

Kingston Parish Council

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held at 8.00pm on 29 May 2014

Present:

Simon Draper, (Chair of this meeting) past Chairman, Kingston Parish Council
Tim Fitzjohn, Chairman, Kingston Parish Council
James Clear, Julie Conder, Trish Dunlop, Keith Tan, Councillors, Kingston Parish Council
Peter Stokes, Clerk to Kingston Parish Council
Tumi Hawkins, Councillor, South Cambridgeshire District Council
Stephen Frost, Councillor, Cambridgeshire County Council

Members of the public: Joan Reynolds, Donal O'Donnell, Linda Rimmer, Charlie Richmond, Suzy Stokes, Torrie Smith

A series of reports was presented, as listed below. Where a discussion followed or questions were asked, brief details of these are given. Full copies of the reports, where available, are attached as appendices.

1. **Chairman's report** presented by Simon Draper, past Chairman of Kingston Parish Council. Report attached.
2. **Financial report** presented by Peter Stokes, Parish Clerk. Report attached.
3. **District Councillor's report** presented by Tumi Hawkins, District Councillor. Report attached.
4. **County Councillor's report** presented by Stephen Frost, County Councillor. Report not available.

Superfast broadband: Torrie Smith asked if the service would come beyond Toft to Kingston. Stephen Frost advised that it was unlikely that the service would be extended to Kingston. Torrie Smith pointed out that there were a number of business professionals in the village who worked from home and needed the service.

Tumi Hawkins confirmed that the limited funds available for the improvements to broadband meant that not all villages could be served, and the last roadside cabinet housing the fibre optics etc would be in Toft.

Simon Draper asked Stephen Frost to take back a request that a cabinet is installed in Kingston, and to ascertain the additional cost of this. **Action: Stephen Frost.**

5. **Open Spaces report** presented by James Clear, Parish Councillor and Open Spaces Officer. Report attached.
6. **Village Hall Report** presented by Torrie Smith, Chairman of Village Hall Management Committee. Report attached.

Use of grants: in response to a question from Janet Clear, Torrie explained that grant providers are very specific about what their money can be spent on.

7. **Parochial Church Council report** presented by Janet Clear, PCC secretary. Janet reported that:
 - Jack Diggle has volunteered as churchwarden, so that with Peter Reynolds, we now have two churchwardens.
 - The church is now open every day, with a rota of volunteers established to open it each morning and close it each evening.
 - The Gift Day on 13 July 2013 was held on the same day as the Summer Party held on the Village Orchard and organised by the Parish Council. The two events fitted together very well.

- A number of bricks have been saved from a demolished wall at North Farm House, and will be used in the repair of the churchyard wall.

Report attached.

8. **Kingston Community Plan status report** presented by Tim Fitzjohn, Chairman of Steering Committee. The plan is complete and has been printed and is ready for distribution. It will be distributed with the parish magazine in the next few days. Feedback is invited!

9. **Kingston Poor Land Charity report** presented by Donal O'Donnell, Trustee. Report attached.

10. **Open Forum**

10.1. **Trish Dunlop:** some of the street signs in the village are in poor condition, e.g. the Church Lane sign near Southcote.

10.2. **Janet Clear:** could a mirror be positioned at the crossroads to aid visibility for cars arriving from Field Road? Peter Stokes advised that we have previously been told by the Highways Department that mirrors are not permitted in public roads. Although some mirrors are in place giving visibility from private drives it is believed that one of the problems with mirrors that give a view from one public road to another is the risk of headlamp dazzle at night.

Signed.....

Date.....

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING THURSDAY 29 MAY 2014

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Parish Council meets every two months. Anyone can attend these meetings as an observer. However this evening's meeting is not a Parish Council meeting but a public opportunity for everyone to air their views.

Kingston Parish Councillors (to May 2014)

Simon Draper (Chairman)

Tim Fitzjohn (Vice Chairman and Footpaths)

James Clear (Open Spaces Officer)

Julie Conder (Finance; Webmaster, Playground User Group Representative)

Katherine Stalham (Representative on Village Hall MC)

1. The Precept and Development of the Village Hall

The precept determines the amount of tax paid by Kingston as a village. An increase of around £13 per household was built-in for 2013-14 in order to help finance renovation of the Village Hall. Despite this arrangement the bulk of the funding has to be acquired from outside sources. To this end, a very considerable amount of hard work has been put in by a small group of committed individuals. Successes have included grants from SCDC, WREN, and the Rank Foundation. Having raised £113,000 we are now within striking distance but need an additional £20,000 or thereabouts to commission building work. As a parting message to the Parish Council – I am retiring from the post of Chairman – I have recommended that a further loan is taken immediately. We can then get cracking on the improvements. To my mind this represents great value and a fabulous investment.

