Kimpton Annual Parish Assembly

Wednesday 27 May 2026, 7.00pm
Kimpton Village Hall

Present

Kimpton Parish Councillors Greg Michalczyk (Chairman), Ben Girling and Judy Hart

Hampshire County Councillor Chris Donnelly

Test Valley Borough Councillor Phil Lashbrook

Caroline Nokes MP

Representatives from Montserrat Events (5)

Members of the Public (16)

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1. Welcome

The Chairman of Kimpton Parish Council, Cllr Greg Michalczyk, welcomed all attendees to the Annual Parish Assembly 2026.

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2. Chairman's Annual Report 2025/26

The Chairman presented his Chairman's Annual Report 2025/26 on behalf of Kimpton Parish Council, as appended to these Minutes.

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3. Presentation – Montserrat Events: Hampshire Air Festival

Jonathan Moore, owner and founder of Montserrat Events, provided an overview of the proposed Hampshire Air Festival to be held at Thruxton Circuit in September 2026.
Key points included:

Background

- Montserrat Events began in 2021 as a Community Interest Company, now a Limited Company to support investment.
- Experience delivering events in Lee-on-Solent, Gosport and for Fareham Borough Council.
- Jonathan was introduced to the Chief Executive Officer of Thruxton in October 2024 and discussions around the Air Show have been ongoing since January 2025.
- Jonathan presented on the Air Show to Fyfield Parish Council in January 2026 and apologised for not also contacting Kimpton and Thruxton Parish Councils.

Event Overview

- In order to make a spectacle, permission is required from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to operate below normal flying conditions. Aircraft will fly below 500ft outside of the main display area to aid flying in [from the east] and out [to the west].
- Approximately 30 aircraft expected, including formation and single displays.
- Half of the aircraft anticipated to land at Thruxton on the Friday (11th September).
- No aerobatics will take place over the A303.
- Most planes will arrive from the north.
- Maximum aircraft speed expected not to exceed 250 knots.
- Pilots will be briefed on local racing stables.
- On the ground arrivals and departures will follow usual Thruxton procedures.
- The CAA is not obliged to have a presence at the event.
- All plans are required to be sanctioned by relevant authorities and supported by the Safety Advisory Group (SAG).

Summary of questions, areas of concern and comments from members of the public

- *Licensing applications and permissions (CAA, HCC, TVBC)*
  Paperwork is being prepared. Licensing applications have been submitted to Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) and the CAA.

  Cllr Lashbrook advised that, having been involved in air shows, the CAA take air shows seriously and have strict controls. TVBC Officers have been liaising with other authorities to ensure everything is covered before documentation is issued. Thus far, Officers have been impressed with what has been submitted.
  Cllr Lashbrook assured that TVBC, HCC and the Police will do everything necessary.
- *Free tickets – 2 per household*
  The early bird marketing strategy offered 2 Adults and 4 Children's tickets.
- *Has the area been walked*
  A variety of means of assessment have been used, but the area had not been assessed on foot.
- *Livestock, horses and racing stables*
  The organisers have been in contact with the owners of the racetrack and some other owners of livestock and horses which would be present in the area during the air show. They have still to contact other owners who had registered their details on the air show website.

- *Concentration of birds / Conservation area / Listed buildings*
  There was concern about the potential impact of a bird strike by a display aircraft and of the damage which could be caused to Listed Buildings. Montserrat acknowledged that a bird strike would be a concern, and pilots are warned if flocks of birds are observed. Montserrat were unaware of the designated Conservation Areas in the locality of the airfield.
- *Secondary spectators / road closures (first knowledge of potential road closures was through leaflet)*
  Road closures will likely be implemented an hour before the event start, although this detail was still to be finalised. Roads will be open between the daytime and evening events. Marshalls will be on road closures and on footpaths under the flying area. As no air show had been held at the venue previously, Montserrat were unable to be specific on how secondary spectator areas would be managed.
- *Information updates*
  Montserrat acknowledged that social media updates alone would not be sufficient to inform parishioners of details of the event and advised that the leaflet already distributed provides details of how to sign up for email updates which would provide further information as the planning for the air show was ongoing.
- *Economic Impact / Community Benefits*
  With likely impact on trade at the pub and the cost to villagers of avoiding road closures, the benefits to the local community of the air show being held were questioned.
- *Insurance Cover*
  Montserrat confirmed that £10m of public liability insurance was in place. It was questioned whether this was sufficient to cover the costs of a major incident should one occur.
- *Data Protection*
  Montserrat confirmed that a certificate application would be made to the Information Commissioners Office by the end of the month.

