

**MINUTES OF THE KILMINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT THE STOURTON &  
KILMINGTON HOME GUARD CLUB ON THURSDAY, 20 MAY 2021 AT 7.30 PM**

Present: Cllr G Cotton (Chairman), Cllrs. Flower, Mrs Hames, C Reeves, A Reeves, C Webster  
In attendance: Cllr G Jeans, Mrs Ruth Burrows (Parish Clerk) and 4 members of the public.

**Apologies** were received from Cllr Hunt.

**1. WELCOME**

Cllr Cotton opened the meeting at 19.31 hrs.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST APM**

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 May 2019, previously circulated as well as displayed on our website, were taken as read and approved without amendment on a proposal from Cllr C Reeves, seconded by Cllrs Mrs Hames and agreed by those members who had been present. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

**3. PUBLIC SESSION**

No members of the public present wished to say anything.

**4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Cotton said that no Annual Parish Meeting had been held last year due to the Corona-virus pandemic and this and the Parish Council meeting following, would be the first "normal" meetings since early March 2020.

**Planning:** the last year was fairly quiet on planning with just 8 applications being considered and commented on by the Parish Council.

**Parking Initiative** - Brookside Terrace. We have not made as much progress as we would have liked on creating some parking spaces opposite Brookside for resident use, to try to keep that section of The Street clear and safe for children using the playing field. This delay was due, in no small measure, to personnel changes at Wiltshire Council (WC) and also the National Trust (NT). However, in recent months contact with the NT has improved. The aim now is our need to demonstrate that there is no practical alternative to our original proposal which involves cutting the bank back and taking a small amount of unused space from the playing field. Once we can do this, the NT have indicated they would remove the covenant they have on the use of the playing field which was part of the sales agreement when the PC bought the field from the NT in 2000. This situation is a good example of the limits of parish council power. In order to make progress, we are reliant on the availability and goodwill of others.

**B3092 Coombe Barn signage** – although this was installed in the autumn of 2019, Cllr Cotton said he wanted to mention it as no meeting had taken place last year and this was a successful project as far as the parish council were concerned. WC Highways had been very helpful with the design and installation and it had all been accomplished relatively quickly with part funding from the WC Community Area Transport Group.

**Road Repairs:** works to The Street began well and an excellent job was done initially but it was not all completed. We were informed that a considerable amount of preparatory work was needed on the section which was left and that this would be done later – it was but unfortunately, it did not meet anywhere near the standard of the first repairs. WC have agreed that it needs to be redone and we are currently waiting to hear when this might be.

**Broadband** – again, there has not been any progress with Broadband and throughout the year,



especially during last summer, there had been much conflicting information. An Openreach engineer had been seen planning fibre cable routes through The Street and when questioned he had replied that his work was part of the Government's pledge to install broadband into rural villages. No more had been heard and seen after this and certainly, the Corona virus pandemic had not helped our cause on this issue.

**Flood Plan/Drainage** – Cllr Cotton said that again, progress had been hampered on this issue due to the pandemic and a course he and Cllr Reeves had been booked, on to help devise a Flood Plan for the village, had been cancelled. He was hopeful that something would be drawn up during the next few months.

Cllr Cotton ended his report by thanking George Jeans, Unitary Councillor for his continued support during the past 4 years and he congratulated him on being so successfully re-elected on 6 May. He wanted his thanks recorded to the following residents of the Parish for all their continued and hard work during the year:

- Ian Cameron, as coordinator of the Public Access Defibrillator
- Peter Samson and Georgina Muir for their work on the village pump and garden area by the notice board.
- Barry Paul for his work on the maintenance of the Sheep Cote.
- Gillian Bowles and Darren Davis, as well as Chris Reeves and Elizabeth Hames for all they do in the smooth running of the playing field.
- Roy Flower – who acts as our coordinator for the SID placed on Kilmington Common in which we own a third share.
- Ian Meeker and Michael Curtis who are no longer part of the Parish Council – I would sincerely like to thank them both for their services during the time they served and wish them well in the future.
- Finally, I would like to thank Ruth Burrows our Clerk for her hard work and commitment to the Parish Council.

## **5. ANNUAL REPORT FROM COUNCILLOR G JEANS, WILTSHIRE COUNCIL**

Cllr Jeans' report is attached to these minutes. Discussion took place on two specific items:

**Broadband:** Cllr Jeans said that this had undoubtedly been delayed due to Covid19 and not much, if any progress had been made. The Openreach contact now dealing with broadband issues in Kilmington is Michelle Maidment and he said that the Clerk should contact her. The Clerk pointed out that she had had a telephone conversation with this person last year but she had wanted specific information on various properties in Kilmington which the Clerk did not have but apart from that, the Clerk had told her that it was not the remit of the Parish Council to become involved in those sorts of details, and she referred her to the resident who had originally instigated the project.

