

KINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman's Annual Report 2019-20

New Parish Councillors

Over the past 12 months I was joined by 4 new councillors serving the parish: -

Cllr Jayne Bellenie

Cllr Karen Jennings

Cllr Jonny Grey

Cllr Alisdair Cummings

Thanks must also go to our long standing clerk, Karen Pickett, for her guidance and advice as well as the work on behalf of the parish council and wider community.

The new team has very much found its feet and is now embarking on several action-based initiatives that will be of benefit to the parish. We have vacancies for two councillors to join the council and continue to lack representation from the outlying areas of The Blythe and Gratwich.

Community engagement

The debate around Loxley Lane Crossroads has drawn the community together following the tragic events of September 2019 where one person lost their life. Kingstone Parish Council has been engaging with the parish as well as other stakeholders including neighbouring parish council Uttoxeter Rural. Although we have been advised against any firm action until the relevant enquiries publish their findings and any recommendation, KPC has allocated a significant amount of funds for safety measures around the crossroads.

COVID 19

This has also drawn the community together and it pleasing to note the amount of cooperation that is happening. KPC recognised early into events that their rules of working would not help them in quick action and that their role was more to provide aid for groups that were able to adapt to the dynamic nature of the situation. To this end, they have provided a "float" to the Kingstone Community Society to use in the help of others, for example assistance to vulnerable members of the parish with obtaining vital supplies.

KPC in accordance with guidelines and legislation had closed access to the play area as far as was possible although as the MUGA courts are now reopened.

Parish recreational area

Our support of the parish recreation ground and courts has been enhanced. Not only do we complete a layperson's weekly check, and the statutory annual safety check, but have implemented quarterly checks by an external organisation. We are investigating a "check and fix" service which neighbouring Uttoxeter Rural Parish Council use

KPC has allocated a significant increase of funds to the maintenance of the playground and fields for the 2020/21 period. This was in response to parishioner comments over the past year or so that the park felt "neglected" and was becoming less of a pleasant place to be. We have switched contractors and are pleased to advise that the new contractor is making good inroads to turning the area around. We have also replaced and improved the vehicle gates to the playing field.

The parish council maintains a streamlined approach to applications to use the ground and provided an application meets certain criteria has delegated that authority to the clerk.

The Parish Council has resolved to remove the changing rooms which are no longer economically viable to repair and has written to ESBC to request the removal of the toilets.

Bus Stop at The Blythe.

We continue to monitor this over the year and we have added this to our contractor's remit.

Highways

We continue to make representations to the Highways with regards to condition of roads in the parish.

Police

We are pleased to receive regular reports from the local policing team and welcome their attendance at meetings when their workload and shifts permit.

Finance

Demands on the Parish Council finances continue to increase, and we have taken active decisions to increase spending in certain areas, for example the play area, and to make one off provisions for others for example the crossroads. We have achieved this through some careful release of reserves and without increasing the amount we ask ESBC to collect from you on our behalf.

There may well be a need to increase this precept in years to come should the gap widen between what is asked of us and the amount we receive.

We were pleased to make the following grants from the Parish Development Fund: -

Gratwich PCC – for churchyard grounds maintenance	£600
Kingstone PCC - for churchyard grounds maintenance	£1000
Kingstone Community Society – covid19 support for the parish	£500 [see comments in COVID 19 section]

The development fund is in place for organisations to secure funding for projects / specific areas of spend within the parish. The guidelines for this fund can be found on our website and we welcome interest from regular and new applicants alike.

Planning Applications

We continue to review planning applications and where appropriate submit comment to the planning authority. Details of these applications are in the appendix.

Next 12 months

Over the next 12 months the council, as well as their usual affairs, will focus on the following areas in no particular order: -

- Loxley Lane Crossroads – Ensure that safety measures are implemented.
- Implantation of the new website
- Amenity Improvements
- COVID-19 – ensure that the parish receives the support we are able to provide
- Post COVID 19 : Capitalise on the improved community spirit for the good of the parish.
- Streamlining our systems and administration so that we can concentrate our limited resources on matters of true interest to the parish.

