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# Annual Report 2017/18



Kimpton Parish Council Annual Report gives a review of the activities of the Council and the financial report for the year ending 31st March 2018

Published  
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## Chairman's Report

In last year's newsletter I referred to some new village websites, one for the village in general and one to support the Business Directory. Both of these have now been set up, and can be found at:

[www.kimptonvillage.com](http://www.kimptonvillage.com)

[www.kimptondirectory.com](http://www.kimptondirectory.com)

The village site features an events calendar, a full list of clubs and societies with the relevant contacts, local information and a link to the business directory site. We want to ensure that as many businesses as possible operating within the village, or run by villagers, are featured and that their details are up to date. Please contact the Parish Clerk ([clerk@kimptonpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@kimptonpc.org.uk)) with any updates or additions. The events calendar is getting busier all the time, so make sure that you [a] check it while planning an event, to avoid clashes and [b] make sure your event appears on it.



In addition, you will no doubt have discovered, along with over 1,400 others, the village Facebook Group, set up as a resident initiative. It has nothing to do with the Parish Council, although it does provide a very effective channel of communication, so it had been co-opted more than once for that purpose!

It is probably fair to say that, along with our fibre broadband (variable though it may be at times) we are now a fully digital village. However, many traditional and more down to earth issues remain, from inconsiderate parking to inconsiderate driving (or inappropriate vehicles coming though the village), dog-fouling, fly-tipping, and all the usual suspects.

It is a fact of life today that any action is slow to materialise – we do what we can, but everyone is suffering with reduced or over-stretched resources, so it remains the case that it can take a while to address certain issues. It remains the case that documented time-based evidence is always more likely to be acted upon than more general complaints, so it is always worth making a note of incidents whenever they occur, as any authority will require specific details as opposed to general assertions.

In terms of dog-fouling, the parish Council can deliver some solutions, and we have added to the already fairly generous provision of dog bins during the year. We have also added the general litter bins to a similar contract, following the retirement of our Parish Warden Rob O'Brien, after many years of service. The Parish Council would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all he has done for the community.

Traffic is an issue that has raised its head more than once during the last year. You may recall that we were able to obtain the results of a speed survey that (in simple terms) indicated that speed was not so much of a problem as it may appear – at least not to the extent that we would qualify for any calming measures. Instead, it is the size of vehicles using the High Street that seems to cause the most trouble (and damage). We wrote to Peter Lilley on more than one occasion, to lobby for legislation forcing commercial vehicles to have commercial satnav systems on UK roads. Although this would probably not keep them off the High Street (which is a designated B road) it ought to keep them out of the lanes to Harpenden, which would be a bonus.

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However, the response from Chris Grayling, the Transport Secretary, was that "the Parish Council may wish to raise this issue with Hertfordshire County Council, to ascertain if traffic signs are appropriate to ensure HGVs only use appropriate routes" – a response that any resident will appreciate is next to useless, as there are plenty of signs already.

The Parish Council has subsequently raised this issue again with our new MP, Bim Afolami, so we will see if any further movement takes place on this, but it doesn't look as if there is any appetite for a statutory intervention.

Following the relatively new housing development in Probyn Close and Lloyd Way, we are occasionally asked about the rules for prioritising local people, and we have recently discovered that some of the new properties in Probyn Close are prioritised on the basis of a local connection for the first let only, and after that they are released to the general housing list. There are still, as far as we can ascertain from the District Council, 19 properties that will always prioritise local connections, but the remainder may not. This was not our understanding when the new development was being planned, and indeed we received no planning gain community funding (which we had received from the old Probyn House site) on the basis that social housing for local people would be provided.

We are currently following this up, but if you have any questions about your own situation, or that of people with the relevant local connections, please refer them to the North Herts District Council via the portfolio holder District Cllr Bernard Lovewell, or our District Councillor John Bishop.

Finally, you have probably received the very welcome Council Tax demand in recent weeks! You may notice that the Parish Council Precept appears to have fallen slightly. It has, in fact, stayed at the same level as it has been for some years – we have managed to avoid any increase for several years now – but the additional number of households in the Parish has meant a slight fall on an individual basis.

This Annual Report corresponds with the latest round of Parish Council elections, and for the first time in many years, Kimpton Parish Councillors will be elected by a contested poll. We have not had a situation for at least two decades where there have been more volunteers than available Council positions, so hopefully this is an indication that people are more inclined to become involved in supporting their community and others at this tier of "local government".

In view of the surfeit of interest, I have decided not only to step down from the Chair but also to step down from the Council entirely. This is for no reason other than to concentrate on a few other initiatives, and I hope to remain involved in some capacity.

It just falls to me now to thank all my fellow Councillors for their contributions and support over the years I have sat on the Council, and especially during my time as Chair. Special thanks are due to our superb Clerk, Carina Helmn, without whose efforts and expertise we would all be much worse off!

Very best wishes for a wonderful Summer (as soon as the weather settles down!)

**Cllr David Hardstaff**  
Chairman

## Financial Report

Kimpton Parish Council is in a healthy financial position as our income this year exceeded expenditure resulting in an increase in year-end unallocated reserves to just over £61,000.



The main investment made this year was to improve the access roads at Parkfield Sports Ground and Recreation Ground. These tracks have an unbound surface and therefore been a prone to the creation of pot holes. Various repairs have taken place over the years but unfortunately have proved to be limited in duration. We found a leading company from Somerset that uses specialist equipment to stabilise rural roads and unbound surfaces turning them into hard and durable surfaces suitable for cars, tractors and HGVs. The initial crushing stage took out the potholes and loosened existing materials for the addition of cement, which is mixed in. The tracks were then graded to help with drainage and new ditches at Parkfield introduced to enable water to flow away. We know that these techniques have created a more resistant surface, but regular maintenance and

regrading will be required every 2/3 years and budgeted accordingly. On their advice the side hedges have been trimmed to reduce overhanging vegetation.

