



KINGSTON PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Assembly of the Parish of Kingston held on 15th May 2025

commencing at 7 pm

in Our Lady Star of the Sea Hall, East Preston

(to be confirmed at the next meeting)

PRESENT:

Parish Councillors:	R Wetherell (Chairman), R Andrew, K Buckenham, D Marr and V Masson Plus, Val Knight, Clerk to the Council
District Cllrs:	Cllr R Bower
County Cllr:	Cllr R Elkins
Residents:	4 parishioners, including D Joyce and G Walker

- Welcome:** Cllr Wetherell welcomed everyone to the meeting and declared the meeting open.
- Apologies:** District Cllrs P Bower and P Kelly. PCSO Raju.
- Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th May 2024 were agreed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.
- Kingston Parish Council: Annual Report 2024/25** – The Chairman presented the Annual Report for the year ending 31st March 2025 (see Attached) which had previously been circulated to Kingston households and the Report was noted by the meeting.

Finally, the Chairman thanked David Joyce (former Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee) who had resigned from Council after 11 years and Geraldine Walker who had resigned from Council after 20 years spent as a diligent and dedicated Chairman of the Council. The Chairman presented both David and Geraldine with gifts from their fellow Members of Council. District Cllrs R Bower and County Cllr R Elkins added their thanks and appreciation to Geraldine for her hard work when Chairman of the Council.

The Chairman then thanked the parish's County and District Councillors for their help on local issues during 2024/25 and went on to thank his fellow Councillors and the Clerk for their hard work throughout the year.

5. Report of District and County Councillors:

County Cllr Elkins gave a broad overview of the achievements of West Sussex County Council over the previous year and on changes that are on their way, including:

- VolkerHighways had been appointed highway contractors and FM Conway awarded a contract for small-scale drainage works to allow more frequent emptying of gullies.
- Lyminster By-Pass is now open
- Libraries introduced 'press reader' for users to access newspapers and magazines online.
- There is high demand for Adult Social Care and SEN (Special Educational Needs) services.
- Devolution is coming. County is producing a monthly economic snapshot to help to inform decisions on the way forward.

District Cllr R Bower gave a report on Arun District Council matters, and said:

- Devolution options for the make up of Unitary authorities options are still under discussion.
- The Annual Meeting of Arun District Council would be held on 21 May, 2025.
- If there are any District matters arising between meetings, please contact him.

The Chairman thanked Cllrs Bower and Elkins for their reports

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

7. **Public Questions** – Geraldine Walker took the opportunity to wish everyone well for the future and handed over the Chairman’s Badge and Chain of Office to the new Chairman, Cllr Wetherell.

The meeting concluded at 7.24 pm.

Signed
Chairman Kingston Parish Council

Date

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report April 2024 - March 2025

PRESENTED BY THE CHAIRMAN

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of Kingston Parish Council for 2024-25 which tells you about the work of the Council over the previous year. If you would like to help the community, we do currently have vacancies for 2 Councillors that Council intends to fill by co-option. Please do consider applying to join us – see information on the front page of this newsletter.

Both Cllr Geraldine Walker and Cllr David Joyce decided to resign from Council at the beginning of April 2025, and I take this opportunity to commend them for their hard work and service to the community. David was co-opted on 20th March 2014 and served as Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee from 21st May 2015 until his resignation. We will miss him, his regular reports on the condition of the Ferring Rife and his humour! Geraldine was co-opted to Council on 24th March 2005 and elected Chairman of Council on 12th May 2005 continuing until her resignation. Our thanks to Geraldine for her leadership and understanding during her 20 years as Chairman.

My thanks to Cllr Richard Andrew who has stepped up to be Vice-Chairman of Council, and also to Cllr Valerie Masson, Cllr Keith Buckenham, Cllr Dave Marr and Val Knight, Clerk of the Council, for their continuing support during the year.

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.

