**MINUTES OF KINVER PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7TH OCTOBER 2026 AT 95 HIGH STREET, KINVER**

PRESENT: E Simons (Chairman), A Calloway (Vice Chairman), Mrs C Allen, Mrs J Godbehere, A Hughes, A Griffiths, P Wooddisse, IG Sadler, JK Hall, K Davies and Mrs V Wilson (KPC/County).

Also present: Mrs J Cree – Clerk, Assistant Clerk Mrs M Fullwood and 5 members of the public.

152/26. Apologies for Absence and to receive an update on the casual vacancy.

Apologies of absence were received from Cllr G Sisley, P Harrison (KPC/District) and Mrs D North.

No candidates have come forward so far for co-option so the seat remains vacant.

153/26. Declarations of Councillors' Interest.

Cllr P Wooddisse declared a pecuniary interest in relation to the grant application for Fokos and Cllr Mrs J Godbehere declared a pecuniary interest in relation to the Christmas event as she has a business in the High Street. Neither Councillor took part in any discussion or debate on these items.

154/26. To receive for confirmation and adoption, the Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 2nd September 2026 (copy attached).

The minutes of the meeting held on the above date, were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

155/26. Public Participation

Standing orders were raised to enable members of the public to speak

The Kin in Kinver group update was received:-

- Their latest meeting was on the 30th September, more people attended and it was a productive meeting.
- Their Christmas event is on the 13th November, great progress has been made almost everything is in place, it is a candlelit Christmas event which is more traditional.
- They have been successful in raising some funds towards running their events, as up until now they have as a group had to fund them themselves.

Standing orders were reinstated.

156/26 To discuss and agree the recommendation from the L & A Committee re the Christmas event and Road closure

The recommendation from the L & A Committee is below:-

The was one recommendation to the Council to have a road closure in place on the 28th November for a Christmas event. Cllr A Griffiths will bring forward a full plan to the Council on the 7th October 2026, to demonstrate how he will propose to organise and work with the traders on their event.

Cllr A Calloway introduced the item, following it being discussed at the L & A Meeting.

Cllr A Griffiths reported that :-

- He has visited all the businesses in the village, that may be impacted by the road closure, and had a good response. They are in favour of the event road closure. As long as it does not affect their businesses.
- Paperwork from the Clerk has been passed to him for running an event.
- From the Kin in Kinver in group it seems it was cancelled because of a lack of funding and volunteers.
- He's proposing to get a group of 12 people together to run the event, Traders, Cllrs and residents.
- The funding should be paid for by the Parish Council such as road closure and insurance.
- This will not impact the traders event on the 13th November.
- The entertainment can be the same as last year, 14 stalls from the village businesses already agreed.

Cllr JK Hall reminded the members that at the L & A meeting there was a criticism of the fair location, Cllr A Griffiths reported that he had spoken to the fair and they would be available, however whether they had them or not would need to be decided and also their location, as they would not be where they were last time. He was reminded that the previous location was the only one available in the High Street due to access for emergency vehicles.

Concern was expressed spending public money on events, and the events that have happened have been run by the private businesses and been a great success.

Cllr A Hughes said the base line for such an event has been set, so should be followed unless there is a very good way of changing things. Staff involvement needs to be monitored.

The Clerk stated that the legal position lies with the Clerk, so all rules must be followed.

If this is the Parish Council organising the event, then more than 1 Parish Councillor need to attend, as they are the legal body organising it.

Cllr Mrs V Wilson stated she attended the meeting yesterday to discuss the possible event, she feels that this is too short notice, to get enough traders, parking is an issue, drop off at the school is not an option as the pantomime will be on and using Mill House for people to use taxis to get to the area without using cars.

It had been suggested at that meeting that school children be paid to collect food deliveries from the restaurants to take them to taxis at Stone lane is a concern. Again at that meeting there was still no set detailed plan.

Cllr A Calloway reported that he is worried there are no solid plans or agreed times for the event on the 28th, it appears that there is no agreement on what times the traders want it to end and what times are proposed, He likes the idea of having a working committee to do events moving forward, but hold the plans for this event this year.

