



Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting held on Thursday 25th April 2024 at 7pm in the Methodist Church Hall

To be approved at the Annual Village Meeting to be held 1st March and 1st June 2025

Present: Councillor M. Eyre, Councillor J. Almond, Councillor A. Parker, Councillor H. Foley, Councillor A. Hudspith and Councillor H. Richardson, Councillor C. Pearson, Councillor D. Martin, Councillor C. Weightman, Councillor V. Land, Councillor G. Cobb, Councillor L. Eyre (Kippax Parish Council), Councillor J. Lewis (Leeds City Council), D Meir (Clerk to the Parish Council)

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

Exhibitors: Andy's Man Club, Kippax Junior Athletic Football Club, Kippax Girl guiding, Kippax WI, Kippax bowling Club, Kippax Methodist Church, Knit and Natter, Incredible Edible, St Mary's Church, Kippax Wombles, Inkredible Foundation, Kippax Open Fruit and Veg Show, Ward Councillor James Lewis, Kippax Community Club,

1. Welcome and Introduction

Chairman, Councillor M. Eyre welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked the exhibitors and members of the public for attending the meeting.

2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30th March 2023

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 30th March 2023 as a true and accurate record of that meeting

3. Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Councillor Martin Eyre, invited the Police Officers to report to the meeting and they provided updates on crime figures for the area. They reported that overtime patrols are being implemented and arrests have been made for shed burglaries in the area. They also reported that anti-social behaviour on motor bikes and quad bikes has increased and they encouraged the public to report incidents and give descriptions to help them gather intelligence and tackle the problem.

Residents were invited to attend the Police PACT (Police and Communities Together) meetings to raise any issues, with the first taking place in Micklefield on 22nd May and another taking place in Kippax on 14th August, which will be advertised nearer the date.

A resident raised a concern about school parking and the police agreed to send an enforcement officer to attend. A further concern was raised about drugs found in the street and drug use in the village.

A concern was raised about burglaries at Cross Hills which the officers were aware of, and Ward Councillor Lewis advised that Leeds City Council are looking to improve security there.

A resident thanked the police for their response to an incident which saved a life.

Concerns were raised that the 20mph limit on Gibson Lane is not being adhered to and residents were advised that it is a council initiative that is not enforceable by the police, but they will pass the complaint on to the traffic section.

The Chairman invited Kier Mather, Selby Constituency MP to speak and he advised the meeting that Kippax will be a part of the Selby Constituency when the general election is called and that he will be the Labour candidate for the seat. He advised that the constituency covers areas within West and North Yorkshire and that if elected he will work within both areas which will help with cross border relations.

The Chairman provided the following update on the activities of the Parish Council:

- The Kippax Common play area project is progressing well with the £75,000 grant being confirmed today. The order for the playground has now been placed and work is expected to start on site on 13th May.
- The Parish Council organised the cleaning of the War Memorial this year which was funded 50% by the Parish Council and 50% by Ward Councillors. The Parish Council has also agreed to power wash the path and will look to replace the string with steel wire.
- The Parish Council had several councillor vacancies following the elections in May 2023 and was operating on reduced numbers for several months with caused some committee meetings to be cancelled due to insufficient numbers attending. The Council has recently co-opted new councillors and are now at full membership so this should improve.
- It was reported that the Community Pantry has now been operating for 66 weeks and was initially funding by the Parish Council but is currently operating on donations and grants from various sources including Ward Councillors, The Freemason and Tesco's. It was reported that food donations are being received from Station Road Newsagents, Warburton's, Ash Tree School, Sainsbury's Tesco's, Co-op and Castleford Foodbank and food is purchased from Tesco's each week. The pantry has 120 registered users and approximately 40-50 attend each week. They can take an item from the 17 crates each week and as much of the surplus food as they need. The Pantry is run with the help 6 volunteers from the public and 2 Duke of Edinburgh volunteers and residents were invited to apply if they would like to help out at the pantry or any Parish Council event.
- It was reported that the summer Gala is being held on Saturday 15th June and there will be Breeze activities, a fair, entertainment and stalls. The scarecrow festival will be run over the weekend alongside the Gala, with a children's characters theme and Allerton Bywater and Great Preston Parish Councils are also running a scarecrow festival over the same weekend.
- The Parish Council has also organised a beacon lighting event for the 80th D Day anniversary on 6th June which will be held on Cheney Basin.
- The Christmas Lights switch on was held on a Sunday for the first time last year which went well, and the feedback was positive so it is being organised for a Sunday again this year.
- The Parish Council has provided grants to many community projects including Kippax in Bloom, The Growing Zone, Kippax Amateur Dramatics Society (KAOS) and Kippax Band. The Parish Council has also jointly funded Andy's Man Club with Ward Councillors.
- An update on the following planning matters was provided:
 - The application for 5 new houses at Cross Hills roundabout is near to being approved after revised plans were submitted with the garden where the Christmas tree is put up being retained and Kippax in Bloom has agreed to maintain the

