

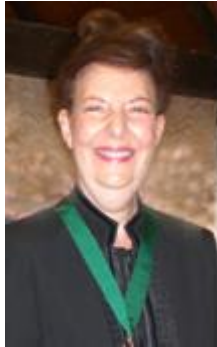
KINGSTON NEWS

“Looking After Your Interests”

Kingston Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 27, May 2021

Message from the Chairman



Dear Resident,

Welcome to this May edition of our newsletter.

I do hope you have kept well over the past, very difficult year.

The current Government legislation does not allow us to hold virtual meetings after the 6 May so we have brought forward the **Annual Meeting of the Parish and our meeting of Council and its Committees to the 5 May** to keep everyone safe at this stage of the easing of lockdown.

The Clerk gives more information about joining the meetings in the adjacent article.

At this time, we expect the meeting of Council planned for the 22 July will go ahead as a face to face socially distanced meeting. This will, of course, be subject to the latest Government guidelines so please check our noticeboards and website nearer to the time where the details will be confirmed.

I am sure we are all hopeful that the lifting of lockdown will go well and we can start enjoying meeting with family and friends again.

So, my best wishes to you for a very enjoyable Summer.

Cllr Geraldine Walker

Chairman Kingston Parish Council

Do join us

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Wednesday 5th May 2021

Virtual Meeting commencing at 7pm

The Annual Parish Meeting is quite distinct from a meeting of the Parish Council. It is an opportunity for all electors to come along and discuss parish issues. Here is the Agenda:

1. To receive apologies.
2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 May, 2019
3. To receive the Annual Report of Kingston Parish Council 2020/21 and to note the Annual Report 2019/20 previously circulated to residents in May 2020.
4. Observations of the District and County Councillors for Kingston if available.
5. Resolutions of which written notice has been given (none to date)
6. Public Question Time

Members of the Public are welcome to join the meeting via their internet connection and will be given an opportunity to speak at the meeting. **Details of how to join the meeting will be available by request to me (email preferred) by 5pm on the 3 May, 2021.**

Val Knight, Clerk of the Council, email: kingstonpc@yahoo.com

The meetings of Full Council and its Committees will immediately follow the Annual Parish Meeting.

Watch Out for

Offshore Wind Farm Consultation - Rampion 2 is expected to carry out a formal consultation on their scheme to expand the existing offshore Wind Farm along this coastline in the next few months so keep a lookout on their website <https://rampion2.com/> and in the press. **Council encourages all residents to have their say on this.**

You will see in Council's Annual Report overleaf, information on the concerns Council raised during an informal consultation earlier in the year on preliminary proposals. Importantly, the forthcoming consultation will be on a finalised scheme and Council will be considering the details of the scheme very carefully when making its response to the consultation.

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report April 2020 - March 2021

PRESENTED BY THE CHAIRMAN

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of Kingston Parish Council for 2020/21 which tells you about the work of the Council over the previous year.

My thanks go to Cllr Roger Wetherell, the Vice-Chairman of Council, Cllr David Joyce, Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, Cllr Valerie Masson, Chairman of the Planning Committee, Cllr Karen Kenning, Cllr Peter Jolly, Cllr Keith Buckenham and Val Knight, Clerk of the Council for their support and hard work during the year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank County Cllr Roger Elkins and our District Councillors Cllrs Ricky Bower, Terry Chapman and Paul Kelly for their attendance at our Council meetings and their support on local issues.

The Annual Parish Meeting due to be held in May 2020 was cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic and all Council meetings held during the year were held remotely in accordance with Government guidelines. The year ended with the Coronavirus lockdown restrictions beginning to ease and we will return to holding meetings in Our Lady Star of the Sea Church Hall when social distancing rules and government advice allows.

Geraldine Walker

Chairman, Kingston Parish Council

OFFSHORE WIND FARM - Rampion 2

In January 2021, Rampion 2 ran an informal consultation outlining their preliminary plans for an offshore Wind Farm along this coastline to add to the existing Rampion 1 scheme. Council raised some initial concerns and questions, summarised as:

- **Detrimental visual effect** given that the turbines would be only 8.1 miles from the shore; be taller than the Rampion 1 turbines (possibly 325m high); lit at night, and the combined span of Rampion 1 and 2 will affect the seascape of an extensive part of the Sussex coastline – potentially from Newhaven to Selsey.
- **Environmental Impact** on birds as their safe flight corridors will be lost; on sea life as the seabed will be disturbed, and on the countryside and its wildlife when inshore cables are laid from Climping to Bolney.
- **Economic Impact:** how will the scheme affect the local economy including tourism and fishing?
- **Location:** Whilst Council fully supports the need to bring on stream more renewable energy, Wind Farms need to be located with sensitivity to the amenity and landscape of the local area. Are there other sites around the coast where the turbines can be set much further out to sea to reduce the visual impact?

