



Kewstoke Parish Council Newsletter

December 2020

Welcome to the December edition of the Kewstoke Parish Council Newsletter

What a year it has been the most difficult of circumstances has brought out the resilience and kindness of it's villagers.

While many of our residents were worrying how they were going to manage with the onset of the lockdown period, a group of volunteers offered their time and services to support those in need.

Kewstoke community at it's best and we want to say



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To keep up with news, views and events, join the village page on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/Kewstoke/>



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Message from the Chairman

Well, who says every year is much the same? 2020 will be remembered in years to come as how it changed the way we do things. It changed the way the Parish Council worked and it brought challenges that none of us living in Kewstoke expected. It made me immensely proud to live in a community that got its head down and carried on getting things done.

Early into the lockdown a volunteer group was set up by Karen Jenkins and those requiring help with shopping, prescriptions or just an occasional look in on, were catered for.

The Parish Council operated throughout the lockdown using technology to have virtual meetings. This in itself was a feat with variable internet speeds and bandwidth, but every month we were able to get together to keep things happening.

I would like to thank all of the Parish Council & Mike the

Clerk who with Government guidelines were not obliged to continue meeting, but did. The extra bit that they put in made such a difference.

The introduction of internet banking last year pioneered by Mike the clerk, proved itself. Payments could be made, meaning services continued during the lockdown.

Government guidelines were followed to the letter, but Ken Harper made sure that as soon as the toilets could be opened, they were and that the play equipment was made available from the first day it was allowed to be used.

The Village Orderlies Beverley, Janet & Ron carried on with their duties which were made much more difficult by the sheer influx of numbers of visitors to our village. The warm weather early on and everywhere other than parks and beaches closed up, brought more traffic and visitors to the

village than we have ever seen.

This increased the amount of rubbish generated and the number of drivers that were not always considerate in where they

decided to park their cars.

Waste collections from the bins on the beach were increased by contractors and for the majority of the time kept up with demand, although no company was prepared to collect on a Sunday. This left the seafront on Monday mornings after a fine weekend, looking like the aftermath of a Glastonbury festival.

Throughout the year maintenance and the upkeep of the village has been fully maintained. Terry Beazley who does our maintenance, made a lovely job of refurbishing the toilets & kiosk with some help from his wife Michelle in the background.

The shelter on the promenade has its shingles replaced after a gale.

Message from the Chairman

Terry is now working his way through all of the seats on the front and around the village.

An interesting sight was seeing Glen Verncombe and Tony Morris balanced on ladders, as they refurbished all of the fingerposts in the village.



This was the second year of our stewardship of the grounds around the Terminus Car Park.

The smaller trees and bushes have generally thrived, but so have some of the more invasive wild plants. Under John Sayer's management, volunteers from the village cleared these away. (A separate item on this

appears later in this issue).

The Village website worked particularly well during a time when information was difficult to get out into the community. With Marcus Tripp at its helm, it worked very nicely with the Village Facebook page keeping everyone in the community informed.

Before I finish this unusual year's round up, I feel that a special mention should go to Adele & Mark at the Pink Shop. During the lockdown they became a lifeline to residents, unable to get out. Adele could often be seen beavering around delivering groceries and supplies to residents around the village.

So, when you look at things this way, I think that as a community we made the best of things that we could. We are not out of the woods yet, but with a vaccine hopefully closer that it was back in March, we have a lot to look forward to.

Jim MacDonald
Kewstoke Parish Council



Parking Issues

With the lockdown came the good weather and more visitors to our village and beach than we have seen before.

The Pay & Display car parks were not policed by North Somerset Council and neither were the restricted parking areas. NSC gave the 'safety of their staff' as the reason for this.

We witnessed some of the worst parking problems that we have ever seen, although a nice bank holiday weekend, virus or no virus, has caused issues in the past.

The Parish Council managed to get the local authority to put in place the additional yellow lines on Beach Road and Sand Road that they had promised to do much earlier in the year. Even now there are still some small details of that order that are incomplete. 'It's the virus you know'.

