**KILSBY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
PARISH COUNCIL REPORT – 10 MAY 2017**Kilsby Parish Council started a new term of office following the Election on 5th May 2016. It was good to see Democracy in Action as we had 12 people standing for 11 seats, which meant that Parishioners had a chance to vote for the 11 people they wanted to represent them as Councillors. The elected Councillors also became trustees of the Recreation Ground under the guidance of David George who acts as the Secretary and Treasurer, and works very hard to keep it in good repair.

The Parish Council has continued to be chaired by Reg Dunn.
At the start of the year the Parish Council resolved to use the General Power of Competence which is a power of first resort brought in as part of the 2011 Localism Act. This gives the Parish greater powers to do anything that a normal person would be able to do (such as run a business). This means that the Parish Council will not be restricted by legislation if it wants to do something which enhances village life.

Recently Steve Kettlewell has had to resign and Keith Adams joined the Council last month.

Kilsby is represented by two District Councillors, Catherine Lomax and Ian Robertson and Catherine Lomax attended all our Parish Council meetings and has provided a report this evening.

The County Councillor Malcolm Longley has recently be re-elected to the role. He tries to attend Parish Council meetings on a quarterly basis as he has a number of Councils which meet on the same night.

Policing:
We have continued to sponsor PCSOs Les Conopo and Duncan Cumming who split their time between DIRFT, Kilsby and Crick. Since DIRFT has expanded the Rail Freight Terminal has taken on a greater proportion of the cost of the Police Sponsorship deal and now covers 10/12ths of the cost leaving the parishes to find £3,300 towards the PCSOs per year.
Les Conopo has been off sick for a period of time during the year, but is now back to 90% of full duties.
We have heard that the Contract may be changing in the future with the Northamptonshire Police looking for a greater level of finance than the 50% currently contributed, so we have already met with colleagues at DIRFT and Crick to consider the position.
Without the sponsored PCSOs Kilsby would be policed by one PCSO who covers 40 villages.

**What has your Parish Council been doing?**

The Defibrillator is now installed in a smartly painted Ex-Telephone box which has been fitted with shelving so it can be used as a Book Exchange and leaflet holders so that village leaflets can be made available from the box. Thank you to Ian Lee for his painting and DIY.

During the year the Post Office and Shop have closed, and the Parish Council has been trying to set up alternative services. This is a very difficult task, and we are not in a position to provide any positive solution at the moment, but will continue to make it a priority, as we are well aware of how important this issue is to Kilsby.

The post box has been relocated onto Main Road, and will soon have a seat located near it thanks to a generous donation from a parishioner.

All the street lights in the village have been changed to 22W LED lamps (apart from 4 which we are still waiting for E.ON to do). We are already seeing significant savings in both energy costs and maintenance charges.

Cemetery:
Helen Smedley continues to act as the Burials Clerk for the parish, and the Parish Council would like to thank her publicly for the hard work she puts in to what can be a very difficult and sensitive role.
Helen and the Clerk attended training on Cemetery Legislation at the beginning of the year and are trying to ensure that all the correct procedures are in place.
The Cemetery extension has now been purchased and fenced. The concrete paths have been extended up to the current fence and the area for Cremated Remains has been extended, and the Laurel Hedge cut back. Thanks to Steve Hartwell and his team for all their hard work, most of which has been funded by a grant from the Wind Turbine Company Airvolution at Junction 18.
We have seen a reduction in the number of burials this year, which may seem like a good thing, but in reality is probably because more families are choosing to use Rainsbrook Crematorium and have ashes scattered there, although it is more expensive!

Planning: The Parish Council has acted as consultee and made comment on 31 Planning Applications, two of which were for applications on DIRFT sites.
During the year the 40 houses to be built off the A361 became 48, and work is now underway.
During excavation of the site evidence of 13th Century Longhouses were found and an Archaeological Open Day was held so that residents could see the finds.

Gren Hatton has very kindly put together some wording that will be displayed on Heritage Display boards in the village which will explain the findings to anyone who is interested.

In May 2016 the Parish Council were approached by a landowner who was considering a small development of 5 houses on land off Barby Road. Despite the consultation no planning application has been forthcoming.

On 21 July 2016 a referendum was held to approve Kilsby Neighbourhood Plan. This was given a yes vote by 94% of those of the parish who voted, and means that the plan will help the parish have more control over future development. The Planning Consultants who provided advice to the steering group ran a workshop for all interested parties, to help the Parish Council submit our planning comments in the most robust way possible to ensure that the Neighbourhood Plan is given proper consideration in the decision making process by Daventry District Council Planning officers.

Highways
Councillor Reg Dunn has continued to represent Kilsby at the DIRFT Liaison Meeting which meets every 6 months.
The development at DIRFT 3 has started, and funding has been made available to introduce a weight limit on the Ridgeway and Longdown Lane, and to provide more signage and gateway features to slow traffic travelling along the A5 and A361. The signage is currently on order and will be installed very soon.

A new “Village” of 600 houses, to be called “Houlton” is being built as part of Rugby Sustainable Urban Development on the Radio mast site. This will be followed by further phases of building to a total of 6200 houses in the next 10 years. This will include a passenger railway station.

Bollards were installed on the verge on Main Road opposite Rugby Road to prevent HGVs damaging the grass verge. To some extent this has solved the problem, but the bollards have been knocked over on a couple of occasions.

Youth Club has continued to run under the leadership of the qualified Youth Provider, Claire Griffin. It opens during term time in Kilsby Village hall on Friday evenings from 6-8pm for primary aged children and from 8-10pm for secondary aged children. It continues to be well attended with about 25 young people attending each week.
The Youth Club were finalists in Northamptonshire Youth Ambition Awards, and produced a poster which was used as part of the Remembrance /Poppy Day exhibition in St Faiths Church.
Four members have attended Young Leaders Training.
The Council were approached by the young people to investigate whether a Skate Park could be installed. If anyone knows of a suitable location, or knows someone who is prepared to donate some land, please let us know.

Environmental and other Improvements

Kilsby Cattery continue to sponsor the A5 roundabout which helps cover the cost of mowing and Wildflower seeds. We hope that there will be another good display this year.

Councillor Sarah Stainton has once again organised a village litter pick. Thank you to all those who came out to help tidy up the village.

Litter bins and seats have been installed at the Bus Shelters.
Dead trees have been removed from adjacent to the footpath at the side of “The George” car park and an Irish Yew tree has been planted in Church Walk to replace the dead tree.

A grant of £200 have been given towards the Church Mower and a grant made towards Planters which can be seen all around the village.

The village website was revamped by Matt Rollins, but proved difficult to add documents to, so the parish have decided to purchase a Website from a company who sets up sites for Parish and Town Councils. All Matts work has made it very much easier to do this, as it has been possible to transfer the content in a similar layout. Thanks to Matt and Jenny Fisher for their work, and we hope that the new website will be launched shortly.
Village Organisations will be able to have access details to their own page to allow them to keep it updated, and it should be much easier to add the parish documents so that it remains up to date.

BUDGET
A precept of £45910 has been approved for year 2017/18. This represents an increase of £2120 or 4.8% over the 2016/17 precept. In real terms this means that people living in a Band D house will have to pay an additional £4.45 per year in Council tax.

During the year ending 31 March 2017 we actually spent £45887 and received income of £8018 giving a net expenditure of £37868.

10 May 2017