



PARISH COUNCIL *Kempsey*

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 7.30 PM AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT: - Cllr Waller (Chair), Cllr Gardener, Cllr Clamp, Cllr Cooke, Cllr Charnock and Cllr Anstey

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

1. Apologies: Cllr Stevens (Personal) and Cllr White (Personal) - Accepted
The Chairman regretfully announced the resignation of Cllr Bott from 13 November 2023, following receipt of her email communication, confirming this left 8 councillors remaining with 5 vacancies.
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.
County Councillor Report - Cllr Allen - The report was noted.
District Councillors Report - Cllr Harrison and Cllr Michael - The reports were noted.

4. Minutes: Having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 09.10.2023 were signed as a true and correct record.
5. Correspondence for Information: - Under General Data Protection Regulations names of Identifiable subject/matter withheld.
 1. Parishioner Letter Addressed to The Secretary - Edward Elgar - Information
It was suggested to send this information to the Managing Director of Croome Estate due to Links with the Elgar Society - to the Archaeological Officer and to the Hive.
 2. Parishioner update - Developments with Saxon Meadows Orchard - This has already been referred to Planning Enforcement and is for information only.
 3. Resignation Ann Smith from the Churchland's Trust Committee - The Parish Council can nominate a representative to sit on the Churchland's Trust, who does not represent the Parish Council. The Chairman asked if anyone would be interested in joining. No one expressed an interest.
 4. Kempsey CIC Safer Roads Grant Application Form 2023-2024. As this was time imperative Kempsey CIC submitted an application form to progress.
 5. Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Update the Flood Risk Management Team - Responses by Friday 24 November 2023. Cllr Gardener and Cllr Clamp to devise a response.
 6. Resignation of Cllr Shalini Bristow and acknowledgement
As there are now 5 vacancies, Cllr Charnock suggested a recruitment drive, by re-posting a revised advertisement on social media and revamping the poster to display on the noticeboards/website to encourage people to join. He undertook to bring forward revised advertising materials for the vacancies.

Action

Clerk

RG/
SC

MC

6. Committee Appointments
 1. Following the resignation of Cllr Bristow, at least one councillor is requested to join Community Centres Committee to comply with quoracy numbers as stated in Standing orders - **ITEM DEFERRED** to next meeting.
7. 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. Please note MHDC have paid first half of Community Builder funds of £25K on 18.10.2023
8. Committee Report Updates and Proposals: -

1. Finance & General Purposes Committee: Cllr Waller

The committee met last week to set a preliminary budget for 2024/2025 and also came up with several proposals to be reviewed on 20/11/2023. The renewal of the leases has moved forward. A query is being followed up with the solicitor regarding client representation.

- a. Proposal to change the quoracy arrangements for the Planning Committee

RESOLVED: To amend the wording to the original proposal to read 'Proposal to change the quoracy of the planning committee to one third of the number of councillors (rounded up to the nearest whole number) with a minimum of 3 councillors for a quorum.' This was agreed and then voted upon. **RESOLVED:** Unanimously agreed, to change the quoracy of the planning committee to one third of the number of councillors (rounded up to the nearest whole number) with a minimum of 3 councillors for a quorum. To take place with immediate effect.

- b. 80th Anniversary celebrations to commemorate D - Day Event - 6 June 2024

In order to secure services for this event confirmation is required from the Parish Council that it will support it in principle and underwrite the costs for this event to take place on Kempsey Common. It was agreed unanimously for the event to go ahead. District Cllr Harrison is seeking permission from the Parish Council to transport less able people up Kempsey Common to help participate in these celebrations. In the past he has personally driven parishioners up to the top of Kempsey Common and requested to have this request/permission formally documented. He was advised this would be dealt with under the risk assessment.

- c. **RESOLVED:** To authorise the Clerk to reinvest monies currently held in HSBC

(approx. £280K) Pixham Ferry Lane Account and distribute as follows: -
Unity Trust - £40K – Instant Access Account

Cambridge Building Society - £120K - Saver Account - Instant Access

Nationwide Building Society - £120K - Business Instant Access Saver

- d. Proposal to accept a quotation for a buildings valuation to be carried out of the Community Centre – **ITEM DEFERRED** due to not having the details to hand.

