Collingbourne Kingston Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting on **May 13th, 2026,** at 6:30pm chaired by Councillor Richard SEMPLE Chair of Collingbourne Kingston Parish Council

PRESENT FOR CK PARISH COUNCIL: Richard SEMPLE, Steve LATHAM, Tim KEIGHLEY (Vice Chair), Pennie WASSELL, Mark ECKERSELY,and Philip PALMER (Clerk). Councillor Chris WILLIAMS member for Ludgershall and Rural North was also in attendance.

PRESENT FOR THE PUBLIC: No members of the public attended.

Apologies from councillor Baz GARDNER who had previously arranged holiday committments.

1. WELCOME

18:30 Councillor SEMPLE, chairing, opened the meeting. He stated the purpose of the meeting, and introduced the members of the Parish Council.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2025/2026

Councillor SEMPLE explained that he, Councillor KEIGHLEY and Councillor GARDNER had all been re-elected by default in the elections held on 1/5/2025, and the task now was elect the Chair and Vice-Chair for the forthcoming year. The result of this was that Councillor SEMPLE was re-elected as Chair and Councillor KEIGHLEY as Vice-Chair.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council meeting of 2024 were given in synopsis by Councillor SEMPLE, having already been signed off.

3. CHAIRMANS SYNOPSIS OF THE YEARS ACTIVITIES IN 2025/2026

Councillor SEMPLE thanked all of the councillors for their work on the council in 2025/2026, and then thanked the clerk for his work during the year in keeping the council running smoothly, and congratulated him on behalf of the council for his recent success in passing studies for a Certificate in Local Council Administration, (CiLCA), he highlighted that the clerks duties were many and varied and often beyond the call of what was expected.

Councillor SEMPLE went on to deliver his report:
Many thanks to my fellow councillors and the Parish Clerk for their commitment to and hard work in support of the Parish over the past year.

I want to highlight activities across a number of areas:

- Road safety – We continue to recognise that speeding on the A338 remains a road safety challenge in the Parish. Thanks to Cllr KEIGHLEY and his Speedwatch team for maintaining an active presence on the A338. This continues to discourage speeding and has encouraged Wiltshire Police to conduct their own speed checks within our Parish. We remain open to any ideas or proposals from parishioners on further traffic calming measures, recognising that the A338 is a major highway and therefore can't be obstructed by chicanes or speed humps.

- We have also had some success in securing Wiltshire Council support to deal with potholes and resurfacing. This is a never ending task.

- Public footpaths – I am pleased to report that we have been successfully improving the footpath infrastructure across the Parish. A number of land owners have worked with us to replace old stiles with new gates to improve access to our local countryside. We are continuing this initiative into this year and welcome input from

parishioners on where efforts could be targeted next.

- Infrastructure maintenance – We have continued to maintain the playpark equipment, keeping it in good working order and, as a result of securing additional funding support, have the fencing being replaced around the whole recreation ground.

- Community activity – In conjunction with the Village Hall Committee, we committed funding to a VJ Day commemoration party in August of last year. Unfortunately, there was insufficient take up of (free) tickets to make it value for money so the event had to be cancelled, causing moderate financial losses. We are considering future opportunities for community social activities.

- We have also made grants to support the church as a community asset, including much needed repairs to the bells.

- I am pleased to report that our finances and governance have been kept in good order and have recently been audited with no significant observations being identified.

Adjournment for Councillor Chris WILLIAMS for Ludgershall and Rural North

Councillor WILLIAMs delivered his Annual Report:

It has been an interesting and at times, challenging year at Wiltshire Council. The Liberal Democrat minority administration brought forward its budget for 2026/27 alongside a three-year financial forecast. My Conservative colleagues and I had serious concerns about several elements of the proposed budget and its long-term impact on Wiltshire taxpayers. These concerns included plans for three-weekly bin collections, the rebuild of St Stephens Car Park, significant increases in parking charges, and £20 million of new borrowing, contributing to more than £76 million in long-term costs.

