



KINGSTON PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish of Kingston held on 16th May 2024

commencing at 7 pm

in Our Lady Star of the Sea Hall, East Preston

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

PRESENT:

Parish Councillors: G Walker (Chairman), R Andrew, K Buckenham, D Joyce, and R Wetherell.
Plus, Val Knight, Clerk to the Council

District Cllrs: Cllr P Bower and Cllr R Bower

Residents: 7 parishioners

Also in Attendance: Simon Cross, Clerk to East Preston Parish Council and PCSO Raju

- Welcome:** Cllr Walker welcomed everyone to the meeting and declared the meeting open.
- Apologies:** Cllr V Masson; County Cllr Elkins; District Cllr Kelly. Two parishioners.
- Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th May 2023 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- Report of PCSO Raju** – To enable PCSO Raju to return to his duties without delay the Chairman invited him to speak at this point. PCSO Raju said that, reassuringly, over the last year, the parish had a low crime rate. He spoke about travellers and advised that if any issues arose with Travellers residents should call 999. The Chairman thanked PCSO Raju for attending the meeting and he left the meeting to return to his duties.
- Report of District and County Councillors:** County Cllr Elkins had sent his apologies. District Cllr R Bower gave a report on Arun District Council matters, including:
 - Dawn Hudd had been appointed as the new Chief Executive and would take up her post later in the year.
 - The new Leader of the Council is Cllr Lury
 - The decision of the Arun Planning Committee to approve Planning Application K/46/23/PL was very disappointing.
 - Officers had presented a report to the Arun Economy Committee on the potential to provide additional beach huts along the coast from Ferring to Pagham but this has not yet been agreed by any Members. Further consultation is to be carried out. He felt the beach along Kingston is too narrow and unsuitable for beach huts and much of the land is in private ownership. A resident said he was looking in to the legal position for the beach and why Arun claimed adverse position of some of the beach. Cllr R Bower replied that under the 1974 Local Government Act, rights had been transferred to the new authority from the old authority.District Cllr P Bower spoke about changes to recycling particularly around food waste. There is a national drive to collect food waste weekly and to use smaller bins for general waste. A resident suggested that bins could be bigger and collected less frequently.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs R Bower and P Bower for their reports.

5. **Kingston Parish Council: Annual Report 2023/24** – The Chairman presented the Annual Report for the year ending 31st March 2024 (see Attached) which had previously been circulated to Kingston households and the Report was noted by the meeting.

The Chairman then thanked the parish’s County and District Councillors for their help on local issues during 2023/24 and went on to thank her fellow Councillors and the Clerk for their support and hard work throughout the year.

Finally, the Chairman thanked Karend Kenning who had resigned from Council in April 2024 after 17 years as a councillor and presented her with a leaving gift from her fellow Members of Council.

6. **Resolutions** – There were no Resolutions to consider.

7. **Public Questions** – There were no direct questions, but Judith Smithers from West Kingston Residents Association (WKRA) spoke about the strong concerns that WKRA have regarding the report on additional beach huts that had been presented by officers to the Arun Economy Committee in April and had include potential sites along West Kingston beach and South Strand beach. They included:

- Direct access to the West Kingston beach and South Strand beach by car is not possible as the immediate roads and land are privately owned. There is no nearby public parking.
- The South Strand car park referred to in the report is privately owned and not for public use.
- This will put additional pressure on public roads to the north.
- South Strand toilets are administered and funded by volunteers

WKRA hoped these views would be taken in to account when the Parish Council considers the matter.

The Chairman thanked Judith for the information.

The meeting concluded at 7.49 pm.

Signed
Chairman Kingston Parish Council

Date

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).