2. Community Plan

Parish Councils are being encouraged to prepare a Community/Village Plan. Such plans, in theory, carry weight with the planning authorities locally and under the localism agenda of the Westminster Government we are told it has become increasingly important to write a plan. My confidence in the process is somewhat diluted by the fact that we were asked to submit the plan to SCDC for approval but perhaps this is merely a formality. Anyhow, in my view our Village Plan should reflect our own collective view even if it were to be at odds with SCDC. Tim Fitzjohn has led this initiative and will report later in the meeting.

3. Planning and the Environment

A worrying aspect of my period as Chairman has been difficulty in fully understanding the basis of some planning decisions. Also there appears to be a fault-line in the linking of certain SCDC Policy documents on environmental, sustainability and planning issues.

4. Bourn Airfield Development – is it a bad thing for Kingston?

On behalf of Kingston Parish Council I signed a document drawn up by a collective of local parish councils opposing this development, mainly because we were worried about more traffic. I now wonder if this was a mistake. One has to ask whether a failure to proceed with the Bourn Airfield Development would mean more house building in smaller villages like Kingston.

5. Communications

The village web site and the Facebook page continue to prove popular. Thanks are due to Julie Conder who maintains our on-line services. The Village Magazine was without a permanent editor for some time but Mandy Ray has now taken over.

6. Acknowledgements 2013/14

I should like to thank our SCDC representative Tumi Hawkins, our new County Councillor Stephen Frost and Kingston Parish Council Members: Tim Fitzjohn, James Clear, Julie Conder, and Katherine Stalham. I should especially like to thank Tim Fitzjohn for taking over as Chairman as of 27 May. Thanks are also due to Peter Stokes who, as Clerk, provides excellent support for all our meetings.

S R Draper
29/05/14

Kingston Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting 27 May 2014
Clerk's Report

I have attached a summary of income and expenditure for the year 2013/14, and will now highlight a few items from this.

1. Grass and Hedgecutting

Stuart Buchan Landscapes have provided satisfactory performance after agreeing to keep their increase at the level of the increase in RPI over the 12 month period, they are again our contractors this year. We continue to receive a payment from the County Council for cutting of grass verges within the village, and from Mrs Heyman for cutting an area of grass owned by her adjoining Field Row.

2. Grants

Payments totalling £5511 pounds have been made to the Village Hall Management Committee as part of a grant to be made by the parish council towards the village hall improvement project. In total £20,000 has been promised, and this will be financed by a loan of £20,000 taken out by the parish council, repayable over 20 years. The repayment instalments will in turn be financed by a small increase in the parish precept, which will have the effect of spreading the cost to residents over a number of years. The application for the loan has been approved, but we will not draw down the funds until they are needed.

Grants were also made to the Parochial Church Council of £636 for graveyard maintenance and £470 towards Parish Magazine costs. The magazine which is an important means of communication with residents continues to be delivered to all households in the parish free of charge.

Finally a grant was made to East of England Ambulance Service to help Mark Taylor of Caldecote who is setting up a First Responder group covering the villages of Caldecote and Kingston. The initial cost of setting up is for equipment such as a defibrillator. Mark Taylor is looking for volunteers to be trained as First Responders, so if anyone is interested or would like more details, please contact me.

3. Insurance

The insurance premium for the year was £677. We have been offered, and have accepted, a 10% discount for committing to a five year agreement. Our insurance covers us, amongst other things, for accidental loss or damage to any parish-council owned assets, and also for any public liability claims.

4. Playground

The playground continues to be a popular and well-used asset. There is an established regime of inspections to ensure that any damage or other problems are recorded and timely action is taken. There has been some ongoing maintenance, most recently by a group of volunteers to clear weeds from under the Jungle Climber and add more playbark, clip back hedges around the entrance, clear brambles, and repair the goal nets. Please report any problems to me or any parish councillor.

