

**MINUTES OF THE 2026 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY 19th MAY 2026 AT LANGLEY FITZURZE SCHOOL, KINGTON LANGLEY**

Present: Cllr A Lawer (Chair), Cllr. C Armor, Cllr. K Harrison-Jones, Cllr. S Pattemore, Cllr. L Reynolds, Cllr. G Tayler, Cllr. G Watson, Peter Giles (RFO), County Councillor Greenman and approximately 60 members of the public.

1.026	Welcome from the Chair - Cllr Alan Lawer The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting (APM). He added that the formal meeting would be kept as short as possible with the remainder an informal occasion for people to engage with councillors and the many village clubs and organisations present, a similar format to the previous two APMs. He thanked Karen Winterburn, the Executive Head Teacher of the village school for hosting the event. The Chair then explained he had lived in the village for 21 years. He added that the Local Government Act (1972) requires an APM to be held, which is really a meeting for the electorate within the parish. It was not a parish council (PC) meeting. Although it was an opportunity for the PC to provide an update on what had happened over the last year, it was an important opportunity for parishioners present to make the PC aware of their views. He hoped those present would let councillors know their thoughts about what would be good for the future of the village. He introduced Howard Greenman, Wiltshire Councillor and added that his annual report was available on the PC website and that a hard copy was also available. The Chair explained that the PC appreciated his wealth of valuable experience and the support he provides, especially his guidance with navigating the many contacts withing Wiltshire Council.
2.026	Apologies for Absence There were apologies for absence from Cllr. Sealy, Cllr. Evans and Mrs Sue Hart (Clerk).
3.026	Approval of Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held on 20th May 2025 The 2025 Annual Parish Meeting minutes had been posted on the PC website at www.kingtonlangley-pc.org.uk so were not read out at the meeting. No changes were proposed; therefore, the Chair, Cllr. Lawer, signed the Minutes as a true record.
4.026	Summary of the Parish Council's activities during 2025/26 – Chair The Chair explained that the PC had tried in recent months to improve its engagement with parishioners. The PC does not have much authority but was responsible for spending wisely the money that it receives. The survey that many completed some months ago proved very useful and guided the undertaking of some initiatives. For example, work had been done to improve reports in the village magazine and new information had been provided, for example, outlining annual finances in the April edition. The PC has to be consulted by Wiltshire Council on all planning applications that affect the parish. Wiltshire Council makes the planning decisions, not the PC, which tries to be as objective as possible when forming views on planning applications. The PC is not against development, but it recognises and appreciates that it needs to use the little

	influence it has to preserve, and possibly enhance, the character of the village, much of which is classified as a conservation area. The Chair mentioned a significant application for an industrial unit for lorry servicing, next to the eastern boundary of the Indurent distribution and warehousing site, which the PC had objected to. As it is development in the open countryside it needs Wiltshire Council to assess if its economic value is strategically important enough to outweigh any harm to the landscape or residential amenity for it to be granted permission. The Chair mentioned also the Lime Down Solar Project, which had made local television news recently. The application was for a colossal solar farm and battery storage facility that would extend northwards and wider from Hullavington. As far as the Chair could ascertain, all the local parishes in the area of it had objected to it and Kington Langley had also submitted objections to the Planning Inspectorate. It was due to be decided by the Secretary of State in 2027. The Chair informed the meeting that he was very grateful to all the other councillors for their dedication and support. He also expressed his thanks for all the work undertaken by the Clerk, Sue Hart, and the Responsible Finance Officer, Peter Giles and added that they are very good at guiding councillors with their considerable experience and professionalism. The Chair hoped that people appreciated living in such a beautiful village and that everyone could see from what he had said, and from conversations later in the evening, that the PC does all it can to support the quality of life for everyone in the parish. He added that everyone on the PC wants to do 'their bit' for the community and that it was a privilege to be a part of such an effective team.
5.026	Summary of Village Organisations Attending and Plan for the Evening - Chair The Chair said there were about thirteen clubs and village organisations present, which was a testament to the spirit and vitality of the community. He thanked them for their participation and encouraged everyone to speak to people and find out more. He also encouraged everyone to speak to the councillors as they valued people's ideas. In particular feedback was sought, as mentioned in the May edition of the village magazine, concerning 3 topics: First, suggestions for how the PC should spend some additional funding it had received, and second, creating an informal volunteer group. He asked people to see Kristina Harrison-Jones regarding those. The third topic concerned potential future tree planting in the village, and he asked people to speak to Graham Watson regarding that. The Chair explained that the PC does not have much authority, and its resources were limited, which meant it has to rely on the authority and resources of Wiltshire Council to address most problems, for example with potholes and drains that don't drain. It was a situation the PC often found frustrating as it tried to get the right teams within Wiltshire Council to attend to problems. The Chair added that the PC was always pleased to see members of the public at its monthly meetings. People come occasionally just to observe but sometimes to say something about a planning application or to alert the PC to something that needs its attention. Public participation is at the beginning of the meetings and there is usually no need for members of the public to sit through the whole meeting. The Chair asked if anyone had any questions. No questions were raised.

