

**MINUTES OF THE KINVER ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD AT THE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES ON WEDNESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: JK Hall (Chairman), G.Sisley, S.Anderson, Mrs C Allen (Vice Chairman), D.Light, H.Williams,

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Miss J Cree – Clerk, Mrs M Fullwood Assistant to Clerk.

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT:** Dr R Painter, Mrs B Owen, D McGirr, Mrs Wiseman, D.Hough, Mr and Mrs Darby, M Griffirths.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies of absence were received from Cllrs P Wooddisse, K Slade, Miss V Webb and Ms E Lord, Kinver Colts, Kinver Horticulture Society, Kinver Anglo & American Society, Kinver Edge and the Rock Houses (National Trust), Kinver Edge Committee.

Mick Grove / John Sharkey - Kinver Edge Committee

**2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

It was proposed by Cllr D Light and seconded by Mrs C Allen that the minutes were accepted as a true record of the proceedings this was agreed unanimously.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES OF 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

There were no matters arising from those minutes.

**4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - This Report covers the year March 2020/July 2021.**

The Chairman reported, that at the July meeting last year, and this year is still challenging and we want to get back to normal. The Parish have started a market with the support of SSDC and members of the Council. 12 – 16 stalls per market. The November market was challenging due to a storm! First one happened Saturday, but despite a partial road closure this did not affect too much the people coming to the market.

The Christmas light switch on, worked well and with help from SCC we had the partial road closure.

Consolidated the EV points on the public car park, Cllr Ms E Lord did a tremendous amount of work on this project.

Due to health and safety we have had problems with reopening public toilets, we have now come up with a new system and these are now open, alternately so they are clean each time they are open and is working well. Thank you to Stripe a Pose and the Deli for opening the High Street toilets.

On Church Hill, this is difficult for pedestrians to navigate, but several councillors have worked on getting the Holloway lit so people can walk safely away the road. A new solar light, and an electric light are being fitted to improve the area.

The Chairman thanked the office staff and the Technicians for all their work during Covid.

## **5 PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Prior to each Committee Chairman presenting his/her report, the Chairman of the Council explained that following each such presentation there would be a period for members of the public present to seek clarification on any points covered by the presentation.**

### **5.1 CLLR HENRY WILLIAMS, CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE THEN PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING REPORT AS TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THAT COMMITTEE**

Councillor H Williams reported that, he did not submit a full written report, if members are interested in the plans, they can view the plans on the SSDC web site, and the Parish minutes are posted after the meetings.

He thanked the Councillors for their support since May during his chairmanship.

### **5.2 CLLR MR STEVE ANDERSON, OUTGOING CHAIRMAN OF THE LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE, THEN PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING REPORT AS TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THAT COMMITTEE 2021/2022.**

Firstly, I wish to thank Paul Wooddisse who stood down as chair of this committee last year.

Inevitably the impacts of Covid have had curtailed much of the usual business of the committee, despite this the committee is able to report several significant achievements.

Working in collaboration with the Kinver Eco Collective and the National Trust a new waymarked walking route has been established, connecting the High Street, Kinver Edge, and the Holy Austin rock houses. This is an important part of the committees strategy to increase visitor footfall on the High Street and better use of public transport options to potential visitors to the village.

Enormous thanks are due to Cllr Sisley for his efforts in breathing new life back into one of our often-forgotten local legends – the Giants Well. Thanks to his efforts the well once again dispenses fresh, clean, drinking water.

Further collaboration, and the efforts of Cllr Harris, has resulted in a move from the routine planting of spring flowering bulbs to a drive towards improving the wildlife value of many of the grass verges in the parish. This is part of a longer-term drive to reduce the necessity for mowing and improve the biodiversity of public open spaces.

Public rights of way remain a standing item for the committee and thanks go to the Parish Council technicians for their routine maintenance and prompt attention to reports of blockages or missing way markers.

Probably the greatest single achievement managed through the committee, has been the establishment of a monthly market centred on the High Street. The initial proposal for a market was born out of a High Street recovery fund grant administered

through the District Council. Working in collaboration with the High Street traders the market has become firmly established in the village calendar.

