



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 14 AUGUST 2023 AT 7.30 PM AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: -District Cllr Michael (left 8.58pm) and Mr. Biddle plus 4 other members of the public. Sharon Baxter - Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

1. Apologies: Cllr White (Personal), Cllr Webber (Personal) - Accepted
County Councillor Allen (Personal) and District Councillor Harrison (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 - Cllr Charnock declared an ODI against agenda item 5.4 being the ex-landlord of the Talbot Inn.
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 - In the absence of Cllr Allen, Cllr Waller read out his report.

District Councillors Report - Cllr Michael – The report was noted.

4. Minutes: Having been previously circulated the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10.07.2023 were signed as a true and correct record.
5. Correspondence for Information: -
 1. Email dated 14.07.2023 - ASB at the Limes and drug dealing in Kempsey – to address under agenda item 6 and refer the email from PC Jon Hand to PACT for follow up.
 2. West Mercia Police - Operation Close pass: Some common questions answered and the introduction of plain clothes patrols in the Malvern area - For Information.
 3. Letter dated 31.07.2023 from Higgs LLP - Confirmation the transfer of land at Pixham Ferry Lane is now complete - Registration is now complete.
 4. Letter dated 13.07.23 and response - Complaints about activities at the Talbot Inn - Noted.
 5. Email 24.7.2023 Ownership of Saxon Meadows Public Open Space - Parishioner request for help and guidance. Cllr Gardener offered to look at any conditions from the original planning application. District Cllr Michael offered to follow up with Planning Enforcement. A suggestion was made that the residents seek legal advice.
 6. Further correspondence update 27.07.2023 - Maintenance of verges and amenity area of Derrington Gardens - To chase Elan homes Ltd for a response.
 7. Letter to landowner for agreement to place a padlock on the gate leading to the Lower Ham from Pixham Ferry Lane - To refer to Commons & Hams Committee.
 8. Email dated 31.07.2023 - Unauthorised track across Stonehall Common – To refer to Finance and General Purposes Committee
 9. Various parishioner correspondence and response- Re: Ashmoor Common - To refer to Commons & Hams Committee
 10. Email dated 8.08.2023 Parishioner request to cut/top Kerswell Green - To refer to Commons & Hams Committee

6. Chairman's Report: Cllr Waller

- To discuss matters relating to antisocial behaviour in Kempsey
KPC is in the process of trying to have the overgrown vegetation cut back to have a clear view of the Limes Green from the A38 Main Road. The provision of a litter bin is to be progressed at the next E&R Committee meeting. Cllr Clamp has informed the parishioners who kindly donated the bench of the problems being encountered. A response has been received from the Safer Neighbourhood Team and Cllr Waller asked councillors if there was for their comments and feedback. This included: -
 - Outreach – Encourage people to report problems directly to the police, highlighting this can be done anonymously.
(To help them to do so details will be publicized on how to report crime on the Parish Council website. Cllr Charnock kindly agreed to devise some guidance on this matter.)
 - Follow up at PACT meetings where often the Police are in attendance.
 - Intelligence – to try to ensure the Police are acting on reported information.
- Update on bus shelters – No additional information to report. Cllr Waller to progress with Taylor Wimpey. (TW)
- Update on the defibrillator donation. The TW Community Defibrillator has now been handed over to the Parish Council. It was due to be installed at The Talbot but with this option no longer available, alternate locations are being pursued.
Enquiries have been made to locate it in a position where a solar panel could be used to possibly power it.
Cllr Charnock has identified a new location a mere 10 yards from the original location at the Talbot to be installed on a new 6ft Fence with outdoor secure power. The fence faces inwards to the Talbot carpark and public footpath. To be progressed with the homeowner.

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. Refund of VAT 2022/23 - £15926.99 - For Information Only

8. Committee Appointments

1. **RESOLVED:** To appoint Cllr Anstey onto Commons & Hams and Planning Committees
2. **RESOLVED:** To appoint Cllr White onto Planning and Recreation & Environment Committees
3. **RESOLVED:** To appoint Cllr Cooke onto the Commons & Hams Committee.

9. Committee Report Updates and Proposals: -

1. Finance & General Purposes Committee: Cllr Waller

A summary table was circulated, highlighting the three estimated solicitors quotes received. An indicative vote took place which indicated five councillors favoured quote 1. This was then taken to a vote.