Roger Wetherell

Chairman, Kingston Parish Council

K/46/23/PL Judicial Review Application - Unsuccessful

As you may know from previous newsletter and leaflet drops, we applied for a Judicial Review of the planning approval for 47 houses at the top of Kingston Lane. Disappointingly, the review was refused by the Administrative Court in February, 2025 and so the application did not progress to a hearing in the High Court. Our legal team described the decision as harsh but advised, on balance, against appealing the decision. We remain extremely grateful to residents and others who donated to our fundraiser (including East Preston Parish Council). The support enabled Council to try our best to have the planning decision quashed. We could not have taken forward the application for Judicial Review otherwise, as the legal costs would have been just too high for Council to meet alone.

A brief summary of costs is: Total Legal costs £22,792 met by Donations £14,045 and by Council £8,747 (from Council's Planning Reserve £6,000 and General Fund £2,747). See more detail on our website <https://kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk/news-and-events/?article=32281>

OFFSHORE WIND FARM - Rampion 2

Rampion 2 Offshore Wind Farm was approved by the Secretary of State for Energy on 4 April, 2025. You can find details of the approval on the Rampion 2 website <https://rampion2.com/>.

Protect Coastal Sussex are exploring a **Judicial Review** to challenge the approval and are fund raising to take this forward. You can find out more about their campaign and how to support it on their website <https://www.protectcoastalsussex.org/>

HIGHWAYS

Roundstone Crossing – We met with representatives of Angmering Parish Council and East Preston Parish Council in December, 2024 to discuss how to pursue improvements to the road layout and signage at the crossing. East Preston Parish Council (who organised the meeting) offered to arrange for consultants to carry out surveys of the crossing layout and assess possible ways it could be improved.

Community Winter Resilience Plan – This is in place with County Highways. 3 salt bins are located along Kingston Lane and we would appreciate volunteers coming forward to help spread salt when the weather is cold to pre-empt overnight ice on sharp bends. Please contact the Clerk if you can help or would like more information.

Survey – A survey to see if you would support a 30mph speed limit along Kingston Lane is on its way to you. Please do take the time to complete it – your views are important to us.

<p>FINANCE COMMITTEE 2024-5</p>	<p>DEVOLUTION 2024-25</p>
<p>The Parish Precept is collected from residents with their Council Tax, and for 2024/25 was set at £9,090.</p> <p>Reserves - It is considered prudent to hold reserves so that funds are available for larger projects when needed. Costs during the year totalled £33,330 and were met from reserves, the Precept and donations towards a Judicial Review challenge £14,045. Expenditure included: Judicial Review £22,792, election fees £149 and grants for the South Strand Community Toilets £300, St Marys Churchyard Maintenance £350, and the Poppy Appeal (including 2 wreaths) £120.</p> <p>Balances at 31 March 2025 include reserves for: Environmental projects £1700, Community newsletters £954, Elections £2486, 30-year celebration of Council £892, Winter Management Plan £519, Planning matters £0, Neighbourhood Plan £4788, IT equipment/ website £592, Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipts £3755 and General Fund £8109. TOTAL funds £23,795 (<i>Note: VAT refund due to Council is £2705</i>)</p> <p>The Precept for 2025/26 is set at £18,000. The Precept had been held at £9090 for the previous 3 years. The Precept level this year was originally set to meet an increase in the Clerk’s working hours and the Judicial Review Cost however, as the Judicial Review did not proceed to the High Court, those funds will be used to restore the Planning Reserve Fund, maintaining funds for future planning issues.</p> <p>The accounts for 2024-25 will be considered by the Council on 15 May, 2025 before being submitted to the external Auditor.</p>	<p>This year, Council attended various meetings where the main subject was Devolution and Local Government Re-organisation. This will create a mayoral authority for Sussex and the first mayoral election would take place on 7 May 2026 according to the government's timeline. Exact details for the boundaries of unitary authorities in Sussex are not known yet. The West Sussex Association of Local Councils is working with parishes re the effects on Parish Councils and the services they provide. To be continued ...</p>
<p>ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP</p>	<p>POLICING 2024-25</p>
<p>The Environmental Working Group meets on an ‘ad hoc’ basis and makes recommendations to Council. During the year the following actions were suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns that dogs are not under control along the greenswards: Kingston Gorse Estate and West Kingston Residents Association to be approached for a meeting to explore whether there are any opportunities to address this (still to be arranged). Further to this the Clerk to contact District again about signs to highlight the use of litter bins and dog bins. • The Clerk to ask District for the latest report on the condition of Sea Defences along Kingston beach so that actions from this could be monitored. • To draw the attention of residents to the Sussex Kelp Recording Scheme run by Sussex Wildlife Trust: https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/living-seas/kelp/kelp-recording-scheme Record what ‘sea weed’ you see on the beach or in the sea and play your part in supporting the Kelp Restoration project. • Plus, Cllr Joyce regularly reported on the condition of Ferring Rife and whether it was flowing freely 	<p>Crime Statistics - PCSO Raju has provided updates to Council throughout the year on crime statistics in the Parish. These continue to be low when compared to nearby villages.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Policing Team – Council has attended online meetings with the NPT.</p> <p>PCSO Raj Raju is part of the NPT and is the PCSO with primary responsibility for East Preston and Kingston.</p> <p>Contact details for Sussex Police are: Report online at https://www.sussex.police.uk Telephone: call 101 or <u>if</u> an emergency call 999. Report anti-social driving or abandoned vehicles online: http://www.operationcrackdown.org/</p> <p>Local Neighbourhood Watch - We encourage all residents to sign up to the NHW email Alert Scheme - email kingstonsxnhw@outlook.com.</p> <p>PLANNING COMMITTEE 2024-25</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan - We are currently exploring the use of consultants to review our Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Planning Applications: 16 planning applications were considered during the year. Council made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No objection to 12 applications. 11 were approved by District and 1 refused. - Objection to 4 applications for reasons such as out of character to the area/intrusive to privacy/in the Strategic Gap. 3 of these were approved by District with conditions applied, and 1 refused. <p>Re K/46/23/PL for 47 residential dwellings– Council had applied for the decision by Arun District Council to approve this conditionally in March 2024 to be called-in by the Secretary of State but this was refused. As reported separately Council also requested a Judicial Review of the decision - also refused.</p>

