

Kilsby Parish Council

A G M

2022-23.

Chairman's Report.

1. General.

It has been a full year for the parish Council, and we have been hard at work on your behalf.

I'm Sure you will all wish to thank Emma for the work she has done in support of the council and congratulate her on completing her Probationary period. The council were happy to confirm her permanent appointment as clerk and we look forward to moving forward and for her tenure to be a long and fruitful one with us.

Cllrs Massey and Thompson have worked extremely hard on the NDP and the which has been completed (both are relieved as they can now return to their families) If anyone wishes to see the report a copy is on the Kilsby Village Website and the shop normally has a copy. I would like to publicly thank both councillors for their hard work and dedication in completing this daunting task.

At the present time the council has a vacancy for a councillor, we are fortunate as a village to have dedicated councillors to work on your behalf, to improve the village we all live in. If you feel that it might be something you would like to investigate, please either contact myself or Emma, we can run through what is involved and the rest of the council will give you a warm welcome.

It was pleasing for the council not too have to increase the precept for this year 2022-23 and we hopefully won't find it necessary next. However, we are all aware of the pressures on finance at the current time and the council will inform all before any increase is levied if it's found necessary.

We have recently undergone the Internal Audit and I am pleased to report everything was in order, indeed the auditor praised the Clerk and council for the good management of finances and necessary regulations being adhered too.

The council have been concerned about monies given to the community by the developers of the Cildes Croft developments. Three of council, including the clerk, held a meeting with WNC to clarify what the funds could be used for. As a result of the meeting, we are pleased to announce that an application has been submitted for funds to hopefully purchase a plot of land close to the village, for the development of a wooded area with facilities for outside sports. We will keep you informed as things move forward.

Cllrs Massey, Houlton and I are looking at the possibility of upgrading the village website, we are hopeful that the exercise will improve the accessibility and appeal of the site and will keep everyone informed of progress.

The council is keen to help reduce our carbon footprint and as such Cllr Massey attended a recent meeting on climate change to explore ways in which both Kilsby and WNC could work together. I am pleased to say that a meeting/event is to take place in September (date to be confirmed) for the residents to get involved. More information to be confirmed later. Keep reading the KK.

The council have been pursuing the possibility of a KILSBY REPAIR SHOP where residents could take broken items and hopefully get repaired. We are at a very early stage, but signs look hopeful, and we are looking at the feasibility of holding this at The United Reform Church Chapel Lane. We will keep you informed as this progresses.

2. Grants given.

The PC are always pleased to receive requests for grants and whilst we are mindful of funds are pleased to let you know the monies given to organisations throughout the village.

- a. Recreation Ground Funding.
 - b. Youth Club.
 - c. Brownies.
 - d. Kilsby Action Group Leaflet.
 - e. W I Grant for a new Cooker Hob for Community Cafe
 - f. We have recently purchase New Parking Bollards for the school to help alleviate congestion during drop off and pick up times.
 - g. The Council have also approved a new streetlight outside of school to operated during the autumn and winter terms. This will take place during the half term break in May.
 - h. The PC decided to purchase special commemorative mugs for the school children at Kilsby School, to celebrate King Charles's coronation and are pleased to report that these will be presented by Cllr Gibbs on Friday next 5th May.
- Total Grants: £18,137.00**

3. Projects undertaken or being considered.

As most of you will have seen, work has been undertaken on Butts Lane to help reduce the amount of water and mud around the culvert, the path put down has improved walking through the area, but as there is a lot of mud along the whole of the lane the council will be considering extending resurfacing along the whole length.

The council are also considering quotations to refurbish the telephone box housing the defibrillator. The books housed in there are to be moved to aid the ease of access to the equipment, as well as a repaint and repairs to the structure. The library will be relocated to another place, and we will advise of this when finalised.

I'm sure we all agree the village, whilst looking pretty and nice, could do with a few more flowers growing in the public areas. As such the council have agreed to purchase bulbs and we hope to get these planted during the year for next year's showing.

It is pleasing to see the trees that have been planted (and thank Cllr Weston for his great work) on Devon Ox Green. There are two planted to mark Queen Elizabeths Platinum Jubilee and the other unfortunately to mark her passing. There are a further three Cherry Trees kindly donated to the village by the Japanese Embassy.

