

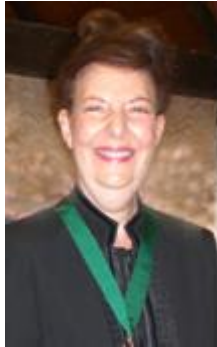
KINGSTON NEWS

“Looking After Your Interests”

Kingston Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 30, May 2022

Message from the Chairman



Dear Resident,

Welcome to this May edition of our newsletter.

Overleaf is the Annual Report of the Council updating you on our work over the previous year. I do hope you find the information of interest.

Please do join us at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 19th May 2022 when you will have an opportunity to discuss the Annual Report and other parish issues.

You can see on this page and in the Annual Report, there are important planning issues that will affect both the local landscape and the seascape, so please do make your views known.

My best wishes to you for a very enjoyable Summer.

Cllr Geraldine Walker

Chairman Kingston Parish Council



Support for Ukraine

Council welcomes refugees from the war in Ukraine to our Parish of Kingston.

We thank residents who have kindly offered to share their homes as well as those who have organised collections for essential goods to send to Ukraine and also those who have generously donated to Ukraine support schemes.

Do you value our Landscape and Seascape?

Please do keep a lookout in the local media for a chance to have your say on these 2 important issues:

Local Gaps and Countryside – There have been a series of housing development schemes being proposed on agricultural land and the gaps between settlements along the A259 between Rustington and Goring. If they all come to fruition that would be a total of 911 additional dwellings along this section of the A259. The Gaps protect each community's individual identity and preserve vital agricultural land and countryside. The proposals will impact on highways and existing infrastructure, as well the irreversible depletion of green spaces that sustain ecosystems and wildlife.

Offshore Wind Farm - The community consultation on Rampion 2 has now closed and final detailed proposals are expected to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by late summer. The scheme will have a visual and environmental impact. So keep a lookout on the Rampion website <https://rampion2.com/> and in the local media.

See inside pages for more detailed information on these 2 issues.

Do join us

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Thursday 19th May 2022 at 7pm in

Our Lady Star of the Sea Hall, Vermont Drive, East Preston

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 5 May, 2021 (available on our website <https://kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk/>)
3. To receive the Annual Report of Kingston Parish Council 2021/22 (as set out overleaf).
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 attend the meeting and the meetings of Full Council and its Committees that will follow.

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report April 2021 - March 2022

PRESENTED BY THE CHAIRMAN

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of Kingston Parish Council for 2021/22 which tells you about the work of the Council over the previous year.

I would like to thank 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 also 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.

If residents have any questions arising from this report, please contact the Clerk for information.

Geraldine Walker

Chairman, Kingston Parish Council

OFFSHORE WIND FARM - Rampion 2

The Rampion 2 community consultation took place during the year and a special newsletter was circulated to residents to make them aware of their opportunity to comment on the proposed scheme.

Here is a summary of the concerns Council raised in its response to the plans as set out in the consultation:

Location - Whilst Council fully supports the need to bring on stream more renewable energy, wind farms should be located with sensitivity to the amenity and landscape of the local area. There are other sites around the coast where the turbines can be set much further out to sea to reduce the visual impact such as at Dogger Bank in the North Sea and these will also benefit from increased wind strength and efficiency.

Visual Impact - There will be an extremely detrimental visual effect on the seascape given the size of the turbines that are to be sited only some 8 miles from the shoreline. The combined and extended span of Rampion 1 and 2 will unacceptably affect the seascape of an extensive part of the Sussex coastline, 'fencing' in the Sussex Bay.

Environmental Impact - There will be a detrimental impact on the Environment due to the effect of turbines on safe flight corridors for birds, bats etc. and the disturbance of the seabed impacting on plants and sea creatures as well as the effect on the countryside and its wildlife by laying offshore cables from Climping to Bolney.

Economic Impact – the wind farm will damage our seaside views and beauty, deterring people attracted to visit or live here and stifling the economic benefits that visitors and new residents bring.

Final detailed proposals are expected to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate by late summer. At this point there will be further formal opportunity for Council and residents to make comment on the application.

We encourage all residents to have their say on the proposals for Rampion 2 and make representations to the Planning Inspectorate when the time comes.

To see opposing views on the scheme we suggest visiting: Rampion 2 <https://rampion2.com/> & Middleton-on-Sea Coastal Alliance <https://www.mosca.click/rampion-2//>

HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

Our Winter Management Plan is still in place with County but was not required due to the mild winter.

We continued to press for potholes to be filled and have reported broken road signs and faded white line markings at the Peak Lane junction with Kingston Lane. You can find out how to report a highways problem on County's website: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/>

We have met with County and Angmering and East Preston Parishes to discuss the hazards and delays at the Roundstone Crossing and New Barn roundabout. Talks are on hold until the dualling of the A259 New Barn – Angmering Station roundabouts is complete and the effects on traffic known.

DRAINAGE AND FERRING RIFE

Quotes for a revised scheme to improve drainage in Peak Lane to hopefully be funded by Operation Watershed (administered by County) have been requested. Additionally, District will be progressing repairs to the sea outfall pipe south of Peak Lane.