Roads close to areas with parking restrictions or double yellow lines were really badly

affected by indiscriminate parking, blocking residents in their own drives and generally creating chaos.

We tried as a Parish Council to address the issue, particularly in St Bridges Close & Myrtle Tree Crescent by surveying the residents as to how they would like future parking restrictions to be carried out. The results were such that there was no majority for any of the options offered.

Residents Parking permits were discussed, but was said by NSC to be a couple of years away and that was before the delays in everything caused by the Pandemic.

Crookes Lane was badly affected with cars opting to park along the road whilst for the most part there were many spaces available in the closed Village Hall.

Upon a request from the Parish Clerk, NSC came up with a motley selection of 7 No Parking traffic cones, one was

from the Metropolitan Police, some from Avon & Somerset Police & North Somerset Council. They were unofficial, would not be enforced, but they did their job and kept the pinch point outside the Village Hall generally free of parked cars. The cones have now been pensioned off as the winter approaches, or more accurately what's left of them have been.

This got us thinking of possible solutions going forward. The virus may well be with us next year and the parking issues will be there again when the weather is nice. It looks like a lot of the world has discovered the secret of why we all love living here.

One idea put forward was for the Parish Council to buy a number of No Parking Traffic cones branded with 'Kewstoke Parish Council'. The cones would have been kept in the Village Hall and brought out by the Village orderlies and put in place in areas of the village that

Parking Issues

would likely be affected by parking issues, say over a nice bank holiday weekend. Come the end of the weekend, they would have been collected and returned to the Village Hall ready for use again.

This could not be enforced, but the majority of visitors would comply. The Parish Council would need the permission of NSC to do this. When asked the question, they said that they were very twitchy about approving this.

They relayed that during the lockdown some residents took to getting their own cones to put in front of their houses to stop people blocking them into their driveways.

NSC received calls from some of their neighbours complaining about the unauthorised use of the cones and demanding the Council remove them, which they did.

The pros of this currently thwarted idea are self-explanatory, they are an alternative to yellow lines everywhere that restrict residents themselves and their visitors from parking outside their homes. Against are: traffic cones, no matter how new and clean they are, are unsightly.

A suggestion was made that perhaps if a Road, Close or Crescent could come to a consensus agreeing that whilst it's not perfect..... This too was put down by NSC as they say that 50% of the complaints that they receive about parking and parking restrictions come from visitors to our village. "We've been coming here from Wolverhampton for the last 20 years and never had to pay to park before." Or "It's public highway, there are no yellow lines and I pay my road tax...."

It would be good to get some feedback positive or negative from residents as

to a way forward. Perhaps if we could get an overwhelming village support for the cones idea, we could escalate within NSC.

If any of you out there have another solution, please let us know about it. By putting some sort of plan in place during the winter months, we may well be able to lessen something that causes us all a problem in the summer months.

If you have any photo's of particularly bad parking displays from over the summer or you want to give us some feedback, then please use this link to have your say:

www.kewstokevillage.com/contact



Lockdown 2020

Covid -19 Lockdown a view from the Parish Clerk

There is well used phrase Keep 'calm and carry on' which epitomises how the Parish Council sought to see its way through the many strange months of the Covid -19 pandemic. This was a situation never before experienced and one hopefully we will never have to experience again.

It was clear from very early on that in order to continue the Councils business in lockdown a number of changes would be required. We simply couldn't just give up but had to learn very quickly to adapt, which thankfully we did. Here is a brief outline of how this was managed:

The Council consists of 11 members and meets monthly to discuss and vote on decisions which affect the running of the Parish Council. My role is then to facilitate many of those decisions.

This was clearly going to be

difficult to organise in a lockdown, without face to face contact and restrictions preventing normal Council meetings, or in fact meetings of any kind.

The Chairman, Cllr MacDonald set about ensuring we could all meet 'virtually' by getting all the Councillors to download software called 'Flock' onto their Computers Tablets and Phones, which allowed the Council to attend 'on line 'meetings.

Whilst this had its teething problems, it allowed for one important resolution in particular to be passed which was to delegate responsibility for key decisions to me made by a few nominated Councillors, namely the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Planning Chairman.