The parish council is moving further towards one that is action based and there as the cement for the community. We really welcome feedback on where else our attentions should be focussed, please do free to approach one of the councillors, drop us an email, or even come to a Parish Council meeting.

N Green
Chairman
Kingstone Parish Council
May 2020.

Appendix 1 – Planning Applications Reviewed over the past 12 Months

Application Number	Site Address	Development Description	Status	Date Registered	Decision
P/2020/00213	Holly Hayes Farm Holly Lane Kingstone Staffordshire ST14 8QD	Prior approval for the conversion of two agricultural barns to form two dwellings	WITHDRAWN	13-03-2020	Withdrawn Decision
P/2020/00171	Oak Tree Farm Common Lane Gratwich Staffordshire ST14 8SD	Change of use of agricultural land to domestic curtilage and erection of detached garage with farm office above	REGISTERED	25-02-2020	
P/2019/01443	Hawthorn Barns Potts Lane Kingstone Uttoxeter ST14 8QN	Erection of a detached double garage and installation of oil tank	FINAL DECISION	20-12-2019	Conditional Approval - Delegated
P/2019/01431	The Old Rectory Mill Lane Gratwich ST14 8SE	Erection of two storey and single storey rear extensions including basement (Revised Scheme)	FINAL DECISION	27-11-2019	Conditional Approval - Delegated
P/2019/01342	Smithy Farm Mill Lane Gratwich ST14 8SE	Continued use of part of farmyard for dog breeding and training (Class Sui Generis), retention of kennels and erection of a whelping shed and store (Additional Information Received)	REGISTERED	12-11-2019	
P/2019/01094	Barn at Holly Hayes Farm Holly Lane Kingstone Staffordshire ST14 8QD	Prior Approval for the conversion of an agricultural building to form a dwelling	WITHDRAWN	19-09-2019	Withdrawn Decision
P/2019/01080	Wanfield Hall Lane From A518 Near Loxley To Woodcock Heath Woodcock Heath Kingstone ST14 8QR	Erection of a detached garden building	FINAL DECISION	11-09-2019	Conditional Approval - Delegated
P/2019/01016	2 Woodcock Heath Lane Woodcock Heath Kingstone Staffordshire ST14 8QS	Demolition of existing conservatory to facilitate the erection of a single storey side extension.	FINAL DECISION	10-09-2019	Conditional Approval - Delegated
P/2019/00974	Hawthorn Barns Potts Lane Kingstone Uttoxeter ST14 8QN	Erection of a detached garden room (Revised Plans)	FINAL DECISION	15-08-2019	Conditional Approval - Delegated
P/2019/00887	Kingstone Hall Church Lane Kingstone Staffordshire ST14 8QJ	Prior Notification for the erection of an agricultural building	FINAL DECISION	25-07-2019	Prior Approval Not Required
P/2019/00834	Wanfield Hall Woodcock Heath Kingstone Staffordshire ST14 8QR	Classed building conversion for the retention and alterations to curtilage building to facilitate continued use as ancillary accommodation. Erection of a rear porch, formation of an office/wc within an existing agricultural building and external and internal alterations to include installation of stud walls and replacement windows and doors	FINAL DECISION	17-07-2019	Conditional Approval - Delegated
P/2019/00831	Wanfield Hall Woodcock Heath Kingstone Staffordshire ST14 8QR	Retention and alterations to curtilage building to facilitate continued use as ancillary accommodation. Erection of a rear porch and formation of an office/wc within an existing agricultural building	FINAL DECISION	17-07-2019	Conditional Approval - Delegated
P/2019/00812	Watery Leese Farm Watery Lane Kingstone ST14 8QU	Erection of a livestock building	FINAL DECISION	12-07-2019	Conditional Approval - Delegated
P/2019/00579	The Old Rectory Mill Lane Gratwich ST14 8SE	Erection of a single storey extension on the South & West elevations including basement and erection of a two storey extension to the South elevation (Revised Scheme)	FINAL DECISION	28-05-2019	Conditional Approval - Delegated