



PARISH COUNCIL
Kempsey

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 11 MARCH 2024 AT 7.30 PM AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

PRESENT: - Cllr Waller (Chair), Cllr Stevens, Cllr Gardener, Cllr Cooke, Cllr Clamp, Cllr Bicknell and Cllr White.

IN ATTENDANCE: - County Cllr Allen and District Cllr Harrison
Mr. Biddle plus 5 other members of the public.
Sharon Baxter Parish - Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

1. Apologies: Cllr Anstey (Work Commitments) - Accepted
District Cllr Michael (Personal) - Received
2. Declarations of Interest
 1. Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interest.
 2. To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature - None
 3. To declare any Other Disclosable Interests on items on the agenda and their nature - None
3. To Consider Written Requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) - written requests to be submitted to the clerk prior to the meeting - None

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Notes from Public Question Time are appended to these minutes.
Reports from County Councillor Allen and District Councillor Harrison were noted.

4. Minutes: Having been previously circulated, the minutes of the EOM Parish Council meeting held on 19.02.2024 were signed as a true and correct record.
5. Correspondence for Information: - Under General Data Protection Regulations names of Identifiable subject/matter withheld
 1. King's Official Portrait - Registration will be made to obtain a picture of the King's Official Portrait. The location for display is yet to be decided upon.
 2. Freedom of Information Request dated 28.02.2024 - Ecological matters - Community land, Pixham Ferry Lane. The authors have been contacted concerning placing this information in the public domain.
 3. Letter dated 4.3.2024 - Commons Act 2006 - Section 16, Common Land Exchange Hopfields, South Worcester Urban Extension, Worcester - to deregister an area of Ham Common and to provide replacement land in exchange for the land to be deregistered. Cllr Gardener to help devise a response.
6. Finance
 1. Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised.
 2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement - For Information Only.
 3. Capital Budget - For Information Only
 4. The wording of the initial proposal was amended to state: -
'Proposal to reconfirm the earmarked reserves as of 19.02.2024 with the additional transfer of £120k from the HSBC Account (ending 8284) to Nationwide for the purpose of Infrastructure/New Community Development at Pixham Ferry Lane.'

Action

This was then voted on and carried unanimously.

5. **RESOLVED:** The Asset Register was reviewed and adopted for 2023/2024.

Action

7. Committee Report Updates and Proposals: -

1. Finance & General Purposes Committee: Cllr Waller gave a brief overview of the agenda items discussed at the meeting which took place on 7.3.2024.

2. **Environment** & Recreation: Vacant

Cllr Cooke presented a summary that Kempsey Cricket Club is to be wound up and taken out of the league system. A meeting is due to take place with Worcester Amigos who are proposing that they make Kempsey their permanent home. A further meeting with consideration of a new lease is to go ahead.

a. Proposal to renew the Contract of Services for the Lengthsman from 01.04.24 to 31.03.25.

ITEM DEFERRED to April agenda

b. **RESOLVED:** To agree use of land at Plovers Rise for KCFC Family Fund Day on 12.05.2024.

- Working Party: MRWP Update: Cllr Clamp.

Seeking to improve the existing daffodil signage.

The planter is to be relocated from the shop.

New half barrels have been obtained for planting to replace those located outside Kempsey Community Centre.

Cllr Clamp confirmed he will attend (remotely) the Clifton Liaison meeting due to take place on Thursday 14 March 2024.

3. Community Centres: Cllr Stevens

Nothing to report apart from ongoing maintenance.

Next meeting to take place on Thursday.

4. Infrastructure Committee: Cllr Waller

Target is to try to make the planning application before April.

Cllr Waller and Cllr Gardener met with a local company to discuss their undertaking of the landscaping and arboricultural reports. They will work up a quote for this work.

The site outside of the bunded area has now been topped and ploughed.

Cllr Harrison to progress, if possible, a meeting on site with the archaeological officer to discuss the archaeological work to be carried out. Coordinates awaited from CS to peg out the area of the building prior to the meeting.

A DTM with the architect is to take place on Thursday

Following the Public Consultation an offer to help with the project came forward.

This is an informal arrangement to be considered in the proposal below.

a. **RESOLVED:** Simon Yeates was appointed as a new non-voting member of the Infrastructure Committee. His expertise will be helpful in the construction design, tendering and build stages. He has been invited to the next Design Team meeting so he can become more familiar with the project before the planning application is submitted.

b. Membership of the Skatepark Working Party – progression

Following the resignation of the Chairperson from the Skatepark Working Party, Cllr Charnock and Cllr Bicknell expressed an interest in taking the project forward. Awaiting a response from Cllr Charnock to confirm he is still willing to do so.

RESOLVED: Cllr Bicknell was formally appointed to the Skatepark Working Party

4. Commons and Hams: Cllr Cooke

A meeting took place on 20 February 2024 with discussions including Biodiversity, establishing Ashmoor Common as a wetland area, tree planting on Stonehall and Kempsey Common. A meeting progressed with Worcestershire Wildlife Trust who discussed how we could work together on various projects. There are many actions to follow up.

5. Planning Committee: Cllr Gardener

A meeting took place on Monday 4 March 2024 with only one item for discussion. This comprised of two applications for planning permission M/23/01509/FUL and listed building consent M/23/01558/LB respectively.