Cllr Mrs V Wilson proposed that due to the limited timescale of 6 weeks to the event that the Parish Council should not do an event and a road closure this year and the Parish Council should back the Kin in Kinver event on the 13th November and look at it the options for next year when there is more time. This was seconded by Cllr I Sadler. On a vote this was carried with 6 votes for not having an event this year, with 2 abstentions, with 3 people that did not vote.

A public statement will be put forward at the end of the meeting to inform members of the public for the reasons why this decision has been made.

157/26. County / District Councillor to address the Council on any matters relevant to the Parish

County Councillor Mrs V Wilson reported that:-

- There is a further Traffic manged road closure with traffic lights on the High Street happening tomorrow for Open Reach.
- Parish Assembly 29th October at Lower Penn, a planning officer will be attending to speak.
- Kinver Scout camp is reopening, and members thanked Mark Bache for his work in getting this facility back in use.
- The Government has told all planning authorities that they are changing the way planning applications are determined. The 3 District Councillors at the moment can call an application in to be discussed at a full planning committee. This is changing so that nearly all applications will be determined by the Officers. There will be a new system schedule 1 or 2. Schedule 1 is agreed by the planning officers, for schedule 2 there is a gateway test that the application has to pass to go forward to the planning committee. The Government has asked for this to be discussed at an extra ordinary Council meeting, which is taking place on the 8th October. If the District Council do not agree to adopt the new planning rules, after the 1st November when they are formally started, if a planning application is refused using the old procedure, the applicant can then be appealed, if they win the appeal, and this happens in 10% or more cases then the District could potentially go into special. Consultee comments should still be allowed. In addition to the above the Planning committee is being reduced to 13 members, from a previous reduction from 18 and originally all District Councillors sat on the planning Committee.

158/26. To receive an update on the Climate Change group

Cllr A Hughes reported that the group small electrical collections, will not be started again until the spring. They need help from a representative at SSDC that advises on these matters.

The energy MOT project is moving forward and resuming in late November, several people are booked in already.

The Peoples emergency film briefing will be having a second screening which will take place on the 2nd March 2027 at the EMC.

159/26. To receive any updates on the land at Brockleys Walk

Cllr P Wooddisse reported that when the District Cllr returns he will take this forward with SSDC.

160/26. To receive the minutes and any recommendations from the following Committee meetings:-

Planning Committee 9th September 2026

The above meeting minutes of the 9th September were noted and there were no recommendations. However, 17 White Hill was brought to the meeting in case any additional comments were required to be added. No additional comments were added.

Leisure and Amenities 24th September 2026

The above meeting minutes were noted and the one recommendation was an agenda item for this meeting.

The above meeting minutes were noted and there were the following recommendations:-

- To agree the accounts up to the 31st August 2026 – agreed
- To give a grant to FOKOS of £767.37 - agreed

161/26. Report of the Chairman

The Chairman reported that no updates from the previous correspondence with the Police.

The Local plan consultation response was submitted on behalf of the Parish Council, but no response / feedback has been received and he is in discussions with the District Councillor on this matter.

We have had a call for sites from the Local Authority, and this links into the Neighbourhood Plan update which also needs to take place, if areas are not nominated then they will be chosen by the Local Authority.

He has been looking at the proposed Solar Farm site at Greensforge, there are 2 fields in Kinver that are enormous. However the overall scale of the site in total will sever 2/3 of the greenbelt and visually take this into an industrial area. If it goes ahead it will be seen as far as Dudley, and the visual impact on the Greenbelt will be greatly affected.

The QR code project he has been developing further, for a history / art project trail and a local celebrity is backing the project.

He has a small group of people that specialise in certain areas, such as poetry, music, art, linking to visitor trails that are working on gathering information to go behind the codes.

He attended the Kin in Kinver Group meetings also.

