



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 9 OCTOBER 2023 AT 7.30 PM AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

PRESENT: - Cllr Waller (Chair), Cllr Stevens, Cllr Clamp, Cllr Cooke, Cllr Charnock, Cllr Bott, Cllr Anstey, and Cllr Bristow (arrived 7.52pm)

IN ATTENDANCE: - County Cllr Allen, District Cllr Harrison and District Cllr Michael and Mr. Biddle and 10 other members of the public. Sharon Baxter - Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

1. Apologies: Cllr Gardener (Personal) - Accepted
Cllr Bristow had given advance notification that she would be joining the meeting later this evening. The Clerk announced the resignation of Cllr Webber with immediate effect, following receipt of his email communication received today.
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 –
Cllr Bott declared a Pecuniary Interest as her husband is an applicant for the Community Builder role and also the Parish Lengthsman.
 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 11.09.2023 and the EOM on 25.09.2023 were signed as a true and correct record.
5. Correspondence for Information: - Under General Data Protection Regulations names of Identifiable subject/matter withheld.
 1. Letter from the Environment Agency - Kempsey Pumping Station Polite Notice – Clerk to write to query the outage.
 2. 2 x emails - Parishioner concerns about Fireworks display at Plovers Rise Playing Fields – Request for use of quieter fireworks to be used for displays. To be included in any discussion for 2024 fireworks event.
 3. Documentation from Friends of Kempsey Primary School PTFA for Firework Event on Saturday 4 November 2023. The receipt of the policies sent were noted and there were no comments on these documents.
 4. SWDPR submitted for independent examination – For Information.
 5. Annual General Meeting of Worcestershire CALC will be held on Tuesday 17 October 2023 at 7pm at John Corbett Room, Droitwich Spa Community Hall, Heritage Way, Droitwich Spa Interested Councillors to notify the Clerk who will secure a booking.
 6. Common Land Normoor Common - request to prune the trees around the boundary away from the power cables. Cllr Cooke to follow up.
 7. Polling district, polling place and polling station review - Deadline for receipt of comments Thursday 2 November 2023. To respond confirming the use of the Parish Hall.
 8. To decline the offer from Elan Homes for the Parish Council to take over as Managing Agent for the maintenance of verges and amenity areas at Derrington Gardens.

Action

6. Finance

1. Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised except for payment to Grants Online for £150.00 for a one-year subscription. The consensus was to let the subscription lapse as it was not being used.
2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement - For Information Only.
3. Capital Budget - For Information Only
4. Quarterly Budget Monitoring to 30.09.2023 - For Information.

7. Committee Report Updates and Proposals: -

1. Finance & General Purposes Committee: Cllr Waller
Next meeting is on Thursday 12 October 2023 at 7.30pm
 - a. Proposal to change the quoracy arrangements for the Planning Committee - **ITEM DEFERRED** in the absence of Cllr Gardener.
2. Environment & Recreation: Cllr Bott
Six new litter bins have been installed.
The monthly playground inspection has taken place with no issues reported.
The Hornbeam tree located in the Rocky is due to be inspected by the Tree and Landscape Officer tomorrow. This has been taped off and the rope swing removed as a precautionary measure.
An application has been made to carry out work on a Yew tree in the Rocky, as it is in a conservation area.
A letter has been issued to a local resident to ask for debris to be cleared from the Rocky, following some tree surgery work that was carried out.
Following the removal of the walnut tree, Cllr Waller asked if a list could be produced identifying important trees in the Parish, which need protecting.
 - Working Party: MRWP Update: Cllr Clamp.
Seeking volunteers for bulb planting along the Main Road and outlying areas.
The welcome signs have been reinstalled.
The rowan tree is due to arrive tomorrow.
Looking into replacing the wooden barrels located outside the Community Centre.
3. Community Centres: Cllr Stevens
Unfortunately, due to difficulties in obtaining a licence the pop-up café is no longer moving to the Youth Centre.
 - a. **RESOLVED:** to install CCTV at the Sports Pavilion at a cost of £967.20 from Three Counties Digital.
 - b. Proposal to replace the front doors of the Sports Pavilion - **ITEM DEFERRED** to next meeting to obtain a more detailed quote to include an internal 'thumb turn' which will resolve any fire exit issues and an option for plastic windows (to match existing), instead of glass.
4. Planning: Cllr Gardener
The Planning Committee struggled to be quorate with late withdrawals and members failing to confirm their availability despite being reminded. However, they met on 2 October 2023 where various planning applications were considered together with other matters commented on.
Reminder - The Planning Committee usually meets on the first Monday of each month (except for Bank Holidays).
5. Infrastructure Committee: Cllr Waller
The Design Team had a zoom meeting with Calfordseaden to look again at the costings of the overall project, which is £75K over budget. Awaiting the final costings report.
An enquiry had been made to Worcester Regulatory Services asking for information they hold of the site, potentially having contamination. For this information to be released £46.00 is required to be paid. Cllr Waller to progress and then submit an expense claim for reimbursement.
The hedgerow has been cut between the crossroads of Old Road South and Pixham Ferry Lane to the Lower Ham, on both sides. The rest of the hedgerow needs cutting along Old Road South.

