

KINGSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2007

INTRODUCTION

This report highlights the activities and business of the Council for the financial year ending 31st March 2007

MEMBERS

Cllr. G. Warburton(Chairman)	788329
Cllr. C. Siebert (Vice Chairman)	787892
Cllr. C. Maddock	787126
Cllr. E. Lewis	787305
Cllr. D. Ogg	788315
Cllr. M. Barker	787414
Cllr. N. Stockdale	788466
Cllr. M. Goodridge	788917
Cllr. Fletcher	788873
Cllr. Gwillim	789098
Cllr. C. Jones	787268
Mrs. D. Woods (Clerk)	739400

Footpaths & Playing fields

Over the past year there have been few complaints about the footpaths in the village and the Council continues to fund the cutting back of overgrowth to keep the footpaths open to all. It is pleasing to note that we now have a new footpaths notice board in which to display footpath activities and the sale of the walks maps has been well received. However due to the demand these are now being reprinted.

We are currently progressing the implementation of kissing gates to replace some stiles to give further access to people who have mobility problems who wish to walk along the public footpaths in Kingsley.

Any feedback on the footpaths is welcome.

The playing field is still without a play area but it is pleasing to note that funding is now available and it is hoped the new play area will be constructed within the next financial year. Efforts are in hand to establish a location which will reduce inconvenience to neighbouring residents. It is also intended to improve maintenance and security around the site.

A tree management plan has been prepared and work on the proposed scheme will commence shortly. This also will benefit neighbouring properties and enhance the appearance of the whole area. In the meantime the playing field will be cut in the normal manner.

Traffic & Transport

The introduction of the interactive 30mph sign in Hollow Lane will we hope, continue to keep the speed of traffic within the specified limits as will the new sign at the other end of the village.

Parking still causes a problem at various times around the Kingsley County Primary School and also in the area around the shops in Hollow Lane. The headmaster of the Primary School has given his full co-operation to trying to minimise the disruption to residents in the area.

Cattle warning signs have been introduced in Waterloo Lane which we hope will prevent any major accidents.

Cemetery

Council are pleased to report that completion of the construction of the new cemetery entrance which was officially opening on March 25th. It is felt that this will prove beneficial to visitors of the cemetery.

Unfortunately during the heavy winds experienced we had a tree that fell in the cemetery. This has been removed and we hope to replant as soon as possible.

KU 17 Group

The KU 17 Group continues to thrive and work is now commencing on the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. The number of members has grown to 67 with ages varying from 11 to 16 years.

The group has passed level one validation with the Youth Federation and is now working towards level two. The higher the level means more fundraising can be applied for through the group. This year new furniture was provided.

The group continue to enjoy various activities and have visited many interesting and exciting places throughout the year.

The aim of the group is to welcome young people to participate in a community focal point, for social, educational, sports and Arts pursuits for all ages. It is intended to imbue a sense of community family values, respect for others, themselves and for their environment, and of course most importantly to have fun.

Youth Issues

Further progress has been made within the village to encourage all teenage groups to make representing to KU 17 to become part of this increasingly popular activity.

This facility has in part contributed to less anti social behaviour being noted in the village, but that is not to say that reoccurring problems have all been resolved.

The various agencies have responded well to any concerns raised and when requested Kingsley has had increased police presence.

Councillor Jones has reported that acting as the village representative on this issue has been very rewarding but to maintain progress residents are asked to contact Parish Councillors if there are any concerns.

Web Site

It is felt that this site is now a good source of information on future events in the village, local businesses (Directory Section) and security issues through Home watch and the regular police updates. The Parish Council continue to provide regular reports and also the Litter Pick Team under the guidance of local resident Fiona MacDougall.

Other local groups such as the WI are also now beginning to use the site more regularly. Support has also been provided via the site for genealogy issues.

Appreciation is expressed to Simon Sherlock for his untiring efforts in keeping the site up and running.

Kingsley News Monthly Magazine

It is pleasing to report that the Council now has a regular page in the newsletter and tries to keep residents informed of all important issues.

Community Liason

This is a new initiative set up by the Parish Council at the end of 2006. The principal object is to engage with the various groups in the village to set up a link with then to enable to Parish Council to be aware of their needs and future plans. The development of this opens opportunities both to enhance the Parish Council's involvement with local groups and also to open opportunities within the groups themselves for development within the community.

CHAIRMAN'S OVERVIEW

Firstly I would like to thank all fellow Councillors for their support and attendance during the past year. Special thanks go to Aaron bridges for organising and running the carnival last July which was a huge success.

It is hoped that our lowly placing of equal last in the Community Pride Competition will this year improve and the efforts of Fiona MacDougall and her clean up working parties will reap the benefit of a better position. Council have agreed to sponsor a Hanging Basket Competition and it is hoped that as many residents as possible will put up hanging baskets to enhance the village appearance.

This year has been dominated by the construction of the new cemetery entrance which started last September. It was officially opened on the 25th March 2007. Some of the railings surrounding the site have also been replaced.

One of the down sides to the year was a break in at the Cemetery building when a strimmer was stolen. A new more secure door has now been fitted and the new strimmer is no longer stored at these premises.

The Playing field has also caused some controversy over a boundary issue and the possible location of the proposed new play area. It is hoped that through discussions these can be resolved,

The Annual Parish Meeting held on the 20th March was again not well supported by local residents. This is very disappointing and it is hoped that next year will improve.

Finally, as my term of office is coming to a close I would like to give a vote of thanks to Councillor Ogg on behalf of the whole Council who is stepping down from the Parish Council after 43 years unbroken service to the Community. This record will last for many years to come.

Summary of Accounts 1st April 2006– 31st March 2007

INCOME

Balance brought forward	33193.62	
Precept	19000.00	
Burials	1370.00	
Bank interest	541.37	
Carnival	3772.92	
Public Works Loan Board	11975.00	
Insurance Claim Cemetery	498.58	
Walks Maps	24.00	
Community Pride Competition	200.00	
Refund VAT	7766.50	<u>78341.99</u>

EXPENDITURE

Salaries & Tax	5240.31
Footpaths	1350.00
Administration	1502.68
Playing Fields	2010.00

Insurance	508.93	
Subscriptions/donations	682.70	
Subsidy Youth Club	2000.00	
Carnival	2255.36	
Cemetery general maintenance	3022.39	
Cemetery Entrance	37629.85	
VAT	7088.54	<u>63290.76</u>

BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD £15051.23

April 2007