Annual Parish Meeting of Kingsmead

Minutes of Kingsmead Annual Parish Meeting
held on Monday 18th May 2026

This meeting is the annual meeting of the electorate, and all members of the public were invited to attend. The meeting started at 7pm.

Agenda:

1. Apologies

Cllr B Boylan, Cllr D Boylan, Cllr Reed

2. Minutes

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of 19th May 2025 had previously been accepted and signed.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

4. Annual Report from the Chair of the Parish Council

Following the resignation of Cllr Weltman (Chair of KPC 2025-2026), the Chair's report was provided by Cllr Swift (Vice Chair) who started by thanking all residents for coming and then summarised the previous year.

Kingsmead Parish Council was pleased to be able to deliver a balanced budget for the coming year with no increase in the precept being requested. The money received from residents through the CWaC council tax charge is used to fund the maintenance of the estate, which includes grass cutting, tree and woodland maintenance, the ponds contract and upkeep of all the play areas. This is a huge amount of work and represents over 70% of the PC's annual budget. It should be noted that increases in council tax this year are because of rises in the contributions to CWaC, Cheshire Police and Cheshire Fire and Rescue. In particular, there was an additional rise in police funding to help retain PCSOs, which the council was sure people would support given the valuable work they do in the community.

In 2025/26, the regular maintenance contracts were re-tendered. This involved a lot of work to ensure the tenders were specified correctly, were of a high quality and will support the PC's aims for the next 3-5 years. Excellent responses were received from a number of companies, including very detailed tenders from the incumbent contractors who were retained.

The council organised two events during the year. In the summer we had a "Picnic in the Park" to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE and VJ day, with many people attending in the sunshine to enjoy a 1940's swing band. Unfortunately, we were less lucky with the weather for our Christmas event! For the first time in several years, we had heavy rains and high winds on the night and we thank all those people who still turned out to support us.

We also launched our "Friends of Kingsmead" volunteer group this year and we thank all residents who regularly help out with activities, including the regular litter picks that run on the last Sunday of every month.

Around the estate, various initiatives have been undertaken including replacing safety surfaces in two of the parks, “topping up” Coronet pond in the summer to support the wildlife, surveying all the trees and inspecting the bridges and wooden jetty. Work is still ongoing and further improvements will be made this year. Additionally we are working with partner agencies to deal with issues of vandalism and ASB.

We have unfortunately seen a number of councillors resign this year, including Helen Weltman, who was an original member of the newly formed parish council, Laura Hoey, who had been a councillor for over 12-years, Spencer Jewitt and Rick Lynch. Thank you to all of them for their contributions. We’ve also welcomed a new councillor, Ash Syed, but now have two vacancies available if anyone would like to join us. Finally I’d like to thank all the councillors who volunteer their time to help make Kingsmead an amazing place to live.

5. General Discussion

The Parish meeting was attended by the Kingsmead Mini-Police, accompanied by the Headteacher of Kingsmead Primary school, PCSO Lee Robertson, along with several parents, and four members of public.

The Kingsmead Mini-Police summarised their year and described the many initiatives they’d taken part in, including a visit to the Chesire Police Headquarters in June 2025 for National Armed Forces Day, where they were described as the “stars of 2024”. They have worked with yr-4 children on a “cross-the-road” training project and developed a parking promise that 65 parents signed up to. This was supported with parking patrols where tickets designed by the Mini-Police were issued to 21 badly parked cars. Speed gun sessions were undertaken and eight vehicles were stopped for going too fast, these were then dealt with by the Mini-Police court! Litter picking had been carried out around the whole of Kingsmead, a “Keep Safe” school video produced with the Davenham and Leftwich Mini-Police and the group had attended a training day with police officers. Looking forwards, a “Week of Action” was planned in May, which would include tackling parking issues around SJD and designing an on-line safety video. On 6th June, security marking of bikes was to be offered.

Cllr Swift thanked the Mini-Police for their excellent presentation and commended them for another year of hard work. Cllr Martin asked if the Mini-Police programme was being extended across Cheshire and PCSO Robertson commented that Kingsmead Mini-Police is seen as the model for other programmes. However, the success of any implementation is dependent on several factors, e.g. the school being fully committed to the initiative, funding and the engagement of the local PCSO/PC.

After the Mini-Police left the meeting, four members of public raised the issue of parking around SJD, with problems escalating again in the post-Easter period. The issues identified include both illegal and inconsiderate parking, such as parking on junctions, moving cones that have been put out to restrict parking, double parking, and restricting paths, etc. This extends around Monarch Drive into Wyndham Close, Sandbach Drive and Eyston Close. The residents explained how they have tried to engage with SJD about the problem but feel frustrated that no actions appear to be taken. Cllr Marr confirmed that parking generally is a CWaC concern and he confirmed that he and Cllr Sinar will be talking to residents, the governors of SJD and CWaC officers to see what steps might be taken to minimise the issues. The PCSO also reiterated that all illegal parking problems should be reported (via 101 or on-line), as this will help to demonstrate a consistent problem and will drive action to be taken.

Cllr Swift confirmed that the parish council has no powers in respect of highways issues but will continue to monitor the situation and keep the CWAC councillors informed of any future incidents.

The meeting ended at 7.50pm.