtained further information and ideas from Jane Hand (Flyford NW Co-ordinator) as to how we can continue to push this. Councillor Linda Robinson has also advised that she is keen to support the scheme should we manage to reach increased uptake.

Our next Quarterly Meeting is Tuesday 16th July, 7.30pm at location TBA.

8. ANNUAL REPORT OF VILLAGE TRUST -HANNAH FORRESTER

Since my report last year, the following are the main points:

Following our discussion with the Parish Council., we are waiting for EDF to fit a smart meter. They did arrange one date but did not keep the appointment.

Sandra Naughton has taken over as Treasurer and we now do internet banking.

The new sign for the Village Hall has been erected and is proving very useful.

A key safe has ben fitted by the front door and we have a new cleaner.

Bookings are steady with our regular bookings being WI, Seniors, Parish Council, craft days and an Art Group.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Rob Adams attended the meeting on behalf of Cllr Robinson to extend thanks to Cllr Tilt for all her time and effort dedicated to the Parish council for the many years she has been involved. She may be small in stature but has been big in presence and he wished to extend the gratitude felt by many in the community for the time she has stood as Councillor and Chairman for Kington and Dormston and wished her all the best for the future.

Signed Chairman.....

Date.....