

MINUTES OF THE KINVER ANNUAL PARISH MEETING  
HELD AT THE PARISH COUNCIL OFFICES ON WEDNESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2019

PRESENT Councillors Henry Williams, John Cutler, Ian Sadler, Ed Simons, Brian Edwards, Dudley Light, Nick Other, Paul Wooddisse, Christine Allen & Virginia Webb.

IN ATTENDANCE Miss J Cree – Clerk, Mrs M Fullwood Assistant to Clerk.

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PRESENT Mrs Margaret Rogers representing various parish organisations. Mrs Sharon Hallmark representing the Ken Wrigley Memorial Trust., Helen Selkirk and Ewan Chapman from National Trust Kinver.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies of absence were received from Councillor Julian Hall and Jane Perrins (Anglo American Association Sister Cities), and Councillor Julian Hall.

**2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING OF 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

It was proposed that the minutes were accepted as a true record by Cllr Dudley Light, seconded by Cllr Paul Wooddisse and agreed unanimously.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM THOSE MINUTES OF 7<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2018**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes.

**4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

This Report covers the last parish year 2018/19

I have been in attendance at all monthly meetings of the Parish Council and you will find in the minutes of those meetings all the information and discussions carried out by your Parish Councillors on your behalf. I do not intend to repeat those minutes here this evening.

Thank you all for your support over the last year.

Cllr Henry Williams, chairman of Kinver Parish Council.

**5 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Prior to each Committee Chairman presenting his/her report, the Chairman of the Council explained that following each such presentation there would be a period for members of the public present to seek clarification on any points covered by the presentation.

**5.1 CLLR MRS CHRISTING ALLEN, CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE THEN PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING REPORT AS TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THAT COMMITTEE OVER THE PAST YEAR – 2018/19.**

Planning applications over the last 12 months are slightly down compared to the same period last year, so are the numbers of tree works referred to Mr S Does at District. The SAD development documents were agreed by parliament and then South Staffs Council, allowing specific land off White Hill and off Hyde Lane to be removed from Green Belt. It was agreed that a minimum of 30 houses can be built off Hyde Lane and 30 off White Hill. Plans for the redevelopment of the Burgesses were submitted. This development is at the entrance gate to the old village, which is now right in the heart of it. The proposal is for a huge building (block of flats), which will dominate the landscape at the Mill Lane end and tower over the neighbouring properties. Unfortunately District councillors did not all agree with our strong objections and worries of conservation issues and lack of parking.

The plan was passed with a few amendments. We are not against the redevelopment; it is just the size, lack of parking spaces and conservation issues that concern the Kinver Parish Councillors.

In the autumn Kinver High School celebrated the opening of the new block and the new sports hall planning application was approved. A planning application for the pony paddock/Little Gem, The Compa was submitted, to convert a stable + extension into a dwelling. This application is still ongoing and is controversial as it lies within the Green Belt and the conservation area in Kinver. It has also come to our notice that our sandstone rock houses and caves, which can be found in several locations within the Parish of Kinver, appear to be under threat by owners wishing to destroy them. These are important heritage assets in our area and we shall try our best to protect them.

The Parish is also experiencing problems from Severn Trent Water. There are several areas in the village that are experiencing problems with the noise and vibrations caused by their pumps and also the sewerage works/pumps not operation sufficiently resulting in blocked drains in low lying areas. We have written to Severn Trent several times in the last few months, but we have had no reply.

The area around Ridge Hill Woods is also causing controversy. The residents in Wordsley, backing on to this wood, (which is covered by TPO's) believe an application for hundreds of houses and destruction of the wood has been submitted. The land falls within South Staffs. No immediate plans for development have been submitted, however, a meeting with Wordsley residents, South Staffs councillors and the MP for the Wordsley area has been arranged for 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

| Recommendations made by Kinver Parish Council: |    | Decisions by District |
|--|----|-----------------------|
| Accepted                                       | 64 | 62                    |
| Refused  | 28 | 6                     |
| Comments                                       | 7  |                       |
| Referred to Steve Does                         | 13 | (re trees)            |
| Planning applications withdrawn                | 3  |                       |

The Planning committee suffered a sad loss when Cllr Jon Irving-Bell passed away; our feelings go out to his family and friends.

Our new committee member replacing Jon, Cllr Ed Simons was welcomed on to the committee. With his expertise in conservation matters and planning, he is already proving to be a great asset.

I would like to thank the clerk and her assistant for all their help over the past year and for the help of all the Councillors on the planning committee.

Christine Allen, Planning Chairman

**5.2 CLLR MR JOHN CUTLER, CHAIRMAN OF THE LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE, THEN PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING REPORT AS TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THAT COMMITTEE OVER THE PAST YEAR 2018/19.**

- 1) The Youth Café continued to flourish and developed. It became an independent body in June 2018. An AGM took place on 28 June. In order to steer the YC through its next 12 months Cllrs Allen, Geoghegan, John Cutler become Treasurer, Sec. and Chairman, but volunteers took other position on the committee. The PC continued to award grant monies for the hire of the venue, for which the YC is very grateful. Also the KCSA have been very helpful host as the venue for the Tuesday night meetings
- 2) The committee has continued to review Footpaths at every meeting and we are very grateful for the input of co-opted member John Glover. We would also thank the clerk and her team for all the work they do responding to our requests
- 3) Cllr Allen has started a new major initiative regarding improving the condition towpaths. We are pursuing the Canals and River Trust to get the towpaths made good like our surrounding neighbours paths
- 4) Bulb planting again took place and the new areas developed over recent years are now adding to the already established areas.

5) The Committee were disappointed not to get support from PC to improve Churchill corner

**5.3 CLLR MR DUDLEY LIGHT, CHAIRMAN OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE, THEN PRESENTED THE FOLLOWING REPORT AS TO THE ACTIVITIES OF THAT COMMITTEE OVER THE PAST YEAR – 2018/19.**

The Parish Council will deliver the budget set for 2018/19 according to plan.

This financial year we have not encountered any major unexpected financial difficulties. However a long term illness of a member of staff has had a slight impact on the staffing budget as we have had to, on occasions, employ temporary staff.

- Vandalism at the bus shelter in the centre of the village, although less than last year, is still proving to be a cost to the Parish Council.
- During the past financial year the Parish Council has brought its ground maintenance work back in house. This has given us a small saving this year but one which will be even more significant in future years.

We have continued to fund local projects including,

- Annual Christmas lights
- Support to the Youth cafe
- Paying for the Methodist Church car park to be used as a shoppers car park
- Testing of the headstones at Comber Ridge
- Two electronic speed indicator signs have been purchased. Both are able to be moved to different sites and are proving to be very successful in controlling traffic speeds.
- In addition to the above smaller sums of funding have continued to be used to enhance the village environment e.g. extra bins, planting of bulbs etc.