6.026	An Update from Langley Fitzurse C of E Primary School - Karen Winterburn, Executive Head Teacher Karen Winterburn welcomed everyone and said the school was delighted to host the meeting. The school was fulfilling a significant role in the village and was very active. She hoped people would take an interest in the plans it has to develop outside learning through the Forest Schools initiative it is following. She also mentioned that there were currently two vacancies for governors on the school board and encouraged anyone interested to contact the school.
7.026	Close of Formal Meeting - Chair Before closing the meeting, the Chair thanked Karen Winterburn again for hosting the meeting and added that the school was a real asset to the village. He also informed the meeting that Kin House had very generously provided drinks and buffet food for everyone to enjoy when the formal meeting ended. He expressed his thanks to Hannah Bamford-Heron, the House Manager at Kin House, and her team for providing a very generous spread of food and drinks. He also asked her to pass thanks to Matt Harvey. The Chair advised everyone that the evening event would close at about 9:00pm. Before closing the APM, he thanked Charlie Armor for coordinating the evening and also the two locally based police constables for attending. He finished by saying that he hoped everyone would experience the school's motto and be 'amazed', 'excited' and 'inspired' and thanked everyone for joining in.

THE FORMAL ANNUAL PARISH MEETING CLOSED AT 19:45 PM

REPORT FOR THE PARISH FROM YOUR WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR, CLLR. HOWARD GREENMAN

Submitted to the Parish Council prior to the meeting

This is my 16th Annual Report. This has been a year of change and challenges not least because of the changes brought about by a change in government at the general election in July 2025.

The immediate impact of the change in government to Wiltshire Council is the exponential proposed increase in housing targets. Wiltshire Council had secured a 4 Year Housing Land Supply over which I had personally engaged with the last central government, and that was a target we had met. Due to recalculation of that figure however by government, a recalculation I believe to be incorrect, that figure is now stated to be 2.08 years. It is looking increasingly likely that the sheer numbers of housing units to be delivered will be significantly increased. I am hopeful that the Local Plan, yet to be ratified will provide some protection against this. The issue I have with this is that Wiltshire Council have issued planning consents for over 19000 properties which the developers have failed to deliver, preferring to 'land bank' rather than build.

There is also increasing pressure to deliver Solar Farms, and the north of the county particularly falls prey to this. Whilst accepting the need for renewable energy, there has to be a balance too with the need for food security, and the current proposal for Lime Down which will have an impact on 2000 acres in close proximity to the Kington division with a further 2000 acres being affected just outside of Melksham. I have spoken against this at a recent meeting in Malmesbury town hall and will continue to lobby against it.

An additional pressure locally is that of the delivery of Gypsy and Traveller pitches. Wiltshire, and north Wiltshire particularly due to the M4 is a particular target for the G&T community and we have a responsibility to accommodate them. However, we have also been subject to a large number of unauthorised pitches which have as yet crept in under the radar and which I believe should be added into the number government require Wiltshire Council to deliver if they are policy compliant. As such I am actively resisting 'new' pitches that have been identified in unsuitable locations and will continue to do so.

The Rural Parish Forum I chair continues to go from strength to strength, and the most recent meeting was attended by the Chief Constable who found the meeting very invaluable. This gives the sixteen villages in the Chippenham community area an opportunity to meet in a venue typically a village hall, kindly hosted by the villages in turn and discuss issues such as speeding which they may have in common and to share experiences and intelligence. The Neighbourhood Police team are regular attendees too and equally find the forum very useful.

Wiltshire Council finances continue to be strong and are certainly better placed than most surrounding authorities. For the 2025/26 financial year the revenue budget will be £527m against the £490m for the last financial year. Although the government has increased social care funding by £4.8m, increases in national insurance contributions have resulted in costs of £8m. However, unlike many authorities Wiltshire Council have contained the council tax increase to just 4.5%, (2.5% basic council tax plus 2.0% adult social care levy), against the 4.99% that allowed by government. This would see an increase of £1.56 per week for those in a Band D property.

The most significant areas of spend outlined in the proposals are:

- Adult Services - £194m,
- Families and Children - £75m,
- Highways and Transport - £43.4m,
- Environment (including waste) - £49.5m, and
- Education and skills - £38m.

As before, I would like to give my thanks to the parish councils for the hard work they do on behalf of their parishes, and for making my job so much easier than it might otherwise be. Of course, as always, I hope to be able to continue to work with you all even after the local government elections on the 1st May.

Thanking you,

Howard (Councillor Howard Greenman).
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