Cllr Steve Anderson  
Chairman Leisure and Amenities Committee, Kinver Parish Council

### **5.3 CLLR MR PAUL WOODDISSE, OUTGOING CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE, THEN PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING REPORT AS TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THAT COMMITTEE 2021/2022**

Firstly, I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor Chairman Cllr Dudley Light for his 24 years' service on this committee, 22 years of which were as Chairman. He has kept a close eye on our finances and maintained the precept with South Staffordshire council at constant level for several years.

Our precept for this current year (2021/22) was lower by £10,000 from earlier years at £134,709 to reduce the amount paid by our tax payers during Covid and to utilise some of the reserves that had been building up.

However, we have increased our precept for 2022/23 to return to the normal level and increased by 5% as we had not increased it for inflation reasons for many years.

A new electric van has been ordered to replace the current 7 year old leased vehicle. This has been funded partly from reserves and partly from a Public Works and Loan Board Loan. Cllr Geoff Sisley researched the available options and compared diesel, petrol and electric and we accepted his advice and opted for an electric van to be delivered later this year.

The normal income and expenditure during 2021/22 have been very much in line with budget and we are heading for a modest surplus over budget at year end.

Meetings during the last year have been much easier than the previous year as Covid restrictions were steadily eased.

## **6 REPORTS FROM PARISH ORGANISATIONS**

### **6. Kinver Neighbourhood Plan**

Just to give you a brief update on the project to date.

The Parish Council decided to create Kinver's Neighbourhood Development Plan to give local people more influence over future planning decisions. Neighbourhood Plans can help decide what housing is built and where. They can help to protect our landscape and heritage. And they can set out what changes we should aim for, as opportunity or funding arise. Most of all, it should represent what local people see as the way forward for the next few years. The Plan is being developed by a Steering Group which includes Kinver residents and Parish Councillors (we are always happy to have more volunteers!).

We started working on the Plan in October 2020, and the process is likely to take 2-3 years. Developing the Plan depends on local ideas, views and input to get it right. What needs to happen as we face the next decade? What do we want to keep, and what needs to evolve?

Formal consultation is built into the process, the first consultation on the issues and options for Kinver's Plan took place in June 21.

Since then, we have been crunching data, preparing the policies and the first draft of the Neighbourhood Plan, which using the evidence we have gathered is needed to underpin the plan and policies.

We will shortly be sharing the draft plan and policies with the public to ask for feedback and comments, this will be publicised through social media and our website.

If your organisation feels it would like to be involved, can add anything to the plan or needs further information please do get in touch and check out our website at [www.kinvernplan.com](http://www.kinvernplan.com).



## 6. **ANGLO AMERICAN ASSOCIATION/ SISTER CITIES PROGRAMME**

Anglo American Association/ Sister Cities Programme Report to Parish Council.

Because of the pandemic and the restrictions in travel both here and in the U.S. we have no plans for any visits this year. We do hope that with the Covid situation improving we will once again commence our wonderful exchange visits in the not too distant future.

Anyone visiting the Chicago area on holiday who would like to visit Park Ridge, our 'Sister City' twin can be given contact information and I know our friends over there would be only too happy to show you around. It was the hometown of Hilary Clinton and Harrison Ford, the actor. For more information about Park Ridge and the Anglo American Association/ Sister Cities Programme contact Domenic Toni, a former resident of Park Ridge at Kinver 872058 or myself, Jane Perrins at Kinver 877357.

## 6. **BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION REPORT.**

I hope that this year we can get back to as near normal as possible. A Big Thank you to those who have helped to keep the Village clean and tidy throughout last year. I have had comments and praise from people who visit our village and say what a clean and pretty village we have, And I truly agree because we love and care for Kinver. I know of a couple who love walking, but now carry a litter picker and a bag and litter pick on their walks. What a lovely thing to do. Thank you. Keep cleaning our village and make it stunning for us and our visitors.

Report from Lin Hingley Organiser.

## 6. **Kinver Bowling Club**

During the closed season we have Indoor Bowling at the Edward Marsh Centre on a Wednesday morning - 9.45 to 12.00 open to all.