**B3092 at Coombe Barn Lane:** whilst out canvassing for the recent elections, Cllr Jeans had experienced first-hand the dangers posed at this junction and could have very nearly been killed. He said that there really should be an acceleration lane onto the B3092 (left hand turn towards Mere) and also a speed reduction as traffic, especially lorries, thunder by and anyone coming out of the junction just does not stand a chance. A discussion ensued and the members agreed that something should be done to make try to make it a safer junction. It was RESOLVED that the Parish Council should raise this issue at a future WC Community Area Transport Group (CATG) meeting and this will be an agenda item for the September Parish Council meeting.

**Action: Chairman/Clerk**



## 6. REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE FOLLOWING PARISH ORGANISATIONS:

**Kilmington Amenity Fund:** Cllr Mrs Hames reported that the balance of the bank account at 31 March 2021 was £1641.78 with £143.77 held in cash. She went on to say the Kilmington Amenity Fund (KAF) had been very fortunate that quite a few people had agreed to pay subscriptions by bank transfer for the year which has saved collectors going door to door, although some cash for winnings is still needed. Monthly subscribers are averaging 178 tickets per month and the pay-out £50 which is the same as last year – 1st £25, 2<sup>nd</sup> £15 and 3<sup>rd</sup> £10.

Expenditure had been minimal; a gazebo was purchased in March 2020 and two donations to the Parish Council - £300 towards the purchase of a new defibrillator and £200 towards the repairs to the Shelter in the playing field.

Donations for the hire of village tables and chairs were almost nil as no village events or parties took place due to the pandemic.

Cllr Mrs Hames said grateful thanks go to KAF collectors – Vanessa Meeker for Butts Lane and around the Church, Georgina Muir and Cicely Hunt, along the Common, Jo-Ann Bligdon for Norton Ferris, with The Street being collected by herself. She also thanked Elizabeth Reed for her help with the accounts and organizing the draw each month.

**John Hooper Charity:** The Parish Clerk had contacted Mr N J Meeker and the following statement of accounts to 31 December 2020 had been given over the telephone:

Income		Expenditure	
B/F	£31.69	Distribution	£ 7.00
Dividends	£11.79	Kilmington LCC	£ 4.00
		Balance in hand	£32.48
	£43.48		£43.48

Mr Meeker had commented to Mrs Burrows that there had been some discussion about this Charity being amalgamated with another but due to the pandemic, no meetings had yet taken place and no decisions made.

**Kilmington News** – Cllr Mrs Hames report is attached and shows an income of £326.00 and expenditure of £383.96. The expenditure had increased this year as due to the Covid-19 crisis, the editors did not meet and the printing was not paid until later in 2020.

## 7. The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05 pm

Signed.....

Date: .....

Since the meeting, Cllr Mrs Hames has asked that the Clerk add a **Post Meeting Note**, to these Minutes to thank the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Graham Cotton for all of his commitment and contribution to the village over the past year.

*The minutes will be reviewed and formally ratified by the PC at the next Annual Parish Meeting in May 2022*



George Jeans report to Annual Parish Meetings and others June 2021.

Over the last 15 months we have seen much Zooming, Teams, working from home and so on seeing much change, The Blackmore Vale Magazine after nearly 40 years ceased at the start of Covid-19, thankfully now resurrected as The New Blackmore Vale. Wiltshire Council feels a little alien to me at present. Much time of officers has been spent on Covid grants which has benefited not only business but village halls etc. Over a year ago The Mere Post Office was open on reduced hours being 8am to 1pm seven days a week, some days with reduced service, some other Post Offices were closed or reduced hours. Many operational problems were being faced by business for instance Wiltshire Council had withdrawn the under 16s licence to work, therefore no youth could work. We are still not back to pre-Covid, the Mere Post Office now opens to 4pm as it now will for some time.

Whitesheet CE Primary Academy now provides for its children solely from the Zeals site, and the Kilminster site is closed permanently. Land at Burton Field Mere that was the old Nursery site, has caused me much correspondence now the land has been sold as many plots. Some of the nearby trees now have Tree Preservation Orders placed on them.

Slowly things are improving after the impact of Covid, for instance The Guiding movement hope to have live meetings again on the 9<sup>th</sup> September. Public rights of way, Footpaths and bridleways being well used at present especially during lockdown.

Fives Court closure came as a shock to me and many others in the Mere area. A campaign is now well underway, hoping for a Health Centre to be established on the site.

On a brighter note some street lights are being replaced by more efficient LEDs and hopefully more reliable.

I did my best to support with an open mind, Stourton and Gasper Parish Council in their wish to obtain 4 houses for local persons and key workers/carers Gasper via planning permission. The Southern Area Planning Committee has approved the application which was controversial because of the proximity to listed buildings. Some of those who live or work locally have informed me they are further denied what they consider would have been a chance of housing as a judicial review has been lodged against the decision.