As this is my last report for the life of this current council I would like to thank the clerk and her staff, the members of the Financial and General Purposes Committee and the whole Parish Council for their help and support over the last four years.

Lastly I am pleased to announce that for the eleventh year running that Kinver Parish Council will NOT be requesting a rise in the Precept charge for 2019/20.

**6 REPORTS FROM PARISH ORGANISATIONS**

**6.1 BEST KEPT VILLAGE COMPETITION REPORT**

2018 Best Kept Village Competition was not so successful for us. The weather was wonderful but just too hot to work in. We were presented with a Highly Commended Certificate. Although the Village looked beautiful with its hanging baskets and weed free street, it was hard to keep on top of the litter clearance, and some dog walkers did not pick up their dog pooh. Please don't leave it for children and people to walk in.

This coming year is a year that we can do better. So please help us by litter and weed clearance and make us proud of the Village we so dearly love. Many, many, THANKS.

From Lin Hingley Organiser of the BKV.

Please contact me if you have time to spare to help ring me on 01384 872958.

**6.2 COMMUNITY ACTION. C A**

Report from Margaret Rogers Secretary, Treasurer and Newssheet Editor

Community Action (originally called Christian Action due to its links with St Peter's Church) was formed in 1972 by its benefactor Sam Harris and had representation on Parish Council from 1974 to 2015.

C A mains aim has been to work for the Parish to improve the life of the village and contributed funding towards a wide range of projects including £32 thousand pounds gained from grants and given to Kinver Parish Council

to match fund play area improvements in 2006. C.A had already paid for the fencing across the front boundary adjoining the car park many years prior to that.

In its early days C.A purchase the original Mill House on Legion Drive and after renovation sold it and gave the funds to Kinver Parish Council to invest this was listed as The Christian Action Trust and the money from this was eventually used towards refurbishing the high street. In past years, C.A helped set up and instigated many organisations and facilities in the village. One of these being the Minibus for The Elderly and Handicapped and played a leading role in setting up the Kinver Community Bus.

Each year we provide the first prize for the Best Kept Village, a cheque for £40 and a glass paper weight (the latter being returned by the recipient for the following year) this year's winner was 128 High Street. Past winner have donated their prize money to either the Community Bus or the Christmas Vouchers distributed by Kinver Old Peoples Welfare.

Our main focus now is our news-sheet which started off as three editions each year with pages stapled together by members. As adverts came in we were able enlist a printer to produce the news-sheet and change to four times a year and our current edition Winter 168 was distributed in February. This is now mostly funded through adverts, where in the past we held dances, bric-a-brac and garden events and covered 8 of the parish walks gaining sponsors. A few years ago our printer went digital which means that articles and adverts can be produced in a wide range of colours and styles. The news-sheet is appreciated by our readers and advertisers.

Sixty volunteers distribute the 3200 copies across the parish 4 times from Iverley to Lawnswood. We are continuing to increase the numbers printed to cover the increasing housing developments.

Residents who have moved away still like a copy, which can be sent electronically. Volunteers are the key to our distribution. News-sheets arrive in boxes and are put up into delivery areas and taken to those who do the house to house deliveries for us.

Residents find the newssheet a good source of local news and adverts provide a great directory of trade people.

Two other C.A indicatives are the Dorothy Round Bursary and The Kinver Flag Fund. Both the brain child of the late Derek Hemming MBE.

The Bursary was administered by Derek and Margaret Rogers

The Kinver Flag Fund following the death of Derek Hemming and Joan Barlow, is administered very excellently by Marita Fullwood. We have a committee who look at making donations. (see separate report).

### **Community Action Dorothy Round**

Bursary Administrator Margaret Rogers

The Bursary was set up in 2001 by Derek Hemming MBE. and myself in honour of Dorothy Round a famous tennis player who lived in Kinver for several years and attended the Methodist Church . A statue was erected in Dudley in her memory. The bursary was set up to help youngsters aged 13 to 18 in particular sports with a bursary of £100 each successful applicant.

Applicants needed to supply references from a sporting coach and PE Teacher, applicants could be from Kinver High School or students who lived in the Parish but schooled elsewhere. .

Our funds are very low, and we have not given a bursary for some time partly as we need to meet with PE teachers at the High School and speak to students in school as well as displaying notices for those attending schools elsewhere.

On the interview night the applicants would be accompanied by an adult and interviewed by two independent P.E teachers from schools outside the village and a member of C.A. A presentation evening would be arranged where Nigel Round (Dorothy Round's nephew) presented the bursary awards of £100 each and a certificate on behalf of C.A.

## **6.3 KINVER ACTION GROUP KAG**

Report from the Press, Media and Fundraising Officer Margaret Rogers

Another year on and KAG continues to look at the outdoor needs of the youth of the community.

Our officers are John Fallon - Chairman and Treasurer. Val Davis - Vice-Chairman and Minute Secretary, with myself, Margaret Rogers, dealing with Funding, Press and Media and Harry Rogers.

This year has proved quite difficult with two really bad incidents of graffiti, the last having to be removed professionally, costing over £400.

The site is inspected and we have a maintenance programme in place. Grass cutting proves challenging as this impinges on the track itself.

Our biggest expense is finding the insurance each year for the Skate Park and Bike Track and we will have to look for grants again this year to support this major item, as we have to keep the provisions insured.

We were supported by a grant of £2706 from the Ken Wrigley Memorial Charity and £1000 from the Anthony and Gwendoline Memorial Charity to cover the annual insurance cost for November 2018 to 2019

We still have no youth co-ordinator and it is difficult to approach youngsters using the facilities on our own although. Some members have current DBS's for the younger age group but we are struggling to set up a youth management group.

We were hoping to put on more events as in the past but costs range between £400 and £700 depending on the requirement and the remaining monetary resources this year were needed to clean the skate part from graffiti.

Putting on an event would mean making both provisions out of bounds for a day for its regular users, whilst professionals are on site teaching, demonstrating and so on.

Users tend to forget or not know that this provision was made possible by the efforts of the KAG officers. An attempt to keep signs posted is not possible as they are invariably torn down.

We have some supportive villagers who collect litter whilst others chat to users and report back on satisfaction and any improvements they would like.

We are very pleased that the Wheels Park is so widely used by all ages from a wide area as well as youngsters being brought down by parents/grandparents from neighbouring authorities.

