

# **Minutes of Kidlington Annual Parish Meeting held on zoom on Thursday 29 April 2021**

In attendance were members of the Parish Council, staff, 15 local residents and Layla Moran MP.

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

Cllr Robey thanked members of the public for attending the first on line Annual Parish Meeting and explained that the Council had not held a public meeting in 2020 due to the pandemic.

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23 May 2019 were agreed as a true record.

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

The Chairman explained that the difficulties experienced by the Council during the pandemic and offered his sympathy to those who had been badly affected. The Council was happy to have been able to get involved in helping by providing a telephone line to KASA (Kidlington and Surrounding Areas) and providing a home for Cherwell Larder which provided food parcels during the pandemic to those who needed them either because of financial hardship or because of the need to isolate. He thanked all those local residents who had offered their help during this time.

## **Report by Sgt Gavin Staniland, Thames Valley Police**

During 2020- 2021 the Bicester and Kidlington Neighbourhood team have conducted Neighbourhood policing in the most challenging of times for the community.

During the first Lockdown all Constables and Sergeants were redeployed from Neighbourhood teams to ensure the resilience of frontline response teams.

During this period the PCSO's continued to support the community through high visibility reassurance patrols and responding to the community's concerns.

In addition to conducting normal patrols they also took on the responsibility of Covid patrols in conjunction with partners in Cherwell District Council.

Throughout they have sought to "Engage, Explain, Encourage and Enforce" with regard to the evolving Covid restrictions.

## **Report by Emily Connally, Cherwell Collective**

Emily explained the services provided by the Cherwell Collective and thanked the Parish Council for their support since it began at the beginning of the pandemic in April 2020.

- Cherwell Collective consists of three connected enrichment programmes:
- Harvest@Home which helps people to produce their own food by providing seeds, equipment and advice on growing. The Parish Council have provided H@H with an allotment site.
- Cherwell Larder which saves food from going to waste and uses Exeter Hall twice a week to allow people to collect surplus food. It was emphasised that this is not a food bank and is available to all residents.

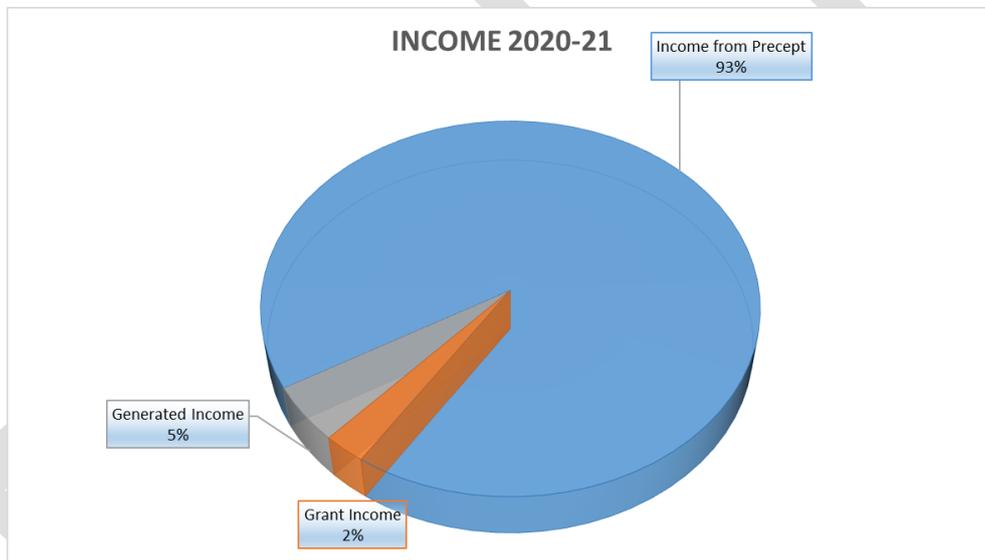
Climatarian Kitchen is a café based at Exeter Hall which uses surplus or locally sourced food to provide meals and help people understand how to use fresh ingredients.