- garden once it is handed over.
- The retrospective planning application for the Sandgate Terrace travellers' site has been refused but the applicant has 6 months to appeal.
- The allotment land next to Pondfields Drive has recently been sold and the land cleared. The Parish Council had been offered this land for £60k but did not have the funds to purchase it. Concerns were raised about what the land will be used for, and Ward Councillor James Lewis agreed to get it investigated. A resident suggested that land should be purchased to create more allotment land.
- Permission has been granted for Ann Maries shop to be changed to a hairdressers and an application has been submitted to change the Newsagents into a takeaway.
- The application for a battery storage facility on the east side of Barnsdale Road has been rejected. A decision on the application for a battery storage facility alongside the solar park on the west side of Barnsdale Road has been delayed as the Fire Brigade has requested a second access point from a main road and the client is exploring the options.
- Notification has been received that an application has been submitted for a large storage facility further up the road and a public consultation will take place in the autumn.

4. Groups Participation

The exhibitors each provided the following summary of their activities:

- **Andy's Man Club** – The Kippax group started in October last year and meets on a Monday evening at the Kippax Welfare Club. It is free to attend and provides support and free tea, coffee and biscuits to any man over 18. They will also be attending the Gala on 15th June.
- **Incredible Edible** - The group grow food for free around the village and encourage residents to grow their own. They will be giving away free seeds on 18th May at the Community Hub. They are meeting at 10 on Sunday at the beds at the Leisure Centre and welcome more volunteers.
- **Kippax WI** – The group meet monthly on a Wednesday where they do various activities and invite speakers. They also organised events and trips throughout the year.
- **Kippax Girl guiding** - There are a number of Rainbows, Brownies and Girl Guide groups in Kippax which are full, with long waiting lists. They are looking for more volunteers to enable more groups to be set up.
- **Knit and Natter** – The group meet fortnightly in Olivers and the next meeting is 9th May between 2pm and 4pm. They knit post box toppers and items for the police, care homes and the children's hospital. They also raise money for St Gemma's Hospice.
- **Kippax Wombles** – The Wombles are a group of volunteers working to clear litter to look after the environment and protect wildlife. They welcome new volunteers, who can do it on their own or in a group. The next group litter pick will take place on 18th May.
- **Inkredible Foundation** – This charity has been set up by a local tattooist to provide free tattoo's to cover up visible scars along with mental health support.
- **Kippax Open Fruit and Vegetable Show** – The event will take place on Saturday 31st August at Gibson Lane Community Centre with 66 competition categories, including vegetables, fruit, flower, home produce, handicraft and photography, with profits being donated to St Gemma's Hospice.
- **Ward Councillor Lewis** - Councillor James Lewis reminded residents that the 3 Ward Councillors represent all residents, and that they hold a monthly surgery at 11am on the First Saturday of each month at The Community Hub, where residents can raise any issues with them. They also have funds available which community groups are encouraged to apply for. Councillor Lewis also thanked the Parish Council for providing the community pantry for residents during these hard times.
- **Kippax Community Club** – The group meets every Monday (except bank holidays) at 1.30pm at Cross Hills Court and everyone is welcome to attend. Admission is £1.50 and tea and biscuits are provided. They have various activities including keep fit, craft sessions and speakers. They also organise trips and events including a Christmas Party

and a summer Fair which will take place on 27th July this year.

- **Kippax Bowling Club** – The club has been operating since 1928 and is located at the bottom of Butt Hill. It is open to everyone who can play socially or competitively, with competitions taking place between April and September. All residents are encouraged to go down and have a go.
- **Kippax Methodist Church** – The Church has been open for 45 years and offers a warm welcome to everyone. They hold regular Sunday services and conduct weddings, funerals and baptisms. A weekly coffee morning is held on Tuesday and Brownies and Rainbows groups also meet at the Church.
- **St Mary's Church** – The Church informed the group that a new Minister has been appointed for Swillington so Reverent Bob Bailey no longer has to cover it. The church host's the Community Pantry and works with many other community groups that use the hall and its facilities, as well as providing its regular services and support to parishioners.

5. Public Participation

Kippax in Bloom were not in attendance but were thanked for the wonderful job they do around the village.

A resident, who takes someone to the community pantry, expressed thanks for the welcome they receive from the volunteers there.

Concerns were raised another the disrepair of the listed building on the High Street. This has been raised with the Listed Building Department and they advised that nothing can be done. Ward Councillor Lewis agreed to speak with them about it.

The Chairman, Councillor Martin Eyre, expressed thanks to the other Parish Councillors, the Clerk, and community groups for their support and closed the meeting

Signed: _____ Date: _____