



Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting held on Thursday 30th March at 7pm in the Methodist Church Hall

To be approved at the Annual Village Meeting to be held between 1st March and 1st June 2024

Present: Councillor M. Eyre, Councillor M. Biscomb, Councillor J. Simpson, Councillor J. Almond, Councillor A. Parker, Councillor H. Foley, Councillor A. Hudspith and Councillor H. Richardson, Councillor G. Hardwick (Kippax Parish Council), Councillor M. Harland and Councillor J. Lewis (Leeds City Council), D Meir (Clerk to the Parish Council)

40 members of the public (including representatives from the organisations below) and two Police Officers.

Exhibitors: Kippax Girl guiding, Kippax WI, Kippax Art Group, Kippax bowling Club, Kippax Methodist Church, Kippax Community Hub, Knit and Natter, Incredible Edible, St Mary's Church, Barnsdale Solar Farm Project.

1. Welcome and Introduction

Chairman, Councillor M. Eyre welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Councillor M. Biscomb, Vice Chair of the Parish Council and D. Meir Clerk to the Council. He thanked the Ward Councillors, exhibitors and members of the public for attending the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24th March 2022

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24th March 2022 as a true and accurate record of that meeting

3. Chairman's Report

Councillor M. Eyre provided the following update on the activities of the Parish Council:

- An update on the development of Kippax Common, with the playground now at the planning application stage. A grant for £75,000 is being applied for in May it is hoped that the equipment can be ordered in October with work beginning in January/February next year.
- The council is exploring the possibility of building a separate Community Centre at Gibson Lane, which the Ward Councillors have agreed to in principle.
- Councillor M. Biscomb is the City of Culture Neighbourhood Host for the Kippax and Methley Ward and is organising a Cultural Trail on 22nd July. The Parish Council has

organised skateboarding sessions for the event. Anyone wishing to be involved was invited to get in touch at kippmethhost@leeds2023.co.uk

- The parish Council is organising a Gala to be held on Kippax Common on Saturday 10th June, which will include stalls, a fair, entertainment and breeze inflatables. A scarecrow trail is also being organised for the weekend with a theme of the people of Leeds.
- A reminder that the Parish Council provides grants to community projects and has provided grants to many organizations including Kippax Brownies, The Growing Zone, Kippax Band and Kippax Amateur Dramatics Society (KAOS). Information on how to apply is available on the Parish Council website or from the Parish Clerk.
- The Christmas Lights switch-on event will not be held on a Thursday evening this year but will be held on Sunday 19th November between 3-5pm instead.
- A Kippax Event diary has been set up on Facebook and any events details should be sent to Councillor Eyre so they can be added to it.
- An update was provided on the Community Pantry, which the Parish Council has been running for 18 weeks helping an average of 35 families per week. It has been funded by the Parish Council, Ward Councillors, donations from the Co-op, residents and visitors and a small charge of 50p per item for fresh and frozen items. The Central Club is also asking for donations to be made to the pantry for items taken from the club before it is demolished. The Parish Council is seeking further grants funding to enable the project to continue.
- A working group has been set up to look at restarting a community magazine following the resignation of the previous editors, but people with the relevant skills and time are needed to help make it happen.
- Councillor Eyre attended the 3 monthly police meeting the previous evening where it was reported that crime figures were down except for thefts from motor vehicles. Police Sargent Collett reported that burglaries were down to 4 from 7, robberies down to 0 from 2, car thefts down to 3 from 5 and thefts from vehicles were up from 1 to 4.
- Residents were advised that the Parish Council has some High Street Tote bags left which they can take free of charge from the meeting or in high street shops.

4. Public Participation

- A question was asked about cars parking the grass verges outside schools and they were advised that if a car is causing a dangerous obstruction, it will be dealt with by the police, but parking on yellow lines is dealt with by Leeds City Council.
- Police Sargent Collett was asked if the police investigate burglaries and she confirmed that the district crime team investigate them
- A resident raised concerns about the Londis shop that is planned for the high street and was advised that they do not need planning permission and that an application for an alcohol license has been submitted. The Parish Council do not have a say in it.

