

Chair's Report
Kingsbury Parish Council
May 2022 – April 2023

In May 2022 I had the privilege to represent the Kingsbury Parish Council at Her Majesty's Queen Elizabeth Garden party which should have happened in May 2020 but due to pandemic it was cancelled and again in May 2021 but it has cancelled due to death of Prince Phillip the Duke of Edinburgh.

At the Annual General Meeting of Kingsbury Parish Council in May I was elected Chair and Cllr E Steel was elected Vice Chairman.

In June I attend my Chair meeting with WALC and had my first meeting with the clerk where upon she informed me that she wished to resign and her last meeting would be November 2022. I received her resignation letter on 27th June and promptly called an Extraordinary Meeting of Kingsbury Parish Council to discuss a way forward on 11th July 2022.

All relevant paperwork to employ a new clerk was sent all councillors, an advert was placed in August and interviews took place in September where Mrs Gommersall was employed to shadow the clerk in view of being employed from 1st December 2022.

At the July meeting concerns were raised around the buses being stopped within the Parish mainly Hurley, Wood End and Piccadilly. The Parish Council looked to Warwickshire County Council to help sort this out as we did not want these villages left with no bus service. Warwickshire County Council subsidised the 76 bus route and planned to combine buses 15 and 76/76A into one service with four trips per day extending to Coleshill and Sutton Coldfield. The current 15 service will become 76B and operate an hourly service between Tamworth, Hurley, Wood End and Piccadilly.

In September Queen Elizabeth II passed away on September 8th. I attend the North Warwickshire Proclamation in the Market Square in Atherstone on Sunday 11th September and read the Proclamation for Kings Charles III at our next Parish Meeting held on 27th September as all meeting had to be moved due to mourning period and the Queen's Funeral held on 15th September.

Parish Recreation Ground damage has been reported to the Hawser Swing of the seat and chain which has been repaired and unfortunately the latest playground report it was damaged again and the cost to replace was estimated to be over £500.00.

The Tower in the Parish recreation ground in February was vandalised and broken North Warwickshire Borough Council had taped it up and was pulled down. The councillors suggested a galvanised steel sheet and reinforced concrete would be a suggestion and to investigate and work with North Warwickshire Borough Council to sort a stronger repair to stop the vandalism this is ongoing at the moment to sort.

All defibrillators for the Parish have all been checked, serviced and box heaters checked, all defibrillators are now on the circuit to the Ambulance Service and all have been registered with the Defib Shop and will notify the clerk when items need to be replaced. Bleed bags

have been put in the Defibrillator Boxes and have been registered. Up to date training for all Kingsbury, Wood End, Piccadilly and Hurley on all Parish defibrillators has taken place.

A Finance Committee Terms of Reference has been set up and agreed by the council in September. Three councillors Cllr I Thomas, Cllr A Jenns and Cllr H. Phillips were elected to form the Finance Committee with the standing chair and clerk to attend, Cllr I Thomas was nominated as Chair of the Committee. Standing orders were checked to ensure they were correct with the Finance Committee in place. They have met in November and January.

The budget and precept was agreed at the January meeting and recommended to the Councillors at the January Parish meeting where it was agreed not to increase the precept for the next financial year and budget for 2023-2024 was also agreed by the council.

The Policy and Procedures Working Party recommended the Diversity Policy, Expenses Policy and Expenses claim were also adopted at the September meeting.

Grants were given out to the value of £500.00 to Piccadilly Community Association for their Bonfire and Fireworks Evening held for the Parish, £500.00 to Wood End Village Hall for their Christmas Event for the parish and Bodymoor Heath Victory Hall Committee was awarded £100.00 for their Skittles Evening.

Kingsbury Parish Plan and Flood plan is being worked on the moment and will be brought to the Parish Council for approval this current year. It was also agreed to look at a Parish Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish after the election.

Councillors have been attending the North Warwickshire Town and Parish Councils meeting at North Warwickshire Borough Council, and at HS2 Special Management Zone Group meetings.

I would like to thank Ms E Steel my vice chair for all her support throughout my chairmanship; she has been a great support. We have met periodically through the past year to work to forming a Finance Committee, Parish Plan and she has been good doing the Climate Change page on the Kingsbury Parish Webpage and I wish her well for the future.

I would like to thank our previous clerk Mrs S. Humphries for seventeen years of hard work supporting us as councillors and keeping us on the straight and narrow with legislation etc and we wish her all the very best for the future.

I would also like to thank Cllr I. Thomas for all his hard work on sorting out the defibrillators bringing them under the Parish Council umbrella and making sure everything is correct for the defibrillators and organising the revised training for all in the community.

I would also like to thank our new clerk Mrs S Gommersall it has not been easy for her she came in at a difficult time for the parish, budget, precept and the election I would like to wish her well in her job and hope everything goes well for her as our clerk for the Parish Council.

Jean Thomas
Chair
Kingsbury Parish Council