With time pressing and more questions remaining from members of the public, the Chairman committed to holding another meeting, details to be confirmed.

Montserrat representatives left the meeting following the Q&A.

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4. County and Borough Councillor Reports

Cllr Phil Lashbrook (TVBC) expressed thanks to the Parish Council for its work on behalf of the village, and provided updates on:

- Devolution and formation of a new authority
- TVBC Council Tax increase of 2.96% for 2026/27
- There will be community engagement initiatives to enable parishes to grow and prosper under Local Government Reorganisation
- Planning pressures due to the high volume of speculative development

Cllr Lashbrook offered best wishes to all for the year ahead.

Cllr Chris Donnelly (HCC) had nothing further to add to matters already discussed.

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5. Parishioner Feedback Session

Parishioners were invited to comment on the following matters:

- Potential locations for a “Please drive carefully through our village” sign
- Pill Hill Brook information sign
- Potential locations for two additional Speed Indicator Devices
- Whether some or all streetlights should be switched off
- Suggestions for projects to be funded from the anticipated £7,765 Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) receipt

Comments from a variety of engagement opportunities to be collated and reviewed in due course.

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6. Open Forum

Parishioners were given the opportunity to raise any additional village matters. There were no other matters raised.

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7. Parish Councillor Vacancy

The Chairman highlighted two vacancies on Kimpton Parish Council and encouraged parishioners interested in supporting the local community to consider applying.

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8. Closure of Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Kimpton Parish Council Chairman's Review 2025/26

For those who attended our Annual Meeting last year you may remember me thanking Rachel Seddon our then new Parish Clerk who was unwell that evening and not with us, but in her first year in the role had done a great job in modernising and digitising the administration side of the Parish Council. For health reasons Rachel stepped down from the role last summer, so I find myself again thanking a new Parish Clerk. Mel Taylor joined us in August and her wealth of experience in roles at other Town and Parish Councils is proving invaluable. I do hope not to need to introduce another new Parish Clerk this time next year though.

The major topic of conversation at Council meetings this year has been around house building. The changes to the NPPF brought in by the government at the end of 2024 resulted in a larger housing target for TVBC to plan for, an increase of over 76%. This resulted in a revised draft local plan which slightly increased the proposed housing allocation on land south of the A342 in our Parish. That latest plan, if followed through, will bring over 1700 new dwellings to Parish and it also introduced other proposals for around 1000 houses at Weyhill and that is alongside a potential 1200 dwellings just across the county border at Ludgershall. The other impact of the NPPF changes is the encouragement to landowners to submit planning applications for speculative developments of housing in land not allocated for housing in any plan. We currently have two of those being talked about in the parish, one between Cow Lane and Deacon Road and the other opposite the Village Hall. I want to thank everyone who came along to our meetings to hear representatives of the owners explain their ideas. It was very encouraging to see the number of comments made by local residents to the application which has been submitted to TVBC. We await the decision on that application. The Parish Council has this year submitted comments on the Draft Local Plan to TVBC and the application for housing between Cow Lane and Deacon Road with an emphasis that all housing should be delivered based on an agreed Plan. If all speculative developments that we know about across and around the three villages of Kimpton, Thruxton and Fyfield are allowed we could have an unplanned increase of at least 145 houses in the area. I have at past meetings and in our Parish Newsletter stated that having a Neighbourhood Plan is an additional defence against speculative developments. So far no one has come forward to be willing to help create such a Plan, although it is something the Parish Council would need to sponsor it must be created by representatives of the community and not just councillors, if you think you can help please come forward.