The Outdoor bowling season will start in April and we have social bowling on the green, opposite the centre, same day and time. Anyone wishing to try their hand at bowling is welcome to come and try. If they like it we would welcome them into the club.

League team bowling will begin towards the end of April for competitive bowling.

**6. Kinver Colts Football Club  
Report prepared for the Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish Council to be held  
on Wednesday 2nd March 2022**

Kinver Colts FC has ten teams playing in local football leagues this season (2021/22). These range from U7s to U15s and include girls' teams in the U10, U12 and U14 age groups. In addition, there is an Under 8 girls' team who are about to start playing matches and also a training group of U5s and U6s who are getting ready for next season.

The club coped with the constantly changing guidance during the pandemic by adapting protocols for training and matches to keep everyone as safe as possible and minimise the time for which the club's activities had to be suspended. It was great to see the enthusiasm of the children coming back to football when restrictions were lifted.

All small-sided games are being played at Stag Meadow, with 11-a-side teams using the pitches at the Marsh Playing Fields, KSCA. Summer training is mostly at Stag Meadow and winter training on the floodlit multi-use games area at Summerhill School, Kingswinford.

Kinver Colts FC has signed the pledge to be a community ally of Kinver Plastic Free and also to support Birmingham FA's sustainability initiative. We encourage walking to sessions held close to home and replaced the annual trophies with more sustainable medals.

The club is run by an enthusiastic group of volunteers who are mostly parents of current or past players. There are also past players helping with coaching, some for their DoE award, and also assisting as referees. We take pride in being a true community organisation.

Margaret Kodz  
Club Welfare Officer  
Kinver Colts  
FC 14/02/2022



**ANNUAL REPORT FOR KINVER COMMUNITY LIBRARY, YEAR  
ENDED MARCH 2022**

After periods of closure due to Covid-19, we were delighted to be able to open the library again in April 2021. Initially this was on limited days and restricted to a

'doorstep' service and quarantining of books, but gradually this has increased, with browsing offered from May and our usual days of Tuesday to Saturday now available, for a total of 24 hours per week. Throughout, we have adhered to prevailing health and safety guidelines, including encouraging or mandating face coverings, social distancing, limiting footfall, and use of a screen, sanitisers and a one-way system.

We continue to be a distribution centre for free Lateral Flow Test kits, a valuable service which has been very welcome within the community.

In addition to our primary purpose of book-lending, our services include the use of computers, photocopying and printing, and a wide variety of activities. After the enforced disruption, we have been reintroducing these whilst being careful to control numbers of participants and avoid overcrowding: Tots' Time, book groups, the CreateSpace art group, Knot Knit and Natter, and Family History. In addition, it is good to see the Kinver Volunteer Bureau occupying their dedicated desk once again.

Our enthusiastic and friendly team has seen some changes due to health concerns or departures from the area, but we have been encouraged by a steady influx of new volunteers who quickly find that it is a very rewarding initiative to be involved with. We hope to recommence our regular volunteers' meetings shortly. The team is steered by a Board of Directors but with many individuals taking responsibility for specific roles, from managing the book stock to keeping the volunteers' stock of refreshments topped up. We also benefit from the help of our Community Support Officer from Staffordshire Library Service, Lisa Dyke. We are proud of how everyone works well together, often forging new friendships along the way, and always delighted by the many positive comments from the public. This was especially noticeable upon reopening after the lockdowns. We have also been able to resume offering opportunities for Duke of Edinburgh Scheme candidates to fulfil the service aspect of their award, and it is a pleasure to have young helpers in the library.

Once again we produced a Kinver Calendar for sale, based on a photography competition with submissions and votes from the community. It proved very popular, as did the addition of Christmas cards featuring images from local photographer Dave McGirr. The income generated was much-needed as we had continued to have outgoings during our closures, without the usual cash coming in. We were scheduled to participate in the Kinver Christmas Market on the High Street to sell calendars, cards and second-hand books, but the inclement weather on the day prompted us to operate instead from the comfort of our beautiful building.

The library's presence is signalled by posters on our own and the village boards, our website [kinvercommunitylibrary.co.uk](http://kinvercommunitylibrary.co.uk), Facebook and twitter @KinverLibrary, and by liaising with the press regarding particular news. We also contribute regular pieces to the Community Action News-sheet and The Rock, and issue occasional newsletters, the Borrowers' Bulletin.