This helped me enormously as I could now get decisions made quickly and decisively without the need for a meeting of the full Council.

These 'virtual 'meetings

could not be considered Parish Council meetings as we were initially unable to engage with the press or public, however, it was a great opportunity for reviewing and discussing events and obtaining the Councillors opinions and or confirm the guidance I was giving them.

Sub Committees and working groups were also organised 'Virtually' to discuss issues in more depth, matters such as Finance and Policies. We were being forced to move into the 21st century, not necessarily a bad thing.

One of the first things I had to organise was the preparation of the Annual accounts. This required the accounts to be scrutinised and signed off by both Internal and External auditors. Normally this would be undertaken in face to face meetings.

Clearly this wasn't going to be possible in lockdown, so through numerous phone calls, scanning and emailing

Lockdown 2020

of key documents from my office at home and emailing requested information to the auditors, I successfully managed to get the accounts signed off.

Interestingly though the law still required a 'wet' signature from our Chairman to complete the process, again this proved challenging but manageable with documents posted through letter boxes.

The Council still had an obligation to pay its suppliers and staff. Fortunately we had moved to Internet banking before the pandemic and so I could email the proposed payments to Councillors to approve as well as scanning the invoices and sending them to the authorised signatories to verify before approving them on-line. I simply managed to make a payment run from my office without physically meeting anyone. Everyone got paid on time.

Running the Payroll didn't require any changes as this was processed 'on line' prior

to Lockdown.

The Council employs a number of staff and I had to ensure that they were strictly following Government guidelines to keep everyone safe. We made the decision that the Village Orderlies were not required to attend to their duties, as whilst important, these were not considered vital.

We also closed Toilets in the Bus Terminus Car Park which meant our Maintenance Manager was not required to attend on site.

Following consultation with other Local authorities and again following Government advice we closed the Children's play area.

The most striking aspect of the lockdown was that it was all new to everyone, including the UK Government, so in order to make decisions or interpret guidelines I was in constant contact with Clerks from other Parish Councils, contacts in Town Councils and professional bodies via

email and virtual meetings, as well as regularly visiting the Government Web site for advice.

As the restrictions started to ease, and a number of facilities were reopened and our staff returned to work.

This required me to undertake a number of new risk assessments as well as updating existing ones to ensure that as things started to get back to the 'new normal' everyone, staff and the Public remained safe.

Some examples of the risk assessment that were required related to, the use of the Bus Terminus Car Park toilets, including cleaning and cash collection, the children's play area on the Village green, and the way our staff operated as they returned to work.

Full consultation on all the changes was undertaken with all our staff via phone calls.

Eventually when we were allowed to hold a full Council Meeting in the Village Hall a further risk assessment was

Kewstoke

required and circulated to all councillors prior to attendance.

Hopefully in time this pandemic will come to an end or at least be brought under control and we can get back to the new normal, although I feel this may be some while off, but rest assured we will endeavour to ensure that the business of the Parish Council will continue unabated.

Mike Hardwick
Parish Council Clerk

Get in touch

<https://www.kewstokevillage.com/>

parishclerkkewstoke@gmail.com

For Village Hall enquires, call
01934 515120

KEWSTOKE
IT'S UP TO YOU
PLAY YOUR PART

EVERYONE MUST FOLLOW THE COVID RULES

WHEN YOU GO OUT

- Wash hands
- Cover face
- Make space

YOU MUST BOOK A COVID-19 TEST IF YOU EXPERIENCE ANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS

- High temperature
- Cough
- Change or loss of taste or smell

IF YOU HAVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS, NO MATTER HOW MILD

- Self-isolate
- Get tested
- Keep others safe

www.nhs.uk/coronavirus

North Somerset Council

KEWSTOKE VOLUNTEER TRANSPORT

In January of this year, we held a few meetings in the village hall, regarding setting up a transport scheme to help residents of Kewstoke, who may have been in need of a lift to the hospital or doctors.

This would have been on a volunteer basis, with a local co coordinator, to put people in touch with each other.

