



# PARISH COUNCIL *Kempsey*

## **MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 10 JULY 2023 AT 7.30 PM AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**PRESENT:** - Cllr Waller (Chair), Cllr Stevens, Cllr Gardener, Cllr Clamp, Cllr Cooke, Cllr Bott, Cllr Bristow.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** - County Cllr Allen and District Cllr Harrison and Mr. Biddle plus 3 other members of the public.

Sharon Baxter - Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

1. Apologies: Cllr Charnock (Personal) and Cllr Webber (Personal) - Accepted.
2. Councillor Vacancies – To consider two applications for appointment by co-option  
The Chairman explained to the meeting how the process to appoint two new councillors would be carried out. The applicants each gave a short presentation stating their reasons for wanting to join the Council with the opportunity for questions and answers. Following a voting process by paper ballot, supervised by the Clerk and scrutinized by District Cllr Harrison, Isobel Anstey and John White were successfully co-opted onto the Council, signing their Declarations of Acceptance of Office.
3. 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
4. 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.

County Councillor Report - Cllr Allen - The report was noted.

District Councillor Report - Cllr Harrison - His report was noted.

5. Minutes: Having been previously circulated the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12.06.2023 were signed as a true and correct record.
6. Correspondence for Information: - Under General Data Protection Regulations names of Identifiable subject/matter withheld.
  1. Forest Research - National Forest Inventory Trees Outside Woodland Survey – To refer to Commons & Hams Committee
  2. Email dated 23.6.23 Landscaping Request - Derrington Gardens – To issue a letter to Elan Homes and to update the parishioner who has been misinformed of the landscaping maintenance arrangements by Elan Homes, which remain the company's responsibility and not KPC's as they have advised the resident, asking when they intend to carry out the required maintenance.
  3. Email dated 30.06.23 – Demand Responsive Transport (DRT Bus Service) - pilot service Referred to by County Cllr Allen
  4. Extension of the boundary commission consultation closing date 19.09.2023.- response deferred until next meeting.

Action

## 7. Finance

1. Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorized.
2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement - For Information Only.
3. Capital Budget - For Information Only
4. Quarterly Budget Monitoring to June 2023 – Reviewed
5. VAT Recovery 2022/23 £15926.99 - For Information Only

Following advice from Parkinson Partnership the VAT126 form for financial year 2022/2023 was submitted to HMRC.

## 8. Committee Report Updates and Proposals: -

## 1. Finance &amp; General Purposes Committee: Cllr Waller

The committee met on 5<sup>th</sup> July where the following was discussed: -

- Community Builder – Grant funding agreement, project organisation and recruitment. A meeting proposed by MHDC was held with members of Welland Parish Council on 7 July. A revised job description has been submitted to MHDC for approval required by the draft funding agreement.
- To discuss options for investment accounts following receipt of £220,400 from MHDC - MHDC have recently transferred £220,400 towards the Pixham Ferry Lane project and consequently the Parish Council holds significant funds in its bank accounts. In the first instance, the Parish Office will investigate if there are any bank account opportunities with our existing providers to earn a higher rate of bank interest than we are currently getting.
- Land Registration project - Mr Geens (as a member of the public) confirmed that the Community Centre, Plovers Rise playing fields and land at the Rocky are waiting to be registered with the Land Registry, who have a considerable backlog.
- Stonehall Common trespass – a new and unauthorised track has been made across part of the western section of the common from the driveway to Little Oaks to the recently installed field gate on the residual parcel of the Elms Smallholding with anti-trespass and drainage ditches having been filled in. The owner of the smallholding has no rights to create this track without an easement from the Parish Council. A letter is to be sent to inform him of this requirement.
- Bus schemes – Information on the new Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) pilot service from WCC and the incidents recently arising with the buses have been circulated previously.
- Accessibility policy – KPC does not have a written policy to cover accessibility matters. MHDC to be asked for advice in the first instance.
- KPC Insurance – a review of the Parish Council's insurance has resulted in the following recommendations:
  - (a) to ensure cover is in place for the cost of temporary premises for the tenants of the Community Centre in the event of significant access restrictions to the building.
  - (b) to revalue the Community Centre, Youth Centre and Sports Pavilion to bring buildings cover up to date.
- Tennis Club new lease – areas of the proposed new lease require redrafting. The club has been asked to advertise that the tennis courts at Plovers Rise can be booked online and membership of the club is not a booking requirement.
- Community Centre tenant's leases – quotations to write the new leases are being sought from solicitors. An ITQ has been drafted.