In January 2022 we embarked on our sixth year of operation as a volunteer-run community library. At time of writing, we are formalising a further five-year lease with Staffordshire Libraries, and look forward to continue serving the village with this vital resource.

Katherine Dixon

**6. KINVER EDGE AND THE ROCK HOUSE REPORT FOR PARISH COUNCIL**

The Kinver Edge Committee continues to work alongside and support the National Trust in the management and stewardship of Kinver Edge and the Rock Houses. The Committee provides scrutiny of National Trust strategic planning and also accesses funding and grants to fund projects, some of which are highlighted below.

The Rock Houses have seen our visitor numbers increase substantially from last year and are getting close to pre pandemic figures with the return of normal opening and operations. Our countryside visitors are still high, but the craziness has eased off with restrictions being reduced.

We had a good winter season and the mild weather contributed to this. We welcomed lots of visitors to the rock houses and the tearoom, with Liz's home-made scones being rated as one of the top National Trust scones nationally. With a generous contribution from the Kinver Edge Committee (and planning permission approved) we have been able to install our new visitor reception hut. This looks more substantial and has enough room to welcome visitors inside. A log burner and electrics are also due to be installed. The National Trust team and volunteers have very much welcomed this new addition.

We ran the Percy the Park Keeper Trail over the Christmas holidays. This was a nationally organised National Trust trail but unfortunately it wasn't as popular as some of our previous trails have been.

In the Rock Houses we have had repairs made to the flue on one stove and a full replacement of another stove. Due to the damp and cold conditions they do have a short life span. The Kinver Edge Committee also made a kind contribution towards their repair and replacement.

Out on the Edge the ranger team has been working exceptionally hard. Path improvement works have been happening along the Centenary route creating a much-improved pathway. Work continues on the woodland ride creation opening up and widening the pathways.

The outdoor conservation volunteers have put huge energy and effort into clearing the bracken, gorse and young trees on the hill fort. This has really opened up the area to make the ramparts and the area of this scheduled ancient monument more visible.

In the garden we have taken back management of one of the allotments which our gardener and the garden volunteers have been transforming. We are looking forward to seeing an array of produce in the summer months.

The National Trust has extended an invite to the members of the Parish Council to attend a walk with our lead ranger to see the conservation work that has been undertaken and also an opportunity to ask any questions.

Claire Hale - Visitor Experience Manager, Kinver Edge and the Rock Houses  
(National Trust)

## **6. KINVER FLAG FUND (C.A. Initiative)**

We are pleased to continue flying the flag for special occasions. We are seeing it flown for Birthdays, Anniversary's, Promoting Events such as the New Kinver Players shows. We have a selection of Flags and fly the Australian Flag for two birthdays for a family now living the other side of the world

We have been fortunate to continue operating throughout the past couple of years despite the pandemic, funds were last distributed in November 2021 to Kinver Old People's Welfare, Kinver & Enville Royal British Legion and Kinver Eco-Collective, and we have funds to be distributed very soon. So if a Kinver Club/Group/Organisation you are connected with please feel free to contact us regarding a grant. (contact details are displayed on the Flag Pole outside the White Harte Annexe

We look forward to receiving your sponsorships for your special occasions.

## **6. KINVER & DISTRICT HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

This Society began before WW2 and the Covid lockdown and restrictions has caused the one and only dramatic closure since the war when everything was mothballed to await Hitler's demise after which it has gone from strength to strength.

Although the society was not active during the lockdown the committee has been busy organising activities, trips and speakers that can be activated as soon as we are able to commence our normal schedule.

We are delighted to say that the new year's 2022 meeting was very well supported with many regulars returning as well as several new members and visitors. January begins the season with a fun quiz centred around gardening and was thoroughly enjoyed by all participants, especially as there were prizes for the winning table for each of the three rounds.

Throughout the year we are taking coach trips to Westonbury Mill and Brobury Gardens, and Spetchley Gardens, and hopefully the annual coach trips to the Malvern Shows will recommence. There are varied amonthly talks to help with cuttings, bulbs and a tantalising talk entitled Teabags, bras and tights. The society aims to always bring something topical to encourage the residents of Kinver to get interested in growing their own produce or for brightening their surroundings.