We all know that during the winter or summer, its hard to get public transport for hospital or doctors appointments and several residents felt they could help in some way. Especially with the more vulnerable in our village.

We put out flyers for additional volunteers, but the dreaded COVID struck and the scheme had to be put on hold until 2021.

Hopefully, if we ever get back to normal, the scheme will

try to gauge interest from residents in 2021.

Look out for our flyers.

SPRING FLOWERS

If when getting your garden ready for winter, you find you have any spare Daffodil or Tulip bulbs perhaps you could plant them in the hedges around our village.

Its always a great sight to see all the Daffodils on the roadside , when entering our village, lets try to make it even better.

Rose Cunningham

Would you like to advertise your business on the Parish Council website?

Contact the Parish Clerk, Mike Hardwick, for details at:
parishclerkkewstoke@gmail.com

Welcome to the Kewstoke Parish Council Website

St Paul's Church

Sunday Services Resume

After a six-month gap caused by the coronavirus pandemic. Churchwarden Mike Tedstone, said: 'It was wonderful for our church family to meet and to worship together once more.'

Services are at 10am, as previously, and at present there will be no 8am service, coffee in the hall or church opening during the week.

Our centuries-old parish church of St Paul, nestling under Monks' Hill and its landmark steps at Kewstoke, Weston-super-Mare, is and always has been at the heart of this community.

Although the parish and this part of north Somerset is rich in history, with 13th-Century Woodspring Priory viewed from the approaches to St Paul's, the church today is very much alive, providing a beacon of worship for all and hub for the spreading of the Christian faith.

The parish of St Paul's stretches over Worlebury Hill to the edge of Weston town, to the east embracing part of Worle and to Sand Bay and the Severn Sea to the west.

Our church family is drawn from across this area and from further afield – worshippers who are inspired by the special atmosphere of the church and its surroundings, by the friendliness of the people they meet and pray with, and the range of services they find here.

With the retirement of our vicar, we are working with the Deanery of Locking and the Diocese of Bath and Wells to appoint a successor.

Meanwhile church life continues with the support of retired clergy and lay members.

Why not come and join us?

There is a welcome for everyone, whether a long-time resident of the area, a newcomer, or perhaps just a visitor to this beautiful part of the West Country.

St Paul's: new shining beacon in the night

For the first time in its more than 1000-year history, St Paul's Church is now an illuminated night time landmark.

Floodlights were switched on this month emphasising its role as a beacon of worship throughout the parish and beyond.



The lighting project, led by churchwarden Deb Low, comes to fruition closely on the reopening of the church for services hit by the pandemic lockdown.



Grumpy Old Farmer

'It is a new shining presence of St Paul's in our community,' said churchwarden Mike Tedsone, who also expressed the thanks of the church to neighbour Cedric Thomas who generously donated £2000 towards the lighting costs.

And this newest of night-time sights has attracted many pleasing comments from people around the parish and beyond. The lights are on from 5.30 until 10pm.

Coming to church? Please let us know

Please let us know if you are coming to church.

As social distancing is necessary because of the pandemic, and account must be taken of numbers, church-goers are asked to book their attendance by contacting Nancy Whyte tel.01934 516212.

The church, open for the 10am Sunday service only, is prepared in accordance with sanitary guidelines and attendees are asked to leave contact details and wear face coverings.

Hello again, hope you are all keeping well.

Covid 19 or no Covid 19, life on the farm goes on regardless. I'm in a very lucky position, the whole world goes on around me. People say when visiting me for the first time how quiet and peaceful it is. 'Like stepping back into the past about 200 years.' A far cry from the hustle & bustle of Beach Road on a fine day, with all the vast crowds that descend upon us. Sand Bay is certainly on the map. I'm afraid we have been found out.

Back to the farm in 2020. Loxton Commander has done his job again with all the cows calving around April & May. I did think that at one point he was getting too old for the job, but he seems to have a bit of Rod Stewart about him.

