

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report April 2022 - March 2023

PRESENTED BY THE CHAIRMAN

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of Kingston Parish Council for 2022-23 which tells you about the work of the Council over the previous year.

My thanks 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 Valerie Knight, Clerk of the Council for their support and hard work during the year.

Cllr Peter Jolly had been a Councillor since August, 2004, serving for most of that time as Vice-Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and as our representative on Policing matters. Peter decided not to stand for re-election in May, and I take this opportunity to commend him for all of his hard work and service to the community. I am pleased to welcome Cllr Richard Andrew to the Council.

I also thank County Cllr Roger Elkins and Arun District Councillors Bower, Chapman and Kelly for their attendance at our Council meetings and their support on local issues. District Cllr Chapman decided not to stand for re-election this May and so special thanks to him for all of his work for Kingston since he became one of our District Councillors in 2007. Finally, Congratulation to District Cllrs Ricky Bower and Paul Kelly on their re-election to Arun District Council and to newly elected District Cllr Philipa Bower.

Geraldine Walker

Chairman, Kingston Parish Council

OFFSHORE WIND FARM - Rampion 2

In November, 2022 Council considered further public consultation on the revised onshore cable route alternatives and agreed to make the following comment: 'Kingston Parish Council has noted the consultation. The proposals do not change our previous objections to the Rampion 2 scheme'

Final detailed proposals are expected to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate later this year. 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. For more information visit the Rampion 2 website:

<https://rampion2.com/>

ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP

The Environmental Working Group was formed in 2021. It is to meet with Arun District Council to discuss locations for 'no dog fouling signs'.

The Clerk is following up with the Environment Agency and Arun District Council on locations for signs along the west side of the Rife asking for dogs to be kept on leads to protect ground nesting birds during the breeding period (March – July).

SEA DEFENCES

During the year we met with Sir Peter Bottomley MP to discuss our concerns about the way maintenance works are prioritised due to budget restrictions. We will arrange to meet with the Head of Engineering Services for Arun District Council (once an appointment is made following the retirement of the previous Head) to discuss this, and to understand planned short-term, middle term and long-term actions (including preventative work).

DRAINAGE AND FERRING RIFE

Peak Lane: A scheme to improve drainage in Peak Lane to be funded by Operation Watershed (administered by County) has stalled whilst County contact a local landowner about improvements at the junction with Kingston Lane. Without landowner consent to works at this point the scheme will not benefit all Kingston Lane users as well as residents of Peak Lane. Operation Watershed funding criteria takes the number who benefit from the scheme in to account when determining the funding bid.

Ferring Rife: Cllr Joyce continues to regularly walk along the Rife so that any problems with the water flow can be reported to the Environment Agency. Cllr Joyce has advised he has seen **Mink** in the north of the Parish to the west of the Rife so please take extra care if you have fishponds in your garden. See www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/mammals/american-mink. The control of mink is at the discretion of the landowner.

FINANCE COMMITTEE 2022-23

The Parish Precept is collected from residents with their Council Tax, and for 2022/23 was set at £9,090.

Reserves - 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 £7,905 and included: A replacement Union Flag and a Platinum Jubilee Flag £82, refurbishment of the Coastal Road Noticeboard £360, grant for St Marys Churchyard Maintenance £350, grant for the South Strand Community Toilets £300, grant to the KSS Air Ambulance Trust £150 and donation to the Poppy Appeal (including purchasing 2 wreaths) £120.

Balances at 31 March 2023 include reserves for: Environmental projects £1,370, Community newsletters £802, Elections £2,585, 30-year celebration of Council £692, Winter Management Plan £519, Planning matters £4,000, Neighbourhood Plan £4,788, IT equipment £92 and General Fund £13,348. TOTAL funds £28,196.

The Precept for 2023/24 is set at £9,090 – no increase from last year. The accounts will be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 18 May, 2023 before being considered by Council.

POLICING 2022-23

Crime Statistics – Whilst a definitive analysis of the number of crime incidents in the parish for year ending 31 March 2023 is not available, we can report that the number of incidents in Kingston were again very low.

PCSO - Kingston no longer has a dedicated PCSO. Instead, it is now covered by the Littlehampton OUTER TEAM (a team of 4 officers).

Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) – Council and other Town/Parish Councils have attended monthly online meetings with the NPT Inspector. Of particular relevance to Kingston following attempts by Travellers to gain access to the greenswards last year, Police strategies to deal with Unauthorised Encampments by Travellers were among the issues discussed. Parishes will have a part to play in disseminating information about the movement of Travellers in the District. Inspector Neil Durkan visited the parish accompanied by Cllr Buckenham, Richard Richards (Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator) and the Clerk. He viewed various locations to discuss the level of risk and possible preventative actions that could be taken by the land owner (information circulated to landowners by Richard Richards and the Clerk).