- a. **RESOLVED:** To enter into a 3-year gold maintenance with SWARCO to maintain the two fixed VAS signs located at the north and south side of the A38 Main Road at a cost of £1693.50 (excluding VAT) in total.

## 2. Environment &amp; Recreation: Cllr Bott

Cllr Bott was appointed as committee chair at the meeting on 3.7.2023 where the ongoing maintenance of the Rocky was discussed together with trying to progress purchasing and installing six new litter bins.

Following on from the F&GP Committee meeting on the 5.7.2023 Cllr Stevens asked if the green storage container housing the skateboard ramps located behind the Youth Centre could be temporarily relocated behind the Talbot as they intend to hold a monthly skateboard event in the car park during the summer. Cllr Waller suggested a better approach might be to donate the skate park ramps to Kempsey Skatepark Club Limited for them to house elsewhere.

- Working Party: MRWP Update: Cllr Clamp.  
For the benefit of the new councillors Cllr Clamp outlined the aims and purpose of the MRWP.  
He confirmed that the water bowser had now been purchased and is in operation to water the flower beds.  
WCC Highways have gone ahead and installed the welcome signs without prior notification resulting in issues regarding height and location. These are trying to be resolved.

3. Community Centres: Cllr Stevens
  - The Sports Pavilion refurbishment is now complete.
  - The loft insulation at the Youth Centre, to improve the EPC rating is due to be completed tomorrow.
4. Planning: Cllr Gardener  
The committee meets on the first Monday of each month at 7.30pm at Kempsey Community Centre.  
Cllr Gardener gave an overview of the meeting which took place on Monday 3 July 2023.
5. Infrastructure Committee: Cllr Waller  
As £350K funding identified from the Football Foundation will not be available until 2025, the Design Team together with the architects are working to reduce the scope of the building to fit within the existing funds available £2.1M (less fees and reports for the planning stage of an estimated £200K).
6. Commons and Hams: Attempted to arrange a meeting on Tuesday 4 July 2023 which unfortunately, was inquorate. Cllr Cooke offered to join this committee. Councillors expressed that they were happy for him to do so.
9. Chairman's Report: Cllr Waller
  - Public Transport matters – The subject of how the Parish Council moves to a wooden bus shelter rather than accepting a metal one was discussed. Cllr White to help expediate this.
  - Anti-Social Behaviour at the Limes – Discussed in Public Question Time.
  - Smart Water signage update – Signage has been installed to complete this exercise. The press release and photographs are to be obtained from MHDC.
  - Defibrillator update – Awaiting confirmation from TW if w/c 24 July 2023 is suitable. Requesting from Kempsey CIC if there is planned training for the unit and CPR training is available.
  - Klink's adverts – Happy to place an advert seeking volunteers to join the PPG if the wording for an advert can be provided.
10. **RESOLVED:** To offer £400 contribution to help support the additional trial period of 13 weeks for Kempsey Community Bus initiative
11. Safer Neighbourhood Team Parish Contract dated 14/07/2023 to 15/10/2023  
The following three Policing priorities were identified for the upcoming quarter.
  1. Drug Use
  2. Anti-Social Behaviour and drug issues in Church Street and at the Limes
  3. Speeding along the A38

Meeting Closed at 10.23 PM

Signed ..... Chairman..... Date

## **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Cllr David Harrison announced the sad news that an ex long-serving councillor, Mrs Ann Hart, who had dedicated over 40 years of service to the Parish Council, had sadly passed away this afternoon. Councillors stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

A parishioner requested an update on the new community and sports centre. Cllr Waller confirmed the Design Team from the Parish Council were currently working on the final design and seeking to reduce costs to operate within a fixed budget. The parishioner was invited to attend the next Infrastructure Committee meeting due to take place at the end of July 2023.

