

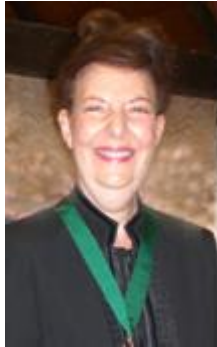
KINGSTON NEWS

“Looking After Your Interests”

Kingston Parish Council Newsletter

Issue 25, May 2020

Message from the Chairman



Dear Resident,

Welcome to this May edition of our newsletter.

I do hope you are all keeping well during the Coronavirus pandemic. It is a difficult and worrying time for all of us. There is a reminder about contact details to request help shown on this page and a link to advice on checking for scams.

The virus has meant that Council cancelled its March meetings and we have postponed the Annual Meeting of the Parish. The May meetings of Council will go ahead remotely on the 21st May. The Clerk explains more about this and how you can join the meeting remotely – see adjacent article.

Whilst the Annual Meeting of the Parish is postponed we have still published the Annual Report of the Council overleaf updating you on our work over the previous year. If you have any questions about this please send them to us via the Clerk - you will find contact details on the back page of this newsletter.

I hope you have a good summer despite the government coronavirus restrictions that are in place.

Please keep safe.

Cllr Geraldine Walker

Chairman Kingston Parish Council

Council Meetings

**Parish Council Meeting and meetings of the
Planning and Finance and General Purposes Committees**

Thursday 21st May 2020

Virtual Meeting commencing at 7pm

The Coronavirus pandemic and social distancing is having its effect on the way we hold our meetings. The March meeting of Council was cancelled and the Annual Meeting of the Parish is postponed. The May meetings of Council will be held remotely.

This is the first time we have held a virtual meeting so please be patient with us as we get to grips with using new (to us) technology.

Members of the Public are welcome to join the meeting via their internet connection and will be given an opportunity to speak at the meeting. Details of how to join the meeting will be available by request to me (email preferred) by 5pm on the 20 May 2020.

Questions on matters on the agenda may be submitted in advance by the public and these should also reach me by 5pm on the 20 May 2020, again preferably by email.

Please note the Agenda will be on our website and in noticeboards from the 18th May, 2020.

Val Knight, Clerk of the Council, email: kingstonpc@yahoo.com

Coronavirus Information

Always be sure you are acting on the latest **government advice** - go to: <https://gov.uk/coronavirus> (this has links to NHS advice)

West Sussex County Council has a **community hub** website page for residents to find help or volunteer to support others – go to: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/campaigns/community-hubs/> If help is needed urgently phone 033 022 27980 between 8.00am - 8.00pm.

Arun District Council has a dedicated webpage giving advice and information on local services – <https://www.arun.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Parish Councillors Cllr Roger Wetherell and David Joyce are on hand to advise you who to contact for help. Roger's number is 07828 747209 and David's number is 07739 337441.

Watch out for Scams! The Citizens Advice have a webpage to help you check <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/check-if-something-might-be-a-scam/>

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

Annual Report April 2019 - March 2020

PRESENTED BY THE CHAIRMAN

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of Kingston Parish Council for 2019/20 which tells you about the work of the Council over the previous year.

Once again my thanks go 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 Val Knight, Clerk of the Council for their support and hard work during the year.

I would also like to 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.

The year ended with the Coronavirus lockdown restrictions in place and we will be holding virtual meetings in accordance with new government legislation 'The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020'. We will continue to do this until social distancing rules and government advice allow a return to our usual meetings in Our Lady Star of the Sea Church Hall.

Geraldine Walker

Chairman, Kingston Parish Council

HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

Our Winter Management Plan is still in place with County and but it only covers Kingston Lane (a public highway). Winter temperatures were quite mild so the salt bins were not often needed but we did have to replace a salt bin that we believe to have been damaged by a vehicle mounting the verge.

The '**gateway**' sign just south of the junction with Elm Avenue to emphasise to drivers that they are approaching a rural lane with no footpaths and no vehicular access to the sea is now in place.

We continued to press for potholes to be filled and overhanging vegetation to be cleared. You can help: **report problems at love.westsussex.gov.uk**.

Also, if you are responsible for hedges and trees along a road, please do **keep them cut back** so that they do not cause an obstruction or obscure visibility.

DRAINAGE

We are still hoping to make an application for funding from the Operation Watershed scheme for works to the drainage at the northern end of Peak Lane, but this is difficult to progress unless all affected landowners acknowledge their future Riparian ownership responsibilities. Arun District have recently carried out further improvement works to the southern end of Peak Lane.

All residents can help prevent flooding by ensuring that ditches on or abutting their property are kept clear with water running freely in the ditch.

KINGSTON EMERGENCY PLAN

As reported before, our Emergency Plan is complete and can be viewed on our website.

We would still like new **volunteers** to come forward as ideally, we need people spread across the Parish to report back on situations as they might evolve.

The reason and importance for an Emergency Plan to be in place has now, unfortunately, been amply demonstrated by the coronavirus pandemic. The response to an Emergency is tiered; with Government and then County taking the lead and cascading down actions to District and Parish level.

When the pandemic struck, we sent out a newsletter to all households advising on how to keep up to date with the latest government guidance and also find out how to give or receive help locally. I and Cllr Joyce volunteered to be on hand to answer phone calls from residents and advise them who to contact for help.