The council has also received quotations to tidy the cemetery and the furniture placed there and we hope work will be undertaken during the summer.

With the project already mentioned regarding the village green space, I'm sure you would all agree the council are working hard to improve the village and its amenities for all of us.

4. Highways.

I am sure we are all concerned about the speed through our village. The A361 is a major problem and whilst the council has placed a new VAS at the commencement of the hill coming from Daventry, I am pleased to report, that in addition to this, WNC have agreed to reduce the speed from 50mph to 40mph on approach to the village from Daventry. It is hope that this will be in place in the very near future. In addition to the new VAS on the A361 the council have installed a further one on Main Road near to the zebra crossing which has helped reduce speed on that stretch of road too.

The council has been concerned about the bend on Main Road between Boxwood Drive and Essen Lane. Cars parked either side causes traffic to move into the centre on the blind bend increasing the possibility of a collision occurring. We have therefore submitted an application for double yellow lines to be put there between the two points mentioned.

The council would like to thank the landlord of The George Public House, for giving permission to the parents of Kilsby School Children, to use the car park during drop off and collection times at the school. Together with the new signs we hope that these measures will help to reduce the amount of traffic in the area.

Cllr Weston and I have a meeting with Kier WNC highways on Thursday 4th to look at potholes throughout the village, we hope that work will be soon undertaken to reduce the amount over the next few months and improve our roads.

Cllr Weston will be conducting another Speed Watch, during August, if you have any available time to help, he would really appreciate the help.

Anyway, to close, I hope you all have a good Coronation weekend and an even better summer. Let's hope it doesn't get quite as hot as it did last year at times.

Cllr Howard Gibbs
Chairman
Kilsby Parish Council

2nd May 2023

Report for Kilsby Annual Parish Meeting May 2023

Unsurprisingly, the last twelve months since your Parish Meeting in 2022 have been extremely busy. Unfortunately I am not able to attend as many of your monthly Parish Council meetings as I would like to, as other meetings also fall on the same Tuesday in the month. However I do send in a report every month whether or not I am able to come to the meeting and I have been keeping your Parish Council updated with changes in the Planning Service and other functions of West Northants Council (WNC).

The Daventry Area Planning Committee has met in Towcester since March as the council offices in Lodge Road are being closed down. Soon there will only be two area planning committees serving the whole of West Northants. West Northants Council invited the Planning Advisory Service to conduct a peer review of the Service last November. Parts of this review were highly critical, describing "town and parish councils as incandescent" with the planning service and the "worrying culture" observed at Daventry Area Planning Committee posing a significant risk in terms of reputation and also in terms of financial cost". More details in this link: [\(Public Pack\)Agenda Document for Cabinet, 11/04/2023 18:00 \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#) An Action Plan and timetable for improvements is now in place for the Service.

One local issue affecting Kilsby residents is the continued delay of the Barby Sporting Club planning application. I have not received any recent update from the case officer dealing with this application. The applicants may be considering a significant change to the existing scheme. If this is the case then there will be a further consultation before the application comes to committee.

I am in regular contact with Kilsby Action Group regarding the Bericote proposal, which is understandably causing major concern in the village.

All local residents have of course been impacted by the cost of living crisis and the increased charges levied by the Council in its 2023-24 budget. In order to maintain services Council Tax increased by 4.99% and the garden waste charge increased from £42 to £55 per year. Other fees and charges have also gone up – one by an eye watering 132% (the call out fee for vermin infestation is now £86, last year the charge was £37). The highest level of inflation in 40 years and increased demand from Adult Social Care, Home to School Transport and the Children's Trust has put huge pressure on the Council's finances. The Trust, which operates independently from West and North Northants, is currently £20.9m over its 2022-23 £130m budget allocated by the two authorities. Around £12m will have to be paid by West Northants, which will have to be found from savings made in other services or unspent reserves.

In the last year WNC has made progress with its net zero and sustainability goals. The Council has pledged to be net zero by 2030 and in February produced a report outlining its baseline CO2e emissions data for its first year. This data will enable the Council to develop a detailed emissions reduction plan and monitor progress towards it. I am part of the cross-party group that is monitoring its progress. Other activities I have been busy with which are contributing to tackling climate change are volunteering at the weekly Daventry Food Larder and supporting a proposal to develop a cycle path between Yelvertoft and Crick.

