

**MINUTES OF THE WINTERBORNE KINGSTON ANNUAL VILLAGE MEETING
TUESDAY 18 APRIL 2017 AT 6.30PM, WINTERBORNE KINGSTON VILLAGE HALL**

1. Attendance and apologies

6 Members of the public, together with Parish Cllrs D Lewis, R Jessopp, S Jacobs, D Knapp and H Andrews and County Councillor Hilary Cox. Apologies had been received from Cllrs Mark Leaper and Jocelyn Jenkins and District Councillors Jane Somper and Emma Parker.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the 2016 meeting were summarised by Cllr Lewis. A full copy of the minutes is available on the web site.

3. Matters arising

The dog bins have found their final resting places and are being emptied regularly.

Defibrillator – the British Heart Foundation are due to reopen the grant funding in April. It is hoped that the defibrillator will be located in the WK telephone box outside the village hall, once it has been purchased.

4. Parish Council Chairman's Report

Cllr Lewis read out her report for 2017. This will be available on the web site and, upon request, in hard copy from the Clerk.

5. County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Hilary Cox reported that this is her 19th Annual Report and she will be standing in the coming elections. As there are 11 parish councils in her ward, Cllr Cox is unable to attend them but holds a divisional meeting regularly to which all the parish councils are invited. The future shape of local government has been discussed at length at the meetings. She pointed out that 53% of the total County Council budget goes towards adult social care. Very little support is received from central government in Dorset. We have, since 2010, found £90million of savings from the revenue but another £18 million must be found over the next two years. Therefore, local government must be looked at very radically. 75% of residents who voted last year voted for the unitary system. Although a response was hoped for last week, the Secretary of State will not now give a response until after the General Election in June.

Mr Malin – when we have a unitary authority will the council be meeting around the county or in a central location. He expressed concern that we will lose touch with our councillors. Cllr Cox responded saying that it is anticipated there will be area group meetings but this is something that has yet to be agreed upon.

6. District Councillors' Reports

Neither District Councillor was able to attend but a report had been sent and this was read out to the meeting.

7. Village Updates – Floodwatch (GH)

Floodwatch – Graham Hyde was unable to attend but had forwarded the following report:

A very dry winter, thank goodness. The river, although flowing a bit from North West Farm Kingston, eastwards, has not had enough flow to join up Whitechurch or Clenston which are dry. Anybody in the Parish who is worried about flooding (it's all groundwater derived in our parish, including the Winterborne), should subscribe to the Environment Agency's Ground Water Flood Warning Scheme. The scheme to subscribe to is 'North Winterborne South of the A354'. Currently Alerts will be triggered at 130 metres which is way too low. I have met with the EA and we have agreed to raise the trigger points to a more realistic level, probably around 137 metres, but ironically, we need a fairly wet winter to do this – so can't do it now. The scheme is potentially a good one however and should be considered by all those that are concerned.

Anyone in the Parish signed up to River Stour Warnings, should delete them, as the Stour is too far away to be relevant to us. The Flood Plan accessed via the Parish website, needs a bit of updating. This will be done before next winter.

Homewatch – Graham Hyde was unable to attend but had forwarded the following report:

The only thing of late is the following from Dorset Police: The Rural Crime Team would like you to be aware that a white Ford Transit Van, H*06*X5, has been seen in suspicious circumstances on farms and businesses across the county during the last few days and has been seen in Blandford, Wareham, Dorchester and Verwood.

If anybody would like regular information from Dorset Police Alert system, go to the Dorset Alert web page and subscribe to Neighbourhood Watch scheme. This will result in Alert emails being delivered to you.

Public Footpaths – No report was available but one will be given at the May Parish Council meeting.

Bridleways – No report was available but one will be given at the May Parish Council meeting.

Trees – Mr Malin expressed concern about the work that had been carried out on Wyatts. The Tree Officer said there was only one tree, a larch, that was worth saving and was having a TPO placed on it. Only a few of the remaining trees were kept. It was agreed at a site meeting between Wyatts, the Tree Officer and Mr Malin, that Wyatts would replant with native species.

Village Hall – Joan Nash presented the following report:

The Hall is still used on a regular basis with hiring charges covering the majority of the day to day expenditure. A Health and Safety Audit has identified the need to lower the threshold of the emergency door to ground level, to enable wheelchairs to exit. This will be expensive. Apart from that, there is no major expenditure pending. The Christmas tree on the porch of the Hall was an innovation in 2016 and well received. The Outreach Post Office from Bere Regis continues to serve the Village using the Hall twice weekly.

W.I. - Joan Nash presented the following report:

The membership remains consistent at 23. There is a meeting of members every month except August with a variety of speakers and entertainment from members.

The WI is part of the Woodbury Hill group of WI, and events are organised with them as well as in our own village. Kingston won the Group Quiz in April, and in October, having progressed from the preliminary round to the final, were extremely pleased to win the County Quiz with over 70 WIs having entered originally. A Flower Show is run by the WI in July and almost every month a collection of litter is done in the village and environs plus a weed and tidy around the Hall. If there is any aspect where the WI can be involved in other ways in the community, we would be pleased to hear.