### Layla Moran MP

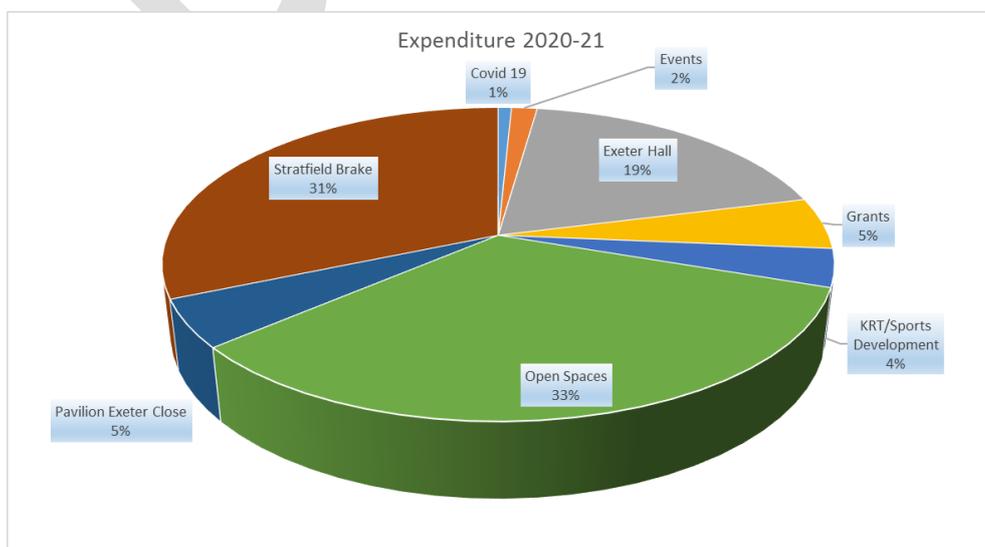
Layla attended the meeting and thanked Cherwell Collective for their excellent work in the community. Layla gave the meeting an update on the situation with the Covid 19 pandemic from a national perspective.

### KPC Financial Report by Cllr David Betts

The Council's income during 2020-21 was made up of £716,715 from the Parish precept, £19,703 from Grant income and £37,362 income from fees and charges.



The breakdown of expenditure was explained using the chart below.



## KPC Environment and Community Report by Cllr Alison Street

- Recognition of the role Harvest at Home has played through community involvement in allotment sites and green spaces across the village.
- The outdoor facilities team kept its regular programme of repair and maintenance of the recreation grounds, the two cemeteries and green spaces.
- Drainage improvements and active review of the turf levels at Bicester Road Cemetery significantly improved the burial site.
- New gym and teen shelter recently installed at Exeter Close, have been well used and popular during lockdown.
- Movement sensitive solar lights were installed at Orchard Park to enhance safety for walkers.
- The environment group met regularly to establish a tree planting plan for green spaces, in line with our new tree policy which aims to not only maintain, but also replace and plant new trees with a view to improving potential biodiversity. A plan for Lyne Rd Green was drawn up for Autumn 21, with support from BBOWT and Wild Oxfordshire, to plant 11 native trees and to both consult and actively involve local residents.
- A 'no mow May' was established with the CDC contractors to ensure some green space areas could be left unmown to encourage invertebrates, moths and butterflies.
- A survey of plant life was commissioned from TVERC to define local species to fit with the timing of the new mowing regime. This is available on the KPC website.
- Councillors were actively involved in CDC's Healthy Place Shaping initiative, which set up the Zoo animal walking trails. Information boards at Exeter Close show how these routes – between 1.5 and 5.5k - criss-cross the village and make the most of our canal side and grass lined alleyways, interlinking with the local primary schools.
- Councillors contributed to the Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP), calling for a 20mph speed limit on certain routes and dedicated cycle lanes.