Contact details for Sussex Police are:
Report online at <https://www.sussex.police.uk>
Telephone: call 101 or if an emergency call 999.

Neighbourhood Watch - We encourage all residents to sign up to the NHW email Alert Scheme: email ramblers22oro@gmail.com with your name and address.

HIGHWAYS 2022-23

Our **Winter Management Plan** is still in place with County but it was not required again this year due to the mild winter. **Kingston Lane** is our only public highway and we continue to report problems such as potholes/ missing signs to County. Unfortunately, County will not be repainting the faded white lines on the road bend at the junction of Kingston Lane with Peak Lane, as they say the carriageway is not wide enough to meet the criteria for a central white line.

The **reporting** tool used by County ‘Love West Sussex’ has been discontinued. For reporting all Highway road and pavement related issues including potholes, flooding, tree, hedges, weeds and grass and faults or obstructions on the road, pavement or cycle paths County ask you to visit: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/>

County has recently revised its **Speed Limit Policy** and we will be looking to see if this can be effectively applied to Kingston Lane.

PLANNING COMMITTEE 2022-23

The Planning Committee considered 27 planning applications for locations in Kingston and we continue to refer to our Neighbourhood Plan. Council made:

- **No objection** to 18 applications although this was often subject to conditions being imposed Arun District Council (ADC) granted planning permission for all 18, often with conditions reflecting comments made by Council

- **Objection** to 9 applications for reasons such as out of character to the area/intrusive to privacy/in the Strategic Gap. 6 of these were approved by ADC but with conditions applied, 1 was withdrawn and 2 were refused by ADC including K/56/22/PL for 48 residential dwellings on Land north-east of Kingston Lane. **This was a very important decision for the Parish.**

Council objected to 4 applications in Ferring and Angmering for developments along the A259. ADC refused all of these but **2 Appeals have been allowed** by the Planning Inspectorate: A/168/21 Land South of Littlehampton Road/East of Worthing Road for 76 dwellings; and A/129/21 Rustington Golf Centre for 191 dwellings (also allowed on Appeal A/45/22/PL for same site)

Consultation - during the year, Council responded to a consultation by the Government Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport on Short Term Holiday Lets.

REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS AND EVENTS 2022- 2023

Council was represented at meetings of the West Sussex Association of Local Councils, the Arun District Association of Local Councils, the South Strand Community Toilets Group, the Community Coastal Project Liaison Group (Rampion 2), the Arun Joint Action Group and online meetings with the NPT (Neighbourhood Policing Team) Inspector.

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. Cllr Buckenham attended the launch of the Christmas Tree Festival at St Mary's Church.

MEETINGS AND COUNCILLORS

MEETINGS: During the year there were 7 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: PARISH ELECTIONS MAY 2023 - As seven candidates were nominated for the seven seats available, they have been elected without a poll in a non-contested election. The changes from last year are that Cllr Peter Jolly decided not to stand for re-election and Richard Andrew has joined the Council. Here are your current Councillors:

Cllr Keith Buckenham	Wood End, Peak Lane, BN16 1RN	01903 775057
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 BN161SE	01903 772043
Cllr Roger Wetherell	Newcote Farm, Kingston Lane BN16 1RP	01903 787205
Cllr Richard Andrew	Kingston Manor, Kingston Lane, BN16 1RR e-mail: Cllr.Andrew@kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk	

FORTHCOMING MEETING DATES

All residents are welcome to attend meetings of the Council when there is an opportunity to make representations and ask questions on matters relating to the Council business on the Agenda. We usually meet in the hall of Our Lady Star of the Sea, Vermont Drive, East Preston, BN16 1JU with meetings commencing at 7 pm. Please do check agenda to confirm the venue and times by using our website <https://kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk/> or viewing our noticeboards.

Here are the meeting dates for this year:

18	May	2023	Annual Parish Meeting, Planning and Finance Committees, Full Council
TBC	June	2023	Meeting of Council to consider the Annual Return (re Accounts)
20	July	2023	Planning and Finance Committees, Full Council
21	September	2023	Planning and Finance Committees, Full Council
16	November	2023	Planning and Finance Committees, Full Council
18	January	2024	Planning and Finance Committees, Full Council
21	March	2024	Planning and Finance Committees, Full Council

CONTACT the COUNCIL

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Val Knight, 33 The Ridings, East Preston, West Sussex BN16 2TW
e-mail: clerk@kingston-wsk-pc.gov.uk 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 the Clerk.

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 (west end).