

KINGSCOTE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

THE VILLAGE HALL, KINGSCOTE

7.30PM ON TUESDAY 14th May 2023

Draft Minutes

START 7.30

WELCOME

Cllr. Tony Wooldridge welcomed 8 members of the parish to the annual parish meeting.

APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 16th MAY 2023

Minutes were approved and signed by Cllr. Wooldridge.

PARISH ORGANISATIONS / GROUPS TO REPORTS ON ACTIVITIES

- REPORT BY CHAIRMAN OF THE PARISH COUNCIL
Report appended to the minutes.
- REPORT BY THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE
Report appended to the minutes.
- REPORT BY THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
Report appended to the minutes.
- ANY OTHER PARISH BUSINESS
None.

Meeting concluded at 7.50pm

Kingscote Parish Council Report for the APM on 14 May 2024

I am very pleased with what the parish council has achieved this last year, and I think this is due to a combination of good teamwork by everyone – especially our hardworking parish clerk, Simon Hale. Simon accepted the post of clerk and Responsible Finance Officer in April 2023 and has made a huge contribution to all our activities since then: I'm very grateful for all his effort. All the councillors were elected in May 2023 and have individual roles and responsibilities which they all carry out diligently.

So what has the parish council done in the last 12 months?

1. We have spent a lot of time liaising with GCC Highways.

After over two years of diligent campaigning by us, the GCC Highways Ash Dieback team eventually spent a week working on the trees at Bagpath Common, from 12-16 June 2023. The team dealt effectively with some rather ill-informed objections raised by two residents, but unfortunately all the traffic movements which interrupted this work meant that less was achieved than had been planned. We are trying to arrange for a second visit. This is an important safety issue since several diseased trees have blown down and blocked the road this year.

In June 2023 a cyclist was injured by skidding on gravel on Hazlecote Lane. When contacted by us, GCC Highways agreed to sweep the road locally and erect warning signs, and on several occasions some of the worst potholes have been patched. We continue to campaign for an improvement in the road condition near Bagpath Common.

In July 2023, prompted by requests from concerned residents, we decided to ask GCC Highways about reducing speed and problem parking in the village. We met with the Highways deputy manager in August 2023, consulted residents during September and agreed action at our meeting at the end of that month. Slow signs and H-lines were implemented in January 2024 and we believe they have been very effective.

Later in the year, at our request, GCC Highways replaced the rusty sign near the postbox T-junction and re-erected a collapsed sign on the A4135 near Barn Hill Lane. Other requests we have made are in the work programme.

We have not always been successful: for example, liaising with Highways contractors about reducing the congestion in the village when the A4135 is closed for maintenance.

2. Looking after Village assets.

We have set up a new regime to monitor defibrillators regularly. These are inspected regularly by Beth Calland and Steve Tattersall and their condition logged. Simon Hale arranged for a grant from CDC Build Back Better Fund of about £800 to pay for new pads and batteries which needed replacing.

In July 2023, councillors carried out maintenance on the bus shelter, phone box and war memorial and we have subsequently cleared the grilles of the drains in the village.

In September 2023, Steve Teague rebuilt the village notice board by the church and in March 2024 he built a new notice board for Bagpath.

We decided that the village hall wall needed rebuilding because it was liable to collapse on neighbours' property, but the cost quoted was prohibitive. In February 2024, the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens agreed to rebuild the wall with no charge for their labour. Mrs Ingleby-Oddy, who owns the adjoining property, agreed to pay for the extra stone needed for a cocks and hens topping. Despite the shortage of locally available new walling stone, the rebuilding was completed in April 2024, and costs to the parish council have been minimal.

3. Preparations for winter weather.

In July 2023 we agreed with Highways we would install two salt bins in Hazlecote valley and get highways to provide two yellow lidded bins for the village (we are still chasing these!). In October, Highways refilled all the salt bins in the parish using our listing of locations. A reserve stockpile of salt was delivered and is held securely at Binley Barns - thanks to Richard Gale, and we purchased a salt spreader (jointly with GCC Highways) for public pedestrian areas.

4. Planning, footpaths and the local environment

We have reviewed planning applications and commented where necessary. In November 2023 we held an EGM to discuss developments at Walnut Farm.

We have liaised with GCC Public Rights of Way team and the local voluntary warden about various footpath issues which have been raised by residents and we have been helping to facilitate corrective action.

We'd like to thank everyone who helps keep the roads in the parish tidy by picking up litter.

5. Involvement with community events.

Steve and Naomi Teague instigated village bar nights in January, February and March 2024, both to bring the community together and to help raise funds for the parish. These events have been very successful on both counts.

In October 2023 we helped to organise a bring and share lunch at the Matara Centre and set up a volunteering network. The first community volunteering event was held in November 2023 and others followed in February and April 2024.

6. Financial management

We have worked hard to manage our budgets tightly, but the precept for next year (2024/25) had to be increased from £4600 to £5060 (10.0%), mainly because of increased staff and insurance costs. Even this increase does not cover all the budgeted expenditure, and we still also rely on voluntary effort by residents, councillors and Cotswold Voluntary Wardens.