Cllr Andrews offered a huge vote of thanks to the WI for litter picking – it helps tremendously with the Best Kept Village Award. Mr Malan informed the meeting that he had reported more fly tipping than ever before in the last 12 months.

Youth Club – Cllr Knapp informed the meeting that another volunteer has come forward to assist with the running of the club. They are currently waiting for Jay Brown of Dorset Youth Action to send through the templates for running the club. The building now has the H&S and fire checks in place.

Community Speed Watch – Cllr Andrews submitted the following report:

The Community Speed Watch has been carried out in the village for 2 years with the intention of making the roads in our village a safer place to live and, since then, have recorded over 47,000 vehicles passing by. As reported last year, all volunteers are police checked and have training by the Community Police Officer. We usually go out twice a week, weather permitting, and were given the locations we are allowed to stand by the Police – North Street by the hall, Bere Road on the corner by the old chapel and West Street by Kingston Barnyard. We have not targeted West Street as much as it is a much quieter road traffic wise.

I notify the Police by email prior to the team going out, giving details of the time and location and the Police then provide an incident number which authorises the team to carry out the Speed Watch. We record any vehicle travelling at 36mph or above with the electronic device given to us by the Police. We note the registration number, make and colour of the vehicle. To date we have recorded 1,090 vehicles speeding which isn't a huge amount of the more than 47,000 passing us, but we do find that being there tends to slow them down. Of course, there is the exception and the highest speed we recorded was 53mph. The morning sessions tend to have less speeding, so it seems that regular users are taking notice, but afternoons and weekends are significantly worse.

The report is emailed to the Police within 48 hours of the session, detailing each vehicle speeding, the date and times of the session and the names of the volunteers doing it.

On Friday 28th April, 2017, there will be a joint Devon & Cornwall and Dorset Police operation taking place in north and west Dorset when we've been asked to have a Speed Watch team available between the hours of 09:00 and 12:00. They will send a Traffic and 'No Excuse' unit to support us which should be interesting.

Unfortunately, this past year I have lost several volunteers – 2 who helped the most have moved away and several who, despite volunteering in the first place, have never been able to do the times we go out. I've asked on the village Facebook page and had one person come forward who is awaiting Police checking but I could do with more, so please, if any of you are interested or you know of anyone please contact me.

Thanks are extended to Cllr Andrews and her team for the work they do. They do a fantastic job and it is clearly working.

Best Kept Village – Joan Nash reported that Kingston regularly enters the Best Kept Village and there are several classes within this category. Kingston first entered in 2010 and was awarded the Best Kept Large Village, Best New Entrant and North Dorset Special Award. Other rewards have been received in other years. Kingston has been entered into the People's Category on two occasions and another year the Speed Watch was entered under the Community Projects category. The closing date for entrants is the 3rd July.

8. Village Appointments

Flood Watch and Home Watch – Graham Hyde is currently away and we have not been able to ask if he would like to continue in the role. This will be confirmed at the May meeting of the Parish Council.

9. Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Jessopp reported that the Parish Council is looking into producing a Neighbourhood Plan. There is a certain amount of development that the community must accept as it has been included within the NDDC Local Plan, but we are able to control to a certain extent where it will be situated and what form it might take. Cllr Jessopp be meeting with David Walsh, Deputy Leader for NDDC and NDDC Champion of Neighbourhood Planning, after the 4th May. He stressed the importance of having a cross section of the community involved with the Plan's production.

10. Community Hub

It is anticipated that, once the building is up and running, it will work with the village hall so that events do not clash. It is important that the two venues do not compete with each other.

11. Community Transport

Cllr Lewis reported that she had attended a transport meeting at DT11 at which a representative from the County Council spoke about the potential cuts to the existing service. There is nothing in place in the villages for those who do not have transport of their own and are unable to drive. Come the new council year in May, the needs of the residents of the villages will be sought in order to look at providing something. Cllr Lewis would like to make this a priority for the coming year and is willing to take the lead on the project.

12. Open Forum

Mr Malin – informed the meeting that he had asked, under the Freedom of Information Act, how many prosecutions there had been under the Act and was told there had been 1. He felt that it should be a policy that, where this a layby, there should be a litter bin. The Clerk explained that

DWP decided some two years ago that the litter bins would be removed from laybys in order to encourage people to take their litter home.

Mr Mills – felt the meetings could be more widely publicized. Cllr Andrews did put something out on Facebook but not until the morning of the meeting. This will be looked at in more detail. Cllr Lewis did ask at the last meeting if there was a need to have any other notice boards around the villages. The Red Post magazine is the prime place to advertise future meetings. It was also suggested that more is put on the Village Facebook site.

Thanks are extended to Graham Nash for holding the monthly bingos amongst other things and raising so much money for local charities and village facilities.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 19:40.