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Annual Report 2022/23



Kimpton Parish Council Annual Report gives a review of the activities of the Council and the financial report for the year ending 31st March 2023

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Kimpton Parish Council Annual Statement

Your council

This year saw changes in Parish Councillors following the local elections in May 2022. Neil Burns, Ian Corbett and Ben Purple decided not to re-stand and I would like to thank them for their enthusiastic service and involvement with many aspects of council and community work. In addition, both Neil and Ian took on additional duties and completed terms as Chairman of Kimpton Parish Council. This includes the responsibility of chairing constructive debate on parish matters, with some topics evoking strong emotions and differing opinions.

We welcomed during the year Grahame Durrant, Nicky Jackman, Ian Pegrum, Sarah Amexheta and David Brockway who bring new skills and experiences to the council.

Last year, Ian Corbett mentioned that the council was looking to live broadcast meetings so residents can watch proceedings remotely, rather than needing to attend in person. Unfortunately, the cost for the technology to give a high-quality experience for those in the meeting room and for those attending remotely was prohibitively high. However, the council continues to warmly welcome any member of the public to attend our meetings in the Green Room at Kimpton Memorial Hall and we would encourage anyone who would like to, to do so.

The objectives of Kimpton Parish Council can be found within the Action Plan, updated in February <https://kimptonpc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Action-Plan-rev-Feb-2023.pdf>

Kimpton Christmas Market



Following on from Kimpton *walking* Christmas Market in 2021 we were able to return to a more traditional format for Saturday 3rd December 2022, 12noon to 4pm, but which still include several venues dotted around the village.

The Parish Church was the main location for our craft stalls offering a variety of handmade festive gifts with other stalls plus food and drink outlets located on The Green.

Childrens' activities and Santa's Grotto were hosted in Kimpton School. Live music from our talented local musicians entertained visitors to The Boot PH with more stalls located outside.

For the more active family members, and their dogs, walking or jogging up to the Hoo as a participant in Santa Fun Run gave an energetic start to the day. Festive hats were given to all participants and made for a great show.



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“Christmas Market Eve”

Residents were able to get into the festive spirit by joining in at the launch evening in the outdoor real ale bar on The Green on Friday 2nd December. There were Christmas Carols and other festive songs performed by members of Kimpton Village Choir with audience participation.

Our 2022 Kimpton Christmas Mug added to the collection of our unique mug designs, helped by being filled with mulled wine!

Hunger pangs were satisfied by Buster’s BBQ offering tender local meats in burgers and hot dogs.



Kimpton Parish Council approved that the £2,600 surplus from the market would be divided equally between Kimpton Primary School and Kimpton Pre School.

Our sincere thanks to everyone who helped in any way or visited one of the attractions.



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Christmas Lights

The Parish Council has enhanced our community festive lighting and throughout December the following areas were lit up:

- the front garden trees of Kimpton School,
- festoon lights in the trees at Coopers Hill and front garden trees of Kimpton School,
- twinkling fairy lights along Church Path,
- icicle lighting on Church Lane,
- mistletoe lights and floodlights in the trees on The Green, and new this year
- twinkling fairy lights on the path leading to the Parish Church.

Kimpton Bench Working Party

Our huge thanks go to members of the Bench Working Party who put up festive lights around the Parish, erected and dismantled marquees, moved tables and chairs, build a stage, assisted stall holders in setting up their tables and generally lent a hand to numerous tasks associated with Kimpton Christmas Market. It would not be possible to put on such a large community event without their support, under the leadership of Bob Finch.

Highways



Issues of traffic and parking have long been identified as of significant concern to the community. A 'Highways and Parking Working Party' has continued to work with County Cllr Richard Thake in the implementation of a proposal for a 20mph speed limit within Kimpton.

A consultation took place in December to January on the proposed 20mph area and locations of proposed speed cushions. Most residents are supportive of the reduced speed limit for the village with mixed support for the engineering traffic calming features.

We are aware that residents are still experiencing inconsiderate parking at road junctions along the High Street and Claggy Road. Representations have been made to Hertfordshire County Council to implement solutions to this problem and to the flooding that occurs after rainfall, particularly at Church Lane.

Recreation Ground Refurbishment Project

Kimpton Parish Council took over the responsibility for the building in June 2022. The pavilion was constructed in 2006 and is a purpose-built timber frame building, which structurally is in very good order, though underused due to its poor layout and lack of maintenance by the users.

The Parish Council held meetings with the present and potential users of the pavilion and identified some serious internal issues: no hot water, no heating, cooker not working, flood damage, showers not working and general deterioration of the internal décor. The council agreed to refurbish the building to make it more attractive to the users, maximise its community use and appeal, as well as make it easier and more efficient to manage and maintain.