REPRESENTATION AT MEETINGS AND EVENTS 2024-5

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, and meetings with the Neighbourhood Policing Team Inspector. Members have had 2 meetings with Dr Beccy Cooper MP to discuss parish matters and further regular meetings are planned.

Wreaths were laid at the Kingston War Memorial and the East Preston War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday. Cllrs Walker and Wetherell attended the Rustington Parish Thanksgiving Service.

MEETINGS AND COUNCILLORS

MEETINGS: During the year ending 31 March, 2025, there were 10 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: Council is comprised of 7 Councillors. In May 2024 Cllr Dave Marr was co-opted to Council following the resignation of Cllr Karen Kenning. In April 2025, Cllrs Geradine Walker and David Joyce resigned from Council leaving two vacancies for Councillors that Council hopes to fill by co-option as no poll has been called for. Here are your current Councillors:

Cllr Roger Wetherell (Chairman)	Newcote Farm, Kingston Lane BN16 1RP	01903 787205
Cllr Richard Andrew (Vice-Chairman)	Kingston Manor, Kingston Lane, BN16 1RR	01903 772790
Cllr Keith Buckenham	Wood End, Peak Lane BN16 1RN	073 991 947 46
Cllr Dave Marr	Sandy Lodge, Gorse Avenue BN16 1SF	Cllr.Marr@kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk
Cllr Valerie Masson	Windy Corner, Gorse Avenue BN16 1SQ	01903 786139
Vacancy		
Vacancy		

DIARY DATES FOR YOU

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:

15	May	2025	Annual Parish Meeting, Planning and Finance Committees, Full Council
TBC	June	2025	Meeting of Council to consider the Annual Return (re Accounts) if required
17	July	2025	Planning and Finance Committees, Full Council
18	September	2025	Planning and Finance Committees, Full Council
20	November	2025	Planning and Finance Committees, Full Council
15	January	2026	Planning and Finance Committees, Full Council
19	March	2026	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).