The very dry Spring meant the grass didn't grow as much as in some years, so crops were light. Some of the fields that I cut for silage

only yielded half the number of bales of a normal year. Hay bales were better. Second cut had some fertiliser, so made up on quantity. Hopefully we won't have a long winter and I'll have just enough fodder. It's a nightmare having to find some fodder to buy in the spring if I run out. The price is high and it isn't always available locally.

As I'm writing it will be soon time to bring in the cows and calves for the winter. First they will go onto what we call the sand tumps along the northern end of Beach Road. The ground is dry here and almost neat sand. I will leave them here until I've made enough room in the sheds to have them in. You see all the buildings are full of hay at the moment. I keep saying that I'll put up another building, but it's a big investment. Perhaps I'll let you know in the next update.

That's all until next time. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

The Grumpy Farmer

Planning Updates

A brief update on planning applications in the Parish.

There has been no decision as I'm aware of on the application for a large holiday park containing 300 or so caravan/lodges and leisure building on the edge of the village along Lower Norton Lane & Sand Road.

As it's been around two and a half years since this application was registered, the Parish Council has enquired as to progress.

The local Authority were asking for information that the applicant was slow to providing evidence of.

The Parish Council were told that as soon as a decision was made, the Parish Council would be notified.

A second application has been resubmitted for holiday accommodation for 8 holiday lodges to the rear of the Commodore Hotel with access onto the road that joins Beach Road with

Kewstoke Road.

Another application which has been approved by the local Authority, was for an extension to the number of touring Caravans/ Campervans at Country View Caravan Park. The applicant argued that these were more Covid safe, as they are more self-contained.

Also, there were a number of loft conversions & house extension applications.

The Parish Council will always comment on any application that it is asked to and try to protect the rural aspect of the village and any adjoining areas.

Sea Defences

The sea defences/dunes along Beach Road have had a battering this year.

High Tides in the Spring coinciding with gale force South Westerly winds washed away a considerable amount of sand from the dunes, which to a small extent has rebuilt itself

throughout the year.

The other problem is the vast amount of day visitors wishing to enjoy the pleasant walk along Sand Bay beach. There are many more paths down onto the beach now. The sand on these paths is loose and in dry times will blow onto Beach Road and beyond, causing more erosion.

To mitigate this the Environment Agency has made available funds to erect some fencing and to put grass in places where the problem is the greatest.

This is to allow the dunes to regenerate. I must say I'm not going to hold my breath.

The small amount of work that I do in removing sand from the concrete path along the sea wall will continue as the Parish Council receive a small grant from the Environment Agency for small maintenance works.

Russell Adams
Chairman of Planning

Kewstoke Village History

The history of Kewstoke is linked with that of Woodspring Priory on slopes of Middle Hope.

The Priory, owned by the Landmark Trust was founded in 1210 by William de Courtenay, a grandson of Reginald Fritz Urse, one of the murderers of Thomas a Becket. Visitors can reach the Priory from the Queensway in Worle.

It was in Kewstoke Church, on the north facing slope of Worlebury Hill that the Reliquary was found in a wall in 1849. A stone on which was carved an effigy was found to have a hollow cavity at the back in which there were the remains of a wooden vessel.

It was believed to have belonged to the Priory and said to contain a layer of dark substance considered to be blood from the murdered Archbishop. This artefact is held in the Somerset County Museum at Taunton. Opposite the Church is

Monk's Hill with the ancient St Kew's Steps, which connected the sea below the village to the Worlebury Hill camp in Weston Woods.

Kewstoke Local History

Group was started in 1982 by Edwin Wraight and some interested villagers. When Mr. Wraight moved away some years later the group disbanded leaving a large amount of information. This was taken over by Sue Ryall in 1989. She decided that an exhibition was the only way to show off all the valuable material. At this time there were no photographs so Sue started collecting them and the first of many exhibitions was laid on. The response to that first exhibition, which lasted a week, was fantastic and masses of information and photographs poured in.

Kewstoke Local History Group now has over 100 ledgers filled with irreplaceable material. For the millennium year every house in Kewstoke was

photographed and matched with an old photo if there was one. All information concerning that property was collected, such as who built it, who has lived in it, old deeds, the price it has sold for over the years etc.

