

**Minutes of the Autumn General Meeting of the Kenley and District Residents' Association
held on Wednesday 8th October 2025 at Kenley Memorial Hall at 7.30 p.m.**

Present: Christine Heal (CH); Tony Heal (TH); Simon Brew (SB); Paul Keating (PK); Tony Avery (TA); Stella Stocker (SS); Linda Richman (LR).

Councillors: Gayle Gander (GG); Ola Kolade (OK) and 33 members.

Apologies: Geoff James, Mal Maskrey, Mike Street, Mr & Mrs McCausley

1. Chairman, Christine Heal welcomed Members, Councillors and Committee and the two police officers and hoped they would all enjoy the meeting. CH read apologies and went through the content of the meeting.
2. **Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 29th April 2025:**
CH said copies of the minutes had been circulated to the members attending. There were no matters arising from the minutes. Minutes were approved.
3. **Committee Items:** CH introduced Paul Keating who highlighted what the Committee had been doing recently.
 - **Hanging baskets** – to brighten up the parade of shops it was agreed KENDRA would fund the hanging baskets. PK asked members for their opinion and the majority agreed they looked good and agreed we should do them again next year. It was noted and accepted by the membership that the original cost of £1,800 had exceeded the committee's allowed spend limit of £1,500 but the transaction had included both the needed basket wall fixings and £300 VAT..
 - **Wattenden Pond** – On Sunday scouts will form a working party at the party. Next planting session later this month.
 - **Membership** – PK said he had received several queries regarding Member Mojo and whether we still took cash, we do still take cash if you do not pay online. There is no ongoing security on the set up.
 - **KRAS** – (Kenley Residents Against Speeding) A KENDRA sponsored campaign. We are gathering evidence of speeding in the area and engaging with the Police. If members would like to help gather evidence/data which we can pass on we would be most grateful. A full description of KRAS is on Page 14 of the Autumn magazine.

A member mentioned about trying to smarten up the parade of shops and spoke about one shop when she asked if they could clean sign or sweep front. The reply was not very polite. She asked if there is any way they could have some form of ID to say doing it on behalf of RA.
4. **Chairman introduced Metropolitan Police Officers** - Joe Hewitt and Karolina Aamir.
Officer Joe said they are trying very hard to sort issues of shoplifting and speeding as they are short staffed and keep being called away to help with marches that have recently been held in London. Carolina said they are no longer on social media so there is a new way to contact them called Met Engage. They had bought a sign-up sheet with them which also had a QR Code which could be scanned. They can send alerts on Met Engage, they are based in Addington. Joe explained that if you call 999 or 101 if they are in the office they can deal with a call, if not it goes to a response team in the locality. A member asked if a Police presence outside schools. Joe said they can drive past schools but do not have resources to be outside a number of schools. Chairman thanked the Police for attending as they had to go on duty.
5. **Chairman introduced Linda Duffield** – RAF Kenley to speak on Challenges, Triumphs and Tragedies with slides. Linda said she was a volunteer with Kenley Revival and researches mainly WWII and the Battle of Britain in 1940. The airfield was constructed in 1917 because Britain needed more aircraft to fight in Europe during WW1. It was built on farmland and Kenley Common, which was owned by the City of London. It was a former station of Royal Flying Corps, Seven blast pens were built and airfield became known as No 7 Aircraft Acceptance Park where manufacturers sent their planes. After 1918 Kenley was used as permanent RAF station and used by Training & Fighter Squadrons as well as leisure and cargo flights. Evidence has been found that the Officer's Mess was built in

1925/26. In August 1939 Kenley Airfield underwent major work and 1940 built new runway in time for Battle of Britain. In May 1940 Royal Engineers worked to finish 12 blast pens some of which still exist and are still dry. Kenley thought to be best preserved of all WW11 RAF Fighter Stations. Linda went through some names of people who had served at Kenley during WW1 and WW11 and those who had received the Victoria Cross. Cecil Griffin, Douglas Bader (who had his first posting in 1930 in Kenley), Paddy Finucane who had 28 victory's to his name. Unfortunately time was limited or we could have listened to Linda all evening.

Chairman thanked Linda for a most informative talk.

6. **Councillors Gayle Gander and Ola Kolade took the floor**

Gayle also thanked Linda for a very interesting talk and thanked KENDRA Committee for all they did to improve the life of Kenley residents and said she would list what they do.

- Holding your elected representatives to account.
- Supporting residents with planning
- Protecting our green spaces
- Cleaning and brightening our streets
- Bringing residents together through meetings and magazine
- Supporting infrastructure and making our roads safer through the Kenley Community Action Group
- Bringing a bus to Kenley
- Working with young residents through the bug hotel at the pond – and supporting the new amenities such as the slide at Roke Open Space.
- Saving lives through initiatives such as the Save a Life Campaign.

Ola and Gayle continued to say what was new in Kenley

- The bus up to top of Hayes Lane
- The Crossing – to make it safer for school children and pedestrians crossing the A22
- Road improvements in Old Lodge Lane, Colescroft Hill, Valley Road, Lodge Hill, Cedar Walk
- Protecting Kenley's character – Firs Road./ Wattendon Road
- Bourneview Railway Crossing – working with Southern Rail to make it safer
- Speed bumps on lower Hayes Lane
- Speed reduction on airfield road
- Deep clean of the wooded part of OLL
- Bollards to protect Betts Mead from traveller incursion.

A member asked about the Kenley Hotel, OK replied they were meeting with Friends of Kenley Hotel and Mayor to see what can be done as Landlord had sadly passed away.

Another member asked if something could be done about gulleys where she lived as they cause flooding – GG asked her to speak afterwards. Another member asked about play equipment for Bourne Park?

CH thanked both Councillors and said we were so lucky to have such good Councillors.

7. **Any Other Business**

There was nothing anybody wanted to ask.

The Chairman closed the meeting and thanked everyone for attending and GG and OK were there to chat with people if anyone wanted more information.

The meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.