Kinver Action Group meets at the KSCA

Report from the Press, Media and Fundraising Officer Margaret Rogers

#### **6.4 KINVER ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION (KAA)**

Established 12th November 2009 - Our Motto is "Sharing with others what has been shared with us"

Report from the President

The Kinver Allotment Association held its AGM in January 2019 and the following members now comprise its Management Committee, Mike Hails, Mick Ford, Paul Roche, Margaret Rogers, Roy Carrier, Graham Thompson, Andy Purslow and Sam Cooper.

At its first management meeting of the year in March officers will be elected and all have expressed a wish to continue.

At our recent AGM the chairman Mike Hails reported that "it had been a good year at the allotment despite the hot weather. He thanked Roy Carrier for his work as secretary and Paul Roche for remaining on the Committee and acting as treasurer throughout the year and Margaret Rogers for her advice and past help in raising funds funding resources."

"Mike also thanked the members who helped to maintain the site especially those who mowed the grass. Working parties would be a need to look after the site again throughout the year and those volunteering would be put on a rota.

There is always a timely reminder about water use as the costs of water was a large part of the KAA running costs and he asked everyone to exercise restraint when watering crops."

The continued success of the Association (which was formed on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2009) is partly due to the advice and support, and sometimes practical help, given by members to one another. Our new plot holder, are supported when required by our experienced plot holders and their knowledge is very valuable.

We have on going support from Roger Pauli of Stourton Farm which contributes greatly to our success. Roger made the land available in March 2010 in order to establish the allotments.

Since moving onto the site in March 2010 our fundraising officer Margaret Rogers has attracted over £20,000 in grants in our early days to improve and enhance it for everyone visitors and plot holders alike. Grants were received from the National Lottery and other charities and organisations The Ken Wrigley Memorial Charity. The Anthony & Gwendoline Wylde Memorial Charity. The County Council Local Members Scheme (via Councillor Brian Edwards), Kinver Parish Council, Kinver Country Fayre and donation from Roger Pauli himself.

Our own fundraising efforts have made us self-sufficient for several years now as site maintenance replacing fences and maintaining the water supply is always required.

One of the great strengths of the Association is the sharing of good practice between members. There is no rivalry between members and everyone is only too willing to share the secrets of their successful methods with other members, which particularly helpful to new members who may have little or no experience of growing produce.

We currently have 34 plots being cultivated some of which are shared half plots . Many of our members are so successful that they Rarely have to buy vegetables or fruit during the year.

Our contacts details are

|                         |               |                 |              |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| General enquiries       | Chairman      | Mike Hails      | 01384 873081 |
| Plot availability       | Vice Chairman | Mick Ford plot  | 07790 933426 |
| Fundraising and support | President     | Margaret Rogers | 01384 872073 |

## 6.5 KINVER CIVIC SOCIETY REPORT

Report from the Chairman

The Civic Society are celebrating their 40th anniversary this March as the society evolved from the Kinver Residents Association and started life on the 26<sup>th</sup> March 1979 and have continued to have an interest in parish matters and hold monthly meetings with interesting speakers and discuss local issues.

The Society aims are:

- \*To care about our surroundings, where we live and work.
- \* To improve the fabric of the area for present and future generations.
- \* To safeguard the heritage and character of Kinver.
- \* To set and encourage high standards of design and sustainability.

Since late 2015 our membership has more than doubled and had it not been for serious illnesses we would have reach 50 members in 2018. We have visitors at all our speakers meeting and at the November meeting 14 visitors come to hear Ian Bott's "The Haunted Black Country."

This past year has again been very busy and following the AGM in March 2018 Officers were re-elected. as follows : Chairman and Programme Secretary myself, Vice Chairman Harry Rogers Hon President, David Bills, Maureen Smith Minute Secretary and joint Programme Secretary and Mary Middleton membership secretary.

The committee continue to meet every other month for business meetings and the Civic Society itself meet the third Monday in each month other than January and August. Our August 2018 annual outing doing the Salt and Silk trip was enjoyed by 42 people. Sadly Brian Draper our tour guide who planned the trip passed away days before the outing so a new coach company had to be found at the same cost as those going had already paid. Glyn from Whittle Coaches looked after us really well and we have booked Whittles again for the 2019 outing.

Our August trip for 2019 is The Cotswolds and the Vale of Evesham. Tickets will again be £20 and once our members have booked, the trip will be open to visitors. We have again booked a 53 seater coach so can accommodate a few more people.

Our 2018 Commendation Award was given to the Volunteer Drivers of the Kinver Community Bus who for 31 years have kept the wheels turning. For some time our drivers have not come from the parish and travel from the West Mids and Swindon in their own cars to drive the bus for no rewards. They drive hail, rain and snow. The room was brimming with members and visitors which included County Councillor Victoria Wilson, District Councillor and Chairman of District Councillor Len Bates BEM, District Councillors and Leaders of SSC Brian Edwards MBE and the Community Bus drivers and Sue Wright and John Sharkey for the Kinver Edge Volunteers the 2017 recipients.

At our Commendation Evenings, the history and aims of the Society are read out along with a citation relating to the person/ building being awarded the Commendation Award. The award is given to either a person(s), group, organisation or building, which has made a significant difference to the life of the community.

The Civic Society also takes part in the Best Kept Village Tidy Up and meets on the Berkley Car Park on Sunday mornings before and during the BKV competition. We are also consulted by South Staffs Council Planning Department on building matters and tree works. We provided signage by the Vine in 2017 and in 2018 sponsored the Kinver Flag Fund with £100 paying for the flag to be flown for all the Royal Dates.

Our programme for 2019 had many interesting speaker, as follows:

|      |       |      |                                       |
|------|-------|------|---------------------------------------|
| 18th | Feb   | 2019 | Mike Cooper Florence Nightingale      |
| 15th | April | 2019 | Staffordshire Fire Safety             |
| 20th | May   | 2019 | Roy Peacock James Foster              |
| 17th | June  | 2019 | Roger Pannell Worcestershire Wildlife |
| 15th | July  | 2019 | Anne Clarke Family Tree               |
| 19th | Aug   | 2019 | Outing Cotswolds Villages             |
| 16th | Sept  | 2019 | Derek Clarke Witley Court             |
| 21st | Oct   | 2019 | Commendation Evening                  |
| 18th | Nov   | 2019 | Ian Bott Grave Matters                |
| 16th | Dec   | 2019 | Christmas Party                       |
| 20th | Jan   | 2020 | INTEREST in Meeting                   |
| 17th | Feb   | 2020 | TBA Mike Cooper or David Bills        |

Visitors are very welcome to join our monthly meetings for £2 fee per visit and the annual membership remains the same for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year at £10. We serve hot drinks served from 7.15pm were members can have a chat before the meetings start at 7.30. Meetings are held at Kinver Senior Citizens rooms.

Report from the Chairman Margaret Rogers.

## 6.6 KINVER COMMUNITY BUS LTD

Report from the Secretary and Treasurer and Bus Operator Margaret Rogers

On the 21<sup>st</sup> April 1988, (after starting the Company in 1986) we launched our first bus. In March 2014 we purchased our fourth bus a FIAT Ducato 17 seater.

We were very pleased that our Volunteer Drivers were awarded the 2018 Civic Society Commendation Awards. This is given to either a person(s), group, organisation or building, which has made a significant difference to the life of the community.

The Kinver Community Bus came about from an enthusiastic band of volunteers who were elected at a public meeting and formed a committee in 1986. The public meeting being called by Community Action's President Sam Harris.

Thirty-Three years on, we still operate a valuable service and from the original committee in 1986 there is only myself left.

Our three mornings a week service on a time table providing a bus stop service and door to door on its route covers 52 weeks a year in all weathers including the snow.

Passengers often just come out for the company but also find it useful for shopping, doctors and visiting friends. Kinver is a hilly rural community with a high majority of elderly people so our service is most important. The bus is a lifeline to many people as it travels out to Enville, Stourton and to the parish border. We collect and drop off passengers en route at three nursing homes and one independent living establishment.

The Public Meeting called in 1986 discussed the lack of transport in the Parish and several matters were identified such as the hilly community, and lack of transport, as even then other than the main route running through the High Street turning round in White Hill there was no other means of transport. In addition, Enville had no transport and Kinver was its nearest shopping village.

It was agreed it was imperative that something was done to provide independent transport at a reasonable cost. People were asked to come forward and form a committee. Eight of us put our names forward were accepted. The committee, was then formed with officers, a constitution and bank account.

Fundraising started in earnest with garden parties, bric-a-brac sales and walks and by 1988, we had raised and with Sam Harris's support had enough money for our first bus. We bought a second hand bus and the service was launched.

The bus still runs the same now other than adding another residential care home, on a designated passenger route around the village As a passenger carrying vehicle, our permit allows us to park in a bus stop.

All our volunteer drivers travel into Kinver in their own cars to drive the bus most from Swindon and the West Midlands conurbation.

We have to raise funds each year for Vehicle and Public Liability insurance, repairs, MOT and fuel so are very grateful for occasional grants received from the Anthony & Gwendoline Wylde Memorial Charity, and annual grants from Enville Parish Council of £300 and a donation of £100 from Angela de Las Casus (the daughter of Mr Ron Marsh) and Kinver Rotary Club of £200.

Passengers can use their All England Passes, from which a sheet is collated daily on passenger numbers destinations and includes safety checks at the start and finish of the run and fuel. Fuel returns have to be completed twice a year to the DfT. Paper work as with anything is quiet extensive. We can also be inspected on route by the public transport services the same as any other bus.

At our AGM is held in October, all officers were re-elected these being: Ian Lowe is Chairman, Vice Chairman Robert Kay, Julie Rogers deals with collating figures for the fuel and passenger records. I deal with the day-to-day running of the bus as the bus operator, transferring passenger numbers to County and the yearly fuel for the DfT and accounts audits and have been Treasurer since 1990 and secretary for almost as long.

Other members of the committee are Dawn Carter, Mary Middleton and Elizabeth Kay.

Recognised parish organisations, (with a constitution and bank account in the group/clubs name) can hire the bus. Hiring's are dealt with by myself, hire charges are £25 for the first 25 mile plus 50p for all extra miles and 20% VAT, hire charges have not risen in many years. Terms and conditions have to be agreed, with only those over 25 and under 70 years with a clean driving licence for 5 years and driving for a minimum of 5 years. All hiring's must have a letter of authority from the club or groups Chairman and anyone driving has to have a trial run and produce the latest download copy of their licence from the DVLA. Some organisations use the bus quite often to go to events.

## **6.7 KINVER COMMUNITY LIBRARY – SECOND ANNUAL REPORT**

We have now been operating as a Community Library for two years having been handed this wonderful opportunity from Staffordshire County Council on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017. The very steep learning curve at the beginning has now consolidated itself it an operation which we are proud of.

Not only do we have a team of about 30 volunteers doing shifts at the sharp end but these volunteers also work hard behind the scenes either individually or in groups making sure that the operation can function effectively and provide services to the Community.



We don't just "do" books! We have weekly mother and tots sessions, a cryptic crossword group, several family history sessions, craft groups, adult reading groups, visits from schools, evening talks, newspapers and coffee facilities, drop in sessions for other organisations and special holiday events for children.

However, we are open to ideas to extend our services and our reach into the community.

Financially we are self sufficient and made a small surplus in 2018.

Paul Wooddisse – Chairman - 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019

## **6.8 KINVER EDGE COMMITTEE - REPORT TO PARISH COUNCIL, FEBRUARY 2019**

The Kinver Edge Committee continues to work with and support the National Trust in its management of Kinver Edge and the Rock Houses, a National Trust property that is rapidly becoming a "shining light" in the organisations's portfolio.

The Committee are pleased to welcome Nik Novak, Mike Parker, Handel Phillips and Jonathan Roe, who have joined the Committee to replace retiring members. We believe that their association with the Cookley / Wolverley part of the property, following the acquisition of the Worcestershire land, will help us to better represent and support all the communities that surround Kinver Edge.

Visitor numbers at the property remain impressively high. The 2017 / 2018 season saw a record 42,000 visitors to Holy Austin Rock. This current year, we are expecting the final number of visitors to be very close to 60,000 people. Five years previously the figure was 24,000. The increased profile from the centenary year has helped along with the recent improvements on the presentation of the Rock Houses, gardens and Kinver Edge, ensuring a better day out for visitors. Visitors receive a great welcome from volunteers and staff. The National Trust appreciate that increased numbers brings problems and future planning will reflect the need to improve and manage infrastructure.

2018 saw a number of significant developments at the property, marking the 20th anniversary of the restoration of the Rock Houses, the acquisition of the new land handed over by Worcester County Council, and, most particularly, the completion of the centenary celebrations marking the donation of Kinver Edge to the National Trust.

