**South Kyme Annual Parish Meeting**

Held in the Coronation Hall, South Kyme on Saturday 17th May 2025 at 1800

Chair: Cllr C Chapman (SKPC Chair) In Attendance: 4 South Kyme Parish Councillors & 36 residents.

**Welcome and Parish Council Update**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending in such good numbers. She advised that the previous year’s Parish Meeting Minutes had been distributed around the hall and asked for any comments on their accuracy. The Chair went on to highlight where the Parish Council had made progress over the last year. She advised that the village noticeboard had now been renovated; that the footpath from New Bridge to the footbridge had been completed; and a children’s play area had been negotiated with the SK Golf Club. She also stated that new waste bins had been purchased for the village and would be fitted in the next few weeks; funding for a new Speed Indicator Device to be fitted at School Corner had been allocated and would be purchased in the next few months; and that parish council reserves were finally at the advised level stated by the auditor.

**Update on Village Groups and Activities**

**Community Speed Watch (CSW)**

With the Co-ordinator of the CSW team being unwell and unable to attend the meeting, a member of the team gave an update on the activities of the group. He advised that CSW events were currently limited due to a lack of team members and further volunteers were required. However, the reduction in CSW activity did not reflect a reduction in speeding vehicles passing through the village and events completed this year indicated a rise in the number of vehicles travelling more than 50 mph. To mitigate this fact, the Parish Council had agreed to purchase a further solar powered Speed Indicator Device (SID) that would be positioned at School Corner.

**South Kyme Community Biodiversity Group (SKCBG)**

The Chair of the SKCBG updated residents on the activities of the group and talked about future events that were being proposed. She gave an update on what the current situation was with the land behind the white fence along the riverbank that had been given to the group to manage for the last year and highlighted the groups aspirations for its future. She stated that the group wanted the area to become an attractive natural state and that they wished the area to remain untouched until autumn, then trimmed before being once again left for over wintering.

**Coronation Hall**

The trustees of the Coronation Hall gave an update on activities that were currently available in the hall. They stated that they were currently financially sound however, they aspired to being a hub for activities within the village and that this would only happen if people were willing to become involved by organising events and others then fully supporting them when they occurred, both in terms of attendance and helping the organisers.

**South Kyme Women’s Institute (WI)**

The Chair of the SK WI gave a brief history of the WI and described both its ethos and practises. She described the successful events that had been organised by the group during the last year and thanked all those that had been involved in those events for all of their assistance and support. The group met regularly throughout the year and she encouraged women in the village to attend.

**South Kyme Golf Club (SKGC)**

Duncan Bustin from the SKGC advised the meeting that villagers remained welcome to attend the many social events that were held at the golf club throughout the year. He then briefed the meeting about the introduction of the children’s play area next to the golf club. There was some debate over how welcome the children were in the area established, as it had some proximity to housing on the High Street and this had caused some disruption to residents. He therefore advised that the area had been moved further up the golf practise area. Due to a change of management at the golf club the area had been officially suspended whilst the committee confirmed that they remained happy for the area to be utilised.

**Volunteering**

The Chair advised the meeting that the number of residents who were volunteering for village maintenance activities was now critical. After some discussion it was determined that either more volunteers needed to step forward or the Parish Council would need to seek contractors to be paid to carry out activities such as mowing the churchyard, maintaining footpaths, clearing fishing areas, mowing the picnic/public areas, etc.

**Keeping the Village Tidy**

Residents were once again encouraged to become involved in the Village Tidy Group which carried out maintenance tasks throughout the village on the last Saturday of every month. There was some discussion and once again the Chair stated that if there were insufficient volunteers these activities would be carried out by paid contractors.

**Village Christmas Tree**

The Chair advised that the historical way that Christmas trees had been sourced and then brought to the village was no longer tenable, partly once again to the lack of volunteers and the fact that repairs were also required to the electrical cable that supplies the tree. There was significant discussion on alternatives to the very large tree where it is currently placed. *Decision*: It was agreed that the tree should remain at its currently location but be of a more manageable and affordable size. It was also agreed that other Christmas lighting/effects should be considered along the riverbank and open public areas.

**Public Topics**

There were no public topics raised.

**Presentation of the John Casswell Good Citizen Award**

As a way of thanking members of the Parish for their contribution to the community, whether that be by volunteering their time, or selflessly contributing to a better village environment or just for being particularly public spirited by becoming involved in events and activities, the Parish Council had agreed to present an award on behalf of the Casswell family in the name of John Casswell. John was extremely public minded, and he was personally awarded a trophy for having served 40 years as the Chair of the Parish Council.  Through the John Casswell Good Citizen award the council hoped to continue to remember John for being such an incredible member of the community himself and to say thank you to others without whom the community would not be the place it is today. The award consisted of a trophy to bear the winner’s name, which would reside within the Coronation Hall for all to see, a personal trophy for the winner to keep along with a gift of £50 as a way of rewarding them being such good citizens and for the brilliant work that they had done. The award was presented by Michael Casswell to Josie Phillips.

The meeting was closed at 1920.