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Annual Report 2018/19



Kimpton Parish Council Annual Report gives a review of the activities of the Council and the financial report for the year ending 31st March 2019

Published
April 2019

Chairman's Report

New Council

The Parish Council has now established new roles following the local elections of May 2018.

Three new councillors: Carly Procter, and Alex Firth; who along with myself Neil Burns, have joined the Council.

Future Plans

With the start of this new term the new Council turned its focus to what the community needs to address over the next four years. Issues of traffic and parking have been identified as of significant concern to the community. A 'Highways and Parking Working Party' led by Cllr Alex Firth has been established and options for possible improvement will be developed, leading to a consultation with villagers.

Council meetings have been a constructive forum to debate the most pressing issues that the Parish needs to address to help improve Parish life. A full list of set objectives can be found on <http://www.kimptonvillage.com/local-information/>

Village Concerns

Over the year, eight house burglaries, a vehicle break in, vehicle damage, and certain anti-social behaviour has occurred in the parish. Discussions have already taken place with the Police, North Herts District Council and North Herts Homes (now Settle) to explore further steps that might be taken.

Anti-social behaviour can occur in a wide range of forms from lighting a garden fire adjacent to neighbours' washing, to playing overly loud music late at night. We can all sometimes forget the impact of our actions upon others. It is important that we realise someone's life might be made very unpleasant by our actions and often a simple change to our timing can avoid such an impact.

Parish Events

The village is very fortunate to have a number of community events held during the year including The Old Time Musical, Kimpton May Festival, Kimpton Art Show, Kimpton Folk Festival, Kimpton Horse Show, Kimpton Autumn Show, Kimpton Pantomime and Kimpton Christmas Market. People from outside of the Parish often comment that the community's willingness and spirit to take on such ventures makes it stand out noticeably from other villages.

The Parish Council is very pleased to support and participate in these events. Over recent years an increasing amount of equipment has been obtained and these are available for formal Parish events. The inventory includes 4 marquees, 6 gazebos, 100 chairs, 20 tables and a commercial water boiler.

Current Parish Issues

Two major developments adjacent to our Parish have been in the news this year:

1. The possibility of the construction of a major incinerator plant at East Hyde has raised a healthy level of debate within the Council and a good number of parishioners have communicated their views. Whilst there is some merit in the plan to generate electricity and heat for sale to the community, it is fair to say that the vast majority of views were against its construction on the grounds of increased air pollution and the increase in heavy vehicle traffic. The Council has therefore elected to oppose any planning application and to support the SHLI campaign. At this date a planning permission has not been submitted by the developer however the likely hood remains. More details are available on <http://www.kimptonvillage.com/local-information/>

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2. An initial non-statutory consultation by London Luton Airport upon 4 expansion options has reached the end of its first stage. LLAL is seeking to increase airport passenger numbers from 18m to 38m. Such change will undoubtedly bring benefits of increased local employment and ease of connectivity with the wider world, but also bring the risks of increase in pollution and greater local traffic congestion. More details available on <https://futureluton.llal.org.uk/>

Autumn Show

This year's Autumn show was bathed in sunlight and all those participating enjoying a quintessential village activity in the Memorial Hall and its garden.

A large thank you to Sandra Berti and the Committee for organising the event and the immense amount of vitality they provide.

Many of the vegetable and fruit entries come from the group of enthusiastic allotment holders within the village.

Allotments

All of the available KPC allotments have been successfully let for this year, and there is now a waiting list. Hopefully this indicates a strong entry for this year's Autumn Show.

The Council is delighted to support the event and to make available allotment spaces.

We have also received a suggestion to provide table top level planting areas "Trugs" that parishioners could use. This year we are providing a trial to see how well they are used and thank the Kimpton Bench Working Party for assembling them.



Remembrance Day and Battles Over

This year saw 100 years since the end of World War 1 and on the evening of Sunday the 11th November 2018 the Nation held events throughout the country to mark the start of the peace gained by our forebearers.



The involvement in Kimpton by so many from the community to organise and turn out to take part in the memorial parade and service, the candle lit procession and the lighting of the beacon, made the whole day a very special occasion. KPC were delighted to help organise and financially support the evening event.

Cllr Sue O'Brien and Cllr Ian Corbett worked with The Royal British Legion and various other village groups to provide an event in the centre of our village.

Affordable Village Homes

Ever increasing house prices mean that some members of our community are forced to move away from the area to find somewhere to live. High prices and shortages of the right type of homes also conspire to prevent young people on lower incomes from starting their own households. It can also be difficult for older people to move into accommodation that is more suitable for their needs.