Over the last year West Northants residents have welcomed over 700 Ukrainian nationals fleeing conflict under the Homes for Ukraine scheme. I have supported local residents who are hosting families and was a host myself to a couple. Sadly there are still 227 Afghan

nationals in our area who have been living in bridging hotels since September 2021, only 6 families have been rehoused locally.

Living in a hotel as a child for 18 months must have a very negative impact on children's development, whatever the resettlement support given by the Council. Our own most vulnerable children have also been in the spotlight recently. In-house therapy and counselling services for children and young people living in care homes was discontinued in 2016. A review found that children in our county with significant mental health issues can wait for as long as two years to be seen by Children and Mental Health Services. At the Full Council meeting in March I proposed a motion to re-examine reintroducing therapeutic care to fostered children and those in children's homes and residential settings. This motion was supported unanimously. The need for such support has recently been made even more pressing, given that the Children's Trust's fostering service was recently rated as inadequate by Ofsted.

Over the last year I have received a number of queries from Kilsby residents which I have been pleased to help with. I hope I can assist further in the next 12 months, my contact details are below.

Cllr Rosie Humphreys

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WNC Highlights 2022/23

April-June 2022

-Cabinet members approved the Council's new Anti-Poverty Strategy, setting out how we will support people struggling financially, what we will do to stop people falling into poverty and how we will work to influence the Government and other national organisations to get the best deal for the people of West Northants. This crucial strategy has brought support to many families, being a collaboration between the council and all the relevant voluntary organisations.

-Work to support people coming to the UK as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme continued. There have been over 400 generous sponsors across West Northants, who between them have welcomed around 700 guests. WNC carried out home and welfare safety checks to ensure everything was in place for arrivals from Ukraine, and to arrange support such as the £200 payment that each guest receives for subsistence costs. Homes for Ukraine workshops for parish councils were held to advise villages and towns on how they could assist.

-WNC announced its new Highways contract with Kier which commenced in September 2022. The contract includes priorities and requirements specifically tailored to West Northamptonshire and a fresh flexibility to meet the changing priorities of the council and needs of our communities. We increased investment to the service by more than £1million per year, and put in place our own contract management team to monitor performance, which includes clear, strong goals for improving customer focus and providing value for money. For next year's contract we have included a further £1, aimed at fixing more potholes, in addition to which the Govt budget has given us an additional £1.8M

- Jane Carr was appointed as the Director of Communities & Opportunities, which brought together housing and communities services as well as a range of place-making services including libraries, economic regeneration and cultural services. These changes were made to bring our community-focussed services together and helping us join the priorities of these services more collaboratively.

-The Council organised and facilitated a huge number of events to mark the late Queen's Jubilee, as thousands of people turned out to enjoy a spectacular bank holiday weekend of events and activities. A number of commemorative beacons simultaneously lit across our area, including the Northampton Lift Tower becoming a 'virtual beacon' lit up in red, white and blue. On the Saturday the crowds turned out for a spectacular countywide pageant, which saw military and emergency services personnel, youth and community groups and businesses from across Northamptonshire parade through Northampton town centre, all ensuring a very fitting tribute.

-The Birmingham 2022 Queen's Baton Relay visited Northampton on Sunday, 10th July. Held in the run-up to the Commonwealth Games which took place in Birmingham, the Queen's Baton Relay provided an opportunity for communities to experience the excitement in the run-up to the big event.

July-September 2022

-WNC was given approximately £2.6million from the Department for Work and Pensions' Household Support Fund, to support those most in need of help to cope with the rising cost of living. Around a third of the money was used to support families with children, with more than 10,500 children

receiving £20 per week food vouchers to use during the school summer holidays. Over 6,500 residents across West Northants who receive Pension Credit each received a £100 payment, while anyone who receives the Pension Credit Top Up for pensioners with severe disabilities received an additional £50 payment. Further allocations of funding were received later in the year to enable this much needed support to continue.

-A comprehensive review was launched into the way our council deals with Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) in response to concerns, particularly in urban areas such as Northampton, where some people say they have a detrimental impact on local communities. The aim of the Council's HMO review is to thoroughly investigate the issues concerning housing of this nature within West Northamptonshire. It will include a robust analysis of current policies concerning HMOs in Northampton, alongside looking at ways we can use best practice from elsewhere in the country.