The exhibitors each provided the following summary of their activities:

- **Kippax Bowling Club** – They offer various memberships and members can play socially or join a team to play in a league. A free session is offered Tuesday nights from 6-8pm. Membership numbers are growing and facilities are being improved with a grant provided by the Parish Council to purchase a lawn mower
- **Knit and Natter** – The group meet fortnightly in Olivers and anyone is invited to join. They knit the Post Box Topper and items for charity and have raised £1,850 for St Gemma Hospice this year.
- **Kippax Art Group** – The group meet 7-9pm on a Wednesday at Kippax Community Centre and is a self-help group which all are welcome to attend.
- **Kippax Methodist Church** – The Church will be holding services for Palm Sunday and Easter and they are licensed to conduct all marriages. All are welcome to attend services.

- **St Mary's Church** – The Church has Easter services and a Messy Church event on 8th April for families planned. Services are held on Sunday's and they are always available for a cup of tea in times of need.
- **Incredible Edible** - The group grow vegetables in the beds at the Leisure Centre, Gibson Lane, Bailden Avenue and Valley Road, for members of the community to take for free. They are also looking to get involved with social prescribing for doctors and aim to inspire people to grow their own, giving away free seeds. They are a fun friendly group who are always looking for more members to help look after the beds and help develop new areas.
- **Ward Councillors** - Councillor Mirelle Midgley said it was great to see so many community groups present and reminded them that the Ward Councillors have funds available which they could apply for. Residents were reminded that the Ward Councillors are available to help with any issues and can be contacted by phone, email or face-to-face at the councillors surgeries which are held on the first Saturday of the month at 11am in the Community Hub.
- **Kippax WI** – The group meet monthly on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm in the Kippax Community Centre and do activities, invite speakers, hold events and go on trips. New members are welcome and can attend four times for a visit before joining.
- **Kippax Girl guiding** - There are a number of Rainbows, Brownies and Girl Guide groups in Kippax which are full, with waiting lists for children wanting to join. More volunteers would be very welcome which can be just an hour week and does not need to be helping at the groups it could be helping with purchasing or administration. Additional groups could be set-up of enough volunteer come forward to help.
- **Barnsdale Solar Farm Project** – The Project Manager reported that work has not progressed on the site due to covid and rising costs making the project unaffordable. However, it is hoped that that will change and work will begin on the site in the next year and it will be up and running by Spring 2025. An application for a battery storage facility is also going to be submitted, which they hope to align with this project. The Community Relations Manager provided information on the community benefit fund which will provide £20k per year in grants to community groups. A Liaison Committee will be set up to determine the funding policy and assess applications.
A resident asked if the ground under the panels could be used and were advised that they are looking into using it for sheep farming.
A resident asked if they could use their expertise to help the community meet its own energy needs and they were advised that they could look at using the community fund to support decarbonisation in the community.
The Reverend asked if they would support energy improvements to community buildings and they confirmed that they would do everything they can to help. Ward Councillors also advised that the City Council could offer support as they are doing work to improve the energy efficiency of public buildings.
The Girl Guiding group advised that they have looked at applying to another Banks Group community Fund but the form was very complicated and too time consuming to complete. The Community Relations Manager offered to help them to complete the form.
- **Kippax Community Hub** – The community hub is more than just a library, it also hosts many children's activities, events and provides a wide range of services and advice to the community. All are welcome at the hub and they would love to hear any new ideas.
- Information was provided on the Markets organised by the High Street Team. The first one was successful and further markets are planned for 20th May, 17th June and 22nd July to coincide with the Cultural Trail for the Leeds Year of Culture.
- A resident raised concerns about the uneven surface in the car park, which a lady had fallen over. The Ward Councillors advised that they have funded the resurfacing of the car parks which will be completed by 4th April along with raising the level of the Zebra crossing.
- A resident also asked about the car park at the side of the Commercial Inn and were advised that the council had filled in the pot holes but could not resurface it because it is private land.

- A resident asked if the minutes will be published and they were informed that they would be posted on the Parish Council website.
- A resident asked how they would go about getting a dropped kerb and they were advised that an application form is available on the Leeds City Council website.
- A resident complained that the Churchyard is not well looked after and is unsafe due to over hanging branches. Ward Councillor Mirelle Midgeley agreed to take the details and look into it.