

# Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Great and Little Kimble cum Marsh held on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015 at Kimble Stewart Hall at 8pm

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## Present

**Cllrs:** John Austin, Donna Johnson, David Williams, Delia Burton, Alun Jones, James Good, Gerald Redding  
**Clerk and RFO:** Julie Bunker (**note taker**)  
And 5 members of the public

### 1. Welcome by the Chairman

The Chairman, Councillor John Austin welcomed everyone to the meeting

### 2. Chairman's Annual Report

Each attendee at the meeting had a copy of the Parish Council Report Annual report and the Chairman read salient points from it and also took questions from individuals.

Content:

1. Welcome
2. Elections & Parish Officers
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11. Council Meetings

### 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. Elections & Your Parish Officers

As hopefully you were all aware your Parish Council elections, due every 5 years, coincided with the General Election last week. I am glad to say that all my fellow Councillors put themselves forward and as the number of nominations did not exceed the number of vacancies we were all duly re-elected and look forward to being your representatives for this term.

I am sure that we will continue to work as well as a team as we have for the last many years; for that I thank my fellow Councillors for their most positive support. Although we are not always in full agreement a pragmatic approach from all makes for a smooth functional committee.

Any such committee cannot function at all without support, and that this Council runs so smoothly and efficiently is down in no small measure to our Clerk, Julie Bunker; Julie many thanks from us all.

### **3. Planning Applications**

One of the regular tasks that the council does is to review all new Planning Applications submitted to WDC. This is a time consuming work, and my thanks to three councillors that form our Planning Sub Committee who make the initial impact assessments and recommend our response back to WDC, noting that this Council has no power in this regard but can only make comment.

In considering a response to a Planning Application we do take cognisance of any inputs from you the parishioners and neighbours, so if you have a concern or a view on any application please present it to us in good time to be considered.

### **4. EW Rail & HS2**

EW Rail's plans for any possible increased capacity on the line between Aylesbury & Princess Risborough remain undefined, and the PC will continue to monitor the project.

Council remain firmly of the view that the HS2 project is wrong; not just for our community and local area, but the country as a whole. Although it hardly gets a mention in any of the correspondence we receive, we believe it would have a significant impact on us all, especially when it starts to carve its way straight through our district. Therefore we have continued wherever possible to voice our concerns.

### **5. Kimble Stewart Hall**

The KSH is a keystone facility for our community and on behalf of the Parish as whole I thank the KSH committee for its continued good work in managing it.

As you'd expect the Parish Council remains strongly committed to supporting the upkeep and improvements of the hall and note the refurbished floor which greatly improves the look and feel of the it.

### **6. Road Safety**

Road Safety and speeding continue to be one of the major concerns of us all. With this in mind the Council has recently acquired a number of speed awareness signs, which indicate when a vehicle is exceeding the speed limit. These will be placed around our Parish in an attempt to make drivers more mindful of these speed limits.

### **7. Cleaner Village**

We have held more Litter Picking Days in the last year, where we have invited Parishioners to assemble at various locations to donate an hour or so of their time to making our village cleaner. These have not been as successful as we would have liked so we would urge everyone to consider volunteering a few hours once or twice a year to assist in keeping our Village cleaner.

### **8. The Bernard Arms PH**

As you can all see the state of the Bernard Arms continues to deteriorate and is now an eyesore and a blot on our landscape. There were no expressions of interest, as far as we are aware, to purchasing the property as a Public House and Planning Application to build on it was submitted to WDC last August. This is for 1 detached 4 bed house and 2 x 3 bed semi-detached dwellings. This is still pending a decision and details can be found on the [WDC website](#).

### **9. Community Events**

The PC has continued its support to a number of local events that were considered of benefit to the community as a whole. These have included: Little Kimble School Fayre, Princess Risborough Community Bus, Carol Singing, and Children's Christmas Party.

### **10. Website - [www.kimblecouncil.org](http://www.kimblecouncil.org)**

I commend all parishioners to visit the website regularly to see the regular updates and news plus a host of useful information. 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.

## **11. Council Meetings**

We convene monthly on the 2nd Wednesday of the month @ 7:30pm in the Committee room at the rear of the KSH. These meetings are open to the public and you are all welcome to come and raise issues for our consideration at them as well as listen to our deliberations.

## **3. Report from the Chairman of Kimble Stewart Hall Committee – Sue Howgate**

Mrs Sue Howgate gave a report on the Kimble Stewart Hall Charity and took questions from the assembled.

