



**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting
Held at 7.30pm on Monday 18th March 2024
in the Village Club – Hosted by Kingsclere Parish Council**

Present:

36 Residents / visitors; Our Guest Speaker; ALL KPC Cllrs; BCllrs: Morrow and Rhatigan. KPC Proper Officers S Ackrill and L Porton;

- 1. Welcome:** KPC Chairman welcomed everyone and introduced our Guest Speaker Prof Andy Kempe
- 2. Apologies:** BCllr M Bound, Rev P Williams; President of the WI; John and Fiona Sawyer; Sue Adams; Irene Powers; Members of KCA apologised as AGM this evening.
- 3. Minutes:** Minutes of the APM held on Monday 20th March 2023 were accepted and signed.
- 4. Guest Speaker:** Prof Andy Kempe of Greenham Control Tower, gave an enlightening talk about Greenham Common around the time of D-Day. Andy showed aerial photos of the runways and explained the centre part was never bombed and still exists now. Showed a photo of Bowdown House across the road from the Base and explained George V1 stayed here. (Incidentally Churchill, De Gaulle and Eisenhower all stayed here too while planning the Airborne element of Operation Torch) Eisenhower made a last-minute speech “The Eyes of the World are Upon You” to paratroopers of the US 101st Airborne Division as they prepared to take off from Greenham 5th June 1944. 90% of Horsa Troop carrying Gliders were manufactured in Newbury at Elliots of Newbury.
- 5. 250 Years of Cricket in Kingsclere –** Mark reported on some wonderful historic match details including from the Reading Mercury a match between Uffington and a Kingsclere in Kentbury Berks in September in 1744, for the Hants Silver Cup although it didn't detail who actually won. Then moving forward into the 1790s there are documented games between Kingsclere and Church Oakley, Kempshott, Newbury, Overton, Whitchurch and Wolverton. And rolling forward roughly a hundred years, Mark mentioned a very notable moment in village cricketing history as reported in the Newbury Weekly News on 25th September 1879. The article detailed a match was played at Kingsclere, between Mr John Porter's eleven and an eleven from Newbury, with Lunch provided by The Swan. Mark also detailed many local historic village names, So this year sees the celebration of 250 years of Cricket in Kingsclere, a quarter of a millennium, the Club continues to grow its historical link between Park House stables and the cricket club, the Club now play its Saturday league cricket matches at the Fieldgate centre and the evening league matches at Park House Stables.
- 6. Reports from Village Organisations-** Reports were given by Kingsclere Library, Greener Kingsclere, Royal British Legion, Kingsclere Pre School, Kingsclere Football, History Association, St Marys Church, Village Club, Kingsclere Tower, Kingsclere Charities, Ruby Club, Kingsclere Girlguiding, Kingsclere Bowls Club. Reports sent will be included in the Annual Report. All were encouraged to send in dates of planned events to go on the Village Calendar found on the KPC website.

7. Chairman’s Review of the Parish Council 2023 – 2024: In brief Cllr Clive Mussett explained KPC is an expense for the village but the bulk of what we do is volunteer led which does save considerable money. Cllr Mussett then welcomed our newest Cllr, Helen Jonas, congratulated again the seven worthy winners of the Making a Difference Awards in 2023. Our gratitude goes to those who stood down from KPC last May Sue Adams, John Sawyer, Mick Farey and Ian Bowes for all they did for the Village whilst on the Parish Council, there are currently 3 Vacancies for Councillors please do speak to us. Clive went on to mention the wonderful Coronation weekend in Kingsclere and thanked all involved. We are all looking forward to the Village fun day on the 29th June planned by KCA and KPC to celebrate the 80th D Day anniversary which will follow on from the Military Convoy at about 10.30am the same day. Thanks again to Ian Bowes and team for the Christmas Lights display in the centre of the village. Plans for 2024/25 include refurb of the Square Flower boarder and Biodiversity. Thank you to our 2 proper officers to KPC and to our great litter Warden who does an amazing job usually unnoticed by many. Welcome to BCllr Mike Bound too who joined us after the elections last May.
Thank you to BCllr K Rhatigan for supplying the food this evening.

7. Reports from Borough Councillors: Both BCllrs Kerry Morrow and Ken Rhatigan gave reports about the activities of the Borough Council.

8. Public Questions and Comments:

Questions were raised regarding concerns over the lack of PCSO or PC covering Kingsclere at present. RBL would be keen to reengage with KPC regarding the War Memorial. Church Fete is on Bank Holiday Monday May.

Meeting closed 21.19

Signed:.....Chairman

Date:.....

Signed:.....Clerk

Date:.....

Distribution: Cllrs: D Conquest; H Jonas; S Gaines; C Mussett; N Peach and R Peach
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