Cllr Joyce continued to regularly walk the Rife to ensure that any problems with the water flow can be reported to the Environment Agency (EA) promptly. Recently the EA said it has plans for the outlet to the sea "to upgrade and revamp the system that is currently there to ensure its functionalities and demands are met with the ever increasing climate change and housing developments as you may be aware of upstream".

<p>FINANCE COMMITTEE</p>	<p>PLANNING COMMITTEE</p>
<p>The Parish Precept is collected from residents with their Council Tax, and for 2021/22 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 £8,837 and included: Replacement Flagpole and Flag £1,307, grant for St Marys Churchyard Maintenance of £350 and a grant to the South Strand Community Toilets £300.</p> <p>Balances at 31 March 2022 include reserves for: Environmental projects £1,552, Community newsletters £870, Elections £2,535, 30-year celebration of Council £592, Winter Management Plan £469, Planning matters £3,000, Neighbourhood Plan £4,788, IT equipment £92 and General Fund £12,462. TOTAL funds £26,360.</p> <p>The Precept for 2022/23 is set at £9,090 (1% increase). The accounts will be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 19 May, 2022.</p>	<p>The Planning Committee considered 28 planning applications during the year and we continue to refer to our Neighbourhood Plan. Council made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No objection to 20 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 application withdrawn and the refused application being resubmitted and subsequently approved. - Objection to 8 applications for reasons such as out of character to the surrounding area/intrusive to neighbours/in the Strategic Gap. 5 of these were approved by Arun but with conditions applied, 1 has been resubmitted with revised plans and 2 were refused by Arun: these were in Angmering and bordered the A259.
<p>POLICING</p>	<p>LOCAL GAPS AND COUNTRYSIDE</p>
<p>Crime Statistics – Whilst a definitive analysis of the number of crime incidents in the parish for year ending 31 March 2022 is not available, we can report that the number of incidents in Kingston were very low.</p> <p>PCSO Raj Raju is our new PCSO and we were pleased to meet him at our Council meeting in March, 2022.</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 <u>if</u> 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 good news is that during the year an Appeal for a dwelling in the local Gap in countryside in the parish was rejected by the Planning Inspector. However, there is continued pressure for building in local gaps or on green spaces that whilst not always in our Parish do impact on our local gap, agricultural land, countryside, ecosystems and infrastructure. Several schemes border the A259 between Rustington and Goring. Currently these are A/45/22/PL for 167 dwellings at Rustington Golf Centre and A/168/21/PL for 76 dwellings next to Roundstone Farm that has been Appealed.</p> <p>This follows the application for 475 houses at Chatsmore Farm in the Goring Gap, that was granted on Appeal – a decision that Worthing Borough Council is challenging in the High Court. Other potential proposals are: 121 dwellings at Highdown Vineyard and 72 dwellings at Lansdowne Nursery.</p> <p>Council is in touch with other local Councils and Sir Peter Bottomley on this important issue.</p> <p>Please do have your say on these! Keep a look out in the local media for new applications or search for an application and make comment: - www.arun.gov.uk/planning-application-search</p>
<p>FLAGPOLE</p>	<p>SEA DEFENCES</p>
<p>The flagpole at the junction of Coastal Road/Gorse Avenue/Sea Lane was showing its age and, during the year, Council agreed to replace it with a new 8 metre high flagpole. The new flagpole is already in use and flying the Ukraine National Flag when not required for UK flag flying days, such as St George’s Day. Council has also purchased a flag to fly to celebrate the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee over the extended bank holiday weekend 2nd – 5th June, 2022. We hope everyone enjoys the celebrations – whatever the weather!</p>	<p>We are concerned that local sea defences should be well maintained and receive a copy of Arun’s inspection reports so that we can monitor what works are being carried out. We are to meet with Sir Peter Bottomley MP in May, 2022 to discuss our concerns about the way maintenance works are prioritised due to budget restrictions.</p>
<p>ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP</p>	
<p>The Environmental Working Group began meeting during the year. The Group will identify maintenance works or new projects around the Parish and make recommendations to Council. For instance, the Group is looking to place signage along the Rife asking for dogs to be kept on leads April – July to protect ground nesting birds during the breeding period.</p>	

REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS AND EVENTS 2021- 2022

Council was represented at meetings of the West Sussex Association of Local Councils, the South Strand Community Toilets Group and the Eastern Arun Parishes Group.

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.

MEETINGS AND COUNCILLORS April 2021 - March 2022

MEETINGS: During the year there were 6 Full Council meetings, 6 Finance and General Purposes Committee meetings and 6 Planning Committee meetings, as well as the Annual Assembly of the Parish.

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:

19	May	2022	Annual Parish Meeting Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee, Full Council
TBC	June	2022	Meeting of Council to consider the Annual Return (re Accounts and Governance)
7	July	2022	Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee, Full Council
15	September	2022	Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee, Full Council
17	November	2022	Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee, Full Council
19	January	2023	Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee, Full Council
16	March	2023	Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee, Full Council

VENUE and TIME:

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/> to see our Agenda, Minutes and other news.

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.