### **The Stewart Hall Annual Report 2015**

for Great and Little Kimble cum Marsh Annual Meeting 13th May 2015

#### **What happens in the hall?**

Pilates, Art Lessons, Whist, Horticultural Society, Dog Training, Women's Institute, Parish Meetings, Sewing Classes, Masons' Societies, Karate, Church and School Events, Private Celebrations, Local Elections, Badminton. The hall has also been used by Working Title, the film company, as an operations site for local filming.

Bucks Open Studios is using the hall for the sixth year running as part of the Bucks wide two-week long exhibitions in June. We now also have a spin off of Bucks Art with a November weekend arts and craft sale/exhibition. The compliments from hirers about the hall appear to be on the increase.

A small number of parents of Great Kimble C of E School continue to use the car park to facilitate walking along the footpath and across the fields to the school in order to relieve traffic congestion in Church Lane. The Women's institute also use the car park facility for their occasional trips out.

Most hirers are responsible but we need to monitor the condition of the hall with daily checks and to perform such necessary tasks as putting the dustbin out etc. The committee do this on a rota basis. The committee is grateful to Gerald Redding who sets the heating timer for all the various events, ensuring economical use of heating.

**The cleaning of the hall** continues to be satisfactory; cleaning is often restricted by occupation of the hall.

#### **Improvements**

##### **Heating**

We have had thermostatic valves fitted to the main hall radiators and the thermostat adjusted to work with these. We intend to do the same for the committee room in time for next winter. The new thermostat permits many variations. Together with the recently fitted thermostatic valves we are continuing to be more responsive to hirer's heating needs..

##### **Soffits and Guttering**

Replacement of the soffits, guttering, fascias, including front top roof fascias and window, took place last June. The flat roof at the rear of the building was also in need of repair. The Committee is grateful for the financial support from the Parish Council for these costs.

##### **Tables**

The smaller square tables have been being replaced with similar sized folding tables. The whist tables have been renovated. Terry Kaye kindly carried out this task at cost, thus saving a significant sum of money. Now all we have to do is to make sure they are only used for whist, as other usage often results in damage.

##### **Floor**

The floor speaks for itself, there have been many compliments. It makes cleaning much easier as well as looking impressive. It is an on going challenge to cultivate a culture of care of the floor by hirers, the temptation to drag rather than lift furniture etc is often irresistible. We are grateful to the hirers whose plans were affected whilst the hall was closed for this refurbishment (7 days), especially the Women's Institute who rearranged their speaker to fit in with availability.

### **Baby Changing**

Baby changing facilities are now in situ, sited in the disabled toilet.

### **Loft Ladder**

We have purchased a telescopic loft ladder for use in the hall. This replaces the wooden ladder giving a more flexible and portable approach to the lofts of the hall.

### **Future plans**

We are currently receiving quotes for kitchen refurbishment to include new cooking facilities and drinks hot water facilities.

### **Village Events/Fund Raising**

Past Events organised by the Committee include:

**Theatre in the Villages** was thoroughly enjoyed by the many people who came. This was sponsored by Wycombe District Council who take a percentage of the ticket sales. This year there is no financial support from Wycombe District Council but the committee considers this event a valuable community event and have agreed to fund it.

**Race Night** in November 2014 was a brilliant success and great fun, proving to be both enjoyable and an excellent fundraiser

We are also grateful for the donations from the Whist Group towards the upkeep of the hall

### **Events in 2015 to include:**

Theatre in the Villages TBA; Race Night in November

### **Stewart Hall Committee**

Jan Austin (treasurer), Julie Bunker (secretary), Delia Burton, Sue Howgate (chair), Richard Needle, Gerald Redding, Peter Parsons (representing hirers) and John Simmons  
Booking Secretary: Amanda Robinson  
Cleaner: Doreen Tietjen

**It is important to stress that the management of the hall would not be achieved without the team of volunteers who form the committee, the responsible approach of our cleaner, the diligence and care for hirers of our booking secretary and importantly the valuable support of the Parish Council and the reliable and supportive local trades people.**

### **Open Forum**

General discussion followed regarding East-West Rail, HS2, the poor state of the carriageways in the area and the erosion of the grass verges by HGV.

**Councillor John Austin (Chairman)**

10<sup>th</sup> June 2015

**Julie Bunker (Parish Clerk)**

10<sup>th</sup> June 2015