162/26. To receive and note the report from the Clerk

The following items were noted:-

- To receive an update on purchasing new bins for the Parish (minimum 5 required) Cost per bin is £240. Cllr A Griffiths will give an update at the next meeting
- Complaint re grave at Comber Ridge
- To add Cllr Mrs D North to the L & A, Planning and Finance Committees this was agreed
- Important Briefing – Protecting Clerks and Council Staff from Third-Party Harassment
- 20's plenty for Staffordshire meeting - 7.30 Tuesday 13 October 2026
- LGR Update
- CCTV the recording box needs to be repaired as the SIM card reader is faulty. The engineer has swoped the boxes and sent it for repair. The system is recording and working fully.

- Tree posing imminent danger on land next to Riverside Court, Kinver was noted.

163/26. Reports from Members sitting on Outside Bodies for the Parish Council.

None were reported.

164/26. To receive the accounts for payment since the last meeting.

The accounts for payment were agreed as listed below:-

| **Accounts for payment for October meeting** | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | |
| **Accounts for payment** | **Description** | **Total** |
| Amazon | Bench brackets | £ 39.99 |
| Amazon | Brackets to install bench | £ 32.99 |
| Andy Read Services Ltd | Contractor work | £ 377.00 |
| Asda | Fuel for equipment 2 x 35 and van wash | £ 82.00 |
| British Telecom | | £ 334.37 |
| Brother | Ink | £ 32.99 |
| Colas | Checking of Xmas Lights | £ 555.00 |
| EDF | Gas bill | £ 19.29 |
| ESPO | | £ 114.06 |
| Gif Gaf | Garage, CCTV, tracker sims | £ 18.00 |
| Giants Well tap repair | | £ 60.00 |
| Glasdon | New Bench for Comber Ridge | £ 1,093.03 |
| ICO | Annual Subs | £ 78.00 |
| Inland Revenue | October | £ 2,338.76 |
| JRK | Supplies | £ 66.84 |
| Kinver Edge Farm Shop | August | £ 240.00 |
| Kinver Senior Citizens | Payment for sunshine club | £ 312.00 |
| Microsoft | 1 month | £ 10.49 |
| N F U Mutual | Van Insurance | £ 1,256.30 |
| Produlic | Fittings for swing | £ 37.82 |
| R H Electrical | Additional Xmas lights | £ 430.74 |
| ROSPA | Annual Inspection | £ 266.40 |
| Salaries | September | £ 5,806.55 |
| SCC pensions | September | £ 2,684.74 |
| Screwfix | Supplies | £ 374.90 |
| Severn Tree Management | Tree works as approved | £ 6,900.00 |
| Utility Warehouse | mobile phones | £ 28.90 |
| Viking Direct | | £ 86.44 |
| Water Plus | water rates 95 High Street | £ 48.86 |
| YGS | Office electricity | £ 92.90 |
| YGS | Comber Ridge electricity | £ 98.61 |
| YGS | High Street toilets | £ 189.14 |
| YGS | Toilet Block Kinver Edge | £ 44.97 |
| | | |
| | **Total Expenditure** | **£ 24,152.08** |
| **Receipts** | | |
| Burial Fees | | £ 1.00 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| TGS office rent | | £ | 619.51 |
| Solar Income | | £ | 18.48 |
| EV | | £ | 190.24 |
| Bench Donation | | £ | 910.60 |
| | **Total Income** | **£** | **1,739.83** |

165/26. To discuss Kinver Schools – linking together

This was raised as a potential restart of informal meetings with the school and the Parish. Cllr P Wooddisse to move this forward.

166/26. To discuss the Giants Well water connection

The water tap has been replaced and is now working.

The Clerk will invite the representatives from South Staffs Water to attend the next meeting and discuss this and other outstanding items.

167/26. Items for future Meetings of the Council

To be with the Clerk by 28th October 2026

168/26. Dates of Next Meetings –

| | |
|---|---|
| Planning Committee | 14th October 2026 |
| L & A Committee | 21st October 2026 |
| Parish Council | 4th November 2026 |
| Planning Committee | 11th November 2026 |
| L & A Committee | 18st November 2026 |
| Finance Committee | 25th November 2026 |
| Parish Council | 2nd December 2026 |
| Planning Committee | 9th December 2026 |