

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

**Wednesday 8th May 2013 at 8pm
Kimble Stewart Hall**

Chairman's Report

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1. Welcome

Good Evening Everyone.

First, I would like to Welcome you all to this Annual Parish Meeting and thank you for taking the time to attend. We would also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that this is not a Parish Council Meeting!

The subtle but important difference is that this is the Annual Parish Meeting held by and for the Parishioners of Great & Little Kimble cum Marsh Parish, the Parish Council merely facilitate it.

We have continued to strive to help make our parish “**Greener, Cleaner and Safer**” area for us all to enjoy living in.

2. Affordable Housing

After over seven years of effort we had a major push forward on Affordable Housing

We are delighted that Work has now started on the Affordable housing development, with the Developers hoping to have the 9 homes completed by November this year. The Parish Council, after receiving a wide range of suggestions, has chosen either “Meadow View” or the name ‘Redding Court’ in recognition of Gerald Redding’s persistence in getting this project to happen not to mention all the other things he and his family do within the Parish. The final decision rests with Hastoe Housing Trust and The Post Office, but we feel their choice of Redding Court too means this would be a worthy workable name with a local connection.

3. Kimble Stewart Hall

The ongoing refurbishment of our Village Hall is something the Parish Council is keen to be a part of. This year has seen the major re-cladding of the outside of the hall, which was great timing considering we have just had the coldest winter since 1960.

I think you'll agree it has really added to the external aesthetics of the hall, along with the new windows. This all adds up to a more efficient and environmentally sound building. The latest project to be completed was the refurbishment of the Gents Toilets; these were highlighted as area in need of most attention by a hirers survey commissioned by the Hall Committee.

We have worked well with the Hall Committee over the past few years and The Council would like to thank this unpaid group of volunteers for all they have achieved for this important community asset recently.

4. Bus Shelters

The Parish Council contracted a local company, Sharp Fencing Ltd, to build and install the 3 shelters in the village and were very pleased with the way they look. Sadly 2 shelters have been vandalised which is disappointing, the Local Police are aware.

But we are all undaunted by the actions of a mindless few anti-social individuals. And in the interests of those who do value these shelters and to encourage the use of public transport there are plans for 2 more shelters in Little Kimble near the Indian Restaurant.

5. Speeding

A major concern in all surveys of the priorities of our electorate is speed of traffic. Parish Councillors have taken part in Community Speedwatch campaigns which involved the use of equipment from BCC to record registration numbers and makes of cars which are then submitted to TVP to enable letters to be sent to offending motorists to remind them of the speed limit. The campaign against the ever smaller minority of dangerous, selfish, motorists who have little regard for others or the rural environment will continue.

We joined forces with Ellesborough Parish Council and held a Childrens Safety Poster competition, judged by Sir Jackie Stewart. You will have noticed the winning entries around both parishes.

6. HS2

We continue our campaign against the flawed and environmentally destructive HS2 project. The business case has increasingly been proved to be exceedingly weak, the damage to the AONB and countryside immense, with not a single station in Bucks; the money is better spent on introducing High Speed Broadband - putting rural areas in touch with every citizen of the world in the 21st Century;

We have made it clear to Bucks County Council, that although the proposed line just skirts around our Parish, we expect to be consulted on proposals – such as those mooted by Stoke Mandeville Parish Council to close roads and alter access in a way that affects our residents. We held a meeting with Bucks CC and SMPC to understand their plans, clear the air, and ensure we are consulted in future.

7. Parish Officers

Thank to a united, dynamic and far seeing (visionary) Council and Clerk for all their time and effort – and often unseen hours of work - to deliver a "Cleaner, Greener and Safer" parish that we are all proud to live in.

It has been an absolute pleasure to serve on such a harmonious and dynamic council, who have had a great appetite over the past 4 years to “get things done” and make a positive difference to the area.

In September we welcomed back Gerald Redding as a Councillor, his local knowledge is invaluable.

All this is achieved with tight financial management ahead of budget, allowing a consistent level of support from the taxpayer whom we always appreciate provide the funds, and a modest decline in the precept (the name for our part of the council tax) this year;

8. Website - www.kimblecouncil.org

The website is updated regularly and has a host of information on it, it is especially useful for viewing current planning applications. There is a newsfeed which has useful information from our local authorities plus information added by the Clerk for local events. If there are any events you wish to publicise in this way please contact the Clerk.

9. Looking Forward

We currently have a photographic competition running; we are looking for pictures of the parish to add interest and further local variety to our website, the closing date is end of June and all the details can be found on our website and the parish noticeboards.

Please stay and share some refreshments with us, we look forward to talking to you.