



Minutes of the Annual Village Meeting held on Thursday 24th April 2025 at 7pm in the Methodist Church Hall

To be approved at the Annual Village Meeting to be held 1st March and 1st June 2026

Present: Councillor M. Eyre, Councillor J. Almond, Councillor A. Parker, Councillor C. Pearson, Councillor D. Martin, Councillor S. Shannon, Councillor L. Eyre, Ward Councillor J. Lewis, Ward Councillor M. Harland, Ward Councillor M. Millar, D Meir (Clerk to the Parish Council)

30 members of the public (including representatives from the organisations below) and one Police Community Support Officer (PCSO).

Exhibitors: Andy's Man Club, Kippax Girl guiding, Kippax Women's Institute, Kippax Methodist Church, Knit and Natter, Incredible Edible, St Mary's Church, Inkredible Foundation, Kippax Open Fruit and Veg Show, Find Your Tribe Women's Circle and Ward Councillor's.

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 25th April 2024**

It was resolved to approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 25th April 2024 as a true and accurate record of that meeting

3. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman, Councillor Martin Eyre, invited the PCSO to report to the meeting and they reported burglaries are down anti-social behaviour figures are ok and most crime is down compared to other villages. They have undertaken a plain clothes operation to address anti-social behaviour issues and arrests have been made.

A member of the public raised concerns about the lack of a Police Station which the public can attend and they were advised that the public now need to ring 101 instead and that Garforth Police Station is open to the public on the third Sunday of the month and details will be advertised on Facebook. The Public were advised that PCSO's also attend the coffee mornings at the Methodist Church and attend the Ward Councillor surgeries.

A member of the public raised concerns about motor bikes causing problems and they were advised the Police Motorbike team has been expanded to help deal with this problem.

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

- The Parish Council currently has two parish councillor vacancies which are open for applications to be submitted by 6th May, which will be considered at the Annual Meeting of the Council on Thursday 15th May.

- The Parish Council has increased the precept this year by £60k, which is mainly to fund the next stage of the Kippax Common project. The playground was completed this year, which has been a huge success, and the next stage is to put a path round, at the playground end
- The Parish Council has linked with the British Legion to organise events for the VE day 80th Anniversary on 8th May, which include a flag raising at 9am at the War Memorial where KPC and the British Legion will lay a wreath. Other groups were also invited to lay a wreath. The Beacon Lighting event will take place at 9:30pm which will include a tribute reading by the British Legion and singing by Viva Voix Choir. A coffee van will also be there providing refreshments. Near the time it will be decided whether to hold an event for the V.J. Day Anniversary on 15th August.
- The Parish Council and Ward Councillors jointly funded the installation of stainless-steel wire to hold in place the 28 wreaths that were laid for Remembrance Day.
- The Parish Council has also jointly funded with Leeds City Council the installation of a digital lock at the tennis court, as they were being used to play football and the net were being taken down. The locks were fitted last week, and players will be given a code to access the court when they book online. A panic bar has also been fitted on the opposite gate. Tennis rackets and balls can also be borrowed for free from the leisure centre and library.
- The Parish Council is also installing the fourth World Peace Flame in Leeds at the War Memorial, which is nearly completed and will be unveiled on June 14th at 2pm.
- The summer Gala is being held on Saturday 7th June on Kippax Common from 11am to 5pm and there will be Breeze activities, workshops, entertainment and stalls. The Community Pantry will be open from 8:30am to 10am on that day.
- The scarecrow festival will be run the following weekend from 13th -15th June with a theme of stars and scenes from the movies.
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- The Christmas Lights switch on will be held on Sunday 23rd November this year with the stalls inside the same three venues again following positive feedback from last year. Some stalls will also be located outside on Church Lane, which will be closed off. The Parish Council is also looking into live streaming the music from the stage into the venues for the stalls, subject to cost. Santa's Grotto was a success in GG&Co and an additional Saturday session for SEND children is being organised this year. Members of the public advised that parking and access will need to be considered. The cost of the event and decoration including £1,500 to close the road, £282 to hire each 2D motif, £413 to hire each 3D motif, and £942 to hire the lights for the tree at Crosshills. The cost of purchasing the Christmas Tree has been halved since it has been purchased from Stockeld Park.
- The Parish Council is organising a Wildlife Garden Competition in August this year for the first time, with six categories derived from the word KIPPAX, to encourage residents to support and enhance wildlife in the village.
- The Kippax Magazine has been revamped and relaunched as Kippax Voice, which is primarily available online, but some paper copies are available from locations throughout the village. The aim of the newsletter is to let people know what is happening in the village, including events, community groups and ward councillor and parish council activities. It is published quarterly, and the next edition will include a survey to get ideas for future editions.
- The Parish Council runs the Community Pantry from St Mary's Lower Church Hall and is going from strength to strength with 320 families now registered, and up to 77 families attending each week. Visitors can take up to 15 items and any surplus food which is collected from retailers and restaurants and limited fridge and freezer items can be bought for a small charge. An average of £700 is spent per week, which is mainly funded from

grants, Ward Councillor funding, donations and charges. The Parish Council provided £2,500 when it first started and has allocated £5,000 funding this year and last year, which has not yet been used. A member of the public asked about getting ramp access at the pantry and is being looked into, but quotes have been high. Members of the public put forward alternative suggestions for the Parish Council to consider.