The Centenary Appeal raised an amazing £175,000 and this has enabled the Centenary Pathway to be completed. The major part of this was the link between the Rock Houses and the Edge which has transformed the visitor experience. The circular pathway now links the whole property together and merges the 100-year old property to the new Worcestershire land known as Blakeshall Common, which has almost doubled the size of National Trust land. This will help disperse visitors over a larger area and add enjoyment to their visit. The Opening of the Centenary Pathway successfully took place on September 11th 2018 and was a very happy event with nearly 100 people attending. Hilary McGrady (NT Director General) arrived in time to see some of the property and then joined the ceremony and gave a very positive speech about Kinver Edge and its committee and its volunteers. She is keen to return to see more of the property and it has been very pleasing to see three visits from the incumbent NT Director General in the last two years, further evidence of the enhanced national profile of the property.

Kinver Civic Society presented the Kinver Edge Committee with its 2017 Commendation Award, for its work in supporting the centenary year.

Another legacy and one of the enormous successes of the Centenary Year was the Guidebook produced by Peter Hodges. It is a superb production using Peter's great photos and he put it together absolutely wonderfully and almost single-handedly.

On another positive note, we have been successful in receiving a Higher Tier Stewardship grant in order to manage the triple SSSI woodland in Staffordshire. Work is already underway thinning the woodland and opening up the paths and rides allowing more light for the benefit of wildlife and helping to dry out the paths. An immediate impact has already been seen with the large number of butterflies in these areas.

The adder tracking project has been completed and will allow NT staff to have a better understanding of the spatial ecology of the adder population and inform future conservation programmes.

The newly acquired Worcestershire land, now known as Blakeshall Common, presents a number of challenges and opportunities. A lot of work has already been done and plans have been drawn up for another Higher Tier Stewardship bid for that area. This would see further heathland restoration and the joining up of isolated habitats. Also plans are being developed for the Kingsford Lane car park and these will include resurfacing, picnic and play areas for children.

A fundraising scheme raised money for laser scanning of Vales Rock and Nanny's Rock to inform on the physical structure of the rock houses and will also be used to enhance the visitor interpretation of them.

2018 was a very exciting year for the property and we believe that the developments and improvements already carried out and planned for 2019 and beyond will make Kinver Edge and the Rock Houses a premier attraction both locally and nationally. Careful management will ensure that this happens in a planned, sustainable manner and will not only have a positive impact upon the property, but also on Kinver and other surrounding communities.

Mick Grove (on behalf of the Kinver Edge Committee)

## 6.9 KINVER AND ENVILLE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL REPORT.

On behalf of the Poppy Appeal May I thank all the Poppy Collectors, Local Schools, Shops, Pubs, Churches, Businesses and single Donators for helping this Appeal. We had a record year and collected £18,246-47p. Without your help, we would be unable to continue our vital welfare and benevolent work. On Remembrance Sunday on the parade one of my Marshals collapsed with a heart attack, if it had not been for the quick reaction of the Kinver Police, Fire Brigade and the Air Ambulance my marshal would not be alive today. Words cannot express our gratitude to our three services for saving the life of my marshal. We will always be in your debt. Thank you.  
Lin Hingley Poppy Appeals Organiser.

## 6.10 KINVER FLAG FUND

**Flying the Flag** was the brain child of the late Derek Hemming through Community Action. It is a lovely way to celebrate a special occasion such as birth of a child, wedding day, families visiting from overseas etc. A poster is produced to the sponsor's requirements and displayed in a frame on the Flag pole where the Flag is raised right in the centre of the village (paved area by the White Harte Annex). **The flag was hoisted for the first time on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1992; since then we have raised in excess of £10,000 from your donations, and to date, we have distributed £10,505 back into the community via parish clubs, groups and organisations.**

**To Fly the Flag**, please contact me (Marita Fullwood) on 01384-878208 try to give at least two weeks' notice, we are all volunteers and not available all of the time (please leave a message and I will return your call as soon as I can); a minimum donation of £3 per flying is requested though more is never refused and is much appreciated. Cheques should be made payable to "Kinver Flag Fund".

Posters are produced and displayed on the appropriate date on the \*Flag Pole outside the White Harte Annex, High Street, Kinver, we are happy to personalise posters with a photograph etc., (a copy of the poster can be made for you SAE required or by email) we will discuss this with you when you call, we only use your details for purposes directly related to Flying the Flag (see your Data below). *Dates can also be block-booked for the year ahead to save you time and ensure you don't forget a date.*

**Your Data:** we use your details for purposes directly related to Flying the Flag, ie the \*posters will bear the information and/or images agreed with you the sponsor, brief details in our accounts and in the quarterly Newssheet. Contact details are kept privately.

This year we have purchased a new good quality linen Union Flag to replace the existing flag which was starting to show signs of wear, this re-investment of funds will enable us to continue Flying the Flag to celebrate your special occasions for the years ahead; in addition an Australian and Norwegian printed polyester flags have been purchased by sponsors which were flown when their relatives came over to visit Kinver, these have been added to our French and St Georges Flag our collection is growing.

We distribute our funds within the local community, so by flying the flag to celebrate your special occasions you are helping others around you. Our funds are not huge, but if you are a local organisation, charity etc., with a

specific project or goal in mind let us know so we can consider a contribution in support to help you on your way.

Our Committee met last autumn and have distributed our funds from the past two years to the following **local** concerns:

- **KSCA** funds have been used to install an instantaneous hot water machine for refreshments;
- **Kinver Volunteer Bureau** to subsidise the luncheon club meals;
- **Kinver Old Peoples Welfare** towards the vouchers which were distributed in December, these are spent in our village shops.

**We are very pleased to announce that Kinver Civic Society have kindly sponsored 'Flying the Flag' for Royal occasions for twelve months August 2018 to July 2019, we would like to thank them very much for their kind donation.**

Thank you to John Bills for his continued help throughout the year in hoisting and flying the flag, whatever the day and whatever the weather, without his help we wouldn't be able to promote your special day, thank you to Sarah Sparkes and Carol Groucutt who are also officers on the KFF Committee, and to Harry & Margaret Rogers also on the Committee.

**Congratulations everybody on your special occasions.** Give me a call, I'm looking forward to hearing from you during the coming year with your celebration **Kinver Flag Fund** bookings.  
**Thank you everyone - Marita Fullwood.**

#### **6.11 KINVER METHODIST CHURCH REPORT TO 2019 PCC**

Kinver Methodist Church is located at the Potter's Cross end of the village and is a welcoming community with Jesus at the centre. We aim to worship Him together and draw others to love and follow Him. The church is part of the Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury District and is one of fifteen churches in the Vale of Stour Circuit.

It has been a challenging year for the church. Our minister, Rev Peter Knight underwent treatment for cancer during 2018 but, sadly, died just after Christmas. His witness to the love and care of the Lord Jesus was evident throughout his illness and the strength of his faith was an inspiration to all those who met him. He remained brave and positive until the very end, confident in the saving grace of Jesus Christ. Our prayers continue for his family - Felicity, Josh and Aimee.

