

**MINUTES OF THE KILMINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD AT THE
STOURTON & KILMINGTON HOME GUARD CLUB ON MONDAY 12 MAY 2025**

Present: Cllr Graham Cotton (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Elizabeth Hames, Cllr Andrew Reeves,
Cllr Christopher Reeves, Cllr John Brooks, Cllr Jason Moore.

In attendance: Mrs Ruth Burrows (Parish Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

Cllr Cotton welcomed all present and opened the meeting at 19.33 hrs.

1. APOLOGIES: Cllr R Flower, Cllr G Jeans

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 20 May 2024, previously circulated as well as displayed on our website and noticeboard, were approved and signed as a correct record.

3. PUBLIC SESSION – The resident present did not wish to speak.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The year has seen some progress but certainly not as much as I am sure we would have wished. I fully understand the frustrations experienced by our residents, some of whom probably think it's the PC's fault, but I can assure them that it is not. The PC is not empowered to do more than transmit the wishes expressed and minuted at PC meetings on to Wiltshire Council who are responsible for implementing our needs. They in turn are usually working with contractors and of course there is the perennial problem of lack of money, all of which lead to delays. Two recent examples of the delays we have experienced here are:

1. the pedestrian warning signs in The Street: the time from request to WC to installation was 2 ½ years.
2. 30mph limit on Kilmingdon Common: time from request to WC to installation was 3 years.

Over the past year I have represented the Parish Council at two meetings of the SW Area Board, three meetings of LHFIFG (Local Highway and Footway Improvement Group) and a conference organised by the National Trust (see below). In all these forums I have done my best to represent the best interests of our village.

Now to specifics

Highways:

Butts Lane and Dukes Lane have been resurfaced and this appears to have been well done although it seemed a strange priority considering the state of other local roads. However, progress has been made patching in various locations including Tower Road and Cote Lane from The Common to Tower Road.

Church Road and the pipe taking spring water under the road are still ongoing problems.

New speed limit on New Road Kilmingdon Common now in force - some signage issues

Norton Ferris: Coombe Barn Lane junction – no progress yet. Cllr George Jeans is working hard to get the layout of the junction changed as a long-term project. Seemingly there is no way of addressing this serious problem with any great speed.

Planning applications:

Only two this year and one of those was withdrawn.

Flooding:

Holding pond in The Street – progress. As reported in the March PC meeting minutes, it was my intention to attend a Conference organised by the National Trust on 27 March and I did indeed attend. I am hopeful that the contacts I made and the introductions I was able to make as a result of my attendance will contribute to the resolving of at least some of the problems associated with the Holding Pond.

Surface water drainage

Work is needed in The Street to prevent flooding between Brookside Terrace and the entrance to Manor Farm

Amenity Fund

Funded a new bench at the Sheepcote, made a donation to the new defibrillator as well as funding the fireworks.

New Defibrillator outside Home Guard Club:

A new unit was purchased and we were fortunate to have local businesses which contributed £100 each towards it as well as other residents and the HGC - in total donations amounted to £1150. The donations reduced the cost to the KPC to £585.00.

Broadband and Mobile signal:

Cllr George Jean's has been advised that Kilmington has been included in one of Wessex Internet BDUK projects scheduled for summer 2026 and we await details of this. Also, as reported by Cllr Giles Hunt in the March PC meeting, EE are making progress with a Microwave service which will operate from the mast in the Deverills which may provide a mobile phone service for at least part of Kilmington.

Thanks

We are most grateful to **Tony Chub** who has renovated the three shelters in the village and made a new bench under the copper beech tree at Harepit Lane at no cost to the PC. Tony's efforts for the village are greatly appreciated.

Ian Cameron & Alex Merrick have diligently monitored and maintained the Defib units – an essential task and we do thank them.

And also **Georgina Muir** and **Peter Sansom** for their untiring efforts in maintaining the area around the war memorial, which always looks very attractive.

Darren Davis for his hard work in maintaining and reporting on the condition of the playground.

Eugene Read for doing the KPC's annual internal audit

John Harrison for his chairmanship of the playing field committee and his ongoing research into future funding.

Cllr George Jeans for his untiring efforts at Wiltshire Council level on behalf of the village

Ruth Burrows for maintaining my sanity and for going far beyond what is in her job spec as parish clerk, and for being such a help in so many areas.

All members of the Parish Council – my thanks to you all for your support, and perhaps especially to **Giles Hunt** who has resigned and whom we thank very much for his years as a member of the Parish Council. And we very much welcome **Cllr John Brooks**, who replaces Giles, and whom we welcome to the Parish Council.

Cllr Mrs Hames requested to speak prior to the next item. She said all members of the Parish Council joined with her in thanking Graham Cotton for all his hard work and commitment during the past year.

5. COUNCILLOR GEORGE JEANS ANNUAL REPORT – Cllr Jeans’ report is attached – this had previously been circulated to all councillors. It is also available to view on our website <https://www.kilmingtonwiltshire>.

6. REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE FOLLOWING PARISH ORGANISATIONS:

Kilmington Amenity Fund: Cllr Mrs Hames reported on behalf of herself and Mrs Elizabeth Reed as follows:

The number of people that contribute to the village draw has stayed consistent throughout the year at 194. The cost is £6 per person or 50p per month. The monthly payout is £50 in total divided into three prizes of:

1st £25.00 @ 50%

2nd £15.00 @ 30%

3rd £10.00 @ 20%

The remainder goes back into the fund. The fund does have a little extra revenue from the hire of the marquee tables and chairs which is popular in the summer months.

During the year we purchased 10 new chairs at a cost of £70.00, a new bench at Cote Lane £204.99 which was kindly put together and put in place by Tony Chubb. We made a donation of £300 to the new defibrillator unit on the outside of the Home Guard Club. The annual fireworks cost £405.75 and in this respect the Parish Council kindly supports us with this by reclaiming the VAT. The event also brought in extra cash amounting to £362.22 from donations and the hot dog stall.

The Fund concluded the financial year 31 March 2025 with £2357.78 in the bank.

The account has now started to incur a monthly service charge at Lloyds Bank and this was £4.25 for March but we are looking into other options as this is quite a lot for a small fund over the year.

The detailed spreadsheet giving expenditure and receipts is available on request.

Kilmington News: Cllr Mrs Hames’s report is attached and shows an income of £472.40 and expenditure of £167.96. The only expenditure this year was for printing which Celia and Graham Cotton provide for us at a very modest fee. We did not have to purchase any paper this year which results in a carry forward of £304.44.

John Hooper Charity: The Parish Clerk had contacted Neville Meeker who had provided the following details to 31 December 2024:

| | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Income | £20.20 |
| Expenses | £19.00 |
| Distributed | £12.00 - £7 to Kilmington LCC |

7. The Chairman closed the meeting at 19.52 hrs

Signed.....

Date

The minutes will be reviewed and formally ratified by the PC at the next Annual Parish Meeting in May 2026