

**The Kidlington Annual Parish Meeting
held at Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlington on Thursday 23 May 2019**

In attendance were members of the Parish Council, staff and 20 local residents.

Welcome by the Chairman of the Council – Cllr David Robey.

Cllr Robey thanked members of the public for attending and introduced the new and returning Councillors.

Apologies were received from Layla Moran MP who had been unable to attend due to illness.

Minutes of the Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16 March 2017 were agreed and signed as a true record.

The meeting was chaired by the new Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr David Robey. He began the meeting by introducing those councillors present to the meeting.

He asked those present to complete Cherwell DC's Healthy Life Survey forms as these would help inform that Council's healthy living policies.

Our MP, Layla Moran, had been due to be present to take questions from the floor, but unfortunately she was unable to attend due to illness.

Sgt Kerry O'Leary reported on behalf of Thames Valley Police. Kidlington continues to be a safe place to live. Over the past year crime is down by 4%, including a 47% reduction in burglary, 10% reduction in vehicle theft and a 10% reduction drugs offences. In response to questions from the floor she stated that:

- Police numbers had decreased but were now climbing again. There were eight officers covering Kidlington and Bicester
- The Police do enforce parking regulations, but are constrained by numbers and other priorities. Cllr Robey commented that that KPC will continue to pursue the issue of Cherwell DC taking over responsibility for parking enforcement
- There is a Schools Officer in regular contact with Gosford Hill School
- There is no evidence of 'county lines' activity in Kidlington at present, but the Police are watching the situation.

The outgoing Chairman, Cllr Nigel Simpson, reported on the Parish Council's achievements in 2018-19, which included the very successful adventure playground and outdoor gym at Exeter Close (with the possibility of adding a community café and toilets for the benefit of users); the installation of Rosie the elephant on the roundabout; approval to installing disabled access in Exeter Hall, and improvements to the bar. The Gala Day, Fireworks and Christmas Lights Switch-on had all been successful. The Parish Council has been left in a good state and he wished the incoming Council the best.

Cllr David Betts, Chairman of the Policy & Finance Committee presented the Financial Report. The Council's expenditure over 2018-19 had been £751,000, covered by the Parish Precept on Council Tax of £697,000, together with income from fees and charges. The breakdown of expenditure was as follows:

	£000s	%
Open Spaces/Recreation Areas	305	41
Buildings	207	28
Management & Administration	189	25
Community Events	24	3
Grants	18	2
Cemeteries	8	1

After capital expenditure of £242,000, of which £168,000 had been on the Adventure Playground and Outdoor Gym, the Council had balances of £452,000 in hand and another £500,000 invested. The next major call on these funds would be the improvement or development of Exeter Hall and its surroundings. The Council will be considering options over the coming year.

The Chairman then opened the meeting to points from the floor.

There were several points regarding cycling provision.

What cycle/pedestrian access will there be to the new hotel on Langford Lane? The Chairman reported that the developer was proposing a cycle/pedestrian link to the path from Lyne Road to Begbroke to access the centre of the Village. He also reported that the County Council are proposing a cycle lane on Oxford Road between Sainsbury's and the lights at the car wash.

Cycle parking racks in the High St have been taken away outside the Co-op. This will be looked into.

Regarding the future of Exeter Hall and Close there was a plea for greater transparency and feedback. The Chairman replied that there is £50,000 budgeted for a feasibility study into the options for the area and there will be a report back on its findings during the year.

On the issue of regenerating the High St, the Parish Council would pursue this via the Kidlington Masterplan, whose implementation needed to be pursued with Cherwell, whose energies were currently taken up with the proposals for 4,400 dwellings in the area. The Inspector's report is expected later in the year.

The Parish Council was focussing on improving community provision in the Exeter Hall/Close area, rather than in the High St because it owned the Exeter Close site and therefore had more leverage.

There were differing views on parking. On the one hand there was the view that there was insufficient parking now that the Co-op car park has closed and that the Foresters' Way/High St junction has become dangerous because of the volume of traffic now using it. The location of the bus stops and crossings did not help. On the other hand it was argued that there were too many cars and that people should make greater use of public transport, or run the risk of losing it.

On the issue of parking control overall the Council will continue to pursue decriminalisation – ie Cherwell taking over responsibility. Location of bus stops and crossings was a County Council responsibility. Parking provision in the Village Centre would be looked at via the Masterplan.

The Chairman thanked those attending and closed the meeting.