

Kimbolton Parish Council

Kimbolton Annual Parish Meeting

Minutes of the Kimbolton Annual Parish Meeting at Kimbolton Village Hall on Monday 12th May 2025 at 7.15pm.

Present: Cllrs Ed Rollings, Henry Beaumont, Jo Read, Doug Underwood, Becky Beaumont & Brian Morris.

In Attendance: The Clerk Miss Annabel Beaumont.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Will Mears & Cllr John Stone.
- 2. To adopt Minutes of previous meeting – 7th May 2024.** These minutes were adopted and signed.
- 3. Chairman’s Report 2024/2025 –** Given by Edward Rollings

Firstly my thanks and gratitude to each and every councillors’ contribution to the Parish Council over the passed year. Your continued time and dedication to the role is very much appreciated by everyone. Especially to the Doug and Henry for clocking up another year on the council, your guidance is always welcomed. A special mention to Will for being Vice-Chair again. He is the glue behind so much in the village. With his involvement in so many aspects of village life he is able to knit it all together for us, which is hugely appreciated. He gives an enormous amount of time to the village and everyone is extremely grateful. Thank you also to John Stone, our Ward Councillor for Herefordshire Council. He is always so supportive of the parish council. He sadly has been in ill health the last few months but is on the road to recovery and we hope to see him back at meetings in the near future. The usual issues have dominated the year.

Speeding on the A4112

It has been pleasing to note the increase in and regularity of police presence in the village over the year. This following their review of the road last year. I know it is very pleasing for a lot of people in the village to see this continued presence. It is also pleasing to hear in John Stone’s report that on a recent visit to the village on 2nd April, they found no cars speeding.

It would seem that the Stockton Fields development is on hold and will that the Section 106 funding for the village. So the decision was made to budget for a 2nd speeding camera for this year. Plans are in place to get it purchased in the next few months.

Lengthsman Scheme and Public Rights of Way

The lengthsman scheme funding as used on a number of small projects around the village. Slaughtercastle still need work to alleviate the flooding issues and that should be a main focus for the year ahead.

Thank you to Graham Jones for stepping up to be lengthsman and footpaths coordinator. He is beginning to find his feet in the role and I’m sure will continue to have a greater input in years to come.

Matt Heeley, who is a resident, has stepped in to take on the lengthsman contractor role from a retiring Ian Godding from HiTrees. He has already proved his worth, assisting with the remaining lengthsman scheme budget and suggesting areas that need work. He is lengthsman for several other parishes and has a greater knowledge of the funding available from Herefordshire Council than any of us, so will be a great asset going forward.

I would like to get a little more focus on footpath maintenance this year. I note a number of stiles and gates need attention in my local area. It would be good to get a greater picture of the state of play all around the parish and put a plan in place to tackle the work.

Planning

There haven’t been a significant number of planning applications in the village this year. As noted before it is believed that Stockton Fields housing is in on hold, so we should move on from planning for any Section 106 funding.

Whyte brook has continued to rumble on without any conclusion or decisive action from Herefordshire Council planning department. I would hope that we see some progress this year, although I note another planning

application has been submitted this month. It is frustrating that people can abuse the system to delay decision making and continue to live on ground that does not have permission granted for it.

Finally, thank you to the unsung heroes in the village those that continue to do all the little jobs around the place, making village halls, churches look neat and tidy and make all the events run smoothly.

This year we should get a 2nd speed camera for the village and smarten up some areas with new noticeboards and the proposed village colour scheme. I look forward to 2025/26 on the council.

4. Election of a Chair

Ed Rollings was re-elected as Chair Proposed by Henry Beaumont, Seconded by Jo Read. Unanimously agreed.

5. Election of a Vice Chair

Will Mears was re-elected as Vice-Chair Proposed by Jo Read, Seconded by Brian Morris. Unanimously agreed.

6. Election of Sub-Committee members –

Asset of Community Value - Becky Beaumont, Ed Rollings and Henry Beaumont

Complaints, Data protection and HR – Will Mears, Jo Read and Brian Morris

Emergency planning and H&S – Doug Underwood, Will Mears, Jo Read and Brian Morris

7. Report from Councillor John Stone

Highways

It is over a year since extensive patching and resurfacing took place on the C1055. It was much needed and even more welcome was the resurfacing carried out from the junction with the U94212 towards Hamnish Church. The worst section was done but we always wish for more! The combination of the C1055 resurfacing and the earlier drainage scheme at the junction with Bache Lane have improved road safety on that busy road. Councillors will recall the long periods of closures when the flooding there would last for weeks.