The Council had virtual meetings with Rampion 2 and Protect Coastal England, the campaign group who are objecting to the proposal. To hear both sides of the argument and find out more visit their websites:

Rampion 2 <https://rampion2.com/> **Protect Coastal England** <https://www.protectcoastalengland.org/>

Consultation on a finalised scheme is expected to commence in July and Council will be considering the details of the scheme, and whether its concerns have been mitigated, very carefully when making its response. We encourage all residents to have their say on the proposals for Rampion 2 and respond to the consultation.

HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

Our Winter Management Plan is still in place with County and but it only covers Kingston Lane (a public highway) and was not required this year as winter temperatures were quite mild and snow did not settle.

We continued to press for potholes to be filled and overhanging vegetation to be cleared. You can help: **report problems at love.westsussex.gov.uk.**

If you are responsible for hedges and trees along a road, please do **keep them cut back** so that they do not cause an obstruction or obscure visibility

DRAINAGE

It is still hoped that an application for funding from Operation Watershed (administered by County) to improve drainage in Peak Lane, will be made.

However, during the year the details of the works proposed were revised by County and District and new quotes have been sought. In order to progress an application all affected landowners must have acknowledged Riparian ownership responsibilities.

All residents can help prevent flooding by ensuring that ditches on or abutting their property are kept clear with water running freely in the ditch.

<p>FINANCE COMMITTEE</p>	<p>REPRESENTATION</p>
<p>The Parish Precept is collected from residents with their Council Tax, and for 2020/21 was set at £9,000.</p> <p>It is considered prudent to hold reserves so costs can be spread over several years. Costs during the year met from reserves and the Precept totalled £8,609 and included: Kingston Chapel Marker £1,443, a grant for St Marys Churchyard Maintenance of £350 and a grant towards the South Strand Community Toilets £300.</p> <p>Balances at 31 March 2021 include reserves for: Environmental projects £2,559, Community involvement/newsletters £936, Parish elections £2,485, 30 years celebration of the Parish Council £492, Winter Management Plan £419, Neighbourhood Plan Review £4,788, Planning matters £2,000, IT equipment £92 and General Fund £12,422.</p> <p>The Precept for 2021/22 has been set at £9,000 (no increase). The accounts will be formally considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee when it meets on 5 May, 2021.</p>	<p>Council was represented at virtual meetings of the West Sussex Association of Local Councils, the South Strand Community Toilets Group and Rampion 2 Liaison Group.</p> <p>The Chairman of Council laid a wreath at the Kingston War Memorial and the Vice-Chairman laid a wreath at the East Preston War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.</p>
<p>POLICING</p>	<p>EMERGENCY PLAN</p>
<p>Crime Statistics – PCSO Kate Houston provided the following statistics for the number of crimes recorded in the parish over a year for comparison: Year ending 28 February 2021: 16, Year ending 29 February 2020: 20, Year ending 28 February 2019: 11</p> <p>PCSO Houston took over from PCSO Billingham during the year but in April 2021 will hand over to PCSO Rateiwa. Council wrote to the District Commander about the changes and he replied that there remains a commitment for consistency in terms of officers staying allocated to the same areas where possible.</p> <p>Contact details for Sussex Police are: Report online at https://www.sussex.police.uk E-mail: 101@sussex.pnn.police.uk Telephone: call 101 or if an emergency call 999.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Watch - We encourage all residents to sign up to the NHW email Alert Scheme: email ramblers22oro@gmail.com with your name and address.</p>	<p>The last year has been dominated by the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic and having our Emergency Plan already in place was invaluable. We continued to inform residents on keeping up to date with government guidance and of help available to them, with Cllr Wetherell and Cllr Joyce on hand to give advice over the phone.</p> <p>Our thanks to independent volunteer groups who helped residents in the parish.</p>
<p>LOST CHAPEL OF KINGSTON</p>	<p>PLANNING COMMITTEE</p>
<p>A 2-ton natural boulder in the shape of a seat was unveiled by the Chairman on 4 September, 2020 on the West Kingston greensward. A plaque explains it marks where the old Chapel of Kingston was lost to the sea in C 1626. Council hopes that residents will enjoy sitting in this beautiful spot and remembering the Chapel.</p>	<p>The Planning Committee considered 23 planning applications during the year and we continue to refer to our Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Council made: No objection to 19 applications although this was often subject to conditions being imposed e.g. obscure glazed windows. Arun granted planning permission for 18 of the applications (often with conditions reflecting the comments made by Council), with 1 undecided at year end. Objection to 4 applications for reasons such as out of character to the surrounding area/intrusive to neighbours/in the Strategic Gap. Of the 4 that were objected to by Council, 3 were refused by Arun including a development in the Strategic Gap, with 1 undecided at year end</p> <p>In October we met Sir Peter Bottomley MP to show him the rural setting of Kingston and discuss the effect indiscriminate building would have on Kingston. Sir Peter was sympathetic to our situation in regard to any large-scale house building in this area and we were encouraged by his interest to help us maintain our distinctive character and rural setting whilst avoiding coalescence with surrounding settlements due to building within the Gap.</p>
<p>SEA DEFENCES</p>	<p>FERRING RIFE</p>
<p>We are concerned that local sea defences should be well maintained and continue to receive a copy of Arun’s inspection reports so that we can monitor what works are being carried out and report problems.</p>	<p>Cllr Joyce has continued to regularly walk the Rife to ensure that any problems with the water flow can be reported to the Environment Agency promptly.</p>