The eagle eyed amongst you will notice a new plaque on the wall to my left. Southern Water and the parishioners of the Pillhill Pan Parishes received a Climate Resilient Places Award at the Environment Agency Flood & Coast Excellence Awards 2025 for the initiative to line sewers in our area to prevent them being overwhelmed by groundwater. Proof of the success of that work is that again we did not need tankers in the village pumping water out of the sewers this year despite ground water levels exceeding the historic trigger point for tankering back in February.

Last summer was the first year that Kimpton Village held a Summer Fete since COVID. I was away that weekend but by all accounts it was a great success. The Fete takes place again this year, next month on 20th June, and I am sure it will be a great community event again – we will have a Parish Council stand if you want to talk to us.

It has been really encouraging to see The Village Hall Trustees expand the use of this building for community activities. The monthly coffee mornings continue to attract a good number of villagers and if you like cake you really should be there. In addition, we now have two annual quizzes, the next one in July, and the bingo machine that the Trustees purchased is more than paying for itself in fundraising at the new Friday bingo evenings.

Fundraising from the Fete and by the Village Hall Trustees is going towards refurbishing the outside of the Village Hall. The cladding on the wall behind the kitchen was upgraded last year and they hope to complete the rest of the building this year. I believe there will be volunteering opportunities coming up when the work starts.

The Parish Council has looked to up our game this year with regard to making use of Grant Funding. This year we have applied for and received:

- £6,365 from the Police & Crime Commissioner for two new SID devices for the parish
- Up to £1,000 toward refurbishing the bus shelters from the Hampshire County Council Bus Shelter Improvement scheme
- Funds towards the cost of an additional dog poo bin from Cllr Lashbrook
- Bulbs and wildflower seeds to enhance the environment

We do have Mel to thank for increasing our awareness of grants and how to obtain them.

The work around the village and parish is very much not down to just the Parish Councillors, in particular I would like to thank a number of you, some are here tonight, and a few other villagers who keep things running smoothly

Firstly, a long standing volunteer Gordon Verity has for many years used the Parish Council mower to cut back the grass around the play equipment in the playing field and the grass outside in front of the Village Hall. Last year we transitioned away from needing him to work in the playing field and he has now decided it is the right time to stop. The Parish Council and the Village Hall Trustees are working on a plan to organise this task going forward

Margaret & Brian Pearce for opening up, restocking and later in the year closing and locking the village library, otherwise known as the Phone Box on The Green. Margaret also delivers our parish newsletters around the village

The team (Keith, Jock, Judy, Carrie, Rupert and Sarah Barbour) who helped put up and later take down the Christmas Tree on The Green as well as Claire and Edward who organised Carols on The Green and Niall, Lucy and Virginia who provided the mulled wine, sausages and mince pies for the carol singers at our traditional annual carols round the tree just before Christmas.

Whilst mentioning the church Graham Field, the Church PCC treasurer, also stepped in to audit the Parish Council accounts last year. He made a number of observations and Rachel before she stepped down and Mel since she joined us have worked to implement them. Our finances are a bit healthier and a lot neater and tidier for his advice.

As always with these things I may have missed out a volunteer or two. Thank you to everyone who steps up to help our community.

Finally, my thanks to fellow councillors, to Judy for her tireless work cutting back hedges, trees and footpaths around the Parish. She has been ably assisted by Sarah Davis on a number of those occasions, Ben for his grappling with the speed camera data and his work towards making our highways safer including being our representative on the A342 Group of Parish Councils. The A342 Group is looking to do for local roads what the PPPF has done for improvements in the water network infrastructure. I also want to thank Niall and Paula for their ongoing support and advice over the last year. Sadly for us as a council Paula has decided to step down from the Council so we now have two vacancies for Parish Councillors – don't all put your hands up at once but if you think you might be able to help the community do let one of us know and we can tell you a bit more about what it involves.

Looking forward this year, we are being promised a bit more money to fund things across the community. A Community Infrastructure Levy payment of over £7500 from the development of two houses behind Foyle Road is expected later in the year and we have been promised that the Community Benefit Fund payment from the Meadowview Solar Farm will be made. On that second source we have been committed to a local referendum on how that money will be spent, so do keep an eye out for details of that.

Cllr Greg Michalczyk

May 2026