

Annual Parish Meeting for the Parish of Great & Little Kimble, including the hamlets of Marsh, Kimblewick, & Clanking

**Wednesday 19th May 2010 at 8pm
Kimble Stewart Hall**

Chairmans Report

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Welcome

Firstly I would like to welcome you all to this Annual Parish Meeting and making the time to attend this evening.

I would like to remind everyone that this is not a Parish Council Meeting !

This is the Annual Parish Meeting held by & for the Parishioners of Great & Little Kimble cum Marsh Parish.

I would particularly like to welcome our Guests, District Councillor Pam Priestley and County Councillor Paul Rogerson who represent our Parish in the WDC & BCC and who work tirelessly on behalf of the Parish.

Our guests from WDC tonight include Jerry Unsworth Head of Planning & Sustainability and, Jean Teesdale Cabinet member for Planning & Sustainability unfortunately, Alastair Nicholson cannot be with us this evening.

But to open the meeting I would like to briefly resumee the activities of the Parish Council over the past 12 months.

Affordable Housing

It was hoped that by this time we would be well on the way to developing a limited number of new & affordable houses for local residents and families with connections in the Parish.

Unfortunately, Hastoe Housing Trust who we commissioned to help locate & develop an identified parcel of land could not proceed with the scheme approved by the Parish Council and, then presented an unacceptable alternative. Parish Council decided to stop dealings with Hastoe and look at alternative specialist developers who could proceed with the original plan.

This is now ongoing and it is hoped a new scheme can be approved by the Parish Council soon.

Planning

Planning continues to be a major contributor to Parish Council work load.

Many planning applications from, new builds to total refurbishment of existing buildings, extensions, to demolitions all have been considered by the Parish Council and WDC judged against existing planning rules and Policies.

Non more so than Planning Applications from Gypsies & Travellers wishing to put down roots in our Parish.

In 2009 more land was taken over by Gypsies who then submitted Planning applications to develop the land into Housing estates.

WDC have agreed to these applications based they say on guidelines set down by Central Government and the special housing needs of Gypsies & Travellers.

G&LKcM Parish Council have strongly objected to these applications and will continue to do so.

War Memorial

Refurbishment of the War Memorial was completed in time for the remembrance service in November, the consensus of opinion is that of approval although there are some reservations. Final wording for the Back Wall Plaque is now agreed and the stone has been ordered and will be installed shortly.

Great & Little Kimble C of E School

A new extension to the school has been completed and has improved the facilities at the school for the children who now have, a new classroom, refurbished toilets and new entrance hall, the staff too have a new staff room and Mrs Harrington the Head Teacher has a New office. There are also new raised garden beds that the children designed and will grow plants & vegetables.

G&LK PC were able to secure funding from the BCC for New Flashing Amber warning

lights and signs that will help protect the children & Parents when arriving and leaving the school.

Further safety measures have been budgeted for over the next two years.

Kimble Stewart Hall

There is a great deal of concern from the Managing Committee regarding the condition of the Hall. It has been agreed that to bring the building up to an acceptable standard it will require a great deal of work and additional funding. This has become an urgent priority ! Parish Council has agreed to look into how this can be achieved but, to also investigate if it would be a better use of funds to seek to build a new facility.

Parish Officers

I would like to extend a warm welcome to our New Parish Councillor Martin Saunders, Martin is a local builder, born and bred in the Parish with children attending the local school. I am sure he will make a valuable contribution to the Parish Council.

Web Site

We can finally announce that the New G&LkcM Parish Council web site is now accessible, after much work and unforeseen delay's I would like to thank Cllr David Williams for his hard work to make this happen.

Conclusion

Overall the past year has been relatively successful in so far as we have achieved to complete several major local projects and have secured funding for more , we have helped the school, the War Veterans and the Village Hall, the Childrens Christmas Party & Carole singing was a great success and we have put pressure on our councils to help improve the infrastructure.

However new challenges are around the corner and our rural Parish and way of life is constantly under threat.

We have appointed an HS2 Co-Ordinator that will help collate the copius amounts of information that is being generated on this, and it is planned to publish regular updates to keep Parishiners informed, To this end we have arranged a meeting on the 28th May (Next Friday) to be attended by RT Hon John Bercow our new MP who will outline how it will affect our Parish and to answer your questions.

We must not be adverse to change but must also be ready to fight for our Parish and the people who live there, their dreams and aspirations and their right to live the peaceful rural life they have chosen.

Terry Mackintosh
Chairman