-Northamptonshire formally established its new statutory integrated care system on 1 July. This was a new legal requirement not just for our county, but for the whole of England across 42 local areas. An integrated care system is a partnership of local health and care organisations that come together to plan and deliver joined-up services and to improve the health of people who live and work in the area. Our integrated care system is called Integrated Care Northamptonshire. It replaces and builds upon the partnership work undertaken over the last few years by Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership. This has subsequently led to the establishment of Local Area Partnerships across West Northants, a pioneering approach that has for the first time brought together council, health, police and other services to identify and meet the specific needs of local communities.

-West Northamptonshire joined the rest of the country and people around the world in mourning the loss of Queen Elizabeth II. Services in memory of the late Queen took place across the District and hundreds of people gathered outside All Saints Church in Northampton on Sunday 11th September for an historic ceremony, when The High Sheriff of Northamptonshire, Crispin Holborow DL, formally proclaimed the beginning of King Charles III's reign to the people of Northamptonshire.

October-December 2022

-The Council's new Highways contract came into effect. Kier set out its commitment to working with the Council on its sustainability goals to achieve net zero emissions by 2030, as well as increasing social value to the service to benefit the wider West Northants community and economy, such as supporting local disadvantaged groups and working with local sub-contractors.

-The budget for a new 250-place school for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) was given the go ahead. The Council will convert an empty facility in Tiffield near Towcester into a SEND school for children aged four to 18. The unit will cater for children who are on the autistic spectrum (ASC) and have speech, language and communication needs (SLCN), and those with severe learning difficulties (SLD). The plans come in addition to a £1.1 million expansion and the creation of 50 new specialist places at Hunsbury Park Primary School, which was given the go ahead earlier last year. A number of further school extensions to increase SEND capacity have subsequently opened or are currently under construction.

-Daventry Country Park, Abington Park, Bradlaugh Fields and Delapre Park all retained their Green Flag Awards - recognised as the benchmark for the management of recreational outdoor spaces around the world. There are plans to work towards achieving similar accolades for Towcester's Water Meadows and Hunsbury Country Park.

-WNC approved a fresh strategy for improving housing for residents across West Northants while tackling issues including homelessness and the cost of living crisis. At the Cabinet meeting on 23rd September, members agreed to progress proposals for the new Housing Strategy, which focuses on four key objectives:

- Deliver homes people need and can afford
- Improve the quality, standard and safety of homes and housing services
- Support residents to live healthy, safe, independent and active lives
- Support thriving and sustainable communities

-Our Council increased payments for Homes for Ukraine hosts to £550 a month from December through to March 2023, with the additional £200 to help cover rising living costs.

January-March 2023

-A report confirmed that our new unitary authority has exceeded the original savings target we inherited when replacing the former Daventry, Northampton, South Northants and County councils on 1 April 2021. Savings of £84m were estimated from merging the eight councils across Northamptonshire into two new single-tier authorities, with £49m of these delivered before the abolition of the legacy councils prior to vesting day. This left our Council and our neighbouring new authority North Northants Council a requirement to deliver the remaining savings of £17.5m each in our first few years. The figures shared at the Cabinet meeting show we are on course to have exceeded these savings by the end of 2025/26, including an additional £16.4m as part of the transformation journey to bring together and improve services from the four legacy councils.

-In common with local authorities across the country, the Council has been facing severe financial pressures due to factors including the current economic climate, high inflation rates driving up running costs and an increase in demand for services, particularly around supporting children in care and vulnerable adults. Despite these pressures, the Council worked hard to balance the books and has set a balanced revenue budget for 2023/24 of £383.5m (excluding grant funded schools spending of £443.7m). The budget includes a Council Tax increase of 4.99%, well below current inflation rates and in line with the Government's allowance, crucially generating extra funding of around £12m – with 2% of the increase going towards funding adult social care. This represents an average increase on a Band D property of £80.50 a year, the equivalent of £1.55 a week.

-The additional plans in the budget included investing an extra £1m in the year ahead towards repairing local roads and changes to car parking proposals include putting in place two hours' free parking on Saturdays and Sundays in Northampton's town centre off street car parks and a set weekend all-day charge of £2.20 for off street car parks, introducing free parking up to 10.30am on Saturdays at Daventry and Brixworth country parks and reducing the proposed maximum daily charge at the two sites by a third to £8. In addition to this, the Council will be investing up to £215,000 in the year ahead towards bus services. This continues the funding allocated for the current year, while the Council shapes a new bus strategy and considers the most viable options for supporting and delivering the services in the future.