7. Brian McTear: Retiring Chair of the village hall committee.

I'd like to finish by thanking Brian McTear who has just resigned as Chair of the village hall committee after 16 years on the committee. He has been at the centre of the committee's activities for many years and given unstintingly of his time and has made an invaluable contribution to the community. Thanks are also due to his wife, Pauline, and all the other members of the village hall committee who have maintained the premises in a very good state and organised regular community events.

KINGSCOTE VILLAGE HALL
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2023

During 2023 the village hall has been used for various activities and events.

The mobile Post Office is available at the village hall for parishioners on Monday and Thursday mornings.

The steel band have regular practice sessions.

The Parish Church book the Hall to enable wedding parties to park vehicles and access lavatories.

A Snowdrop Walk in the woods was organised by the Church and we assisted with the provision of teas in the village hall which provided funds for the Church and the village hall.

There were bookings for yoga days, table-tennis, various parties, and a wreath making class in December.

The monthly coffee mornings continued through the year.

Unfortunately, Paddy Carpenter, who had organised the popular film nights for some time took ill and died last year. He will be missed by all. It is hoped that film nights will return in the Autumn this year.

Tim and Irene organised a very successful quiz night in January which was enjoyed by a full house. Thanks to Tim and Irene.

For the children, Jenna arranged an Easter egg hunt and a Hallowe'en walk around the village. Our thanks to Jenna for arranging these successful events.

In May the village hall committee organised a street party at the village hall for the King's coronation.

In November we held a well-supported curry night.

Geoff Mead gave a very entertaining Christmas themed story telling evening in December.

There were no major maintenance items.

The Village Hall have provided a bench outside the Hall.

As seen in the financial report, we are maintaining a fairly stable balance in the accounts. We feel this is necessary to allow for planned maintenance and for any unforeseen major work.

We are always open to suggestions from parishioners for events they would like us to hold, or if anyone would like assistance in organising a communal event, please let us know.

Thanks to all the members of the committee for their work in helping with the village hall activities and maintaining the village hall for the parish. We welcomed Richard Dalziel to the Committee last May. Liz Widdows resigned from the committee, and her role as booking clerk, in December. I would like to thank Liz for her support over the years.

We are looking for new members for the committee and welcome volunteers. New faces and new ideas are always welcome.

JB McTear
Chairman
Kingscote Village Hall Committee
14.05.2024

THE CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, KINGSCOTE
REPORT ON THE YEAR ENDING 2024

The Church and Churchyard have continued to be well maintained and are monitored with 'walkaround' inspections by PCC members.

The churchyard has continued to be maintained by the hedge trimming and mowing team who undertake regular maintenance, cutting grass and trimming hedges. This work includes both Kingscote churchyard and Newington Bagpath.

Health and safety is always one of the priorities, and in 2023 measures were taken to make 2 church pews more sturdy. Routine walkabouts around churchyard ensured any issues were identified, for example gravestones that were 'wobbly' and need of attention.

The church and churchyard have benefitted from more light, and appearance and access have improved following tree felling and major trimming undertaken before the start of 2023. This has not only improved the general amenity for the community but also helped improve both maintenance and health and safety assessments.

The discovery of a previously unknown grave was made in July. The grave has a stone lined chamber, predating the use of coffins for burial. It was found by PCC members when preparing for the re-interment of bones, found during previous works to upgrade water and electrical services to the church.

Our services have continued to be advertised on the lychgate and Forerunner and we are thankful to the Kingscote online team for communicating these digitally.

Services have continued regularly on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. Additional services were also held on Remembrance day, Christmas, Easter and Harvest, when they didn't fall on either of these Sundays.

We had a successful Christingle Service, with craft activities, bible story, talk, prayers and carols which was enjoyed by many families. This was a fresh expression of church, that we plan to continue in 2024, for example on Mothering Sunday and Father's day. We also had another successful pet service followed by refreshments and dog treats for the dogs!

Rosemary Simms has continued to play the organ for our regular services, supporting our singing and providing welcoming music when we come in. Refreshments have been served following the morning services, giving time for conversation and a good opportunity to get to know visitors as well as talk to regular members of the congregation.

There were fewer weddings in 2023 compared to prior to the pandemic. However, we are thankful for the good relationship with Richard Gale at the Barn and Geoffrey Higgins at the Matara, who have kindly promoted the church to couples who would like the spiritual element and blessing of Marriage before God. This led to a number of requests for church weddings for 2024.

Last year there were 6 weddings, 4 baptisms and 2 funerals, as well as 2 committals in the churchyard. One member of the congregation was confirmed at Gloucester Cathedral.

We have not been able to appoint a Churchwarden, but continue to be fortunate in being able to distribute some of the jobs amongst the PCC and some other members of our community. We thank everyone for who have enabled the church to continue to be a spiritual, welcoming and functioning place, from opening the church daily and turning on the heating in winter, arranging flowers for our services, cleaning the brassware, looking after the lighting and sound equipment through to the mowing team – all helping to keep things accessible, functioning and enjoyable for the community and visitors.

It is with great thanks to all who help in running the church here in Kingscote.

Reverend Caroline Bland
& the PCC of St John the Baptist
Kingscote