A parishioner presented an update on the anti-social behaviour at the Limes expressing concerns that the hedges are being used as toilets and silver nitrous oxide cannisters are being used and littered onto the ground and the difficulties experienced living on the Limes.

Cllr Waller gave an update on how the Parish Council has tried to expediate the situation which included:

- Asking MHDC to cut back the vegetation along the Main Road to make the location of the bench more conspicuous.
- Made enquiries with MHDC to see if they would be prepared to empty a litter bin located next to the bench.
- Police request to install CCTV.
- Considered moving the bench within the Limes.

An agenda item will feature on the August agenda to table further discussions regarding police and the crime levels.

Mr Biddle confirmed the next meeting of the Patients Participation Group was on Tuesday 18 July 2023 at 5pm at Haresfield surgery. They are still seeking new members. Cllr Gardener tentatively agreed to attend this meeting who is well-versed in the anticipated developments in the Kempsey area and potential 106 moneys some of which may have implications in respect of public health requirements.

He requested the following: -

'Can you let me have your questions that you would like to ask the practice and local health organisations regarding ongoing funding and how it affects Kempsey patients? They will be brought together and shared with the practice and then with the wider health organisations.'

A parishioner commented on how much interest there was for a new skatepark and pumptrack and asked if the Parish Council could consider progressing with this feature on the new community and sports centre site, even if this meant submitting two separate planning applications. Cllr Waller confirmed that no planning application could be made without reference to access arrangements both for the skatepark and the larger development so little would be achieved by a skatepark specific planning application.

Cllr Harrison commented that the Parish Council may wish to consider installing ball stop nets at the playing fields following an incident where cricket balls had landed in the children's play area. This is to be referred to E&R Committee for consideration.

## **County Councillor Martin Allen**

Good evening,

### **A38 WORKS AND BUS STOP**

With great reluctance the permits to work on the A38 have been renewed.

The work is now scheduled to be completed on 3<sup>rd</sup> of September 2023.

There are to be some night closures to enable the surface to be laid and marked out.

I don't currently have the up to date dates, but it appears to be at the end of August running into September 2023.

I have now requested clarity as to what will happen in regard to Old Road South, Bestman's Lane, and the Roman Road when the A38 is closed. Once I have an answer, I will let you know.

### **BUS SHELTER**

I checked again with Highways, they will not object if you get Taylor Wimpey to install a different type of shelter, but they will not accept any responsibility for it. WCC want to stick to the S278 legal agreement, and the Developer is only obliged to provide that shelter.

### **REMOVAL OF REDUNDANT BUS SHELTER**

KPC asked WCC (Tanya) through me if the redundant bus shelter is going to be removed.

I am still waiting for a reply.

## **PIXHAM FERRY LANE BAYS**

I have not had an update; I have asked for a start date and who is going to do the work.

## **COMMUNITY BUS**

Is still up and running, both WCC and I would like to continue it.

You should have had an email from Madeline Sumner asking for £400.00.

I have offered £200.00 more and WCC are putting up £245.00. WCC are also asked Severn Stoke Parish Council for a contribution. This takes the service up to 22/09/23.

Can you please put up leaflets on your notice boards, there was nothing on the boards at Kerswell Green and Stonehall Common.

The number of users for June have been 5 or 6 passengers each week.

## **ON DEMAND BUS**

There is a new on demand bus that has been launched in our area. I have emailed you what details I have.