- e. **RESOLVED:** To reinvest monies currently held with Cambridge & Counties of £86363.37 plus interest (due to mature on 16.11.2023) into a 1 year Fixed Rate Bond Issue 5.20% with them.

- f. Please note the new pay scales for 2023-24 have been agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services (NJC) to be implemented from 1 April 2023. (CALC advise that no formal agreement is required to the pay increase as it is an existing contractual obligation.) – For Information Only

2. Environment & Recreation:

Cllr Charnock reported that an application needs to be submitted to MHDC regarding works required to the Hornbeam Tree located in The Rocky.

- Working Party: MRWP Update: Cllr Clamp.

The landmark tree has now been planted on the corner of Windmill Lane with support from the Lengthsman and Assistant Lengthsman. A plaque is being considered to place next to it.

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

SC

3. Community Centres: Cllr Stevens
CCTV has now been installed at the Sports Pavilion.
Damage to the brickwork on the wall in front of the Youth Centre has now been repaired.
a. Proposal to replace the front doors of the Sports Pavilion - **ITEM DEFERRED**
4. Planning: Cllr Gardener
The Planning Committee meet on 6 November 2023 where various planning applications were considered.
CALC Neighbourhood Development Planning Training Course - Cllr Gardener provided a brief overview of the course content and the advice given. It was agreed that it would be appropriate to set up a small working group to initially consider a way forward with regards to a review of the Kempsey Neighbourhood Plan, including its purpose and the procedures and policies involved.
We have been approaching Edwards Garage to reinstate a hedgerow at the rear of its premises on Old Road South. It was reported that no response had been received to either the previous letter or the reminder sent, which committee felt was highly disrespectful. A suggestion made was to make a personal visit to try to help resolve the issue.
5. Infrastructure Committee: Cllr Waller
The Design Team met last week to consider the latest information from Calfordseaden who have worked on the re-calculation costings.
To look for a solution for the Employers Agent whilst the planning application is being considered.
Looking at the weekends of 13-14 January and /or 20-21 January 2024 to hold the public consultation, at Kempsey Youth Centre, times to be decided which will support the planning application.
Hope to be having an on-site meeting with the Archaeological Officer in the near future having established with a local civil works contractor that importing 8,6000 m3 of soil onto the site is entirely viable. District Cllr Harrison highlighted it would be very beneficial to have a site map showing the proposed building, play area and car park and for an area to be pegged out for the benefit of the archaeological officer. Cllr Waller to supply.
Other Actions required - The hedgerow along Old Road South needs cutting and the site needs to be clear of vegetation.
No update on the passing bays - Cllr Waller to query with Shannonside.
A request had been made to Worcestershire Regulatory Services, in an Environmental Information Act at a cost of £46.00 to check for possible contamination of the soil of the community land due to concerns associated with orchards. Combined with Taylor Wimpey's data to discharge their planning condition, it seems that the possibility of land contamination is hopefully not going to be an issue.
- A meeting of the skatepark working party is due to take place on Thursday 16 November 2023 at 7.00pm at Kempsey Community Centre. All councillors are welcome. Cllr Waller and Cllr Cooke have already confirmed their attendance.
6. Commons and Hams: Cllr Cooke
Cllr Cooke had met with Birch Services representing National Grid who want to carry out tree pruning to the northside of Normoor Common. It is anticipated this will take about half a day and will be carried out in a professional manner.
- Worcestershire Wildlife Trust have been in contact looking to engage with people to help communities improve space for nature referencing the commons, hams and meadows. Cllr Cooke to invite to a future Commons & Hams Committee meeting to receive an overview.
- Various tree works are required: -
Normoor Common - An ash tree is in poor condition suffering from ash die back - to remove.
Stonehall Common It would be beneficial to attend to the Ash tree located outside the Doll's house which is suffering from ash die back.
District Cllr Harrison offered some assistance if he could be provided with a map.