5. Bank Balances

Our total bank balances at the end of the year, after adjustment for VAT, stood at £3729, rather low for this time of the year. This is mainly because of the advance payment of £5511 made to the Village Hall Management Committee, and our balances will increase to a more normal level when we draw the £20,000 loan funding, as we will then pay the balance owing to the Village Hall committee of £14,489, retaining the remaining £5511 which has already been paid to them.

6. Audit

The internal audit for the 2013/14 accounts has been completed without problems and the Parish Council has approved the accounts. The Annual Return has been sent to the external auditors. We do not expect any difficulties with this, and when the result of the audit is received it will be published in the usual way.

KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL - FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 2013-14

(N.B.: all amounts are net of VAT as this is reclaimed)

2012/13 £		2013/14 £
INCOME		
7214.00	Precept	8230.00
290.43	Grasscutting	303.55
85.00	Rebate from Kingston Oil Club	70.00
7.80	Interest on deposit account	7.76
60.00	Allotment rent	60.00
1000.00	Grant from SCDC	0.00
8657.23	Total	8671.31
EXPENDITURE		
744.39	Insurance	677.13
160.00	Audit fees	140.00
2306.94	Grass and hedge cutting (contract)	2306.94
1056.96	Clerk's salary	1089.00
108.65	Footpath lighting	0.00
170.45	Subscriptions	176.24
1690.66	Grants	961.50
0.00	Village Hall improvement project	5510.54
2969.38	Asset maintenance	74.00
400.00	Parish magazine	470.00
385.82	Miscellaneous	203.78
9993.25	Total	11609.13
INCOME MINUS EXPENDITURE		
-1336.02		-2937.82
BANK BALANCE AT 31 Mar		
6666.99	Total after adjustment for VAT reclaim (see note)	3729.17
	Change last year to this year	-2937.82

Note: VAT paid each year is reclaimed the following year. Bank balances have been adjusted to include the VAT reclaim.

District Councillor's Annual Report – Caldecote Ward

May 2014

1. General

Firstly, I wish to thank everyone who went out to vote at the elections held on 22nd May 2014, and in particular those who voted for me. I am glad to have been re-elected as your District Councillor with quite a substantial margin too. I will continue to work all year round taking up your concerns and helping you and your family to continue to enjoy living in our Ward.

As in the previous municipal year, I served as a member of the South Cambridgeshire District Council Planning Committee, was opposition spokesperson for the Planning and Economic Development Portfolio and a member of the Advisory Board of the Little Footsteps Childrens Centre in Caldecote. A later role is as one of the Members Advisory Group for South Cambs Ltd.

At Parish level, I have worked with the Parish councils on district related issues as planning, environmental health (drainage/flooding), and held councillor drop-in surgeries where residents could come and discuss any issues or problems that they had or needed assistance to help resolve. I have also assisted local groups in their application for funding for a number of local projects.

I want to thank all three Parish Councils for their support. I will continue to work together with them to get the best outcomes possible for all our villages on all matters to do with SCDC.

2. Planning

2.1 Draft Local Development Plan (LDP)

This time last year, the process to create a new Local Development Plan for the period 2016 to 2031 was in full flow. This issue has been the most prominent for a lot of residents in the past year, due to the inclusion of proposal to build 3,500 houses plus other facilities on Bourn Airfield, now known as BAD (Bourn Airfield Development). The opposition to this proposal has been encapsulated in the StopBAD campaign, chaired by the very able Mr Des O'Brien, a resident of Bourn, supported by a team of people across the affected villages. I have supported the StopBAD campaign in my own right as a resident of Caldecote, as well as in my capacity as your District Councillor.

The main issues for the opposition to BAD are well known. In my view, the capacity claims by SCDC are suspect, because calculations show that BAD will need to be built out at capacity of more than 50 dwellings per hectare, which is double the newer developments capacity in Caldecote. The risk of coalescence of Caldecote and BAD is extremely high as is the creation of a ribbon of development from Caxton Gibbet to Hardwick-a distance of over 3 miles. The lack of plans for improving the road infrastructure, in particular A428/A1303 Madingley Rise and lack of jobs provision in this area means the development will not be sustainable and cause more traffic chaos. Drainage and flooding in Bourn Valley is also a major concern.

The draft LDP includes proposals to build up to 90 houses on Bennell Farm. My view is that it should be reduced to 60 houses. I am glad to have been able to work with former Cllr Harangozo of Comberton to negotiate and agree with SCDC that the affordable housing element of the site should be for only those people with a need in Toft and Comberton, or with close links to both communities.