The new venture of Kimpton Christmas Market organised by the parish council made a surplus of £1,500 helped by the receipt of £3,500 in external grants, table fees and the sales from the bar and BBQ. Mulled wine in the commissioned Kimpton Christmas mugs were the best sellers. The community event proved very popular and is to be repeated in 2018, although the receipt of external grants again is uncertain.



Other items of income and expenditure in the accounts are in line with the budget.

Parish Council finances are subject to accounts and audit compliance stipulated within *'The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015'*. The renamed Annual Governance and Annual Return (AGAR) will be presented at Kimpton Parish Council meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018, the internal auditor will conduct his review on 30<sup>th</sup> April and then the AGAR will be sent to newly appointed external auditors PCK Littlejohn in May.

The period for electors to exercise their right to inspect the accounts is from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

Carina Helmn  
**Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer**

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### Kimpton Parish Council Annual Accounts Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018

			Bank totals
<b>Balance at 1st April 2017</b>			
	Unity Current Account	2,306.58	
	Barclays Account	9,429.60	
	CCLA	45,000.00	56,736.18
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
72,000.00	Precept	72,000.00	
580.00	Sports Rental	1,155.00	
4,841.24	Grants and other income	13,774.99	
1,645.72	Allotment Rental	1,509.02	
122.76	Interest received	115.86	
5,857.90	VAT repaid	8,754.71	
<b>85,047.62</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>97,309.58</b>	
<b>PAYMENTS</b>			
36,506.84	Operational costs & staff	35,563.27	
28,452.88	Property and Premises	24,856.89	
17,447.83	Community support	18,350.40	
7,484.36	Loan repayments	7,484.36	
8,178.06	VAT input	6,503.97	
<b>98,069.97</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>92,758.89</b>	
<b>Balance at 31 March 2018</b>			
	Barclays Current Account	2,992.87	
	Unity Account	13,294.00	
	CCLA	45,000.00	61,286.87
	<b>Increase for the Year</b>		4,550.69

Cllr D Hardstaff  
Chairman  
Date: 25 April 2018

Mrs C Helmn  
Responsible Financial Officer  
Date: 25 April 2018

### **Working Party Representatives and Representatives to Outside Bodies 2017/2018**

- 1. Staffing Committee**  
Cllr S O'Brien, Cllr J Palmer and Cllr D Reavell
- 2. Representatives to Kimpton Memorial Hall Management Committee**  
Cllr D Hardstaff and Cllr J Marsh
- 3. Representative to Peter's Green Village Hall Management Committee**  
Cllr S O'Brien
- 4. Representative to Kimpton Primary School Governing Board**  
Cllr D Reavell
- 5. Kimpton Bench Working Party**  
Cllr J Marsh (Mr B Finch – Leader)
- 6. Kimpton Rights of Way Working Party**  
Cllr L Hawke, Mrs C Finch, Mr B Malcolm (Chairman), Mr P Hale
- 7. Major Emergency Planning Working Party**  
Cllr D Hardstaff and Cllr J Palmer
- 8. Youth Initiatives and Sports Council**  
Cllr S O'Brien and Cllr D Reavell
- 9. Open Spaces, Village Greens, Recreation Grounds and Playgrounds Working Party**  
Cllr I Corbett, Cllr D Hardstaff and Cllr S O'Brien
- 10. Allotment Working Party**  
Cllr D Hardstaff, Cllr L Hawke, Mr B Finch
- 11. East of Luton Development Working Party**  
Cllr I Corbett, Cllr J Marsh and Cllr J Palmer
- 12. Kimpton Environment Working Party**  
Cllr D Hardstaff, Cllr J Palmer and Cllr D Pirola
- 13. Highways Working Party**  
Cllr D Hardstaff, Cllr L Hawke, Cllr J Palmer and other residents tbc

### **Contact Details**

Cllr Ian Corbett	11 Park Lane, Kimpton, SG4 8SB
Cllr David Hardstaff ( <b>Chairman</b> )	27 Dacre Crescent, Kimpton, SG4 8QJ
Cllr L Hawke	46 High Street, Kimpton, SG4 8RN
Cllr Jon Marsh	29 Church Lane, Kimpton, SG4 8RR
Cllr Sue O'Brien	98 High Street, Kimpton, SG4 8QW
Cllr Jon Palmer	46 Kimpton Road, Blackmore End, AL4 8LD
Cllr Donatella Pirola	1 Rose Cottages, Lawrence End Rd, Peters Green, LU2 9QD
Cllr David Reavell	Five Chimneys, 10 Church Lane, Kimpton, SG4 8SD
Carina Helmn – Parish Clerk	E: <a href="mailto:clerk@kimptonpc.org.uk">clerk@kimptonpc.org.uk</a>
North Herts District Cllr John Bishop	E: <a href="mailto:john.bishop@north-herts.gov.uk">john.bishop@north-herts.gov.uk</a>
Herts County Cllr Richard Thake	E: <a href="mailto:richard.thake@hertfordshire.gov.uk">richard.thake@hertfordshire.gov.uk</a>
The Rt Hon Peter Lilley – MP	E: <a href="mailto:feedback@peterlilley.co.uk">feedback@peterlilley.co.uk</a>
Bim Afolami	<a href="http://www.bimafolami.co.uk">www.bimafolami.co.uk</a>