I am very disappointed that both you and I were not consulted before the launch.

The bus will run from 7am to 7pm, Monday to Saturday. There is a flat fare of £2.50 for all journeys, with additional passengers paying £1.25, ticket bundles are available as well as concessionary cards.

There is an app, anyone who cannot use an app can phone 01905 765765 and choose option 0 for assistance. I have tried to use the app twice and it has failed. The phone is not manned on a Saturday.

Finally, Cllr Tom Wells and I have had a briefing just over a week ago. We pointed out that this new bus does not go to The Worcester Royal Hospital, Haresfield House, Worcester. Tesco's, Aldi, or St Peters Garden Centre.

In fact, part of my Division, Croome and High Green had been totally missed off the Zone of Pick up and Travel!

### **CROSSING NORTH END OF KEMPSEY BY THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

I will have the next meeting in September with Tina. At the last meeting in June Safety refused the application for a Zebra Crossing, the amount of vehicle movements each day preclude a Zebra Crossing.

However, a Toucan Signalled Controlled Crossing has been approved, subject to funding. The cost has increased to approximately £250K. Tina is applying for match funding to see if the funds can be found.

### **TARMAC AT CLIFTON**

Still no news if they are staying or leaving the site.

### **KERSWELL GREEN VASS POLES**

I have now found that the land is owned by KPC I am meeting Tanya next week to agree locations. WCC will be writing to you asking for permission to erect 2 x VASS poles.

### **DERRINGTON GARDENS**

I have forwarded you the emails I have received about Derrington Gardens.



## BOUNDARY REVIEW WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

This round of the consultation has been extended into September 2023.

Based on the current numbers of voters in this Division, Croome was predicted that by 2029 it would have about 1000 voters more than permitted.

Following my totalling up of the present day number of voters and then subsequently the Boundary Commission checking my figures, they have admitted they are in the wrong!

Interestingly, the Division of Powick is also out by about 1000!

I would suggest that you put in a comment that you would prefer the Division to remain as it is.

The current timeline from the Boundary Commission is:

- 16 May 2023 We decide how many councillors there should be
- 16 May - 24 Sept 2023 We carry out an initial public consultation with local communities
- 31 October - 23 January 2024 We carry out a public consultation on our proposals
- 7 May 2024 We publish our recommendations
- TBD We ask Parliament to approve our recommendations
- 2025 New arrangements apply to local elections

This is the link to the boundary review: <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/worcestershire>.

## **VASS UNIT**

Having checked with WCC, they cannot get your VASS Unit repaired, however they help with the ordering of one, which looks like it would be cheaper. Currently the cost of a unit is £2150.00 plus vat, this includes the solar panel.

## **COUNTY COUNCIL OVERSPEND**

You may have seen in the papers that WCC have overspent by just over £7m.

I have not had anything official from the County Council.

## **ABANDOND VEHICLES ON LAWNSPOOL DRIVE**

Following complaints to me over the weekend, could I please explain that this issue does not fall under WCC, it comes under MHDC remit. I have checked, both of your District Councillors are aware of the situation, and I leave it to them to give you any updates they have.

Warmest regards

Martin Allen.

### **District Councillor: John Michael**

- The District Council is relatively quiet at the moment.
- Continued to carry out his work with Platform and Rooftop Housing.
- Various issues addressed including signage of flats at Kings Hill and garden/tress and kerbs at Court Gardens.
- The skatepark event was very well attended and really needs to move forward.
- Cllr Michael emphasised any evidence surrounding drug issues and anti-social behaviour should be passed to the intelligence of police.

### **District Councillor: David Harrison**

- Highlighted that the shop was shut again due to staff shortages.
- Planning – 225 dwellings for St. Modwen approved.
- To consider a detailed planning application Welbeck/Hatfield Brook
- No update on the Post office lane appeal.
- MHDC seeking a new Director of Planning as Gail Wootton is leaving.

*Standing Orders were reimposed.*