In September 2018, with Rev. Peter on long term sick leave, Rev. Michael Payne assumed responsibility for the pastoral care of Kinver Methodist Church. He is enthusiastic about the work which we do as 'Church Together' in Kinver and is keen to develop the strong partnership which we enjoy with St. Peter's Church and St. Mary's, Enville. Rev. Michael is ably supported by two 'supernumerary' (retired) ministers in our congregation: Rev. Peter Clarke, formerly the Methodist minister at Kinver and Rev. Andrew Roberts who was part of the 'Fresh Expressions' ministry of the Methodist Church. As a congregation, we are blessed to have the leadership, care and support of Michael, Peter and Andrew as we continue to serve God in the village.

Our Sunday morning services are held at 9.30am and are a mixture of traditional and contemporary worship, with a focus on Bible teaching and praying together. Coffee is served after the service, giving an opportunity to reflect on what we have learned, as well as being a valuable time of fellowship. We are not currently holding regular services on Sunday evenings, but there are occasional evening services to coincide with key events in the Christian calendar. Our Advent Carol service was held at the beginning of December and was well supported, as was our traditional 'Carols by Candlelight' on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. Our next evening service will be at 6.30pm on Easter Sunday and will be a 'Songs of Praise' service.

As a busy, lively church we also run a full programme of meetings and events throughout the week, catering for all ages. To mention just a few, our Afternoon Fellowship meets on a Wednesday at 3pm and is a friendly and welcoming group of ladies. They invite a variety of speakers and enjoy tea and fellowship together. For children aged 7-11, J Team meets after school on a Friday during term time. This is a time of fun and games, whilst also introducing children to an understanding of the Christian faith. Full details of all our activities and meetings (including 'special' Sunday evening services) can be found on the church website:  
[www.kinvermethodistchurch.co.uk](http://www.kinvermethodistchurch.co.uk).

We actively support the youth work in the village. Our support is 'hands on' with many of our church members involved in the leadership of 'Alive and Kicking' (the Sunday evening youth group) as well as helping to facilitate the annual youth weekend away.

Highlights of the past year have been the mid-week courses which we have undertaken as a church. Last summer we ran 'The Bible Course' which was produced by the Bible Society and gave an overview of the Bible. This was so helpful as it set the various books of the Bible in context, giving us a better understanding of the Bible as a whole. In September 2018 we spent six weeks looking at Paul's letters to the Thessalonians and we are currently following an eight week course entitled 'Fruitfulness on the Frontline' which encourages us to live as disciples of the Lord Jesus every day, in our day to day activities. It has been good to share some of these evenings with our friends from St Peter's Church. Although quite different in content, each of these courses have been especially helpful in reminding us of the extraordinary truths of the Christian gospel and in challenging us to live as Christian disciples, here in Kinver.

As we look forward to Easter, we have an opportunity once again to reflect on what God has done for us in Jesus. We thank Him for His love and faithfulness to us throughout the past year and trust in His goodness and mercy for the year to come.

Ruth Stilton  
Kinver Methodist Church

## **6.12 KINVER OLD PEOPLE'S WELFARE**

Report from Margaret Rogers Treasurer

Each year we distribute vouchers on the first Friday in December, last year being 7th December, which was a resounding success..

We put on tea and coffee for those collecting vouchers and they enjoy catching up with friends. Due to our ever-increasing population of our distribution to ladies 60 and over and men 65 year and over, we are handing out more vouchers so have to raise more money.

Six ladies provided three stations from 9.30am to 1.30pm and checked the details of those collecting vouchers and write the recipients names on the vouchers. The kitchen helpers were kept busy making hot drinks throughout the morning. Traders give me call when they have a number of vouchers and I take a cheque to the value then tick the vouchers off the distribution list.

Signs are handed out each November to shops who accept the vouchers to help people know where they can spend them.

There is a wide selection of places to use the vouchers. The committee really appreciate the shops supporting the scheme, and thank them for accepting the voucher each year.

The vouchers distributed provide over £6,000 of income for those shops who take part. Vouchers were again £7 each. We purchased gifts to the value of the vouchers and took to Kinver Parish resident who live at one of the Prestwood Complex homes.

☞ To make this annual gift possible we received grants and donations the following in 2018:

|          |   |
|----------|---|
| £407.33p | Kinver Darts Club                       |
| £200     | The Kinver Flag Fund                    |
| £400     | Kinver Constitutional Club Members Fund |
| £6000    | The Ken Wrigley Memorial Charity        |

Without this wonderful support, this annual gift to parishioners would not be possible.

We continue our work in the community, and make note at our meetings of those who are sick and anyone who needed advice and we have pointed people in the right direction for help and assistance. Committee members re-elected in 2018 (who have served for many years) were Cllr Lin Hingley - Chairman, Pam Perry - Vice Chairman, Val Davis - Minute Secretary, Margaret Rogers – treasurer & press, and Councillor Christine Allen who has been the Parish Council representative who has been with us since 2015.

With this year behind us now and shops all being paid, I will be starting to look for grants and donations to support the 2019 voucher distribution on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December.

## **6.13 KINVER SPORTS AND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

During the past year more progress has been made on refurbishment and improvements to the building and facilities on offer, thanks to an enthusiastic band of volunteers and supporters.

Improvements completed during this period include re-decoration of the Lounge bar and committee rooms including new curtains and lighting, refurbishment of the Ladies toilets and upgrading the projector in the Hall.

We are now commencing refurbishment of the Gents toilets, including creation of additional secure storage space. It is also anticipated that a Defibrillator will be installed on the outside of the building shortly. An open day will be arranged so that interested volunteers can be trained in the use of this life saving equipment.

Several successful fundraising events have taken place, including an Irish Night, a 'Village Fete' and a New Year's Eve event. This year, we have been lucky enough to secure the Kinver Open Gardens event on 22/23 June 2019 and will be doing refreshments at Kinver Fire Station.

In addition to fundraising events we have been fortunate to receive grant assistance from Councillors Brian Edwards & Victoria Wilson, Kinver Flag Fund, Kinver Constitutional Club and The Anthony & Gwendoline Wylde Trust.

We have plans for many more improvements, e.g. new lighting for the Hall plus a more substantial Development project for the main building and changing rooms. As part of the Development plans we are considering reviving a previously dormant project to reinstate the Sterrymere pool and also the inclusion of external toilets for public use in an extension to the main building. These plans can only progress towards reality as and when funding becomes available.