The draft LDP was put to the vote at Full Council on 13th March 2014, for councillors to decide if it is acceptable and should go forward to the Planning Inspector for examination. It was voted through by 26 votes for, 21 against and 5 abstentions. The vote was carried by the majority Conservative Group. I voted against it, representing the majority of the views that residents of the Ward had expressed.

The draft LDP was submitted to the Planning Inspector on 28th March 2014, and the public examination is set to start in October 2014. That is the next and final stage when opposition to the proposed plans can be expressed.

2.2 Transport Strategy for Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire (TSCSC)

Cambridgeshire County Council consulted on their proposed plans for transport in the sub region at the same time as the LDP. The emphasis of the plan is to change people's mindset in what it calls a "modal shift" by

forcing them to use public transport”. The TSCSC was used by SCDC to support the draft LDF even though there are significant flaws in it.

The proposal includes their solution for the Madingley Rise traffic problem – putting a dedicated bus lane down the road from the roundabout at the top (near Madingley Mulch, to the junction with the M11. It is evident to all but the County that there is no space to do this.

It is also worth noting that the TSCSC does not have the same statutory authority as the draft LDP and in fact the TSCSC can be scrapped or not implemented by the County, should it chose not to do so. This also puts in serious doubt the viability of the draft LDP which depends heavily on the TSCSC.

I submitted a response to the TSCSC Consultation in which I pointed out the flaws of the proposal. The response to the consultation was very low, 700 only, but County officials in their report to the Cabinet insist that it gave the mandate to focus the plan on the modal shift, non-car use strategy. Watch this space.

2.3 Development Control

There have been other planning issues which deserve a mention:

- a) Touring Caravan Park on Land Adjacent to Casa de Foseta, Caldecote – this site now has planning permission for residential development. This was achieved only after concerted effort and working together with the parish council, landowner, SCDC planning to come up with a proposal that benefited Caldecote. This was subsequently approved by the planning committee-with a narrow majority in favour.
- b) 101A West Drive, Caldecote – landowner built foundations in the wrong place and did not fulfil pre-commencement conditions to submit proposals for dealing with the longstanding issue of the close boarded fence. A new application has been submitted, but without any proposal for the fence. This should go to planning committee for determination again.
- c) TKA Tallent, Bourn Airfield – TKA have been granted permission to knock down and build a new building. The opposition to this was only removed following agreement of strict conditions with the building owners to avoid the repeat of the noise nuisance problems that was caused when it previously operated on the site.
- d) Old Horse Yard, Toft – planning has finally been granted for the conversion to residential after nearly two years of trying and a lot of prodding and navigating the usual red tape.
- e) Summerhill, Kingston – The approval for building two houses on this prominent site was granted after much debate by the planning committee.
- f) North Farm House, Kingston – Another land mark site in the village, which got approval at planning committee following much debate, both at parish council and district level.

3. Finance

The Central Government grant for 2014/15 is £5 million, down from £5.8mil the previous year. The funding in 2010/11 was £7.823 and it is expected that the reduction will continue for the foreseeable future. The council is now shifting its focus on trying to get generate income to enable it provide the council services.

3.1 Council Tax

The SCDC element of the council tax has increased by 1.99% for this municipal year 2014/15, translating to a relatively small increase in payments for everyone, **£122.86 for a Band D** property, an increase of £2.40 on the previous year.

The council tax figures are:

	Parish Precept	County/District/Fire/Police Precept
Caldecote	£105.50	£1595.91
Kingston	£72.55	£1562.96
Toft	£74.75	£1565.16

The SCDC precept is £122.86, County is £1121.94 (increase of £21.87), Police including Crime Commissioner is £181.35 (an increase of £3.42) and Fire is £62.26 (unchanged). This gives a typical Band D increase of £27.69. It is worth noting that the Caldecote Parish precept has reduced by £15.34.

3.2 Business Rates

As of April this year the District Council has been able to retain the business rates, previously paid to government, that it has collected though some has to be paid out to the County Council, police etc.

This good news is tempered by the fact that businesses can appeal their ratings and if upheld, SCDC has to pay this back-and is liable to pay back appeals upheld during the past 10 years. There are a lot more appeals than SCDC anticipated, and this reduces the income that the council hoped to have generated. At least it is getting to keep more of what it collects.