My thanks to the support of the committee who have worked tirelessly to bring everything together for the new season.

GeRaldine wooddisse. Chairman.

6.



#### **Kinver Youth Cafe KINVER YOUTH CAFE**

We were pleased to reopen the Kinver Youth Cafe in September 2021 when the Covid numbers were lower and it was safe to do so. We provide a safe and warm environment for 11 to 16 year olds to hang out with their mates, play games or just chill out. We meet on a Tuesday at the KSCA from 6 - 8 pm.

The number of children attending were slow for the first month, but within no time the numbers attending were back to they were pre Covid. It's lovely to see lots of new children from the lower age group and several year 9's who were year 7's returning. When Covid numbers increased dramatically in December 2021, we closed just before Christmas and didn't reopen until February 2022.

Our thanks go to all our volunteers and committee members who work hard to keep this drop in centre alive. We also thank Kinver Parish Council for their continued support and the KSCA.

Christine Allen, Treasurer

#### **6. ROYAL BRITISH LEGION KINVER AND ENVILLE BRANCH POPPY APPEAL 2021.**

This years poppy appeal raised £26,929 approx. This includes £10,812 collected from Sainsbury in Wombourne by our Volunteers. A big thank you to Robert Jones who collected nearly every day at the Store and thank you to Ken Slade who organised Sainsbury collection and also the volunteers from Kinver and Stourbridge who collected door to door, stood in kinver High Street and Merry Hill helping to collect this wonderful amount. All our volunteers who helped in the collection are my heroes.

Report from Lin Hingley Honourary Poppy Appeal Organiser.

#### **6. SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY 4TH DECEMBER 2021 REPORT**

The weather was cold but dry when St Peter's Church Choir sang Carols in the Bus shelter and following the carols our very own Vicar Rich Clarkson played his guitar and squeeze box singing folk Christmas songs then to finish our entertainment "Euks on the edge" group played and sang wonderful music. Business was brisk in the village and our village enjoyed a lot of visitors. Congratulations and thanks go to our performers and our small businesses for being there.

Report by Lin Hingley organiser.

#### **7 ANY OTHER MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC**

Mr D Hough raised the issue, re the 242 and the 242s bus service. He has concerns re the service from SCC. The amended bus 242s is for the school children. The dedicated school service takes 15mins now is going to take nearly an hour, and the new replacement bus does not have seatbelts either.

He has raised this with MP Gavin Williamson and he has spoken with SCC who state this is not a cost cutting exercise. However, this was later changed and it is a cost cutting service. He has emailed them again. The other issue is capacity the primary school service is still a 57 seater coach and there is capacity for the secondary school children to catch this also. The capacity is a 57 seater coach this has not changed (although SCC said it had been reduced to a smaller coach) so this is incorrect information was given from the SCC.

Mr Davidson has spoken to the school transport division to ask has a risk assessment been taken? They confirmed it has. Mr Darby requested a copy of the risk assessments and has asked using FOI. His questions are:-

Why has it taken so long to be informed.

Why was it changed – cost cutting?

Why can't catch bus with the junior school children?

Why has this been put together with Bobbington children?

Mr M Griffiths – Himley resident - Do we understand the urgency of this matter? Do you support increasing the risk of health and safety and welfare issues of the school children in the local LEA. All at increased risk of an RTA by catching a bus without seat belts. The service is now going to be more miles per day and therefore an increased risk with no benefit. With regard to the increase risk issue, the prospect coach crashed in Bobbington, 3 children on the coach were badly affected by seeing this. It took time to get his daughter to go back on the coach. Will we support the decision or not? In addition to his comments when we are talking about this issue its peoples children not just bus routes.

Mr M Darby asked for the process of how the next meeting happens. He reinforced their comments of the fellow people that raised this issues. Mrs Darby raised her concerns that the increased service is being pushed as an improved service for the 6<sup>th</sup> formers, but this could not help them as many do not finish at 3.30pm to catch the bus home.

Meeting closed at 6.55pm.

DRAFT