MEETINGS AND COUNCILLORS April 2020 - March 2021

MEETINGS: During the year there were 6 Full Council meetings, 6 Finance and General Purposes Committee meetings and 6 Planning Committee meetings all held remotely due to the Coronavirus pandemic and the need for social distancing.

The Annual Parish Meeting was cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic although the Annual Report of Council for 2019/20 was prepared and published in the May 2020 newsletter.

COUNCILLORS: There have been no changes since Councillors were elected in May 2019, and they are:

Cllr Keith Buckenham	Wood End, Peak Lane, BN16 1RN	01903 775057
Cllr Peter Jolly	Thatched Corners, Coastal Road, BN16 1SW	01903 786825
Cllr David Joyce	Orchard Cottage, Kingston Lane BN16 1RS	01903 779374
Cllr Karen Kenning	The Saltings, Downsview Road, BN16 1SD	01903 774931
Cllr Valerie Masson	Windy Corner, Gorse Avenue BN16 1SQ	01903 786139
Cllr Geraldine Walker	Rife Manor, Brookside Road BN16 1SE	01903 772043
Cllr Roger Wetherell	Newcote Farm, Kingston Lane BN16 1RP	01903 787205

FORTHCOMING MEETING DATES

All residents are welcome to attend meetings of the Council (including virtual meetings) when there will be an opportunity to make representations and ask questions on matters relating to Council business.

The usual meeting pattern is for Council and Committees to meet in the odd months of the year with additional meetings as required. Here are the main meeting dates for this year:

5	May	2021	Annual Parish Meeting Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee, Full Council
22	July	2021	Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee, Full Council
16	September	2021	Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee, Full Council
18	November	2021	Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee, Full Council
20	January	2022	Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee, Full Council
17	March	2022	Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee, Full Council

VENUE and TIME:

Unless held remotely as on 5 May, 2021, meetings are usually held in the hall of Our Lady Star of the Sea, Vermont Drive, East Preston, BN16 1JU at 7 pm – but please do check agenda to confirm the venue, dates, and times by visiting our website <https://kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk/> or checking our noticeboards.

CONTACT the COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Val Knight, 33 The Ridings, East Preston, West Sussex BN16 2TW
e-mail: kingstonpc@yahoo.com Tel: 01903 771922 <https://kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk/>

WAYS to KEEP in TOUCH

E-mail: Sign up to **receive our information e-mails** by e-mailing Val Knight: kingstonpc@yahoo.com

Online: Visit <https://kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk/>

Library: Agenda can be viewed at East Preston Library 3 days prior to the meetings.

Noticeboards: See our noticeboards located in Gorse Avenue and Coastal Road - but sorry information is limited due to the display space available.