3.3 Grants to Local Groups

SCDC has scrapped the capital grants pot that it used to give to local groups. This was done in a bid to save more money. No new funding will be approved, but previously approved grants will be honoured. The Community Chest grant (for sums of up to £1,000) is still available for smaller projects.

3.4 Other Expenditure

Whilst making swinging cuts to grants budgets and other budgets in the council, the administration went ahead to spend £45,000 on new tables and chairs for the council chamber, stating that it could then rent out the space to recoup the outlay. So far, the Council has not been able to show any income generated from renting out the council chamber.

4. Economic Development

SCDC continues to say that South Cambridgeshire is open for business, and that it will continue to support local businesses and assist businesses to move to the area.

4.1 Cambridge Plus website

The website at <http://www.cambridge-plus.com/> aims to provide active support for businesses already in, or seeking to, settle in the South Cambridgeshire region. The draft local plan is predicting 14,000 jobs will be created in the District between 2016 and 2031, but we shall have to watch this space.

4.2 Business Workshops

The council is running the Business Support Service again, through Exemplas. This is in the form of half day workshops to help those running or thinking of starting a business in the district and cover subjects focusing on the specific needs of local businesses, including business planning, recruitment and websites and social media.

Each workshop costs £10 +VAT, and anyone interested in attending can reserve a place by telephone 0844 346 0755 (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm) and pay by credit or debit card. Full details can be found by visiting www.exemplas.com/southcamb

5. Housing

5.1 Social Housing Rent

The Council has increased social housing rent in line government guidelines which were set to protect tenants from unacceptable annual increases. The government has asked councils to limit their increases to no more than £2.00 per week in addition to an inflationary increase. For the financial year starting April 2014, the inflationary figure for SCDC was set at 3.7%, so the Council's rent increases are based on this formula of 3.7% *plus* a maximum £2.00 per week.

5.2 SCDC Ltd

SCDC has set up a property company with the objective of generating income for the council. The company, SCDC Ltd will buy properties on the open market and then rent them to the private sector at market rates. The original remit has been extended to include renting to those on the housing waiting list, and offering management services for organisations with large property portfolios. It may also build houses to rent on land that it currently owns that is suitable for development.

The pilot scheme started in February and will run for 6 months, monitored by a Member Advisory Group of which I am a member. SCDC will borrow £7million from the Public Works Loan Board at a favourable rate, and lend to SCDC Ltd at market rate, the difference being the income generated for SCDC.

6. Environmental Services

The green bin collections are being reduced from fortnightly to once a month during the three months of winter in a bid to save money. Collections will revert to fortnightly services when winter is over.

The Pest Control service has been scrapped as part of cost cutting exercise.

7. Transport

7.1 Bus Services

The Stagecoach No 18 service that goes through Kingston and Toft and previously scheduled to be scrapped due to subsidy withdrawal has been saved. I and representatives from Toft and Kingston worked with the Cambridgeshire Futures Transport (CFT) project to bring about the restoration.

I am carrying on with working with the CFT project to keep or provide better alternative for the Whippet No.2 service that serves Caldecote.

7.2 Demand Responsive Transport

This is an SCDC taken up by Cambridgeshire County Council and now adopted as a solution for providing additional bus services in the district.

It is planned to run fixed services during rush hour periods in the morning and evening, and a demand responsive service during the rest of the day. A Demand Responsive Zone (DRZ) has been set, which at this stage does not include Caldecote Ward because of the revised No.18 service, even though this bus does not serve Caldecote. I continue to put pressure on the County to provide a “fit-for-purpose” bus service and extend the DRT service to Caldecote.

7.3 A14 Highways Improvement Scheme

The good news as you know is that the A14 improvement scheme has been given the go ahead by central government. The bad news is that the A14 Girton interchange, which is being improved for A14 West and M11 south access, will not have the A428 West to M11 South movement that is so necessary to alleviate the problem of traffic jams on Madingley Rise.

At every opportunity, I have raised this issue with the Highways Agency. I discovered that the County Council at the time under control of the Conservatives, specifically instructed the Highways Agency not to do anything about it. County officials of course deny this, but Highways confirmed it.

The Highways Agency have, at my request, subsequently produced a potential change to the interchange, which looks a bit like spaghetti junction, and which they say will be too expensive to implement. I did speculate to them that perhaps the point of the convoluted design was to prove that it would be expensive to implement?