-WNC launched its plans to encourage Town and parish councils to get involved in a Bank Holiday weekend of special events being planned to mark the Coronation of King Charles III. His Majesty will be crowned at Westminster Abbey in London on Saturday 6 May 2023, the first of three days of

celebrations as communities across the country are invited to come together to mark the historic occasion. Plans are under way to organise a packed weekend of festivities in West Northamptonshire from 6 to 8 May, including street party-style activities and big screens in Northampton town centre on the Saturday, a Big Lunch at Delapre Abbey on the Sunday and local volunteering opportunities for the Big Help Out on Bank Holiday Monday.

-Our Council presented its baseline emissions report for 2021-22, as we strive to meet our sustainability goal to be net zero by 2030. Sustainability is high on the agenda for our Council, with work underway to meet the Government's call for local authorities to support the delivery of the UK's sustainability agenda. Our baseline report provided a robust set of baseline CO2e emissions data for the Council's first year, April 2021 – 31 March 2022 and outlined our intentions to eliminate or reduce these. Establishing the baseline for our emissions will enable the Council to develop a detailed emissions reduction plan and monitor progress towards our targets.

-The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) released its proposals for new Council electoral boundaries, with draft recommendations for 76 members to represent 35 wards across West Northamptonshire. The LGBCE recommendations are out for consultation until 15th May.

-A new Assistant Director of Planning, Stephanie Gibrat, was appointed and is taking steps to implement the recommendations of an independent review of our planning services. Priority is being given to improving the way in which WNC handles section 106 agreements and getting payments to local organisations in a more timely fashion.

-Finally, we are very proud that West Northamptonshire Council is receiving widespread recognition for its work this year after being shortlisted for six national awards.

WNC is among only a small number of finalists out of hundreds of entries from councils across the country for two leading local government sector awards ceremonies, the LGC (Local Government Chronicle) Awards and MJ (Municipal Journal) Awards. We were delighted to learn that this is not just for one award, but for six awards!

The Council has two members of staff as finalists for both the LGC's and MJ's Rising Star categories, with its Customer Services Team also being shortlisted for LGC's Large Team of the Year. Its Sustainable West Northants initiative also beat off stiff competition to become a finalist for LGC's coveted Climate Response award, and as a leading partner for Integrated Care Across Northants the Council has also been shortlisted for both awards' health and social care categories.

WNC will find out this summer whether it has been successful in winning these accolades.

Kilsby Youth Club – Report for Annual Parish meeting, 2nd May 2023

Kilsby Youth Club is thriving, we regularly have up to 20 young people. Sessions are run every other week on a Friday evening in the village hall during term times, via CYPN. There is a regular core of at least 10 young people at each session. We still charge £1.50 per session and feel with the current cost of living crisis, we can't increase this.

Activities in the past year include fund raising for an Epilepsy charity, cooking, crafts, games, a NAYC residential for young leaders who also have the responsibility of running the tuck shop and making coronation bunting. Apparently the young people of Kilsby love tea and biscuits for a snack!

Future activities include virtual babies, drugs and alcohol awareness and road safety awareness. Youth club are also looking at a skill swap, such as Minecraft vs Chess or Draughts. The club want to be part of the wider community and are considering hosting tea and cakes.

Kilsby Parish Council generously grant the youth club sufficient funds that we are now in a position of looking at enhancing the provision we can offer. The young people have come forward with a mass of ideas including Trips, Residential trips, Sleepover, Den making, Marshmallows at the park, Fake nails and makeovers, Skateboarding, Sports equipment and giving Tony one of our youth workers a makeover! They were asked if they'd like the session split between ages but the general consensus was they like the mixed sessions and they worry about not seeing friends of other ages if the club was split as it is their chance to socialise across schools and year groups

CYPN have suggested they could offer additional activity nights (Laserzone /cinema /rollerskating/bowling) on some of the weeks in between regular club sessions
Other options include activity days – potentially a watersports/paddleboarding day or an outdoor activities session (to include den building) or a mix of activities at Northampton Active. A third option would be a short residential experience during the school holidays, but we would need to agree a date and get this booked asap