



KINGSTON NEWS

“Looking After Your Interests”

Kingston Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 36, May 2024

Message from the Chairman



Dear Resident,

Welcome to the May 2024 edition of our newsletter.

Overleaf is the Annual Report of the Council that updates 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 16th May, 2024** when you will have an opportunity to discuss the Annual Report and other parish issues.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Cllr Karen Kenning who joined the Council in 2007 but has recently decided to resign from the Council due to other commitments. I and my fellow Members will miss her help and support and wish her well for the future.

You will find information on filling the vacancy that this has created in the adjacent column. →

If you have questions about the work of the Council, please ask the Clerk or a Parish Councillor - you will find contact details on the back page of this newsletter.

I do hope you have a good summer and that we can all enjoy some sunny weather.

Cllr Geraldine Walker

Chairman Kingston Parish Council

Do join us

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Thursday 16th May 2024 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 18 May, 2023 (available on our website <https://kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk/>)
3. To receive the Annual Report of Council 2023/24
4. Observations of District and County Councillors for the Parish
5. Resolutions of which written notice has been given
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.

Vacancy for a Councillor

The vacancy for a councillor has been advertised in our noticeboards and on our website as required by statute. If no poll is called for by 10th May, Council hopes to fill the vacancy by co-option (a relatively straightforward process) when it meets in May.

So, please do contact the Clerk if you are interested in becoming a Councillor - email: clerk@kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk before 14th May if interested in co-option or anytime if you would like to register your interest in future vacancies.

Diary dates for you

Meetings of Full Council and its Committees
16th May, 18th July, 19th September and 21st November

Usually in Our Lady Star of the Sea Hall, Vermont Drive, East Preston, commencing at 7 pm.

Agenda can be viewed in our noticeboards or on our website 3 days prior to the meetings: <https://kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk/>

Note: there will be an additional meeting of Council in June (date TBC), to sign off the Annual Return re Accounts.

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report April 2023 - March 2024

PRESENTED BY THE CHAIRMAN

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of Kingston Parish Council for 2023-24 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 Richard Andrew, Cllr Keith Buckenham and Valerie Knight, Clerk of the Council for their support and hard work during the year.

Cllr Karen Kenning had been a Councillor since May, 2007 and has been Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee since May, 2012. Karen decided to resign from Council a few weeks ago due to other commitments and I take this opportunity to commend her for all of her hard work and service to the community. Council intends to fill the vacancy by co-option unless a formal election is called for.

I also thank County Cllr Roger Elkins and Arun District Councillors Ricky Bower, Philippa Bower and Paul Kelly for their attendance at our Council meetings and their support on local issues.

Geraldine Walker

Chairman, Kingston Parish Council

OFFSHORE WIND FARM - Rampion 2

Final detailed proposals have now been submitted by Rampion to the Planning Inspectorate. Council has lodged its objections to the scheme with the Planning Inspectorate. The examination of the Development Consent Order (DCO) application began on 6th February 2024 and is ongoing.

You can find out more about the examination on the Planning Inspectorate website:

<https://national-infrastructure-consenting.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/EN010117/>

or by visiting the Rampion 2 website: <https://rampion2.com/>.

FERRING RIFE AND FLOOD ACTION GROUPS

Cllr Joyce continues to regularly walk along the Rife so that any problems with the water flow can be reported to the EA. There have been no problems reported by Council this year although we did seek reassurances that the weed screen cleaner and the lagoons were in good working order and the doing their jobs when water levels were high during periods of heavy rainfall over the Winter. No internal flooding of homes in the parish occurred from Rife waters or from rainwater as far as we are aware.

FLAG: The EA had received a high volume of calls about flood risk during this period, and subsequently contacted this Council and Ferring Parish Council to ask if there is a Flood Action Group (FLAG) active in our Parishes. There is no FLAG in this parish but the EA have noted that there is a substantial section on dealing with flooding in the Kingston Emergency Plan. This is on our website and can be viewed here: <https://kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk/media/14687/kingston-emergency-plan-2023.pdf>. The section on flooding begins at Page 27. Further information from the EA will be considered at the May meeting of Council.

ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP

The Environmental Working Group meets on an 'ad hoc' basis. During the year, signs were installed at 3 points where members of the public gain access to the west (Kingston) side of the Ferring Rife. The signs request that dogs be kept on leads to protect ground nesting birds during the breeding period (March – July). The west side of the Rife includes the lagoon area that is part of a designated 'Local Wildlife Site.

Our thanks to Arun District Council, the Environment Agency (EA) and the Ferring Country Centre for their help with identifying suitable positions for the signs.

KINGSTON LANE

Kingston Lane is our only public highway and we continue to report problems such as potholes, overgrown vegetation and missing signs, to County.

We have had initial talks with County about introducing a speed limit along Kingston Lane. We were advised that a request for a 30mph limit would stand the best chance of success. So, look out for a survey to find out your views.

High rainfall over the Winter led to the surface of Kingston Lane being flooded but passable on various occasions particularly west of Newcote Farm, at the junction of Peak Lane and by pond corner. Council will continue to report drainage issues to County and District who are responsible for roads and ditches respectively.

FINANCE COMMITTEE 2023-24

The Parish Precept is collected from residents with their Council Tax, and for 2023/24 was set at £9,090.