We have ledgers on the history of many of the old families who have lived in Kewstoke for generations, with family trees and photos. A book was published for the millennium with the financial help of the Parish Council. It's called 'The Peoples Village' and its taken from tape recordings made over the last ten years of local people talking about life in Kewstoke from before the 1st World War. (The book is on sale in local shops, or contact Sue Ryall direct.)

Need help with your family history research? Free advice is available from the **Weston-super-Mare & District Family History Society** to everyone, members or not. You can contact Sue Ryall on 01934 633407 or Tony Horry on 01934 628383.

Recipes: Tried and Tasted :)

Leek and potato soup (serves 1-2)



Of the winter soups, leek and potato is one of the most comforting and tasty. Make the most of seasonal vegetables.

Method

1. Peel and finely chop the onion
2. Cut off the base of the leeks
3. Wash the leeks, chop in half and then slice into small pieces
4. Melt butter into a thick bottomed pan
5. Add leek and onion and soften
6. Add stock and bring to boil then turn down to a simmer
7. Add washed, peeled and diced potatoes
8. Add ½ of dried parsley
9. Simmer until vegetables are soft
10. Remove from heat
11. Blend until smooth and then add salt and pepper to taste
12. Put back on heat for a couple of minutes
13. Pour soup in a bowl and add some croutons (and optional chives)

1 medium onion	
250g leeks	
20g butter	
500ml vegetable stock	
170g potatoes	
½ tbsp dried or fresh parsley	
Salt and pepper	
Handful of bread croutons	

Recipes: Tried and Tasted :)

Sweet Potato Curry



Cook this tasty vegan curry for an exotic yet easy family dinner.

With spinach and sweet potato, it boasts two of your five-a-day and it's under 400 calories

½ tbsp vegetable oil	
½ onion, chopped	
1 garlic clove, grated	
½ tsp ginger, grated	
1 ½ tbsp Thai red curry paste	
½ tbsp smooth peanut butter	
1 large sweet potato, peeled and cut into chunks	
200ml coconut milk	
100ml water	
100g spinach	
½ lime, juiced	
Cooked rice	

Method

1. Melt ½ tbsp vegetable oil in a saucepan over a medium heat.
2. Add ½ chopped onion and cook for 5 mins until soft.
3. Add grated garlic clove and a ½ teaspoon of ginger and cook for 1 min until fragrant.
4. Stir in 1 ½ tbsp Thai red curry paste, and sweet potato, peeled and cut into small chunks.
5. Add 200ml coconut milk and 100ml water.
6. Bring to the boil, turn down the heat and simmer, uncovered, for 25-30 mins or until the sweet potato is soft.
7. Prepare and cook the rice.
8. Stir through 100g spinach into the curry and add the juice of ½ lime.
9. Season well with salt and pepper.
10. Serve with cooked rice.



Kewstoke Parish Council

Kewstoke Parish Council

First Monday of each month—7.00pm at the Village Hall

General public are welcome to attend and there is a 15 minute public participation slot at the beginning of each meeting.