The proposed works to the timber framed building include alterations to the existing layout, the construction of new partitions and doors, new window openings, replacement of the boiler, showers and other plumbing works, overhaul the electrics, vinyl flooring and redecoration.

Planning approval has been received for the moving of a window and the installation of patio doors on the east end of the pavilion. Design and specification have been thoroughly challenged to ensure that

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best value is achieved for the public funds. A competitive tender process has been undertaken, from which a contractor has been selected to carry out the works and who will be appointed when all funding has been secured with works expected to commence in summer 2023.

Upgraded sports, play and recreation facilities



Following a request from some residents last year the council installed some outdoor fitness equipment at the Recreation Ground, lower area.

We hope that adults of all ages and fitness levels can benefit from free access to this equipment.

Kimpton Cares



Kimpton Parish Council supports Kimpton Cares in the provision of an informal, easy to access self-service food supply available within the Church. The food table is for use by anyone who is in need. A bin is being organised at Budgens for the collection of any non-perishable items that can be used at the Food Table. Our thanks to Sanjay and Anita for their help with this community initiative. Further information is available on:

www.facebook.com/KimptonCares/

Community First Responders (CFRs)

At our Kimpton Parish Council meeting in January we heard from Bill Taylor, a volunteer with the Welwyn and Hatfield Community First Responders Group, talk about the work of the group and the essential first aid equipment that they carry. These trained volunteers attend certain types of emergency calls in the area where they live or work and aim to reach a potential life-threatening emergency in the first vital minutes before the ambulance crew arrives. Their role is to help stabilise the patient and provide the appropriate care until the more highly skilled ambulance crew arrives on scene to take over the treatment.

The Welwyn and Hatfield group includes our Parish within their area with volunteers living in various villages. It was pleasing to learn that a volunteer from Kimpton is starting training soon.

Kimpton Parish Council approved a grant of £1,500 towards providing equipment as the group would like to finance a set of equipment for each volunteer rather than sharing. Volunteers provide 24/7 cover and give their time for free with all equipment financed through external funding.

In addition, we were pleased that Bridge Cottage Surgery fulfilled our suggestion that the defibrillator, that was located at the Kimpton Surgery, be passed onto the First Responders Group.

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Allotments – Hall Lane Site



Residents are making use of the opportunity of having an allotment to help save money by providing cheap fresh fruit and vegetables that encourage a healthy diet. The site is looking better than ever with more produce being grown.

Having an allotment is a great way to exercise, make new friends and it gives children the opportunity to learn about how to grow their own.

Unfortunately, all allotment plots are currently taken so we are operating a waiting list.

If you would like to put your name down, please contact the Parish Clerk clerk@kimptonpc.org.uk

Dogs running loose on public land



Over the year, the Parish Council has received complaints from residents that they are seeing dogs not under control at the Recreation Ground and Parkfield Sports Ground.

Owners are exercising their dogs by throwing balls and allowing their dogs to damage new hedging plants in the chase of a ball. More dog fouling is being experienced in these grounds, particularly unacceptable in the children's play areas.

We continue to request that all dog owners keep their dogs on a lead in these public recreation areas.

District Council Ward Boundary Changes

The Local Government Boundary Commission has reviewed district wards in North Hertfordshire and implemented their recommendation that Kimpton joins Codicote as one ward with two district councillors. This will come into force at the next local council elections.

My thanks to all my fellow Councillors, alongside the many volunteer 'extras', for the input that they provide, and the work that they carry out around the Parish.

Finally, on behalf of all of my fellow Councillors and, I'm sure, all the members of the Parish I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Parish Clerk, Carina, who tirelessly works to make sure the Parish Council runs as smoothly as it does and without whom the Parish would not be the place we all enjoy today. Thanks, Carina!

Cllr Alex Firth
Chairman

Financial Report

Receipts

Receipts remain at a similar level with a small increase of 2.5% for the precept that has been enhanced by receipt of the Government Grant CTRS of £1,929.82, through approval by North Herts Council.

S106 monies were received in the year 2021/22 for the outdoor fitness equipment although the expenditure was made in June 2022.

Sports rents and allotment rents had a modest increase of around 5%.

Payments

Grants have been made to Kimpton School, Kimpton Pre-School, Community First Aid Responders, Kimpton Folk Festival, Kimpton Bowls Club in addition to the regular donations to Kimpton Horse Show, Kimpton British Legion and Kimpton Parish Magazine. Further payments were made to Kimpton School and Kimpton Pre-School from the KPC fund raising Kimpton Christmas Market.

The loan repayments relate to the Green Room improvements at Kimpton Memorial Hall which will come to an end in September 2023.

Following the recommendations in the Playground Inspection Reports the play bark at the Recreation Ground was increased and the basket swing replaced as it had become worn. Other maintenance costs of the public spaces and playgrounds were kept within the budget with thanks to the Bench Working Party in completing tasks.