- a. **RESOLVED:** To accept a quotation from Higgs LLP at an estimated cost of £5000 in total to advise on and prepare new leases for the tenants of Kempsey Community Centre.

A discussion then took place regarding who should pay the solicitors costs for the new leases including the contribution costs payable by the tenants. The following proposals will be put forward to the tenants: -

Tenant 1 - KPC will agree to pay up to £2500 costs of the lease and any amount that exceeds. this cost is paid by the tenant.

Tenant 2 - KPC do not expect estimated costs of £2500 quoted to be exceeded and therefore, do not anticipate any tenant contribution.

Both tenants will be advised to register their leases and the consequences if they do not, with any additional cost to be incurred by them.

2. Environment & Recreation: Cllr Bott

The next committee meeting is due to take place on Wednesday 16 August 2023.
Navigating around Kempsey – The dropped kerb request from the mobility scooter user was reported to WCC, who will assess the request within a 6-week timeframe and advise.

The alleyways have been strimmed and cut back enabling access. Thanks, were expressed to Simon Bott and Tim Hughes for their efforts.

A programme for strimming works at the Rocky has been agreed with the contractor.

The hedge located in front of the Tennis Courts has been cut.

Progress is to be made concerning the litter bins at the next meeting.

a. Proposal to agree on two VAS pole positions at Kerswell Green - **ITEM DEFERRED.**

No decision on the Kerswell Green VASS poles was reached and the item was deferred until KPC's September Parish Council meeting to give the opportunity for all parties to agree the location of the poles.

- Working Party: MRWP Update: Cllr Clamp.

Next meeting to take place on Wednesday 16th August 2023, after the Environment & Recreation Committee meeting.

Daffodil planting to be resumed this Autumn - there was a request to plant in the outlying areas.

The planters and raised beds have been filled with bedding plants, kindly donated.

Welcome Signs - Incorrectly installed and to be reinstalled under our direction – awaiting a date from WCC.

The water bowser is in full operation.

3. Community Centres: Cllr Stevens

Youth Centre - Slimming World and the Toddler Group no longer hire the hall.

New hire bookings have been made and we welcome the Scout Group on Wednesday evenings and a pop-up café - Chamberlains on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Sports Pavilion - Cllr Stevens is to meet the contractor on site to attend to a faulty door lock.

a. **RESOLVED:** For A&E Fire & Security to replace eleven emergency light units at the Sports Pavilion and to dispose of the faulty lights following site inspection on 28 June 2023 at a cost of £732.76.

4. Planning: Cllr Gardener

Post Office Lane Appeal Decision Summary

The long-awaited appeal decision on the proposal for up to 30 dwellings on land at Post Office Lane had been received. This followed an eight-day public inquiry earlier this year when both Malvern Hills and Kempsey Parish Councils gave evidence.

The Inspector decided that the main issues he had to decide were the effect of the proposal on:

- a) the character and appearance of the local area
- b) the spatial development strategy for the area
- c) the supply of housing land and Affordable Housing
- d) whether it would make adequate provision for infrastructure, services, facilities and amenities to offset its impact on the locality. He then had to balance these possibly competing effects to reach a final decision.

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Conclusion: Despite the lack of an adequate housing land supply, the appeal scheme would conflict with the Development Plan taken as a whole. As such, the appeal was dismissed and Outline Planning Permission refused.

Cllr Gardener agreed to prepare a summary of the decisions.

The Planning Committee met on 08 August 2023 and discussed the following: -

- Planning Application: M/23/00763/HP - No objections
- Planning Application M/23/01040/ADV - No objections

- a. **RESOLVED:** To suggest to MHDC the following New Street Names for Land at (OS 8598 5177), Taylors Lane, Broomhall for 131 new properties.
Black Pear Way, Tumper Grove, Parsonage Place, Concorde Close
Honeydew Way, Knapper Grove, Bartlett Croft, Moorcroft Green
Reserve Names - Seckle and Staunton

These are based on a continuation of the theme of pear varieties followed for earlier phases of this development. A plan showing the streets affected and the allocated names had already been circulated.

