

Kinoulton Annual Parish Meeting – Chair’s Annual Report 2022

In last year’s report I, rather optimistically said: ‘if we are careful and sensible about how we resume our ‘normal’ lives – then next year’s report can simply state that Covid-19 came and went’. Sadly, with case numbers higher than they have ever been – and the Government not willing to rule out yet another lockdown - that statement was way off the mark. It does appear that the latest strain is less severe than previous versions of the virus but people are still suffering when they catch it and there continue to be deaths, although in smaller numbers.

We should continue, as ever, to be mindful of the duty of care that we all have to those around us and respect their wishes with regard to social contact, masks and other precautions. This time, I make no prediction as to where we will be in twelve months’ time.

The annual litter pick took place on 20th March and about a dozen or so volunteers, led by Cllr Neil Oxby collected over fifteen bags of rubbish along with a discarded water filter machine and a potable water expansion tank and sundry other abandoned rubbish. A great job, achieved in a couple of hours. I must say, the state of mind of those who think it is fine to dump litter – much of it thrown out of vehicles – continues to elude me. Meanwhile, thanks again to David Bilton and his team who regularly empty the dog bin at Vimy Ridge.

Last year, I reported the welcome news that The Nevile Arms had re-opened, but now, as I write, it is closed again with Trish having succumbed to financial pressure and having to give up the tenancy. It has been a bad time for the hospitality sector anywhere but, for Kinoulton, this surely must be a wake-up call and if we want a pub in the village with all of the benefits it brings, then we have to use it. As of now, the pub is back up to rent and I fervently hope that the landlords – Admiral Inns – find a taker; the alternatives – change of use or demolition and building houses – are awful to contemplate.

Having said that, The Nev is registered as an Asset of Community Value so that if the owners were to consider selling or developing it then the village would have six months to come up with an alternative buy-out as a community pub. Generally speaking, this involves people buying shares in the pub – typically 200ish – and a management committee is established. The pub is then run by a professional manager and staff according to the policies set out by the management committee. The Air Hostess in Tollerton operates in this way as do the Red Lion at Thurgaton and the Earl of Chesterfield in Shelford. https://camra.org.uk/campaign_resources/community-owned-pubs-a-camra-guide - food for thought?

Kinoulton Parish Council (KPC)

There are seven KPC Councillors: Peter Cadwallader (Chair), Mel Marriott (Vice-Chair), Neil Oxby (Treasurer), Steve Hill, Geoff Earl, Shaun Campbell and Mike Kaiser. Julie Holland is Parish Clerk. Meetings are also attended by Cllr. Tina Combella (Rushcliffe) and Cllr. Richard Butler (Nottinghamshire).

Under normal circumstances, Parish Council meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend and there is a ‘Parishioners’ Question Time’ at the start of each meeting. The agenda is published in advance on Parish Council notice boards and, of course, at www.kinoulton.com. Feel free to join us, either to contribute to something on the agenda or just out of interest.

Planning Applications

KPC continues to review and, where appropriate to comment on planning applications varying, this year, from various extensions to construction of new houses. All planning applications and associated documents and comments can be found at: <https://planningonline.rushcliffe.gov.uk/online-applications/> and parishioners are at liberty to submit comments and objections themselves at this site.

Grantham Canal

The Grantham Canal Water Restoration Group, established with the objective of restoring consistent water levels to the canal as far as Wilde's Bridge on Owthorpe Lane, continues to push for repairs to leaks and is working with Grantham Canal Society and Canal and River Trust to this end. It is taking a long time, but paperwork has been handed over to CRT and we await a start date to fix the known leaks. Meanwhile, the group has raised over £6,000 with the 'SLOW' (Stop Losing Our Water) campaign to be used on activities that will and improve flow into our canal and continues to seek further funds. Follow GCWRG on Facebook or email gcwrg@yahoo.com to keep up to date.

Pantomime

After a hiatus of sixteen years - and with the support of Kinoulton Parish Council, Kinoulton Village Hall and others - Kinoulton Players was relaunched this year to stage Snow White and the Lockdown Lodgers – a pantomime about the pandemic. Tickets were sold out for all three performances and proceeds will go to the GCWRG SLOW fund and to the Village Hall. A return performance has been promised for March 2023.

Grant Aid

Kinoulton Parish Council was pleased, this year to grant support to Kinoulton Cricket Club with £6,000 to connect the clubhouse to the main sewer system – not glamorous, but needed for the future development of the club. £400 was also granted for the new Village Hall Noticeboard.

The Council continues to carry forward a fund for 'Covid Recovery' that is available to village activities that are towards this aim.

Finally

Kinoulton Parish Council continues to welcome comments and suggestions from parishioners including requests for support and assistance and will consider each carefully. You can contact your Parish Councillors using the details published on www.kinoulton.com or in the Newsletter or on the Parish Council Notice Board.

Take care as we edge towards the new normal.

Peter Cadwallader

Chair – Kinoulton Parish Council

This report will be published on the village website www.kinoulton.com and, space permitting, in the forthcoming village newsletter.