Our thanks in particular to two independent volunteer groups operating in the parish comprised of residents from Kingston Gorse Estate and our local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme Co-Ordinators.

If you, or someone you know, in the parish may **need additional help** or be vulnerable in this emergency please let us know. Contact details are on the back page of this newsletter.

Cllr Roger Wetherell,
Emergency Plan Co-Ordinator

<p>FINANCE COMMITTEE</p>	<p>REPRESENTATION</p>
<p>The Parish Precept is collected from residents with their Council Tax, and for 2019/20 was set at £8,228. 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 £10,568 and included: the Village Gateway sign £2,078, new chain for the Badge of Office £633, a deposit for the Kingston Chapel Marker £ 774, a grant for St Marys Churchyard Maintenance of £350 and a grant towards the South Strand Community Toilets £300.</p> <p>Balances at 31 March 2020 include reserves for: Environmental projects £2,329, Community involvement/newsletters £930, Parish elections £2,435, 30 years celebration of the Parish Council £392, Winter Management Plan £369, Neighbourhood Plan Review £4788, and General Fund £13,641.</p> <p>The Precept for 2020/21 has been set at £9,000 (an increase of £1.80 per year for Council Tax Band D properties). A set of accounts will form part of the Agenda papers for the May meeting of Committee.</p>	<p>Council was represented at the Eastern Arun Parishes Group, the Arun District Association of Local Councils, the Sussex Association of Local Councils, the Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee and its Highways and Transport Sub-Group, and also attended meetings of the South Strand Community Toilets Group.</p> <p>Cllr Joyce accompanied the County Access Ranger during her inspection of footpaths in the Parish and the Chairman of Council laid a wreath at both the East Preston War Memorial and the Kingston War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday.</p>
<p>POLICING</p>	<p>PLANNING COMMITTEE</p>
<p>Crime Statistics – We are waiting for the crime statistics for the year ending 31 March 2020 to compare them to the 31 March 2019 stats which were: Anti-Social behaviour 2, Domestic abuse 8, Public Place Violent Crime 2, Alcohol related crime 3. The 2020 stats will be reported in our November newsletter.</p> <p>Neil Billingham is the PCSO for our area and attended the November meeting of Council.</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 Richard Richards at ramblers22oro@gmail.com with your name and street.</p>	<p>The Planning Committee considered nineteen planning applications during the year and we continue to refer to our Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Council made: No objection to 14 applications although this was often subject to conditions being imposed e.g. obscure glazed windows. Objection to 5 applications for reasons such as out of character to the surrounding area/intrusive to neighbours. Arun granted planning permission for 16 of the applications (often with conditions reflecting the comments made by Council). Of the 3 that were objected to by Council and refused by Arun, two went to Appeal with one being allowed and one refused by the Planning Inspector.</p> <p>Arun Local Plan – there has been little change from the situation as reported last year. Although the Plan was adopted by the District Council in July 2018, there are some matters unresolved. Arun are looking for additional housing sites and working on a Non-Strategic Sites Development Plan Document (DPD). Potential sites across the district are being assessed and news on this is awaited. Council has included an amount in its budget for 2020-21 to enable the commissioning of its own Sustainability Report (or similar) if deemed necessary on any sites in Kingston that are proposed to be included in the DPD.</p> <p>Conservation Areas – During the year Council set up a Working Group to assess whether there are any potential areas in Kingston.</p>
<p>LOST CHAPEL OF KINGSTON</p>	<p>FERRING RIFE</p>
<p>Council has an order for a large natural boulder and commemorative plaque. The boulder is shaped like a seat and will be located along the West Kingston greensward to mark where the Chapel was lost to the sea. An agreement with the landowner and lessee is being progressed and a base will then be laid for the ‘seating stone’ subject to coronavirus restrictions.</p>	<p>Cllr Joyce has continued to regularly walk the Rife to ensure that any problems with the water flow can be reported to the Environment Agency promptly.</p>
<p>SEA DEFENCES</p>	
<p>We are concerned that local sea defences should be well maintained. We have asked Arun to send us a copy of their next inspection report so that we can monitor what maintenance works are being carried out.</p>	

MEETINGS AND COUNCILLORS April 2019 - March 2020

MEETINGS: During the year there were 5 Full Council meetings, 5 Finance and General Purposes Committee meetings and 7 Planning Committee meetings, as well as the Annual Assembly of the Parish. Meetings of Council and its Committees due to be held in March 2020 were cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic and the need for social distancing.

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:

21	May	2020	Annual Parish Meeting - Postponed due to the Coronavirus pandemic Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee, Full Council
23	July	2020	Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee, Full Council
17	September	2020	Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee, Full Council
19	November	2020	Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee, Full Council
21	January	2021	Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee, Full Council
18	March	2021	Planning and Finance & General Purposes Committee, Full Council

VENUE and TIME:

Usually 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 and **NOTE:**

Due to the Coronavirus restrictions meetings will be ‘virtual’ for May and this is likely to continue for a few months, so please do check our website for information prior to these meeting dates and contact the Clerk if you would like to ‘join’ the virtual meetings using your internet connection.

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/>

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.