5. Infrastructure Committee: Cllr Waller
In order to progress with the full planning application a number of reports are required and rather than seeking permission each time a report needs to be commissioned, it would save time to operate as suggested.
- a. **RESOLVED:** To delegate authority to the Clerk in conjunction with the Infrastructure Design Team to accept quotations for specialist reports to facilitate the development of the new Community & Sports Centre at Pixham Ferry Lane up to a maximum of £100K from funds reserved for this project.
6. Commons and Hams: Chair TBC – Next meeting to take place Tuesday 15 August 2023 at 2.30pm Kempsey Community Centre.
10. Update report from Parish Path Warden (Volunteer) – The report was noted.
11. Cllr Waller gave a resume of the role of the Community Builder.
The proposed job advert, job description, application form, fees/ remuneration (which form part of the service agreement had all been circulated for comment. A few minor modifications are to be made.
RESOLVED: To recruit a Community Builder

Please note a Confidential Session was not required.

Under The Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting(s)) Act 1960 to consider excluding the public and press from discussions only in respect of agenda items 12. as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

12. Proposal to accept a quotation to advise on and prepare new leases for tenants of Kempsey Community Centre (*Confidential Session only if required*) – Agenda item not required.

Meeting Closed at 10.31 PM

Signed Chairman..... Date

Standing Orders were adjourned.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A parishioner thanked Cllr Gardener for his significant contribution in helping to achieve planning refusal on the Post Office Lane site at the public inquiry.

The Chairman of PACT highlighted that there is a PACT meeting on 22nd August 2023 at 12.30pm at Kempsey Community Centre and encouraged representation from the Parish Council to present an overview, be prepared to answer questions and participate in discussions.

A parishioner from Saxon Meadows referenced agenda item 5.5 Ownership of Saxon Meadows Public Open Space, confirming the issue has now been raised with Harriet Baldwin MP. She is seeking help and support from the Parish Council with specific proposals.

A parishioner thanked the Parish Council for the beautiful display of flowers along the Main Road. She urged the Parish Council to make provision to dedicate an area to allow children to ride their bicycles.

Mr Biddle confirmed the meeting of the Patients Participation Group had been deferred. He also commented that he had attempted to trial the new On Demand bus service, not very successfully albeit trying to follow the telephone instructions. He had been informed further consultations are due to take place and stressed this would be an ideal opportunity to make public representation.

He commented on the SUDs areas and the problems surrounding pollution, highlighting that this may result in an increase in costs of water bills in order to mitigate against pollution and water supply to new housing developments.

District Councillor: John Michael

Reiterated the results of the Post Office Lane Appeal extending his thanks and support to Cllr Gardener.

Footways

Reference was made to the footway located behind the bus shelter on the Main Road leading to Windmill Lane. He had been informed that this footpath was not the responsibility of WCC and is now progressing with Platform Housing to establish ownership, as this footpath needs siding out and reinstating. He is awaiting a response.

Cllr Michael referred to a planning application - Astons Coaches (site 79 dwellings). Cllr Gardener confirmed the Parish Council had only received the original layout, not any amended schemes and had not been invited as a statutory consultee to make any further comments. This is unsatisfactory and Cllr Michael will bring to the attention of MHDC.

County Councillor Martin Allen

Good evening,

I am sorry I cannot be with you tonight; I am now having to work late.

Henry Morris.

I just wanted to acknowledge the service and dedication that Henry Morris gave to our village, he was a lovely man, and I will truly miss him.

A38 WORKS

As I said last month the work is still scheduled to be completed on 3rd of September 2023.

There are to be some overnight closures to enable a full resurfacing and line marking.

I 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 for this work.

I have been told that these will not be virtually or actual closures of these roads, I think this is an error and will cause many issues.

There will be large electronic signs at both the Upton and Ketch Roundabouts will be stationed warning of the closure ahead. I can only hope that drivers take notice.

Also, as from tonight, the M5 is closed over night from Junction 6 to 8. This is for 6 nights and will no doubt cause misery to many residents.

NEW BUS SHELTERS

The latest information I have from WCC is that no bus shelters are now going to be installed.

BULBS

I understand that replacement daffodil bulbs are needed on the A38 at the point where the endless roadworks have taken place. Can you give me a price for the bulbs, and I will see what I can do to assist you.

PIXHAM FERRY LANE BAYS

I still do not have any information as to when the work will be done. I will keep asking.

WEIGHT LIMITS REQUEST FOR OLD ROAD SOUTH AND ROMAN ROAD

Following my requested that a Weight Limit be granted for both Old Road South and the Roman Road. Worcestershire County Council have agreed to conduct a survey.

on both roads, more than 5% of the traffic would need to be HGV, s before the request would be granted.