Throughout this time the building has been used extensively by various groups and individuals for numerous functions, Youth Café, performances by New Kinver Players, U3A, indoor bowling, keep fit, painting classes, meetings etc. Take a look at our website; <http://www.ksca.uk/>

## **6.14 REPORT KINVER YOUTH CAFE 2018 KINVER PC ANNUAL MEETING**

The youth café became an independent body in June 2018. A Constitution was agreed with the necessary policies (Health and Safety, Child Safeguarding, Volunteer Registration including DBS). In order to steer the youth Café in its first "independence" year Cllrs Cutler, Allen and Geoghegan become Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. Mrs Faye Saunders a volunteer, become Child Protection Officer.

Grants from Kinver PC have covered the cost of main room hire at the KCSA. Further grants were received from Ken Wrigley Trust, A & A Walters Funeral Directors, Kinver Rotary.

These grants have enabled the hire of additional room for games and the purchase of a Combined Pool /Air Hockey Table with its associated equipment and Table Football. Also new lightweight TV monitors and game/X-box consoles.

Subscriptions and Tuck shop profit has helped to make the venture break even on its running cost but grant income is required for any capital expenditure.

A full set of accounts have been produced for 2018 showing excess income over expenditure of £1791.12 but we have commitments mainly cost of new secure storage cupboards at KCSA of £1500. There are a core of 13-15 volunteers who share weekly duties, 4 are required for each night. The attendance varies between 20-30 youth mainly from year 7. We are hoping these continue when they move into year 8 and further influx of new year 7 pupils.

Activities include Table Tennis, Table football, Darts, Pool, Air Hockey, and computer games. Besides these activities the youths spend lots of time talking and socialising with their friends. Special activities like pumpkin making, nail bar etc take place.

The KCSA committee have been very supportive.

## 6.15 Peter Pan Pre-school - Stourton

**Peter Pan at Stourton Village Hall has now been operating 50 years at the hall since the hall opened on 9<sup>th</sup> February 1969.**

Although Peter Pan is registered with Early Years and OFSTED as a private voluntary and independent (PVI) group it is still classed as a business which affects the ability to get grants. Staff work many voluntary hours and the group has to raise its own funds to operate.

Peter Pan offers childcare from 22 months to 5 year olds, five mornings each week. Children can receive 15 hours of Nursery Education Funding the term after their 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday which runs for 38 weeks each year. This is broken down into terms and funding is drip fed into settings, a little at a time throughout the year. We are now offering 20 hours a week as some families can claim 30 hours child care once their child is 3 years old if two parents are working.

The THINK 2 can be applied for by families on a lower income or special circumstances. Forms are available for parent carers who can discuss their finances in confidence with the County Council's Early Years Team. Whilst funding has helped families, it has become more complicated when parent carers move provisions, as funding (although budgeted for) has to be paid back to County Finance.

Each year we have children moving into full time school in September at just 4 years old, days before the school year starts. Movement between the areas is very limited as fuel costs increase and bus fares are expensive for parent carers, travelling back and forth and some are not on a bus route.

We have an OFSTED Inspection every four years and we always have a good result and the inspector always comments on the low staff turnover and the good behaviour of the children. Because of our good OFSTED result if we want a visit from Early Years visit (which was once a year) we would have to pay £220

Staff, continue to renew their personal development, with Safeguarding, Safe Moving and Handling, Fire Safety, Health & Safety at Work Level 2, Food Safety Level 2, and Paediatric First Aid. All of which have to be renewed every 3 years as a requirement especially the Paediatric First Aid which all staff have to do. Settings will be closed if all staff are not First Aid Qualified. This is addition to the Early Years Teacher training keeping up with the curriculum changes

Training is mainly in Stafford but can be as far as Leek; this cost as much as £95 per hour. Some local training is possible at £99 per student with a minimum of 12 students. Staff are using distance learning courses via the Internet are possible but at a cost.

We cover a wide range of topics throughout each week of the year, which helps extend children's teaching and learning hopefully giving them a wealth of knowledge and understanding at their own level, whilst enjoying learning through play. Children receive one to one tuition and we also work with special needs professionals

The setting has a very large hall which allows space for children to play and learn. We have two secure outdoor areas with permanent outdoor play equipment which belongs to the school.

We are very fortunate that the pre-school is surrounded by woodlands and we have a picnic area and a large pull out canopy for protection on sunny days. Children are supervised at all times indoors and outdoors.

"Visitors are welcome but by APPOINTMENT ONLY, as we place great value on our security and safeguarding we also have CCTV in place"

Margaret Rogers Early Years Teacher

## 6.16 SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY December 1st 2018.

Report from District Councillor Lin Hingley.

Small Business Saturday event was another success, villagers stopped to listen to St. Peter's church choir singing carols followed by The New Kinfare singers, followed by Ekele on the Edge group, who were then followed by Kinver Pre School Play Group and Katy Collins Irish Dance School. My grateful thanks to you all for entertaining our shoppers.

Through out the day Bev Jackson sang a tribute to his favourite singer Elvis Presley. Thank you Bev. Feedback from our shops was positive for the day. Christmas in Kinver weekend was fantastic. We certainly know how to start of Christmas. Please carry on. My thanks to the shop keepers, Rotary, Country Fare and Carl from the

White Hart who attended the meetings to organise this weekend. May it go from strength to strength.

## **6.17 ST PETER'S CHURCH REPORT TO THE 2018 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

St Peter's is the Parish Church of Kinver and is open to all who live in the Parish. We work together with St Mary's Enville and Kinver Methodist Church to share the Good News of Christianity – available for all.

Under the leadership of our Rector, Karen Stanton, we continued to provide a full programme of Sunday services during 2018 – ranging from the tradition of the Book of Common Prayer at 8:00 am Holy Communion to contemporary (and changing) forms of service at 6:30 pm. Our main focus of worship remains 9:30 am Family Communion where music, word and prayer come together in beautiful harmony. On Saturdays we are open for coffee in the mornings (when there isn't a wedding) and on the first Saturday of the month there is a quiet and brief service of Holy Communion. It was a particular joy to see the growth of our monthly children's "Messy Church" services during the year as more and more families chose to bring their younger children to hear the Christian message and stories from the Bible in a fun way. The details of all our services are to be found on the Parish Council's notice boards, our website and in Kinver library as well as outside church.

Our new curate, Deborah Walton settled in to the Enville vicarage with her family and is now a leading part of our ministry team across the two parishes. In July Nicki Caines was ordained as a Deacon and local minister. Our two local retired clergypersons, Anne Furness and Nick Pedley continued to lead services and take funerals at both churches. Steve Lounds, our Authorised Lay Minister brought forward our "Life after Loss" initiative for those who have lost loved ones and this has proved to be a most welcome ministry. Following her 2017 licensing, Lynn Other has now joined John Gibbons and Sheila Harryman in the Lay Reader team, taking a lead role in church services, home visits and services in the parishes' residential homes.