Reserves - It is considered prudent to hold reserves so that costs can be spread over several years. Costs during the year met from reserves and the Precept totalled £7,958 and included: signs re protecting ground nesting birds £270, grants for the South Strand Community Toilets £300, St Marys Churchyard Maintenance £350, KSS Air Ambulance Trust £300 and donation to the Poppy Appeal (including purchasing 2 wreaths) £120.

Balances at 31 March 2024 include reserves for: Environmental projects £1,400, Community newsletters £828, Elections £2,635, 30-year celebration of Council £792, Winter Management Plan £519, Planning matters £5,000, Neighbourhood Plan £4,788, IT equipment/website £592, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts £3755 and General Fund £13,295. TOTAL funds £33,604.

The Precept for 2024/25 is set at £9,090 – no increase from last year or the year before that. The accounts will be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee on 16 May, 2024 before being considered by Council.

CIL - You may have noticed that included in the Reserves shown above is an amount of £3,755 from the Community Infrastructure Levy which is a charge levied on new developments. It is collected by Arun District Council and the relevant Parish receives a portion of it. Council has 5 years to spend CIL monies on infrastructure projects.

POLICING 2023-24

Crime Statistics – April 2023 - April 2024

PCSO Raju has provided the following crime statistics (*excluding domestic related incidents*): Public Order 1, Fraud 4, Anti-Social Behaviour 4, Criminal Damage 1. PCSO Raju says ‘These crime figures have gone down and are still low when compared to nearby villages.’

Neighbourhood Policing Team (NPT) – Council and other Town/Parish Councils have attended online meetings with the NPT Inspector. These meetings are set to continue throughout 2024. **PCSO Raj Raju** is part of the NPT and is the PCSO with primary responsibility for East Preston and Kingston.

Contact details for Sussex Police are:

Report online at <https://www.sussex.police.uk>
Telephone: call 101 or if an emergency call 999.
Report anti-social driving or abandoned vehicles online: <http://www.operationcrackdown.org/>

Local Neighbourhood Watch - We encourage all residents to sign up to the NHW email Alert Scheme - email kingstonsxnhw@outlook.com to do this.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Whilst we feel the policies in our existing Neighbourhood Plan (NP) are still very relevant, it is now deemed out of date by legislation.

Council will therefore begin a review of the NP and will be circulating information to you over the summer.

If you are interested in joining a Working Group to progress the NP, please contact the Clerk: email: clerk@kingston-wsk-pc.gov.uk

PLANNING COMMITTEE 2023-24

The Planning Committee considered 19 planning applications for locations in Kingston and we continue to refer to our Neighbourhood Plan. Council made:

- **No objection** to 13 applications. All 13 were approved by Arun District Council (ADC)

- **Objection** to 6 applications for reasons such as out of character to the area/intrusive to privacy/in the Strategic Gap. Five of these were approved by ADC with conditions applied. One was seeking a lawful development certificate for works already carried out but ADC decided that planning permission should be applied for.

Appeals:

Council objected to the following applications. They were refused by ADC and the Appeal Planning Inspector upheld the decisions by ADC:

K/22/22/PL application for 3 stables and a barn on Land East of Kingston House, Kingston Lane.

FG/124/22/PL application for 70 dwellings at Lansdowne Nursery, Littlehampton Road.

(*Note: Whilst the site is in Ferring, the application would have impacted on Kingston/local area.*)

K/46/23/PL for 47 residential dwellings on Land north-east of Kingston Lane was one of the applications this Council objected to as did East Preston, Angmering, Ferring, and Rustington Parish Councils.

Significantly, many residents of Kingston and also East Preston and Ferring had vigorously objected to the application and many attended the Arun Planning Committee where the very disappointing decision to approve was made by 6 votes to 5.

Most of you will be aware, because of information we circulated, that Council has made a request for this application to be called-in by the Secretary of State and we appreciate that other parish councils and several residents have also made requests. At the time of preparing this report (8/5/24) the call-in decision has not yet been made.

REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS AND EVENTS 2023-24

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 Network for Neighbourhood Planning (led by Middleton-on-Sea Parish Council) and meetings with the 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 Andrew and his wife attended the Rustington Parish Thanksgiving Service.

MEETINGS AND COUNCILLORS

MEETINGS: During the year ending 31 March, 2024, 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: As seven candidates were nominated for the seven seats available, they were elected without a poll in a non-contested election in May 2023. In April 2024, Cllr Karen Kenning resigned from Council leaving one vacancy for a Councillor that Council hopes to fill by co-option if no poll is called for. Here are your current Councillors:

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	01903 772790
Cllr Valerie Masson	Windy Corner, Gorse Avenue BN16 1SQ	01903 572588
Cllr Keith Buckenham	Wood End, Peak Lane, BN16 1RN	01903 775057
Cllr David Joyce	Orchard Cottage, Kingston Lane BN16 1RS	01903 779374
Vacancy		

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:

16	May	2024	Annual Parish Meeting, Planning and Finance Committees, Full Council
TBC	June	2024	Meeting of Council to consider the Annual Return (re Accounts)
18	July	2024	Planning and Finance Committees, Full Council
19	September	2024	Planning and Finance Committees, Full Council
21	November	2024	Planning and Finance Committees, Full Council
16	January	2025	Planning and Finance Committees, Full Council
20	March	2025	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).