Following a series of U-turns by the Liberal Democrats — including reversing proposals to close the Household Recycling Centres at Lower Compton and Purton and to cease support for Community Transport — the budget was ultimately passed with the support of Independent and Labour councillors. Regrettably, the alternative Conservative budget, which focused on strategic savings and greater financial stability, was rejected. I remain concerned that this approach will lead to service reductions, harm to the local economy and residents paying the price for decades to come.

At the Full Council Budget Setting meeting concerns about proposed parking charge increases, including raising Sunday charges to match Monday–Saturday rates and extending charging hours to 7am–7pm were raised by conservative members. These changes will inevitably affect hospitality businesses, retail workers and people attending places of worship. A technical Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) consultation is taking place for comments from residents and businesses. It is important to be clear that this is not a full public consultation, as the anticipated increase in income is already built into the budget. More worryingly, the Liberal Democrat Leader, Cllr Ian Thorn, has publicly stated that there is a strong case for harmonising parking charges across the county — meaning the smaller market towns such as Devizes and Marlborough could be brought into line with higher-charging areas like Salisbury.

Changes to waste and recycling services have also been agreed, which I voted against. These include moving general household waste (black bin) collections from every two weeks to every three weeks and introducing a slot-booking system at Household Recycling Centres — changes that many residents are understandably concerned about.

Concerns about highways, road conditions and potholes continue to fill my inbox and are raised regularly at Parish Council meetings. As always, please report issues via the MyWilts app. If problems persist, please escalate them through your Parish Clerk and contact me directly — I am always happy to follow up with highways engineers on your behalf. I am particularly concerned that the Liberal Democrat budget relies on borrowing £15 million to supplement the Department for Transport highways maintenance grant. By contrast, the Conservative alternative budget provided £18.6 million of additional revenue funding over three years without borrowing. The £15 million loan is forecast to cost £58 million in interest and charges over 50 years — meaning, quite starkly, that our great-grandchildren will still be paying for the road repairs carried out over the next few years.

I remain concerned about the rejection of Wiltshire's draft Local Plan by Government inspectors following nationally imposed changes that have increased the county's housing target by 81%. This creates significant uncertainty for communities and increases the risk of speculative planning applications across Wiltshire. The council now faces restarting an extremely complex and costly plan-making process that is likely to take several years, made even harder by the withdrawal of funding for neighbourhood plans.

I will continue to keep you updated over the coming months on all these important issues at Parish Council meetings and via Facebook.

Finally, thank you to all our Parish Councils and the many community groups who work tirelessly to keep villages in our community area vibrant, resilient and wonderful places to live.

And a further report on behalf of the Area Board business meetings

Tidworth AB has held 4 business meetings this year which, alongside decision making on grant applications, have received multiple partner updates. These include from the Phillip Wilkinson - Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner, Chief Constable Catherine Roper Wiltshire Police Chief Constable. We have also welcomed Dame Sue Grey, the new CEO of the Armed Forces Equine Charity, ate Brooks from Age UK, Nicky Harris from the Family Hubs team and regular updates from MoD partners and Town and Parish Councils.

Tidworth AB priorities for 2025/26

- Health and Wellbeing – AB Lead Cllr Chris Williams
- Youth Engagement – AB Lead Cllr Keith Allen
- Community Safety – AB Lead Cllr Dave Lumsden

AB Grants Supported

- Ludgershall Memorial Hall - £3,600 for Hall Improvements
- Tidworth and Ludgershall Men's Shed - £3,750 for facility improvements
- Area Board Initiative - £700 for half term youth engagement sessions
- **Collingbourne Kingston Recreation Ground - £3,500 for fencing improvements**
- Area Board Initiative - £5,000 for detached youth work project
- Area Board Initiative - £2,000 for in-school youth engagement work

- Area Board Initiative - £1,000 for Wellington Academy Youth Committee projects
- Army Welfare Service - £2,500 for summer activities
- Area Board Initiative - £500 for digital inclusion project
- Area Board Initiative - £500 for Health and Wellbeing Event
- Age UK Wiltshire - £2,000 for Celebrating Age Wiltshire project
- St James' Church Ludgershall - £2,500 for "Our Community Churchyard" project
- Chutes Connect - £870 for minibus excursions project
- Stand Easy Veterans UK - £300 for an event gazebo
- Age UK Wiltshire - £830 for "Daytime Disco" project

Youth Engagement

The detached youth work will be starting properly this summer with workers expected on the group in late May/early June– this will involve youth worker going to the areas which young people "hang out" to engage with them and deliver youth work on site rather than in a youth club setting.