COMMUNITY BUS

Thank you for the £400 you kindly agreed to give, with my contribution and the County Councils, this takes the service up to 22/09/23. The number of users for June/July have been 5 or 6 passengers each week. Depending upon the results of my next meeting about the On Demand Bus there may be no need to keep the Community Bus running past September.

ON DEMAND BUS

As for the new on demand bus that has been launched in our area. I have emailed you what details I have.

As I have previously said to you, I am very disappointed that both you and I were not consulted before the launch.

The bus is running 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. Please note the phone is not manned on a Saturday, so if you need to use the phone to book a trip on a Saturday, you will need to ring the day before.

Finally, Cllr Tom Wells and I have had a briefing. We pointed out that this new bus does not go to The Worcester Royal Hospital, Harefield 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! I have requested another meeting with Officers to clarify what is going to happen in the future. I have been told that there is a meeting to be held later this week and we will go from there.

CROSSING NORTH END OF KEMPSEY BY THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

I have no more news that I had in July, it is still intended, subject to survey that a

Toucan Signalled Controlled Crossing has been approved, subject to funding. The cost has increased to approximately £250K. Tina, the officer who is overseeing this matter for me at WCC is applying for match funding to see if the funds can be found.

TARMAC AT CLIFTON

Following their merge/takeover, there is still no news if they are staying or leaving the site.

KERSWELL GREEN VASS POLES

I have writing to you asking for permission to erect 2 x VASS poles on your land at Kerswell Green. I have asked that WCC also write to you with the same request.

BOUNDARY REVIEW WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

As I said in July 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 was also out by about 1000 voters!

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 on 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>.

FOOTWAY SPRAYING

The weeds on the footways are sprouting with vigour this year. I have been chasing up the matter of footway spraying to keep the weeds down.

The response can be seen below:

Good morning Cllr Allen,

I can confirm that the area was sprayed in April and again last month and this does include the edge of the footways. Once the vegetation has died back the sweepers will attend to get rid of any debris. Depending on the weather, and growth of the weeds, we may go out again in September to do a final spray.

The machine that is used detects weeds and spot sprays them so as to make the most efficient use of the weedkiller (we also use a hand held device for harder to reach places), therefore, if you feel there are any particular areas that are a problem, as possibly the weeds have grown since the last spray, please take photos of the problem area and report it using our online system – I have provided the link below:

[Tell us about a road, highway or travel route issue | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Use the Overgrown/fallen trees and shrubbery tab – then 'Report overgrown or fallen tree and shrubbery' on the next page and fill in the appropriate details and attach photos. This is the quickest way to report an issue and any photos are definitely a useful tool in this and will provide the quickest response.

Kind regards,

County Highways Liaison Officer

Finally, just to let you know, I sit on the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel at County Hall. During its last meeting, the Police and Crime Commissioner attend to give his annual report. His report express great satisfaction that there were now 500 extra Police Officers in the West Mercia Constabulary.

I asked how many of these new 500 were now on the front line, he could not give me an answer. The Chairman of the committee has written to him requesting a full answer. Once I have this information, I will let you know.

Warmest regards

Martin Allen.

PARISH PATHS WARDEN – KEMPSEY

The weather conditions this year seem to have suited the vegetation out and about, leading to some very lush and tall growth. Reported issues of overgrown paths have had to be fitted in along with the regular annual planned clearance undertaken by contractors on behalf of the Countryside Service.

Some of our local rights of way, in Kempsey Parish, are walked daily by quite a number of people, others less often by a few and some hardly ever. Regular footfall helps keep paths clearer, resulting in less cutting back being needed. I accompanied a volunteer group (organised by the Countryside Service) to work on KP519 which runs parallel to the A38 from behind the garage at the Ketch roundabout all the way to the new estate at The Grove. This was followed up by a contractor clearing a fallen tree, removing a broken stile and installing some steps.

Reports of problems on the County Council online map are assessed and dealt with according to priority. The officers at the Countryside Service are in regular contact with me and, although it is impossible to keep every public right of way clear and walkable all year round for all sorts of reasons, we try to keep the most used paths available for as much of the year as we can. I am able to deal with minor issues and to report any changes or issues as and when I find them.

Standing Orders were reimposed.