The government is proposing law changes to boost ongoing efforts to improve connectivity for people who live, work and travel in rural areas. The reforms will remove one of the biggest barriers to better coverage in the countryside by reducing build time and costs for new infrastructure while protecting rural areas by minimising any visual impact. Under the proposals, mobile companies will be allowed to make new and existing masts up to five metres taller and two metres wider than current rules permit. This will increase the range of masts and allow operators to fit more equipment on them so they can be more easily shared. Wiltshire Council already have invested in intervention to improve broadband serves across the county.

I have often heard questioned why telegraph poles etc are not shared with other users. Broadband being now the fourth utility, often involves the Openreach's physical infrastructure access (PIA) products, this sometimes eliminates the need to dig roads up. PIA meaning the sharing of existing ducts and poles to provide phone and broadband.

On 6 May, registered voters were able to have their say in the Police and Crime Commissioner, unitary, and town and parish council elections Wiltshire Council organised one of the biggest elections in the country. 348 polling stations, over 2200 nominations. About 18% of the voters had requested the opportunity to vote by post.

Resurfacing Schemes 2021 – 2022, Castle Street and The Square, Mere resurfacing works programmed along Castle Street and The Square Mere. These works involve repairs to the existing carriageway, the installation of new road markings and the adjustment of surface ironwork. The



works will commence on Monday 28th June 2021 and will be completed by Tuesday 6th July 2021 between the hours of 09:00 and 15:30 (no weekend working), however, on occasions they may over run due to uncontrollable circumstances such as plant breakdowns, if weather conditions are unfavourable, or occasionally we discover the need for additional repairs once the work has started. The road will be open as normal outside of these hours. Due to the nature of the works and the local environment, the works will be carried out within a temporary road closure, to ensure that adequate health & safety is maintained for the contractor & local residents, road markings and ironwork adjustments may need to be completed at a later date.

The Contractor will maintain pedestrian access for residents for the duration of the works; but depending upon what operation is being undertaken and where it's being undertaken when accessing or egressing from your property in your vehicle, you may experience a delay and have to wait for plant to be moved out of the carriageway. I would suggest that when leaving your property, you allow extra time for any possible delays and when returning to your property, there will be traffic management operatives located at the extents of the works, speak to them, explain where you live, and they will be able to assist.

There will be points during the material laying process where vehicular access will be restricted as you won't be able to drive over the newly laid material, as early trafficking could lead to premature failure, therefore if works are being undertaken in the vicinity of your property, I would suggest to speak to the workforce in advance to ask if there will be any restrictions with regards to access. I am constantly making requests for pothole repairs. Wiltshire Council have resurfaced some local roads, made good highway drainage etc. I am consulted regarding many of these works and I monitor the work and complain if the work promised is not done. Note a surface put down in the winter will only last half the time of that put down in the Spring or Summer.

The community engagement manager of the South West Area Board and I have been in communication with possible providers of electric car (EV) public charging points for Mere. We also found to my surprise; the possible provider would provide an electric car for use of a local car club subject to a possible use survey." The Area Board has set aside about £11000-00 for environmental transport in the Mere Area. The main aim I would have for this would be electric vehicle (EV) charging points and a car club as Tisbury and Frome have. South Somerset are also considering a new initiative to enable people to use a pool of electric cars across South Somerset. The principle loosely is those wanting use of a car on occasions can book an electric vehicle and drive it themselves. The set aside amount can be used for other environmental transport if required. The area board also awarded a grant to Kilminster Parish Council to help purchase a laptop for use with virtual meetings.

Planning permission is at present being sought for a care home near Norwood House and close to Visit Hill Brush, I have asked if an improvement to the junction of the B3092/95 in Castle Street might be won from future developments in Mere, where it is this one or a future one in this area. The junction tolerates many large lorries, one has just lost its axil there plus the conflict between some pedestrians and vehicles when the pedestrians are returning to Mere.

Please use [george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:george.jeans@wiltshire.gov.uk) or 07710441599 I can usually answer quickly.



# KILMINGTON NEWS ACCOUNTS 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2020 – MARCH 31<sup>ST</sup> 2021

## INCOME

<b>2020</b>	JUNE	KILMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL BACS Donation	70.00
<b>2020</b>	MAY	SUBSCRIPTION MONIES (cash)	65.00
<b>2020</b>	JLY	SUBS BY BACS	15.00
<b>2020</b>	SEP	SUBS by BACS	30.00
<b>2020</b>	DEC	SUBS by BACS	2.00
<b>2020`</b>	DEC	SUBS money Paid in Cash	144.00

**TOTAL INCOME: £326.00**

## EXPENSES

<b>2020</b>	MAY	AMERICAN THOROUGHBREED PRODUCTS LTD	191.98
<b>2021</b>	MARCH	AMERICAN THOROUGHBREED PRODUCTS LTD	191.98

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE: £383.96**

**Expenditure has increased this year as we did not pay for printing until later in 2020.  
As the Editors did not meet because of the COVID 19 crisis.**

**All postage and stamps are generously donated, but we only send out 2 copies each month.**