Cllr Keith Allen has also engaged with Wellington Academy to establish a Youth Committee within the school, which the AB has allocated funding to in order to design and deliver projects of their own design.

The Area Board continues to support local youth organisations such as the Army Welfare Service and others

Health and Wellbeing

Age Uk Wiltshire have brought their successful Celebrating Age Wiltshire project to Tidworth for the first time. Look out for their events around the area bringing arts projects to older and vulnerable adults

The Heath and Wellbeing Group is working on a public event which will be taking place in Ludgershall memorial hall on Monday 1 June.

The HWB Group continues to support local groups who provide health and wellbeing services locally such as Stand Easy UK Veterans group and the new Chutes Connect minibus project

Community Safety

As a new priority to the area board, only confirmed as a priority in November, the AB are still in the process of establishing a new Tidworth Community Area Safety and Security Group.

This includes ensuring a comprehensive list of partners are on board, and a suitable Terms of Reference is written and approved – likely to be done at the Area Board meeting on Monday 15 June.

There will be a focus around reducing anti-social behaviour and while this is not exclusively caused by young people, the group will work closely with he local youth network to support the detached youth work project.

Area Board Priorities will be reviewed at the Area Board meeting in June.

To see more information on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment data which informs these priorities alongside local knowledge, please see link below.

CAJSNA Wiltshire Intelligence

4. RFO's report on financial activities for 2025/2026

During the financial year 2025/2026 the Parish Council has been involved in several initiatives on behalf of the electors and Community at large. Most notably the Gates for Stiles project which involves the replacement of stiles, many in a rickety state in certain locations in the parish, principally on footpaths CKIN The tender that won this work was that of Chris WHEELER Construction of Burbage which came in at £6,046.37 including VAT. This work is largely completed with gates on CKIN awaiting installation. This project has been funded from accumulated reserves.
Additionally a council working party identified the need to replace the perimeter fencing at the Rec. The existing fencing was installed around 2004. The tender that won this work was again that of Chris WHEELER Construction of Burbage which came in at £13,745.54 including VAT. This work has been commenced and is partially completed. This project has been partially funded with a grant of £3,500 from the Tidworth Area Board, and £1,272 from the Francis Wilson Trust Fund.
There has been an investment in the clerk in the form of training, with a WALC CiLCA course having been taken and passed. This changes things for the council slightly in that it can now use the General Power of Competence and may apply for a Silver award under the NALC- Local Councils Award Scheme. This would be a mark of excellence.
Looking to the financials this was all achieved with £16,145 in reserves carried over from 2024/2025, and a precept from WC of £16,000 received across the year in two tranches, which means that with the project money from external sources the total council income for the year was £22,253, against which the council had expenses of £13,730, however the two projects mentioned above have not been invoiced yet and had they been would have increased the expenses commensurately. Staff costs were decreased from £4,660 in 2024/2025 to £4,100 in 2025/2026 but this is due to timing differences in payments at the year end. There has been no borrowing and the council carries forward to 2026/2027 £24,668, but it must be remembered that the two projects mentioned above will be invoiced out of this balance.
The council has just had its internal audit carried out by Auditing Solutions Ltd which its passed with no recommendations. The accounts papers supporting these figures will be available for public perusal by appointment between 3/6/2026 and 13/7/2026 to satisfy the Public Rights Access Period set out by the councils External Auditors PFK Littlejohn. If anyone wishes to see these papers please contact the clerk.

5. AoB

There were no items of un-tabled business raised.

DONM fixed for 12/5/2027

Meeting closed 19:10 Signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council