It is also the case that low wages and high prices combine to make it hard for many to afford housing on the open market in Kimpton, whether to rent or buy. Local house prices are now well over ten times the average salary for Hertfordshire. People need and deserve decent homes to live in that they can also afford.

A Housing Needs Survey has been distributed throughout Kimpton and over 360 replies have been received, which we are informed is an excellent level of response. These are currently being analysed and we intend to communicate the findings in the next edition of the Parish Magazine and the KPC website.

I appreciate that some may have concerns about any new housing, but if a need is established through this exercise, we hope that the housing provided would be for local people connected to the Parish. These homes should then, subject to changes in government policy, remain affordable and for the use of local people in perpetuity.

Several members of the community brought to our notice that test pits were being dug in the field to north and west end of the High Street. We have contacted and held discussions with the agents for the land and they have confirmed that active development of ideas is being progressed. An outline planning application could be expected during this year. This area is identified within the draft NHDC Local Plan 2011-2031 and was also in the prior 1996 Local Plan. Central Government is applying pressure to increase the delivery of housing to local authorities and land owners of such areas, so it is not with surprise that we receive this news.

As a community we will have a range of views upon this matter. You may object to any development taking place or you may wish to influence the manner of any development to the benefit of the community. Is this an opportunity to deliver some, or all, of the affordable homes discussed above? Your views would be appreciated, and I would encourage comments via the Parish Clerk so that the KPC can influence the outcome to best meet village preferences.

Defibrillator



Following a suggestion from the community we have purchased a third defibrillator. This is now operational and is located at the Kimpton Corner Stores where Anita and Sanjay have kindly allowed it to be fitted.

The west end of the village and the business units in Claggy Road are now better served.

A training session on how to use a defibrillator was held in April and a further session is to be organised.

Christmas Market



Our second Christmas Market was held in December was a magical event. The market stalls were all fully booked by local businesses and organisations, local musicians provided ongoing entertainment through the day, and most importantly Santa stayed till everyone had a chance to meet him.

Many thanks to Carina Helmn, Helen McPhun, Carly Tindle, Bob Finch, Christine Frith, Tamsin Corbett, Jon Marsh, Ian Pegrum, Sue O'Brien, Carly Procter and everyone involved in making the day such an enjoyable occasion for the village.

Plans for the next Christmas market are already underway and anyone wishing to become involved please let the Parish Clerk know.



CLlr Neil Burns
Chairman

Financial Report

Kimpton Parish Council has maintained its healthy financial position with a small reduction of £267 in our carry forward reserves on 31st March. Our reserves of £61,020 remain within the recommended 3 to 12 months of precept, currently set at £72,000. Exceptional items of expenditure this year were essential tree works and the refurbishment of Peters Green Village Hall.



The parish council carries out a full Tree Safety and Condition Survey every two years which details the structural condition of each tree located on parish council land and identifies actions to be taken. The inspection took place in October 2018 with the report recommending control works to be undertaken on some trees and their time frame.

All works required within 13 weeks have been completed at a cost around £4,000. This was higher than anticipated and contributed to the year-end figure.

A major investment at Peters Green Village Hall took place during Spring 2018 with the refurbishment of the toilets and the creation of an office. These improvements have created superb premises that saw the glittering launch of Shimmery Ivory in November. Part of the financial support to the Peters Green Village Hall Trust was through a donation and part by a loan that is being paid back through monthly instalments.



A second Kimpton Christmas Market was organised by the parish council in December 2018 and again received very positive feedback from visitors, table holders, commercial vendors and musicians.

Due to the decision to invest nearly £6,000 in marquees, lighting and heating items that can be reused in future years, the 2018 event ran at a deficit of £1,450.

The Green, Kimpton has for many years been used for the holding of community events; May Festival, Folk Festival and Christmas market are held at this location and are open, free of charge, to all residents in the parish. Each event requires the provision of power to up to 6 separate locations and to date this has been provided by the running of temporary cables which takes volunteers up to 50 hours to install. For improved safety and convenience s106 money of £4,600 was secured to install underground electricity cabling. The parish council has reduced operational costs by £4,000 and increased expenditure on community projects by nearly £10,000.

Parish Council finances are subject to accounts and audit compliance stipulated within 'The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015'. The Annual Governance and Annual Return (AGAR) will be presented at Kimpton Parish Council meeting on 24th April 2019. Our internal auditor conducted his review on 10th April. The AGAR will be published on www.kimptonpc.org.uk and sent to our external auditors, PCK Littlejohn in May. The period for electors to exercise their right to inspect the accounts is from Monday 17th June to Friday 26th July 2018.