CW

PC

9. Chairman’s Report: Cllr Waller

- Remembrance Service - Held yesterday in St. Mary’s Church. The service was very moving with special thanks expressed to Reverend leading the service and to the bugler.
- AMP Clean Energy are looking to lease small parcels of land to host micro energy storage units, or ‘Battery Boxes’. These store the excess renewable energy from the grid at times of peak renewable generation and release it onto the local network at times of peak demand. This reinforces local networks, supporting EV charging and plays a key role in the transition to net zero, with each box saving ~80 tonnes of carbon a year.
AMP CE via the Lawn Tennis Association and Kempsey Tennis Club have identified a possible secondary substation at Plovers Rise. Cllr Waller participated in a webinar with the company and explained the possible income from KPC arising from leasing out 23m2 of currently unused land at Plovers Rise to AMP CE.
The Parish Council agreed that this was worth investigating further and authorised the Clerk to sign the letter of consent for AMP CE to apply to the National Grid for a connection to the substation as a first step in investigating the viability of the proposal.
- Confirmation has been received that the TW defibrillator can be installed on the outer brick wall of the Parish Hall. The Parish Council to liaise with the Parish Hall management to install the unit currently held by KPC. Relocating the seat outside the Parish Hall may be desirable. This is to be reviewed by the MRWP.
- Severn Trent Water Roadshow – Cllr Waller attended a presentation at the Guildhall to seek opportunities for the new Community & Sports Centre on gaping hedgerows, future water management, treatment plant, grey water strategy and irrigation of the playing fields. This has hopefully now established a more effective line of communication to STW.

RESOLVED: Under The Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting(s)) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press from discussions only in respect of agenda item 10 &11 as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

10. Proposal to appoint a Community Builder - **RESOLVED:** To amend the wording of the original proposal to read as follows: -
Proposal to authorise the Clerk to offer the role of Community builder to candidate 1. (To start 1st January 2024 or by negotiation). This was agreed and then taken to a vote.
RESOLVED: Proposal to authorise the Clerk to offer the role of Community builder to candidate 1. (To start 1st January 2024 or by negotiation)

Clerk

11. **RESOLVED:** To authorise the Clerk to sign the Community Builder Service Agreement

Clerk

Meeting Closed at 10.20 PM

Signed Chairman..... Date

Standing Orders were adjourned.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Biddle confirmed the Patients Participation Group are due to meet in a weeks' time and if anyone should have anything they would like him to raise, then to please inform him. He encouraged people to support their local doctor's surgery.

A parishioner made a complaint that the hedgerow from the Parish Hall to the Crown Pub was very overgrown and is encroaching onto the public footpath making it impossible for people to walk side by side each other. The Clerk to refer to the Lengthsman.

Clerk

A parishioner confirmed that the editor of KLINKS magazine is retiring and the December/January issue will be the last in the present format. From exploring options to find a replacement editor it has been established it is not cost effective to carry on with KLINKS in its present form. The solution being 'The Kempsey Times' a small newspaper publication with advertisements, local news, church news, council news and many articles of local interest. This is also a free newspaper which will be available in many outlets and daily on-line. It was agreed by the P.C.C.'s of Kempsey, Severn Stoke and Norton to have Hughes and Company Printers replace Klinks with Kempsey Times, who will edit and produce this publication.

The same parishioner requested that a contribution towards the maintenance of St Mary's, Kempsey churchyard to be considered when devising the budgets for 2024/2025. The Chairman confirmed a provisional figure had been placed in the preliminary budget for 2024/2025 to assist with this.

District Councillor: John Michael

Cllr Michael confirmed he helps to address concerns and queries raised by residents from the Housing Association properties. A meeting has been arranged with Platform Housing (by invitation only) to walk around the Bannut Hill estate to try to address ongoing problems.

District Councillor: David Harrison - Nothing to report.

County Councillor: Martin Allen

Good evening,

Can I just thank our Chairman, Cllr Chris Waller for opening up the centre for the presentation about the Puffin Crossing.

