

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Great and Little Kimble cum Marsh held on Wednesday 11th May 2016 at Kimble Stewart Hall at 8pm

Present

CLIs: John Austin, Delia Burton, Alun Jones, James Good, Gerald Redding, James Cripps, Cllr David Carroll

Clerk and RFO: Julie Bunker (note taker)

4 members of the public

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Chairman's Report 2015/16

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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.

2. Your Parish Officers

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Donna Johnson for her steady support over a number of years; she has stood down since our last gathering in line with her families plan to move away from

the area. Subsequently we advertised for a replacement and I am pleased that we have co-opted James Cripps to our band, Welcome James.

At our council meeting in the earlier this evening we have elected our council officers for the forthcoming year and these will be recorded in the minutes of that meeting, but I can announce them here.

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.

Over the last year we have also been in dialogue with Risborough Town Council in regards to their *Town Plan* which is available from their offices and website. This plan covers the requirement placed upon them and as part of this is a proposal to re-route the main A4010 so that it does not pass through the town centre. This would have a very significant impact on Great & Little Kimble as the main road would in effect travel along what is now the B4009 past the Swan PH.

We regret that there has been no progress in regards to the Bernard Arms which has been a blot on our landscape for a number of years now. The Planning Application to build 1 detached 4 bed house and 2 x 3 bed semi-detached dwellings remains pending a decision by WDC, details can be found on the [WDC website](#).

As you will be well aware our Parish has within its boundaries a number of G&T sites and whilst these sites in themselves have been approved through the local planning system it is your council's assertion that we have over and above our fair proportion, to the extent that our population demographics have been skewed. With that in mind we continue to contest any new sites and further development of those already in place.

4. HS2 and East West Rail

HS2

We have continued to lobby the Government for mitigation agreements and compensation for affected part of the Parish and have submitted petitions on behalf of the Parish. Although this project does not seem to stir the passions of you our constituents your council remains very concerned that it will blight our lives for many years.

EW Rail

We have consulted with the Parish and sent robust comments in response to the Consultations. The consultation was poorly managed with many people being given the wrong information or information was missing in consultation packs.

There has been much rumour and changes in plans for this project and currently EW Rail have informed us that, as part of the current East West Rail phase 2 project (EWR2), no work other than platform lengthening at stations and Marsh Lane level crossing will take place, but there are still plans to replace the crossing that the School use with a bridge.

5. Road Safety

One of the major concerns that is continually raised to us is that of road safety and in particular speeding. As well as being in regular dialogue with Transport for Bucks (TfB) on this issue the council have this year purchased a Mobile Movable Vehicle Activated Sign (MVAS) with the requisite fixings with the intent that this will be used around the parish, relocated regularly to remind motorists when they are speeding of the speed limit. In addition, we have acquired wheelie-bin speed signs which residents are now displaying on their bins at the road side.

If you would like to volunteer to assist in the use of the MVAS or have not got, or want extra wheelie-bin speed signs please contact the Clerk

6. Playground

Phase one of the playground has been completed. Due to issues with the contractor with this phase we have successfully negotiated compensation in the form of matting for the goalmouth and 2 benches. The order for Phase 2 has just been issued.

7. Great Kimble School Traffic and Parking

The Council have been in discussions with the Great Kimble School as they look for a solution in regards to the traffic congestion during drop-off and pick-up times. They are looking at a number of options including: a possible layby, temporary one-way system and improved signage. As part of this consultation the council undertook a simple survey of the residents of Church street and will also be engaging with Ellenborough Parish Council, noting that only a minority of the children being dropped off are from within our Parish. We will continue to work with the School.

8. Bus Shelters

As you will be aware in recent years we have used funds to prove and maintain a small number of Bus Shelters. It is with regret that I report that these remain subject to regular vandalism, the repair of which diverts funds from other possible projects. We would ask that anyone witnessing such behaviour to be the responsible citizen and report it to the police.

9. Kimble Stewart Hall

The KSH remains 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, and welcome their report to this meeting.

The Parish Council have again supported the KSH committee with its improvement and maintenance plans over the last year, with contributions towards improved disabled access and the brand new kitchen.

10. Council Meetings & Information

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.

For more information, please visit the website which has 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.

Finally, I must thank Julie Bunker our Clerk without her hard work and attention to detail we would find it extremely hard to operate.

3. Report from the Kimble Stewart Hall Committee

Mr Richard Needle presented the report on behalf of the Committee

The Stewart Hall Annual Report to the Parish Council May 2016

What happens in the hall?

Pilates, Art Lessons, Whist, Horticultural Society, Dog Training, Women's Institute, Parish Meetings, Masons' Societies, Karate, Church and School Events, Private Celebrations, Local Elections, Badminton. We also were a venue for a wedding reception. A new venture starting this June is music lessons.