4. **Groups Participation**

The exhibitors each provided the following summary of their activities:

- **Ward Councillors** - Councillor surgeries are held on 1st Saturday of the month at 11am at Kippax Library and Community Hub and Ward Councillors are contactable by email at: mary.harland@leeds.gov.uk james.lewis@leeds.gov.uk and michael.millar@leeds.gov.uk
A question was asked about the closing of the Moorgate pub and Ward Councillors expressed sadness about the situation and hoped that someone else would be found to take it on. The Chairman thanked the Ward Councillors for supporting KPC activities including the Gala and Christmas Lights switch-on event.
- **Knit and Natter** – They meet fortnightly in Kippax Methodist Church and the next meeting is 8th May. Anyone can attend and they will teach you to knit if you want to learn. It costs £2 to attend and refreshments are provided. They knit post box toppers and items for the police, care homes and the neo-natal unit. They also raise money for St Gemma's Hospice.
- **Andy's Man Club** – This group provides mental health support to men; it meets on a Monday evening from 7pm to 9pm at the Kippax Welfare Club and is free to attend. The Parish Council and Ward Councillor jointly funding the first year's running costs to get the group up and running. They will also be attending the Health Awareness session at the Legion Club on 5th July.
- **Incredible Edible** - The group grow food for free in community beds located around the village and residents are encouraged to take the produce and to grow their own. They will be giving away free seeds at the Co-op from 10am to noon on Saturday 26th April and they have a seed library at Kippax Library and Community Hub.
- **Kippax Methodist Church** – The Church holds Worship on Sunday's at 10:30am and a coffee morning on Tuesday's, a NET coffee morning on Thursday's and Friday Feeling on Friday evenings, which provides activities for young people. The Church rooms are available for hire.
- **St Mary's Church** – Over 1,000 children attended the Easter activities at St Mary's Church which also provides regular activities, including a new Youth Group and a Sunday Social at 5pm, with singing, crafts, other activities and refreshments. The church also hosts the Community Pantry run by the Parish Council on a Saturday morning.
- **Kippax Girl Guiding** – There are a number of Kippax Rainbows, Brownies and Girl Guide groups which are only open to girls to attend from the age of four and provide activities and experiences which are no longer provided within schools. Girls from many of the surrounding areas attend and some groups are run at venues outside of Kippax due to a lack of available space in the village. They welcome more volunteers, including male volunteers, who can give as much or as little as they can.
- **Inkredible Foundation** – This is a mental health charity providing free tattoos to cover up visible scars along with mental health support. They work closely with the breast cancer community and provide support through mindfulness workshops and Facebook groups. They are taking on more tattoo artists due to an increase in demand, following a feature on BBC Breakfast.
- **Find Your Tribe Women's Circle** – This is a group for women that meets outside in nature, for, picnics, meditation, mindfulness and spiritual activities. These are free to attend activities but a voluntary donation of £5 is being requested, to enable the group to hire a

hall for indoor activities. The group has a Facebook page and is meeting on 1st May at Kippax Leisure Centre for a picnic in Billy Woods.

- **Kippax Women's Institute** – The group meet on the third Wednesday of every month at 7:30pm at Kippax Community Centre where they do various activities and invite speakers. They also organise activities including lunches, walks and day trips and work with other community groups. Women of any age are welcome to attend.
- **KAOS - Kippax Amateur Operatic Society** – This is a community theatre group that puts on shows for the public. Having put on their performances at the Civic Theatre for a number of years, they have now returned to the village and have put on two shows at the Church Hall. They will be doing a pantomime this year.
- **Royal British Legion** – This is a community Group providing support for veterans and raises money through the Poppy Appeal, which can only be used for veterans. They are running Operation Courage which is a Veteran's mental health and wellbeing service and would like to work with Andys Man Club. They also run a Remembrance poetry competition in schools, which is well received with the winning poem read out at Remembrance Day. They are also involved in the VE day anniversary events.
- **Kippax Open Fruit and Vegetable Show** – The event was a huge success last year and will be held again this year at 1pm on Saturday 30th August at Kippax Community Centre. Further information is provided on the leaflets and the group's Facebook page. Everyone is encouraged to get involved, with all profits being donated to St Gemma's Hospice.

5. Public Participation

No further matters raised

The Chairman, Councillor Martin Eyre, thanked the community groups and residents for attending and closed the meeting

Signed: _____

Date: _____