As a local authority Kimpton Parish Council can reclaim VAT payments on items purchased for its non-business activities.

Audit

Parish Council finances are subject to accounts and audit compliance stipulated within The Local Audit and Audit Regulations 2015. The Council employs the Parish Clerk as its Responsible Financial Officer (Local Government Act 1972 s151) to carry out the day-to-day administration and to prepare the annual accounts for audit. The Council undertakes internal controls and regularly reviews these and an independent internal auditor verifies the Council's financial and management procedures and processes, which took place on 20th March. The annual accounts were approved at Kimpton Parish Council meeting held on 26th April and are available to view on www.kimptonpc.org.uk. The Annual Governance and Annual Return (AGAR) for year ended 31st March 2023 will be placed on notice boards and examined by the External Auditor, PCK Littlejohn in May. Details of how electors can inspect the accounts will be published on the website and on our notice boards.

Carina Helmn

Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

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Kimpton Parish Council Annual Accounts Year Ended 31st March 2023

2021/2022			BANK TOTALS £
	Balance at 1st April 2022		
	Unity Current Account	50,795.07	
	Barclays Account	856.21	
	CCLA	45,000.00	94,270.33
	RECEIPTS		
77,000.00	Precept	78,500.00	
0.00	Sports Rental	3,971.52	
19,210.74	Grants and other income	9,919.01	
2,667.68	Allotment Rental	2,129.47	
31.43	Interest received	838.78	
6,387.62	VAT repaid	8,538.03	
105,297.47	TOTAL	103,896.81	
	PAYMENTS		
32,858.00	Operational costs & staff	36,159.78	
28,900.42	Property and Premises	38,633.91	
20,708.34	Community support	17,747.58	
7,484.36	Loan repayments	7,484.36	
8,538.03	VAT input	8,649.43	
98,489.15	TOTAL	108,675.06	
	Balance at 31 March 2023		
	Unity Current Account	43,842.11	
	Barclays Account	649.98	
	CCLA	45,000.00	89,492.09
	Deficit for the Year		6,808.32

Cllr A Firth
Chairman
Date: 26 April 2023

Mrs C Helmn
Responsible Financial Officer
Date: 26 April 2023

Committees, Working Parties and Representatives

1. Staffing Committee

Cllr S O'Brien, Cllr J Marsh and Cllr D Reavell (*Chairman*)

2. Internal Financial Control Working Party

Cllr G Durrant, Cllr A Firth and Cllr D Reavell

3. Christmas Market Working Party

Cllr D Reavell, Cllr J Marsh, Mr B Finch, Mrs T Corbett, Mrs H Kirk, Mrs G Curry, Mr A Lawrence

4. Kimpton Bench Working Party

Cllr G Durrant and Cllr J Marsh (Council reporting). Approximately 25 members

5. Kimpton Rights of Way Working Party

Cllr C Procter, Mrs C Finch, Mrs J Worboys (Chairman), Mr A Manning, A Burton (HCC Rights of Way Officer), Mrs S Wilson

6. Sports Clubs Working Party

VACANT (Lead), Cllr C Procter and Cllr S O'Brien, Mr D Robbins (Tennis), Mr S Thompson (Cricket), Mr W Phillips (Bowls), Mr T Randall/ Mr M Frost (Rugby) Mr C Burniston (Kimpton FC), Mr A Grey (Wheathampstead Wanderers)

7. Public Spaces and Playgrounds Working Party

Cllr C Procter, Cllr J Marsh (Lead), Mr B Finch, Mr I Corbett

8. Allotment Working Party

Cllr G Durrant, Mr Neil Page, Mrs Catherine Page, Mr Gary Ewington, Mrs Christine Lawrence, Mrs Lorraine Grey

9. Highways and Parking Working Party

Cllr A Firth (Lead), Cllr D Reavell, Mr T Frith, Mrs J Worboys, Mr M Henderson and Mr T Smith. County Cllr R Thake to attend as appropriate.

10. Environmental Working Party

Cllr G Durrant, Cllr J Marsh, Ian Corbett (Lead), Ben Purple, Davina Malcolm, Robin Riley

11. Planning Working Party

Cllr C Procter, Cllr D Reavell

12. Representatives to Kimpton Memorial Hall Administrative Committee

Cllr J Marsh

13. Peter's Green Village Hall CIO

Trustees: Cllr A Firth

14. Representative to Kimpton Primary School Governing Board

TBA

Contact Details

Chairman	Cllr Alex Firth	chairman@kimptonpc.org.uk
Councillors	Grahame Durrant, Alex Firth, Nicky Jackman, Carly Procter, Sue O'Brien, Jon Marsh, Ian Pegrum, David Reavell	
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