8. Broadband

8.1 Race To Infinity-Caldecote

The network infrastructure for providing superfast fibre optic broadband to Highfields Caldecote and Childerley was completed late 2013. This means that all premises in these communities can now order superfast broadband. In practice there are some problems for specific properties, and I established a procedure with BT Openreach whereby these issues are resolved.

BT has however rationed the capacity available to Caldecote but it is now in the process of making more capacity available to satisfy the pent up demand.

8.2 Connecting Cambridgeshire Project – Old Caldecote, Toft and Kingston

Connecting Cambridgeshire Project is making progress. Work on upgrading the Comberton exchange which serves Old Caldecote, Kingston and Toft is progressing well. One new cabinet has been installed in Toft, and another is to be installed opposite The Green. It is expected that this work will be completed by September 2014 after which the service should become available to order.

More information can be found at www.connectingcambridgeshire.co.uk/myarea

9. SCDC Administration Issues

SCDC has now amended its Standing Orders to allow members of the public to film its public meetings. This was to follow recent government guidelines designed to encourage the public to get more engaged with how local councils are run.

SCDC refused suggestions that the Council records its own meetings, on the grounds of cost, but allows members of the public to record those meetings in any format (film, audio, tweets etc.) as long as it is not disruptive to the meeting.

I continue to try to hold the SCDC administration to account by asking questions at Full Council meetings on issues affecting our communities. I submitted 5 questions and one motion:

- May 2013 on refusal to grant funding for Toft Parish Plan,
- July 2013 on what SCDC was doing to get the County to restart the Cambridgeshire Futures Transport Project
- September 2013 on the wording of the SCDC marketing information for the LDP consultation (gave the impression it was a done deal thereby putting people off responding)
- January 2014 on statements made by council officers and portfolio holders indicating the council will only consider minor amendments to the LDP indicating BAD was a done deal
- February 2014 on statements made by City and county councillors at a joint meeting that South Cambs was taking housing needs of The City
- April 2014 submitted a motion to consider returning to committee system of governance to give the majority of councillors the opportunity to actively participate in proper decision making rather than rubber stamping cabinet decisions taken by 8 out of 57 councillors. Motion was unsurprisingly defeated.

Members of the public can also ask questions at Full Council meetings, but this must be submitted according to guidelines and at least 10 days prior to the meeting.

10. Councillor Drop-in surgery/Case Work

I have been holding and will continue to hold drop-in surgeries on the first Monday of each month at Toft People's Hall from 6pm to 7pm, and on the first Thursday of each month, at the Caldecote Village Hall from 7pm to 8pm. This is so that residents can come and have a chat with me about any issues they wish to raise or is bothering them or want me to help them with at SCDC.

Thank you to those who have dropped and I hope to see many more people over the coming year.

Please feel free to bookmark my website <http://www.tumihawkins.org.uk> so that you can read in more detail about some of the issues that I've reported on here, and of course for information in the coming months.

My contact details are as shown below.

Tumi

Tumi Hawkins
29-May-2014

Email me @:	tumi@tumihawkins.org.uk
Follow on twitter:	http://twitter.com/CouncillorTumi
Facebook share:	http://www.facebook.com/itsCouncillorTumi
Link on LinkedIn	http://www.linkedin.com/in/tumihawkins
Read my blog at:	http://www.TumiHawkins.org.uk
Call me on:	01954 210840

Annual Parish Meeting held on 29th May, 2014 at 8pm in the Village Hall
Report from the Open Spaces Officer

The Role of Open Spaces Officer is to deal with any problems relating to the land owned by the Parish Council or for which it has responsibility, these are:-

The Village Orchard
The Village Allotments
The Recreation Ground
The Swards
The Village Green

The Village Orchard has benefited from the work done early last year and the new fruit trees are now well established and the older trees looking much healthier. Some additional work will be required this winter to maintain this improvement.

The Allotments are all let and under cultivation and things are looking very good for bumper crops this year.

A work day was recently organised to carry out maintenance to the Recreation Ground – some minor work to the mound is still required and should be carried out shortly.

Permission has been received to remove the Ash Tree near the proposed extension to the Village Hall. The tree will be logged and the logs will be available to villagers in return for a contribution to Village Hall Funds.

I have not yet found any evidence of Ash dieback disease that concerned me last year, although the Ash trees are very late coming into leaf this year.

No role has been found for The Swards and this continues as a Habitat area for Wildlife.

