

KINGSLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 26 MAY 2016 AT 7.00 PM AT THE POST OFFICE

PRESENT

R C Smallwood ... CHAIRMAN, Mrs G B Bengry, Mrs L Juson, Mr G Bradley, Mr D Fordham, Mr P D Vaughan, Mr D Thompson and Mr B J Watkins.

IN ATTENDANCE

Ward Cllr. S Bowen; and Mr R Hewitt, Parish Clerk.

2017/21 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** accepted from Mrs C Sawyers and Mr C Southgate (VICE CHAIRMAN).

2017/22 **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**
Minutes for the annual parish meeting held on 26 May 2015 were agreed and signed.

2017/23 **OBSERVATIONS OF THE WARD COUNCILLOR, BIRCHER WARD**
Ward Cllr. Bowen budgets are likely to remain tight and parishes will be asked to do more, such as bearing the cost of materials for footpaths. There may be less support under the lengthsman scheme and libraries may ask for financial support.

The new site manager of the Kingsland depot has been shown the condition of local roads. The depot at Kingsland will receive increased investment. Retraining is taking place to repair potholes more effectively; where there are many potholes in one area, a strip will be relaid. This is more expensive initially, but should be more cost-effective in the longer term. Ward Cllr. Bowen said he has urged Herefordshire Council to take out a new loan or allocate reserves to bring more of the roads in the county up to a reasonable standard.

An agent will be appointed shortly to manage the sale of the county's smallholdings. The proposed university in Hereford will support starter units on the Enterprise Park, and be a focus for the resurgence of the town and county. The areas of excellence will be science, technology, english and maths (STEM). The proposed location, or site, has yet to be agreed. The bypass at Hereford and Leominster are in the Local Transport Plan.

According to government, councils will increasingly rely on funding from business rates. However, the challenge for Herefordshire is that there are relatively few large local businesses, and small businesses will pay no business rates. Sixty Syrian refugees will be arriving in the county shortly, and will be supported by the government for two years.

Neighbourhood development plans are an important protection of local communities. Weston-under-Penyard is the first neighbourhood plan to be completed in the county. Herefordshire is bidding to be a City of Culture in 2017. The car park by the bus station in Hereford may be turned into a multi-storey facility, which will help relieve parking in the town and hospital.

The police station and fire station at Hereford are likely to be brought together to share back end services.

2017/24

DISCUSSION BY RESIDENTS OF KINGSLAND PARISH

There were no matters raised.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.25 pm.

Signed:

Date: