



Coronavirus / Lockdown and visitors to Trimpley Reservoir

We do hope that that you and your families have kept safe and well, and that you are coping with the lockdown if you are still shielding. For our part, as this newsletter is usually hand delivered by Parish Councillors to keep costs down, we did not issue an edition in April due to the coronavirus, and during lockdown, newsletters will only be published on the website and on the noticeboards, to minimise any risk of spreading infection.

Parish Statement by the Chairman (June 2020) concerning the unprecedented number of visitors to the Reservoir, and the problems that this has caused to local residents:

"Trimpley Reservoir and Eymore Wood – issues arising during Covid19 Pandemic"

During these unprecedented times with the Covid19 pandemic threatening so many lives and causing all the difficulties that, I am sure, you are all aware of, the members of the Parish Council, and particularly our Clerk, have spent a great deal of time exploring every route available to them in trying to find solutions to the issues which have occurred as a result of Severn Trent reopening Trimpley Reservoir.

We accept that with the easing of the lockdown, people who have been cooped up at home for weeks now wish to visit the countryside. With few visitor attractions open elsewhere, there have been problems with excessive parking at Eymore, with vehicles spilling out of the private car parks on to the roadside verges. The police have been informed and will take action if any obstruction is caused to the highway or to residents' access.

Although the vast majority of people coming to the area are law abiding families, there have been issues at the Reservoir including antisocial behaviour, litter, parking, etc. The Parish Council have been in discussions with Severn Trent and had a productive site meeting with STW Head of Visitor Experience to put forward recommendations as to what actions they can put in place to address these matters. The land around the reservoir is of course owned by Severn Trent, and so we can only make suggestions with regard to this.

Although we have had these discussions we can only work within the law. Eymore Lane is a public road and therefore, as you would expect, we do not have the power to restrict this in any way. This is a Police matter, and of course any member of the public has the right to contact them accordingly.

The Parish Council is here to support the community and we try our utmost to find solutions to the problems faced by our parishioners, particularly those in Eymore Lane at this difficult time. Any suggestions are always appreciated and can be considered for action, as long as they fall within the powers that we have."

Goodbye ... and A warm Welcome to a New Parish Councillor

With considerable regret, in February, the Council accepted the resignation of Gordon Yarranton from his post as Parish Councillor. I know that I echo many feelings from fellow councillors and local parishioners in acknowledging the very valued role Gordon played over the years spent in office, not only as Parish Councillor, but also for the time he served as both District and County Councillor, and for the help he gave to the local area, not only through financial aid but also through representation with his time and efforts. We wish Gordon well in his retirement.

The Casual Vacancy was publicised on local noticeboards and on the parish website, and, following due process, we are very pleased to welcome Christopher Holford of Halls Farm Lane in the role as Parish Councillor. We welcome Chris's enthusiasm and determination to fill the position, and serve all local people with commitment and energy.



Holy Trinity Church News

"Sadly, the church building has to remain shut at present but the church is still active. If you buy online, please consider supporting us on www.easyfundraising.org.uk and search for "moving forward together holy trinity trimpley". Follow us on Facebook @HolyTrinityChurchTrimpley for the latest fundraising news. Contact Rev. Nigel 01562 851744, should you need help or a chat. Check out Kidderminster Ismere YouTube for online Services and Jane: twigglet2@btinternet.com to keep up to date by Email. Thank you! "

Parish Council Matters

www.kfpc.org.uk

The public are welcome to come along to any Parish Council meeting and speak and/or discuss matters with councillors and usually local police in the Open Forum at the start of each meeting. These are the dates of the next meetings, usually held in Trimpley Village Hall @ **7.30p.m.** unless held remotely using ZOOM -

Monday 17th August, 21st September, 19th October.

Your Current Parish Councillors are:

Mrs. C. Gammond : (Chair) Tel: 01299 402929

Mr. J. Gammond : Tel 01299 400750

Mr. C. Grainger : 01299 403231

Mrs. L. Green : Tel 01562 747180

Mr. C. Holford : Tel 01299 404678

Mr. C. Jordan : Tel 01299 861484

Mr. B. Phillips : Tel 01299 861661

Please feel free to contact them (or the Clerk (see overleaf)) on any matters of concern re life in the Parish, or come along to the **Public Open Forum** at the start of every meeting.

Message from John Campion West Mercia Police & Crime Commissioner

"A key part of the Commissioner's commitment to communities is to ensure he and West Mercia Police are engaged with local areas and are visible and accessible. To ensure this commitment continues during the current pandemic the PCC will be giving communities a platform to ask their questions to him and their local policing superintendent through summer safety Q&A sessions.

Each session will be broadcast live on the PCC's Facebook page, where live questions can also be left and may be included in the session.

Members of the public are invited to ask any questions about policing, particularly around key summer safety topics such as **water safety, fraud, burglary, rural crime and road safety by emailing opcc@westmercia.pnn.police.uk or through the PCC's Facebook page, and highlighting the area they live."**

Parish Council Audit

The Parish Council has undergone the Annual Internal Audit of Governance and Accounts, (AGAR), and all relevant documents concerning the audit are available for view on our website—www.kfpc.org.uk - or by application to the Clerk during the period for public inspection to 24th July 2020. A summary of the annual accounts can be found overleaf.

Summary of Parish Accounts for 2019-2020 inc. Precept Analysis

Payments	Amount £
Grant given to Arley School	200
Lengthsman's Work	2062
Clearance work on Footpaths	502
Emptying Litter bins under Localism Cont.	1320
General Admin Costs, Insurance & CALC Subs.	2003
Clerk's Salary Gross	4188
Chairman's Allowance	100
Projects : Purchase of VA Signs and Poles, Spring Bulbs, Maintenance of benches and noticeboards	8323
Training	190
	18,888
Receipts	
Brought Forward Balance	37795
Precept	9787
VAT Reimbursement	468
Lengthsman's Work reimbursement	2061
Clearance work on Footpaths (Contract)	450
Litter Collection Contract under Localism	1976
Bank Interest	60
Grants successfully applied for	6200
Other Misc. Items	30
	58827
Less payments made this year	18888
Carry forward 2020-2021	39,939

The Parish Precept is the rate levied on your Council Tax as the Parish rate—and can be seen as a separate charge on your Council Tax bill. Apart from Ribbesford, where there is no Precept raised, Kidderminster Foreign has the lowest rate of any Parish in Wyre Forest. Your Parish Council work hard to keep the Parish rate down for its electorate in the parish, and indeed there has been no increase in the Precept for this parish since 2017/18—i.e. no increase for 4 years running - 2017/18, 2018/19, 2019/20, and now 2020/21. The Parish Council are justifiably proud of their budgeting to keep parishioners' Council Tax as low as they possibly can, despite, and to help offset, increases levied by District and County Councils.

	2019-20		2020-21	
	Parish Precept £	Band D Council Tax £	Parish Precept £	Band D Council Tax £
Parish / Town Council Tax Area				
Kidderminster Town Council	620,676.00	36.00	640,988.00	37.00
Upper Arley	16,381.28	45.00	16,245.00	45.00
Bewdley Town Council	161,309.00	44.44	182,350.00	50.00
Broome	4,800.00	24.62	5,000.00	25.26
Chaddesley Corbett	29,943.00	39.40	32,439.00	42.02
Churchill and Blakedown	27,972.62	35.23	27,972.62	34.71
Kidderminster Foreign	9,787.47	22.87	9,492.72	21.38
Ribbesford	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rock	48,220.00	38.61	55,100.00	43.94
Rushock	3,025.00	39.80	3,327.50	43.78
Stone	12,000.00	43.84	13,200.00	47.14
Stourport-on-Severn Town Council	217,100.00	31.40	270,504.00	39.00
Wolverley and Cookley	52,143.52	30.75	60,858.86	35.36
Average Parish/Town Council Charge	1,203,357.89	£35.65	1,317,477.70	£38.81

The Parish Council actively seeks out and applies for grants to be spent on improvements in the parish. Grants of £5700 were received during 2019/20 for the VA Signs and Poles, to try to combat high traffic speeds on our lanes, and indeed, a grant of £500 has also already been received to be spent on the purchase and installation of bus shelter(s) in 2020/21. Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the latter project has had to be put on hold for the time being, but we are hopeful of progressing this later this year.

Chairman's Report for 2019/20

"2019 has proved to be an interesting and busy year. This was the 125 th year of Kidderminster Foreign Parish Council as celebrated with a 'Potted History' by our Clerk in the October Newsletter. My thanks go to Elsie for the wonderful help and support she has shown throughout the year.

We have seen some changes of personnel, with the resignation of Gordon Yarranton and, following advertising of the vacancy, we welcomed Chris Holford to the Parish Council. We also welcomed John Byng as our new District Councillor to serve alongside Paul Harrison.

Planning matters, highways issues and fly-tipping are regular items in our discussions and considerations.

This year we commented on over 20 planning applications including the controversial plans for the Crocky Trail at Low Habberley and land at Low Habberley included for possible development in the District Council Local Plan. Demolition of the former clinic at Park Attwood and development of the site was also commented on.

We have brought to the attention of the Planning Dept some abuses of the Planning system within the Parish, e.g. Easter Cottage, Hill Farm.

The Clerk and 4 Councillors attended a training session on the new IDOX computer system now being used by the District Council Planning Dept.

As usual, various drainage issues have been raised with the County Council Highways Dept. Hollies Lane drainage has again been under discussion. We thank our Lengthsmen, Sam and Tom Archer, for keeping roadside grips and gulleys clear of debris, in addition to their other tasks. Contracts were renewed with Archers for Lengthsman work, litter collection and ROW vegetation clearance. With grant funding we have provided solar powered VA Signs at Trimpey and Low Habberley in an attempt to make our roads safer. Signage in Hoarstone Lane has been improved. Requests were received for bus shelters to be provided and the Parish Council have applied and received grant funding towards this.

Fly-tipping has been a regular issue and we are still looking at the legalities of positioning CCTV at vulnerable sites.

Benches and Noticeboards received restoration work. The Annual Parish Volunteer Litter Pick planned for April had to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

A Work Party was held at Mount Pool earlier in the year.

Stone deliveries to Severn Trent began for river bank stabilisation/construction work – the Clerk & Chairman liaised with the contractor regarding the safest route to be taken by lorries.

The work was subsequently held up due to poor weather and river flooding. It has now been done.

Other discussions held include poor internet quality in areas of the Parish, proposed alterations to the Church and the reopening of the Habberley Valley Visitor Centre after 19 years. A grant of £200 was made to Upper Arley School towards transport for swimming lessons.

The Parish rate, held for the last few years, has now been reduced for the coming year.

Finally, I would like to thank Councillors for their support and hard work during the year and, again, particularly our Clerk, Elsie, who has worked with efficiency and dedication throughout the year, steering us in the right direction in all matters Parish Council. And finding all possible grant funding available. Where would we be without her? Thank you Elsie.

This is where I would normally wish all the best to the new Chairman but, due to coronavirus, officers remain in post until 2021. "

Stay Alert—Stay Safe—Stay Well

Carole Gammond—June 2020