Herefordshire Council has increased spending on resurfacing works this year across the county. £ 10m on resurfacing A and B roads, £ 1m on C and U roads and £ 2.5m on a surface dressing programme across the county's network. This follows £ 11m spent last year on resurfacing and surface dressing. As Councillor Jonathan Lester, the Council Leader says, "this is a significant investment in the highway network." I fully appreciate that several roads and lanes in Kimbolton need repairs, but please bear in mind that there are 2,000 miles of roads across Herefordshire and our highways are suffering from years of under investment. We need to of course make the strongest case for our own local roads, and I am sure the Parish Council will do so.

Contacts

Please continue to report potholes, blocked drains and fly tipping by using the Herefordshire Council website or by phoning Balfour Beatty on 01432 261 800. Please give an accurate location so the defect can be easily found and please do not wait for someone else to report the problem. Balfour Beatty are catching up with pothole repairs after a long and wet winter (at least up to March with lots of flooding incidents) and the present dry and sunny weather should be helping. Drainage grants will also be available from June, and it is vital to make the most of these as the Parish Council has done in previous years. Being part of the Council funded Lengthsman scheme is also most important. Please contact Balfour Beatty for further information.

Kimbolton St James Primary School

It is a privilege to continue to serve as a school governor although for health reasons I have missed some recent meetings. I was however thrilled with the news that the SATs results (for numeracy and literacy) were the second best in Herefordshire. This demonstrates the hard work of the children and teaching staff as well as the support of parents and carers, so well done to all concerned! It has been a very successful year with lots going on during the summer term including the prayer walk to the Priory in Leominster. There is always a good buzz when visiting the school and the recent achievements show how important our village schools are in Herefordshire.

Road safety and speeding

Residents are understandably concerned by vehicles speeding through the village and in particular near the school. I have raised this several times with the Police who do carry out speed checks on the A4112. One such exercise took place on April 2nd and Phoebe Little of West Mercia Police reported, "I am pleased to report that no one was found to be driving over the speed limit." The check was in Kimbolton in the late afternoon. I am

keen that West Mercia Police continue to monitor traffic speeds and enforce the 30mph speed limit when necessary. Leysters village should soon be enjoying a new 30mph speed limit after a long local campaign. I hope road safety there will improve when it is implemented and it will mean that Kimbolton, Leysters and St Michaels will all have a consistent 30mph speed limit. The Police have some reservations about the Leysters scheme, but a number of other measures have been carried out which should reinforce the new limit there.

Mrs Elizabeth Davies

It was a great boost to my morale when I heard the exciting news in January that Liz Davies had received a British Empire Medal in the New Year's Honours. I was in hospital at the time and the news really cheered me up. She is such a deserving recipient and her family, friends and the whole village will be delighted. Liz is so modest and unassuming that all her activities in the community can so easily be taken for granted. She was a school governor for many years and is always welcoming us at the monthly coffee mornings at the village hall and much more besides. I look forward to celebrating at the end of the month when the award ceremony will be held. Many congratulations to Liz.

VE Day 80

Many of us will have been watching this week's VE Day commemorations on TV or attending local events. There was a service in the Priory Church Leominster on Thursday evening, and it was good to see the young air cadets from 151 (Leominster) Squadron marching past and also reading the prayers. It is important to remind younger generations of the sacrifices made in 6 years of war. After the service fish and chips was served courtesy of Leominster Town Council. Appropriate, as unlike most other foods, fish and chips was never rationed in the Second World War. The evening finished with a beacon being lit on the Grange. Flags were also raised earlier in the day. It was not until the following day that the Channel Islands were liberated the one part of our Islands that had suffered Nazi occupation. So it has been a week of celebration locally and nationally as we thank the remarkable generation of men and women who achieved Victory in Europe but often at great personal cost. We also can take nothing for granted with war in Europe today in Ukraine and the need to support our Armed Forces who keep us safe.

And finally

My apologies to anyone who has tried to contact me recently but on December 21st I was rushed into Hereford Hospital for emergency surgery. Since then, it has been a long recovery process with good days and bad and for a period full time care at home. My colleague Councillor Carole Gandy kindly stepped in for me and I just hope that no one is feeling neglected as I try and get back on my feet. Please do phone me at home or phone Herefordshire Council directly if you need to. Meanwhile my thanks to Ed Rollings and all Parish Councillors for their service to the community over the past year, all volunteers. Many thanks to all the local organisations in Kimbolton and Hamnish too who give their time and talents to help others and ensure that our villages thrive.

8. Community Reports – to receive annual reports from Kimbolton community groups and organisations.

8.1 – Gun Club – nothing to report.

8.2 – Gardening Club - nothing to report.

9. Open discussion – None to discuss.

Meeting closed at 7.34pm

Signed:

Date:

Mr E Rollings – Parish Council Chairman