ON DEMAND BUS

Cllr Tom Wells and I have now had our meeting, this has taken months to be organised.

The fourth official launch is to commence soon. Once I have the leaflets, I will be able to give you more information. But it now looks like the buses will take you to anywhere within the designated County Council Divisions of Croome and Powick.

Also, it will take you to: Tesco's in St Peters, St Peters Garden Centre, B&M Bargains and Aldi. County Hall/The Countywide Centre, Croome Court, Worcester Parkway Railway Station, Upton Upon Severn, The Retail Park in Malvern, both of Malvern's Railway Stations. Not all of these destinations may yet be on the App but should be soon.

It is hoped that Tewkesbury may be added in December 2023.

PUFFIN CROSSING NORTH END OF KEMPSEY BY THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Now the presentation has been given to the residents, I will wait for the full timeline from WCC for the work to be done.

A38 SOUTHERN END ROADWORKS #5638

The results of the speed survey are in, the survey was conducted between 04/10/23 to 10/10/23.

New daily volume of traffic North Bound mean average speed 28 mph, 85th% 32mph.

Old Daily volume of traffic North Bound mean average speed 30.9 mph, 85% 34.9 mph.

This is a decrease in speed of just under 3 mph.

New daily volume of traffic South Bound mean average speed 29 mph, 85% 34 mph.

Old daily volume of traffic South Bound mean average speed 30.4 mph, 85% 34.9 mph.

This is a decrease in speed of just less than 1.5 mph.

The new top speed recorded is 38 mph and this was after 2300 on evening.

The old top speed recorded was 39.71 mph.

TARMAC AT CLIFTON

At the last Community Liaison Group meeting which I Chaired, there was discussion about Tarmac moving over the A38 to the Eastern Side. Phase D would now not be developed due to archaeological finds. E and part of F could be developed Dry and the remainder of F and G would be worked on Wet.

The work can only go ahead if Tarmac can cross the road for the next 7 years and Highways do not insist on traffic lights. Of course, there is the possibility of the works causing problems at Ashmore Common, which is a SSSI site.

Tarmac and in informal discussions with WCC about the need for traffic lights and depending upon the outcome, they may submit a planning application.

KERSWELL GREEN VASS POLES

I am still chasing up an install date for them.

FOOTWAY WORK

Squires Walk footway, outside the BT entrance is to be looked at 23/11/23 and 24/11/23.

TACTILE BLOCK POST OFFICE LANE

I have finally been given a date for the Tactile Blocks at the junction of Post Office Lane and the A38 to be replaced. This work is now scheduled to take place on 11th of December.

FOOTWAYS AND ROADS NEEDING ATTENTION.

I have been asked to provide a list of the pavements and roads in my division that need attention. It is hoped that they may be attended too in the next financial year.

KEMPSEY

The Limes (Already booked in to be done next year)

Footways Main Road in many places the paths are coming to the end of their life and need attention.

St Mary's Close the footways including the walkway path through to Church Street are in a very poor state.

St Mary's Close, the roadway needs attention.

Rookery Road, the footway is also in a poor condition.

Squires Close, the footway is in places dangerous.

OVERGROWN HEDGE AT MAIN ROAD BETWEEN THE CROWN INN & THE PARISH HALL.

I have raised this with WCC and had this reply on 18/10/23.

The inspector had a chat with the owner, and they said they would cut the hedge back and the brambles have been removed. Ref No 31904.

There still has been no action and I have asked the WCC to commence action.

Warmest regards

Martin Allen.

Cllr Allen also made an observation that the illumination from the Obex Protection unit, located on Broomhall Way is far too bright and dominates the skyline and has reported this. The Planning Committee were also aware of this.

Q&A

Q1. How does the Dmand Bus Service integrate with the regular bus service and will it affect it?

A1. There will be no interference.

Q2. Can I pick up the On Demand bus from anywhere?

A2. It will stop at approved a safety stops (others may be added in the future)

Q3. Will a monetary contribution be required from the Parish Council to support the On Demand Bus?

A3. This is being funded by Central Government on a 2 year trial.

Standing Orders were reimposed.