Bucks Open Studios is using the hall for the seventh 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/December 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. Indeed we have experienced a reduction in heating and lighting costs as a consequence of Gerald's careful approach and more refined controls.

Bookings appear to be on the increase, particularly regular hirings, and often we have to disappoint people. We receive many compliments about the hall. Amanda Robinson does a brilliant job managing enquiries and being the public face of the hall.

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

Finances

Our finances remain healthy. Thanks go to Jan Austin, our treasurer, for the management of the monies. Sadly, our auditor of many years, Ray Jones, is no longer able to continue with auditing.

Improvements

Lighting

New florescent lighting has been installed. Most people have been very pleased with the result. However, it is interesting to note that one art group thinks lighting is less effective but the other art group considers it a significant improvement! A perfect example of how the hall Management Committee can't please all of the hirer all of the time.

Kitchen (*still some equipment to be installed*)

A significant achievement by the committee and the trades people who worked on the kitchen. Fortunately, we were able to engage trades people who would work around Christmas and so few hirings were affected. Once again the WI kindly moved their monthly meeting to accommodate work. Costs were within the margin we allowed for despite, as was to be expected, that 'little problems' had to be attended to. We have been fortunate to receive donations from three of our regular hirers to assist with the costs. Thanks must go to Delia Burton who masterminded the refurbishment, John Simmons who stepped in when unexpectedly the walls had to be re-plastered and to the rest of the committee who manage a variety of associated tasks including cleaning.

Village Events/Fund Raising

Theatre in the Villages was thoroughly enjoyed by the many people who came. This is no longer financially sponsored by Wycombe District Council, who still take a percentage of the ticket sales. Our decision to continue with the event was vindicated by its popularity and the committee considers this event a valuable community event will continue to hold the event. 10th September 2016 is the date for this year's performance.

Race Night in November 2015 was a brilliant success and great fun, proving to be both enjoyable and an excellent fundraiser. This coming November we will hold a Casino Night.

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

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 successful management of the hall would not be achieved without the team of volunteers on the committee assuming responsibility for such roles as treasurer and secretary and carrying out a multitude of small housekeeping tasks, all the time devoting much time to creating a valuable community facility; 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.

*Sue Howgate May 2016
Chair, Stewart Hall Committee*

4. Forthcoming Projects

Phase Two of the Playground refurbishment will commence on June 13th 2016.

5. Open Forum

EW Rail Project

Discussion around the update below were held, the Parish Council will be writing to EW Rail and BCC to ask that the safeguarding buffer be removed from the land searches maps.

Update from EW Rail

East West Rail Western Section

The work has been broken down into two separate phases.

Phase 1

Work between the new Oxford Parkway station and Bicester Village has been completed and services began operating on 26th October 2015. Work between Oxford and Oxford Parkway is due for completion by December 2016 with services commencing shortly afterwards.

Phase 2

The East West Rail Western Section Phase 2 (EWR2) project involves the upgrade and reconstruction of existing and mothballed sections of line linking Bedford-Bicester and Milton Keynes-Princes Risborough.

This will allow passenger and freight services to run between Bedford and Bicester and between Milton Keynes and London via Aylesbury.

Consultation

Consultation on EWR2 was carried out in September/October 2015 and our original plans involved substantial work to allow an increased line speed of 80mph along the Princes Risborough – Aylesbury line. However, further development of timetable modelling has concluded that the line speed improvements are not now required to achieve the planned service pattern of one hourly passenger train (in each direction) and capacity for freight trains. As a result of this it is no longer proposed to increase the line speed along the route and therefore the associated construction work is no longer required.

EWR2’s likely scope of work involves extending the platforms at Little Kimble, Monks Risborough and Princes Risborough to allow longer four car trains to operate and the EWR2 project will continue to develop options for the closure of Marsh Lane level crossing. We are also working closely with HS2 to, as best practicable, integrate the projects where they overlap.

Longer Term Plan

Network Rail’s Long Term Planning would be to deliver further capacity improvements along the line, which could require full double tracking. The line could also be a candidate for electrification. These plans will be included in Network Rail’s Route Study document to be published May 2016 and will be subject to government and industry consultation. Planning for this would not be envisaged before the mid 2020’s.

Network Rail still has a desire to close and replace the crossing that Great and Little Kimble primary school use to access their outdoor classroom, with a footbridge.

Parish Council and the wider Community

The Parish Council was asked to try and raise more awareness of the role of the Parish Council and to encourage more people to become involved. It was explained that we use noticeboards, website, newsletter and sometimes flyers within the newsletter for very important events such as elections. The PC have a limited budget for large advertising campaigns and find that people only contact them when an issue is directly affecting them, not necessarily the whole Parish. The Parish Council are always open to suggestions on how to raise awareness and encourage folk to get involved.

Signed.....
Chairman

8th June 2016