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Annual Report 2016/17



Kimpton Parish Council Annual Report gives a review of the activities of the Council and the financial report for the year ending 31st March 2017

Published
April 2017

Chairman's Report

We have had another busy year, which has seen a number of changes throughout the village, from the construction of a new clubhouse for the Tennis Club to an entire new development of houses at Probyn Close. We have also seen the introduction of a Folk Festival, which shows every sign of becoming as regular a fixture in the village calendar as the May Festival.

We have also refurbished the playground at Wren's Close, and fitted it out with some new equipment following consultation with the nearby residents, who attended a public meeting on the site. We also consulted with Year 5 at Kimpton Primary School, and hope that the new amenity will be appreciated by all concerned.

The village has also seen the establishment of a very successful Facebook group which, at the time of writing, has over 850 members. This has proved to be a valuable resource, helping people deal with all sorts of community situations from lost pets to the sale or recycling of unwanted items and even the coordination of lifts to and from stations in the event of commuting problems. It is truly a valuable community resource.

In terms of local sport, aside from the new facilities at the Tennis Club, the Recreation Ground playing field has now been taken over by the newly formed Kimpton Rugby Club. The thriving Club is improving the condition of the pitch and has also taken over management of the pavilion.

On the opposing side of the ledger, there have been a number of issues that residents and the Parish Council have had to contend with over the course of the year:

There were several incidences of damage caused to vehicles on the High Street, by either agricultural contractors or other oversized vehicles. The Parish Council was able to obtain the results of a police survey undertaken recently that indicated that speed as such is not the major issue, but we are all aware of the unsuitable nature of some of the traffic that we get.

The Parish Council is not a Highways Authority, and we have no power or authority to act directly, although we could potentially be asked to fund or part-fund an initiative if it should be approved by the County Council. We do, however, lobby constantly and will follow up any suggestions from residents for example the road lines in Lloyd Way.

We have approached our MP, Peter Lilley, about legislating for commercial satellite navigation systems to be made compulsory for large lorries (these systems will not navigate them through unsuitable lanes) but we are told that there are no plans to legislate, and also the village High Street is a defined route in any case.

We are also lobbying to obtain speed warning signs, but these are now also restricted in numbers because the authorities are concerned that saturation will lead to them being ignored by drivers, so we are currently left with a single sign in the Parish which we will have to move about from location to location every few weeks.



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It seems to have been a year for road-related problems. We have also had a handful of abandoned vehicles in the village, and it has proved a frustrating and protracted process to get them moved. There is a time-consuming process that the authorities are obliged to follow, and it often appears as if nothing is being done, but to the best of our knowledge the processes are being followed through assiduously, but they are just laborious processes!

Regrettably, there have also been some issues with anti-social behaviour in parts of the village. Being exposed to this sort of behaviour is very stressful and it is something that we all need to act against, even though there are often only a small number of residents affected at any given time.

Should you come across any behaviour of this sort, if an actual crime is in progress (criminal damage or something of that sort) you should call 999 immediately. For less urgent police matters, you can call 101 and, should the perpetrators be housing association tenants, you can also call North Herts Homes on 0330 343 0016 or email customer.service@nhh.org.uk.

Reporting all instances of anti-social behaviour will mean that a full log is kept of what is happening, and then appropriate sanctions, from behaviour orders for homeowners through to evictions for housing association tenants, can be imposed on those responsible.

Finally, in a digital world, the Parish Council has taken the initiative to revamp various village websites, and provide a more uniform look across a couple of sites – one for the village, and one to act as an online version of the successful business directory.

The village site contains an events calendar, and all the various clubs and societies in the village will be posting their events there which not only adds to the publicity but also (hopefully) prevents clashes!

Check out the new sites, and keep an eye out for new content as it arrives:



www.kimptonvillage.com
www.kimptondirectory.com

And also, of course, keep an eye on the Parish Council website at www.kimptonpc.org.uk for the latest Parish news and information.

Cllr David Hardstaff
Chairman

Financial Report

This year we see that expenditure was greater than income resulting in a reduction in the year end reserves to £56,000. These are at a healthy level for our requirements and still enable the parish council financial flexibility. Further to the decisions made during 2016/17, as highlighted in our financial statement 2015/16, we actually made our grants to Kimpton Folk Festival and Kimpton Tennis Club this financial year using the bank reserves built up. This contributed to the deficit for the year of just over £13,000.



The ability to respond to community demand was illustrated last summer by the residents of Wren Close who got together and asked the parish council to install new play equipment to replace the items that had failed the last RoSPA inspection. We worked very closely with suppliers, residents, play consultant and pupils at Kimpton Primary School to achieve the best design and play value for

money.

Another part of the parish that has seen investment this year is Peters Green. Trees on the village green received routine maintenance and work was carried out on a tree outside the Baptist Church that came down in the recent storm. The parish council owns the bus shelter which needed a new roof, not bad after 30 years, so a beautiful cedar shingle roof was installed that complements the attractiveness of this special hamlet.



Peters Green Village Hall received a grant to assist with its costs and a second dog bin for the hamlet was installed near to the hall.

Our grass contractor continues to provide an excellent service for recreational areas owned by the parish council but additionally our schedule includes the Churchyard and garden at Kimpton Memorial Hall as these are key places in our village. Also he has been part of the improvement works completed at the allotment site which has encouraged more allotment tenants to come forward. All allotment plots are now taken with the creation of a small waiting list – a situation that hasn't occurred for decades!

Parish Council finances are subject to accounts and audit compliance stipulated within 'The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015'. The annual accounts will be presented at Kimpton Parish Council meeting on 26th April 2017, the internal auditor will conduct his review on 8th May and the annual return will be sent to BDO LLP in May.

Carina Helmn

Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Kimpton Parish Council Annual Accounts Year Ended 31st March 2017

			Bank totals
	Balance at 1st April 2016		
	Unity Current Account	25,967.94	
	Barclays Account	18,790.59	
	CCLA	25,000.00	69,758.53
	RECEIPTS		
72,000.00	Precept	72,000.00	
1,085.00	Sports Rental	580.00	
12,556.20	Grants and other income	4,841.24	
1,536.37	Allotment Rental	1,645.72	
137.69	Interest received	122.76	
0.00	VAT repaid	5,857.90	
87,315.26	TOTAL	85,047.62	
	PAYMENTS		
35,928.05	Operational costs & staff	36,506.84	
21,392.47	Property and Premises	28,452.88	
7,124.64	Community support	17,447.83	
7,484.36	Loan repayments	7,484.36	
5,827.00	VAT input	8,178.06	
77,756.52	TOTAL	98,069.97	
	Balance at 31 March 2017		
	Barclays Current Account	9,429.60	
	Unity Account	2,306.58	
	CCLA	45,000.00	56,736.18
	Decrease for the Year		13,022.35

Cllr D Hardstaff
Chairman
Date: 26 April 2017

Mrs C Helmn
Responsible Financial Officer
Date: 26 April 2017

Working Party Representatives and Representatives to Outside Bodies 2016/2017

- 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 D Pirola
- 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 and Mr M Frost
- 11. Kimpton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**
Cllr D Hardstaff, Cllr S O'Brien and Cllr J Palmer
- 12. East of Luton Development Working Party**
Cllr I Corbett, Cllr J Marsh and Cllr J Palmer
- 13. Kimpton Environment Working Party**
Cllr D Hardstaff, Cllr J Palmer and Cllr D Pirola

Contact Details

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