8. Chairman’s Report: Cllr Waller

- Community Builder update - A report was circulated which included the activities for this month. A meeting of the Guiding Panel is to be arranged soon.
- Annual Report Production - Cllr Waller to follow up the offer made by Mr. Ferguson. The intention is to produce 200 copies, compiled in the same format as last year.
- Guest Speaker suggestions for Annual Parish Meeting, date, time and venue to be agreed. Date to be confirmed subject to availability of guest speakers. Suggestions included inviting Nick Hubble at RAF Defford, which is within National Trust at Croome, who is very knowledgeable about the events in the area during WW2 and also the new Head of Planning for MHDC, Ian MacLeod.
- Battery Box Project - National Grid have agreed a connection is viable at Plovers Rise and are keen to move the project forward.

Meeting Closed at 9.33 PM

Signed Chairman..... Date

Standing Orders were adjourned.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Geens referenced the noticeboard which had been erected in a landscape format outside the Parish Hall, being an initiative of the MRWP to tidy up the outside appearance and to match the other existing ones. He requested if this could revert to a portrait style to enable parishioners to read the content easier. The MRWP felt the landscape noticeboard was satisfactory.

Mr Biddle raised a question about the 5 year housing land supply in respect of various planning applications received over the years and the dangers of possibly further applications being made pending the progress of the SWDP.

A parishioner confirmed she would be willing to join the council as a Parish Councillor. The Chairman asked if she could spare five minutes at the end of the meeting to discuss a matter.

Mr Geens passed on his compliments to the Planning Committee for their outstanding work relating to the overall appearance of the Industrial Units on the end of the Hopfields estate by the Norton Roundabout, to make as best as they could. The Chairman echoed thanks to the Planning Committee for their sterling work.

Cllr Harrison commented that the life buoy is missing by the church and that the Environment Agency is cutting the hedge by the flood defence. These matters are to be followed up by the Environment & Recreation Committee.

It was reported that a section of the bridge located by the Rocky requires some urgent repair and as an interim measure some hazard tape has been placed at the end of the bridge to dissuade people from using it.

District Councillor Report: David Harrison

Cllr Harrison commented rather than a 5 year housing land supply that a 4 Year Housing Land Supply is being sought (This is currently around 3.5-3.8 years).

He commented on the S106 funding and the awards issued this year.

He also commented on the Common Land Exchange. Cllr Gardener to supply the support statement (part of application) supplied to us by Carbon Law Partners, together with the plan.

He confirmed the archaeologist was too busy at this present time to visit Pixham Ferry Lane, but he would pursue.

County Councillor: Martin Allen

Report to Kempsey Parish Council for March 2024.

Good evening,

WCC BUDGET HAS NOW BEEN APPROVED

Now we have had the full WCC meeting on 15/02/2024 and the budget has now been approved. Below updated answers to my questions from the Deputy Chief Finance Officer, Steph Simcox.

1. **For the financial year April 2023 to 2024 how much of a deficit is there forecasted to be?**

The total gross overspend (structural deficit) currently forecast for 2023/24 (as at P9) is £35m or 8.7% of our net revenue budget. This gross overspend is being partially mitigated by additional business rates income of £4.1 million and planned additional use of reserves of £9 million, giving a net forecast overspend of £19.2 million (4.8%).

Paragraph 32

2. **For the financial year April 2023 to 2024 how much of WCC reserves have or are going to be used?**

The forecast as at the end of December is that c£61.1m of reserves will be used in 2023/24.

Table 18 in paragraph 85 which is the difference between the £144.1 at end of March 2023 and the £83m at end of March 2024

3. **For the financial year April 2024 to 2025 how much of WCC reserves will have to be used?**

The current forecast is that c£27.5m will be used in 2024/25

Table 18 in paragraph 85 which is the difference between the £83m at the end of March 2024 and £55.5m at the end of March 2025

4. **What reserves will then be left?**

At the end of March 2025, the forecast is that c£55.5m will be left

Table 18 in paragraph 85

In just three short years, the Conservative Administration at County Hall will have spent £98.989 million in reserves.

So, by the end of March 2026 the reserves will be reduced further to £45.208 million. Table 18 in paragraph 85.

HS2 MONEY TO WCC

Following the Government's announcement that part of HS2 is now cancelled, WCC are going to receive £209 million pounds over the next 7-years. Personally, I believe a quarter should go into reserves, however we will have to wait and see on how the administration intend to use the funds.

COUNCIL TAX

WCC are increasing their increase to £73.14 for a band D property which is the highest increase of 4.99%.

MHDC is raising its part of the Council Tax by £5.00 for a band D property, 2.82%.

Hereford and Worcester Fire Authority increase is £2.82, 2.99%.

West Mercia Police Authority increase is £13.00, 4.91%.

PUFFIN CROSSING NORTH END OF KEMPSEY BY THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Still awaiting firm dates when the works will be carried out.

A38 REMEDIAL WORK SOUTH END OF THE VILLAGE

Remedial work on the Section 278 Work at Main Road, Kempsey commenced 19/2/24 and is still hoped it will be completed on or near abouts the 15/3/24.

ADOPTION OF ROADS THE GROVE

The developer constructed much of this site before technical approval and therefore before an S38/278 Agreement was in place. This meant WCC were not able to inspect the site during construction. In addition to this there are five retaining structures on site which affect the S38 adoptable highways and one of them affects Kings Hill which is an existing highway. WCC/Jacobs have reviewed the highway and structure designs and this resulted in the largest of the structures which affects Kings Hill needing to be reconstructed to an approved standard (this structure is staying private)

However, the adoption process appears to have stopped because the developer still needs to remove a large retaining wall so it can be reconstructed to an approved design using the correct specification materials with an acceptable design life and also the structure needs to be built so it no longer encroaches into the existing flood plain.

Because of the costs already incurred and additional costs required to replace the sub-standard retaining structure, the developer is now considering whether they will keep the highways private with their client and maintain them with a private management company.

Warmest regards

Martin Allen.

Standing Orders were reimposed.