Kewstoke Parish Councillors

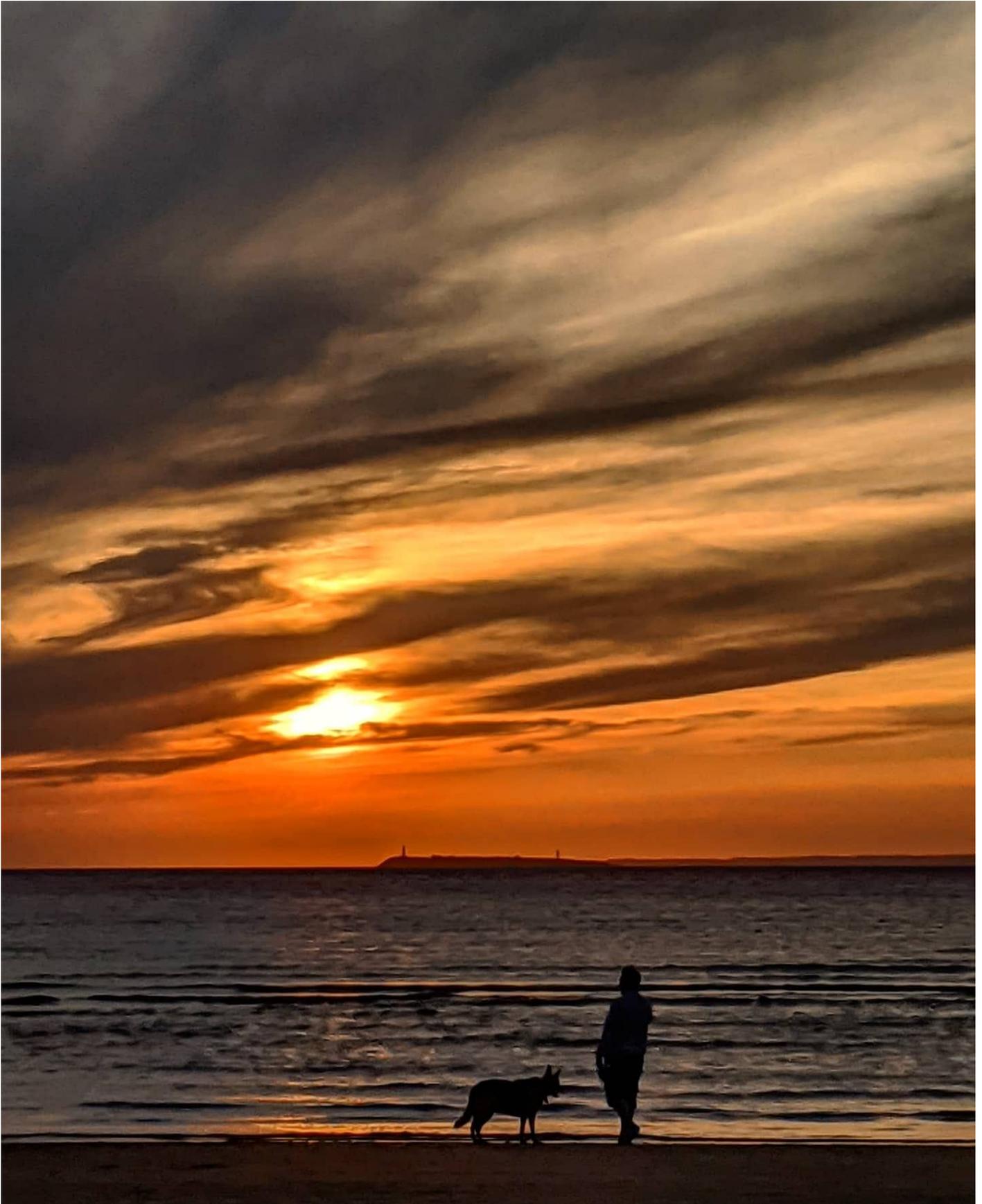
Mr Jim MacDonald	01934 642053	Chairman
Mr Tony Morris	01934 414654	Vice Chairman
Mr Russell Adams	01934 645657	Planning Chairman
Mr Mike Hardwick	07836 386244	Council Clerk
Mr Tony Horry	01934 628383	Councillor
Mrs Christine Bates	01934 620995	Councillor
Mr Ken Harper	01934 419331	Councillor
Miss Karen Jenkins	01934 221521	Councillor
Mr Richard Buckley	07825 736009	Councillor
Mrs Nancy Whyte	01934 516212	Councillor
Mr Glen Vearncombe	01934 622495	Councillor
Mrs Rose Cunningham	01934 629512	Councillor

District Councillors

Cllr Lisa Pilgrim	01934 261557 / 07935 282129
Cllr Roz Wills	01934 416915

Unless explicitly stated, opinions and comments produced in this magazine, are those of the contributor and not of Kewstoke Parish Council as a collective body.

The natural beauty of Sandbay



Front and back cover images courtesy of Andrew M Baxter

Front top image courtesy of Sophie Clare