Carina Helmn
Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

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Kimpton Parish Council Annual Accounts Year Ended 31st March 2019

		Bank totals	
Balance at 1st April 2018			
	Unity Current Account	2,992.87	
	Barclays Account	13,294.00	
	CCLA	45,000.00	61,286.87
RECEIPTS			
72,000.00	Precept	72,000.00	
1,155.00	Sports Rental	1,180.00	
13,774.99	Grants and other income	16,434.01	
1,509.02	Allotment Rental	1,701.20	
115.86	Interest received	284.34	
8754.71	VAT repaid	6,635.41	
97,309.58	TOTAL	98,234.96	
PAYMENTS			
35,563.27	Operational costs & staff	31,578.85	
24,856.89	Property and Premises	23,138.89	
18,350.40	Community support	28,119.58	
7,484.36	Loan repayments	7,484.36	
6,503.97	VAT input	8,180.50	
92,758.89	TOTAL	98,502.18	
Balance at 31 March 2019			
	Barclays Current Account	3,070.27	
	Unity Account	12,949.38	
	CCLA	45,000.00	61,019.65
	Deficit for the Year		267.22

Cllr N Burns
Chairman
Date: 24 April 2019

Mrs C Helm
Responsible Financial Officer
Date: 24 April 2019

Committees, Working Parties and Representatives

1. **Staffing Committee**
Cllr N Burns, Cllr S O'Brien and Cllr D Reavell (*Chairman*)
2. **Internal Financial Control Working Party**
Cllr N Burns (*Lead*), Cllr A Firth and Cllr D Reavell
3. **Christmas Market Working Party**
Cllr N Burns (*Lead*), Cllr C Procter, Cllr S O'Brien, Cllr J Marsh, Mrs C Frith, Mr B Finch, Mrs C Tindle, Mr I Pegrum, Mrs T Corbett, Mrs H McPhun
4. **Kimpton Bench Working Party**
Cllr N Burns, Cllr J Marsh, Mr B Finch (*Lead*), Mr D Stevens, Mr L Weeks, Mr B Malcolm, Mr J Murphy, Mr K Haynes, Mr J Pollington, Mr P Butcher, Mr P Desborough, Mrs C Beaumont, Mr D Pitcher, Mr A West, Mr T Newton, Mr H Eck, Mr M Saunders, Mr S Thompson, Mr A Davidson, Mr B Emms, Mr J Wade, Mr A Morton, Mr G Glen, Mr J Edwards, Mr J Cardy
5. **Kimpton Rights of Way Working Party**
Cllr L Hawke, Cllr C Procter, Mrs C Finch, Mr B Malcolm (*Lead*), Mr P Hale, Mr A Manning, Mr E Cornall, Mr T Goldsmith
6. **Sports Clubs Working Party**
Cllr I Corbett (*Lead*), Cllr C Procter, Cllr S O'Brien, Mr S Thompson, Mr W Phillips, Mr T Randall, Mr D Robbins
7. **Public Spaces and Playgrounds Working Party**
Cllr I Corbett, Cllr C Procter (*Lead*), Cllr J Marsh
8. **Allotment Working Party**
Cllr L Hawke (*Lead*), Mr B Finch, Mr A Morton, Mr P Desborough
9. **Highways and Parking Working Party**
Cllr N Burns, Cllr A Firth (*Lead*), Cllr L Hawke, Mr T Frith, Mrs J Worboys
10. **Battles Over Working Party**
Cllr I Corbett, Cllr S O'Brien, Mrs S Burns (*Lead*), Mr B Finch, Mrs D Bigg, Mrs K Hills
11. **Environmental Working Party**
Cllr I Corbett (*Lead*), Cllr N Burns, Cllr L Hawke, Mrs D Malcolm
12. **Planning Working Party**
Cllr N Burns, Cllr C Procter, Cllr A Firth
13. **Representatives to Kimpton Memorial Hall Administrative Committee**
Cllr J Marsh and Cllr A Firth
14. **Representative to Peter's Green Village Hall Management Committee**
Cllr A Firth
15. **Representative to Kimpton Primary School Governing Board**
Cllr D Reavell

Contact Details

Chairman	Cllr Neil Burns	chairman@kimptonpc.org.uk
Councillors	Ian Corbett, Alex Firth, Lewis Hawke, Carly Procter, Sue O'Brien, Jon Marsh, David Reavell	
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