James Clear
Kingston Parish Council
Open Spaces Officer

Kingston Village Hall - Report for the Annual Parish Meeting, 2014

The Village Hall Committee continues to thrive with some 12 full members. A number of other villagers regularly help with events from time to time. With the aid of e-mail and virtual meetings we keep the need for formal, time consuming, meetings to a minimum.

Events. During the course of the year successful events organised have included; the annual Village BBQ, an International Evening, the Christmas Bring and Buy Sale, the Quiz'n'Chips evening, the 'Bangers and Mash' event and, very recently, we reintroduced a village plant and produce sale which proved a most popular social event while raising in excess of £500 for village hall funds. Thanks to the continued hard work of Katherine and Mark Stalham, supported by many volunteers, the monthly Pub Night goes from strength to strength.

Village Hall Upgrade. The Village Hall Upgrade saga is ongoing but valuable progress is being made.

- Planning permission has been granted
- Detailed structural drawings for the new roof have been completed
- Six competitive tenders have been obtained and a contractor selected. Total contract price, including VAT £136,000.
- Some £113,000 of committed funds have been secured made up of:
 - grants from The Parish Council, South Cambs District Council, WREN and The Rank Foundation
 - cash funds generated by fundraising for the Hall
- A preliminary application to BIFFA for a grant of some £29,000 has been approved and a further, detailed, application is about to be submitted. We may not hear the result for up to six months
- A preliminary application to Amey/Cespa has been submitted for £20,000 and this will be considered at a meeting on 14th July

One potential issue is that the WREN grant is only available for acceptance for one year from the date of offer, late November 2013, and thus we do need to know that sufficient funding is available to complete the project before that date.

A second potential problem is that the chosen contractor has recently agreed to hold their offer price for three months but will make no guarantee thereafter. They pointed out that with the economy clearly reviving the construction industry is beginning to get busy and prices, will, inevitably rise.

The Parish Council, under the leadership of Simon Draper, have been enormously supportive of the whole project and we have been keeping them regularly informed of progress. Recently we wrote to them outlining the key factors as set out above.

Kingston Village Hall - Report for the Annual Parish Meeting, 2014

Fabric General

Some urgent repairs were undertaken to the Main Hall floor during the year by Barry Marsh and in the course of those repairs it became clear that the floor is in urgent need of replacement. This is already covered in the plans for Phase 2 of the upgrade project. Thus it is clear we need to proceed with Phase 2 just as soon as Phase 1 can be completed. On that front WREN have already made encouraging comments about returning to them for a second grant as soon as Phase 1 is complete so we are cautiously optimistic about being able to finance Phase 2 fairly quickly - the costs involved will be much, much, less than Phase 1.

In the last week an old, ivy covered, tree which hung over the storage shed has been felled as its roots were impeding the planned extension and, also, the main foul drainage from the hall. We will be replanting an appropriate replacement tree further away from the Hall.

Finances. The Hall finances are currently in a strong position as over the last year or two we have been raising additional funds to go towards the upgrade project. Currently the bank balances stand at in excess of £10,000.

Over the last year or so we have paid fees of some £1200 to the architect and £2750 to the structural engineer. Last year we also had to pay for a new oil tank, the old one was leaking, which cost some £2000 in total.

Finally I would like to express my personal thanks to all those who have worked so hard throughout the year on behalf of the Village Hall and the events the Village Hall Management Committee organises. Especial thanks is due to Pat Draper for the enormous amount to time and effort that she has put into a whole series of grant aid applications for the upgrade project, without her input we would not be in the encouraging position we have now reached.

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH
COUNCIL OF THE CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS AND SAINT ANDREW,
KINGSTON – MARCH 2013 – 2014**

1. Statement required under the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956

The Parochial Church Council agrees to cooperate with the Team Rector in charge of the Papworth Team Ministry (Team East) in promoting in the parish of Kingston the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

2. Members of the Council who have served during the current financial year until the approval of the accounts on March 25th 2014:

Rev Dr Alexandra Clarke (Team Vicar)
Mrs C Allison
Mrs J Clear (Secretary)
Mr J Diggle
Rev Paul Gildersleve
Mrs M Ray
Mrs J Reynolds
Mr P Reynolds (Churchwarden)
Mrs L Rimmer (Treasurer)
Mr E T Smith

3. The Parochial Church Council holds regular meetings on a quarterly basis.
Special meetings are called from time to time to deal with urgent business.