St Peter's hosted 19 funeral services during 2018 and our clergy and lay readers led a further 24 funeral services at local crematoria. These services brought us into contact with many Kinver families and our Christian support for them extended before and after the services with many home visits and now, our "Life after Loss" meetings in church.

We were also pleased to host 32 Baptisms and 10 weddings in church during the year. These are big and important occasions when our beautiful Grade I listed building can accommodate all those who are invited. We continued to prepare groups of wedding couples and parents and God parents for their "big days" with sociable training sessions where they could get to know each other better and be welcomed into our church family. Our Ecumenical Youth Pastor, Jon Pedley moved on during 2018 to work as a Youth and Development Officer for the Methodist Church across the whole West Midlands. Our work with the children and young people of the village is now led by a team of volunteers from all three churches. A new initiative began during the year was to form a team of volunteer chaplains under the leadership of Deborah Walton. The chaplains go into the High School one lunch-time a week to offer a listening ear to pupils who may have problems of their own. "J-Team" for junior school pupils continued to meet after school during term in the Methodist Church. "Alive and Kicking", the weekly Sunday evening group for High School students continued to meet in St Peter's Church Hall. We also welcomed into church again the whole of Brindley Junior School, class by class each day, to "Experience Easter" and "Experience Harvest" in a very fun and interactive way. The primary school federation once again held their own very dignified and moving Service of Remembrance made especially poignant by being the centenary of the 1918 armistice.

We receive no national or local government funding and as well as running our own affairs, we need to pay over £60,000 per year to Lichfield Diocese for clergy salaries, training and pensions. The financial support of the village is essential to enable us to continue to operate and thrive. Our new Friends of St Peter's scheme is proving very helpful in that regard, but we do rely on the generosity of congregations and visitors to fund our £2,000 per week running costs. We hope to be able to continue to grow and serve our community for many years to come.

**Mark Middleton**  
**St Peter's Church, Kinver**

## **6.18 STOURTON VILLAGE HALL**

Report from Margaret Rogers Premises and Business Manager

The Village Hall has now been open 50 years on 9<sup>th</sup> February. Later in the year we hope to have a celebration, inviting those who have supported the Village Hall with grants in recent years

We have had another busy year with bookings, and the hall is self-sufficient in its running cost.

The Peter Pan Pre-school and Stourton W.I moved in when the hall opened 50 years ago. These and many other activities (including Yoga, Bridge and Tae kwon Do) use the hall as well as people celebrating special events. These include receptions; children's birthday party and the Royal National Lifeboat Institute always hold their annual fundraising event at the hall in February.

Among our activities, we have a Pre-school 2 -5 years, Little Kickers 5 -7 year olds. Junior and Adult Tae kwon Do 7- 13 year olds and classes for 13 years upwards with no upper age restriction as well as classes for green belts up to black belts. Two Yoga classes (beginners and more proficient). The hall is used for the General, County, District and Parish elections as well as the Crime Commissioner elections. We have seminars and events on Saturday.

The Village Hall is the base for the Women's Institute using two Wednesdays a month plus using the hall for all their other events - an "All day bridge fundraising event", group walks and hosting other W.I groups in the Hereford and Worcester Federation and special celebratory events like the 100 years of W.I

Peter Pan and Unite Taekwon Do also use the hall for their exams, training (events), fundraising and other events, on Saturdays.

Our AGM in 2018 was well attended and we have 12 dedicated trustees, which includes our officers with the booking secretary and management secretary being available at all times by phone and in person to assist people with viewing and enquiries.

We have a wish list and look at a major project each year through either our own funds or being assisted by grants.

Following on from the success of the CCTV installed from grants in December 2017, we have been able to pass on information of intruders during the Yoga class and Trespassers on the gated car park after dark. We managed to fund the Internet which means the system can be viewed 24/7 by our provider and myself.

In late 2018 two grants (£500 from the Ken Wrigley Memorial Charity of £500 and County Councillor Victoria Wilson Local Members Scheme of £480) meant we could change all the internal florescent lighting tubes and replace with LED tubes. This was aided by in house work cleaning all the light covers and passing these and the lights to the fitter (as our main hall ceiling is 18 foot high) which helped with the cost. We have replaced all the outside passive lights with LED's from our own funds.

We are currently improving our small lounge with in house repairs and painting by Julie Rogers. And have purchase 20 new padded back and seat wine chairs from our own funds and a grant of £800 from the Anthony & Gwendoline Wylde Memorial Charity. It was hoped that eventually we could have new folding tables replacing the heavy ridge tables, new curtains and carpet. The latter being down 36 years and was second hand through the Community Council of Staffordshire when a store in Stafford had a makeover.

✓ All painting is done in house, as are repairs both voluntary unless something major occurs, where we have to engage a company.

We are responsible for the village hall and its running costs, car park, driveway and grounds which are private. This includes street lighting on the driveway and car park itself. The car park is marked and includes parking for disabled persons and has a large A frame gate and barrier which secures the car park which is locked when the hall is not open. This was erected in March 2010 after many incidents of fly tipping, joy riders, anti-social behaviour and even people sleeping over in cars. We are current suffering from bags of litter left at the drive entrance where cars must pull in at night and the results of dog walkers leaving behind bags on the ground, hung in trees and even at the front door to the hall.

## **7. ANY OTHER MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC**

### **7.1 NATIONAL TRUST KINVER EDGE – Helen Selkirk & Ewan Chapman.**

A consultation report was delivered at the Annual Parish Meeting with some printed handouts (a couple of these are attached), some points raised included:

- A proposed three phased Heathland restoration plan for 2020 – 2030 was introduced
- Maintenance of woodland
- Big wildlife benefits / improved habitats



- Dealing with eradication of invasive Himalayan balsam by Introduction of more grazing cattle Conservation
- The downhill bike track to be excluded from the grazing area
- Feasibility into a café/visitor centre at Kingsford country park
- Consultations are being made with the Forestry Commission, Kinver as well as Wyre Forest areas.
- Grants towards cost hope to be obtained through National England etc

There will be guided walks, horse rides, media updates including social media etc., to promote and inform the public of their proposals & plans. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/events/88db7d82-9b9e-49ce-8878-9c8adb19300e/pages/details> 'Our Vision for Blakeshall' – Guided Walk. Join us to find out what our vision for the future of Blakeshall common is; including habitat restoration for rare wildlife and access for all. Fri 22 Mar 2019 9:30 to 12. And Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019 12 to 2.30.