4. The following were the principal matters dealt with by the PCC March 2013 – March 2014:

- (a) Arrangements for Festival services, two weddings, three funerals and one baptism
- (b) Appeal for financial help and receipt of £2,500 from Team and 3 Team churches
- (c) Gift Day on 14th July raised £4,010 including Gift Aid (£2210 in 2011)
- (d) Fund raising events – ‘Ride and Stride’ raised £208, and Carol Singing £357 (before Gift Aid)
- (e) Collections for charities at festivals
- (f) Volunteer work days – churchyard maintenance
- (g) Church opening on Saturdays March – September
- (h) Annual inspection of fabric
- (i) Approval of Ms N Cameron’s plans for French drain in churchyard
- (j) Inspection of northern churchyard wall with S Cambs District Council Conservation Officer
- (k) Inspection of church by Ecclesiastical Insurance and decision to remain at 10% cover
- (l) Electrical inspection, repairs and certification
- (m) Boiler inspection and repair
- (n) Completion of repairs to church organ (£850)
- (o) Discussion with Team Steering Group on ‘Imagining the Future’

(p) Appointment of new editor for *Kingston Parish and Church Magazine*

5. Finances

The main funding for the church has been donations by Banker's Orders and collections at church services. Grants were received from the Parish Council: £636 towards the upkeep of the churchyard and £470 to subsidise the Parish and Church Magazine. Income for the year to December 31st 2013 for the General Purposes Account was £20,662 (£13,896 in 2012) and expenditure £15,669 (£15,609 in 2012), with an excess of receipts over payments of £4,993 (a deficit of £1,713 in 2012). Income for the Restoration Fund was £632 and the balance stood at £12,488 on 31.12.13.

The Parish Share in 2013 was £8,334 (£9,150 in 2012).

Sums from collections at Harvest Festival (£38) and Christmas (£45) were donated to charities.

6. **The Electoral Roll** in March 2014, before revision, stands at 21 (27 in 2013).

7. Attendance at services

Average Sunday attendances

Service	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
H. C.	10	11	9	9	7	6	5	5
E. P.	12	9	8	8	8	9	7	7
F. S.	15	16	14	14	13	16	16	13

Attendance at the major festivals

Festival	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
Easter	15	21	12	41	18	21	26	31
Harvest	29	32	28	23	21	34	43	16
Carol Service	45	40	24	33	26	45	38	75
Christmas Eve + Day	28	36	30	20	38	34	42	46
Total	117	129	94	117	103	134	149	168

The figures show a slight decline for the Family Service with Holy Communion and Evening Prayer stable. Attendance at the Carol Service was exceptionally high.

8. Addresses for correspondence:

Mrs Linda Rimmer (Treasurer)
1 Field Row
Kingston
Cambridge
CB23 2NH

Mrs Janet Clear (Secretary)
South Sea House
Bourn Road
Kingston
Cambridge
CB23 2NP

Signed.....Chairperson

Community Led Plan Report May 2014

The initial plan has been produced and will be distributed to every house in the Parish with the June magazine.

I'd like to thank the team, all listed in plan for their help. Also Linda Brown at South Cambs for her advice.

This was not a Parish Council report but a gathering of information from all the parish and formulating an action plan to protect and support all that is valued in the parish and to offer guidance on influences affecting the future.

Also it is not a completed exercise but the start of an ongoing process to be updated regularly.

We have both local village issues and external factors affecting the parish. The overwhelming view is that people who live in Kingston value the rural atmosphere and open aspect of the village.

The downside is that although only 7 miles from Cambridge our services are limited, poor bus schedule under threat Poor broadband and no local facilities.

We need to keep up pressure at a District and County level to maintain our services and make sure we get our share of County initiatives that might be of use.

In the village the main activity at the moment is the refurbishment of the village hall project. Respondents to the plan questionnaire greatly valued the social events and hoped for more .An improved village hall would be a great facility for all.

Please read the Plan , we really need your feedback and especially help in the future to keep our Community plan current and up to date.

Tim FitzJohn
Community Plan

Kingston Poores' Land Charity

Annual Report 2014

Total in bank at 31st Dec 2013 was £6449.99

Income was £467.48

A total of £550 was paid in 2013. This comprised a payment to a family in need, gifts of book tokens to 7 school leavers and Christmas donations to two families.

Mrs Joan Reynolds & Dr Donal O'Donnell
Trustees