The feasibility of overlaying areas of the site with topsoil as an alternative to costly archaeological investigation is being investigated with groundworks engineering companies in the first instance.

6. Commons and Hams: Cllr Cooke

Cllr Cooke has requested a site meeting to progress the request to prune the trees around the boundary away from the power cables on Normoor Common.

Cllr Anstey and Cllr Cooke had walked across Ashmoor Common to familiarize themselves with the common, looking at drainage issues. Looking into the possibility to enhance the wetland areas and to reinstate grazing.

A guided tour of Kerswell Green had taken place with Mr. Pugh who is helping to improve the biodiversity of this area.

The east side of the stream ditch needs to be cleared to remove encroaching brambles.

The 'curly' willows at the south west corner of the Greens, alongside the ditch need to be pollarded. Various proposals to be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Cllr Waller referred to a tree on Stonehall Common suffering from ash die back, that requires some attention.

District Cllr Harrison referred to the St Modwen Industrial Development and the devastation caused to half of the trees

8. Chairman's Report: Cllr Waller

Unfortunately, the deadline was missed for a contribution from the Parish Council to the Klinks magazine this month. Moving forward this will be sent directly from the Parish Council to the Editor. In addition, it will be placed on the Parish Council website and on the Facebook Community page.

(District Cllr Michael left the meeting at this point - 9.22PM)

9. Proposal to appoint a Community Builder (may need to revert to confidential session) - To revert to confidential session to discuss.

10. Proposal to authorise the Clerk to sign the Community Builder Service Agreement) - To revert to confidential session to discuss.

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 11,12 &13. as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

11. Proposal to appoint a Community Builder

A discussion took place with eight councillors present who discussed various objections relating to the interview process to date with ways/options to progress forward.

Councillors agreed the other two applicants should be invited along for an interview. This is to be progressed by a new interview panel comprising of Cllr Waller, Cllr Bristow, Cllr Clamp with Cllr Cooke (reserve if Cllr Clamp not available).

This will be presented again, as an agenda item at the November Parish Council meeting.

(Cllr Bott left the meeting part way through discussions at 10.00 pm)

12. Proposal to authorise the Clerk to sign the Community Builder Service Agreement - **ITEM DEFERRED**

13. **RESOLVED:** To authorise the Clerk to sign a new lease with Kempsey Tennis Club Ltd.

The Council decided not to have the draft lease professionally reviewed and authorised the Clerk to sign and seal it.

Meeting Closed at 10.17 PM

Signed Chairman..... Date

Standing Orders were adjourned.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A parishioner expressed concerns regarding the Kempsey Primary School PFFA Fireworks event at Plovers Rise playing fields and asked if it could be considered that pet-friendly fireworks could be used. These types of fireworks are designed to limit loud noises and bangs, which are often distressing elements for animals. He confirmed he had started a petition which had received 200 responses (12 from the Worcester area) in the first four days.

It was agreed that it was too late to make any changes to the 2023 Fireworks event at Plovers Rise playing fields.

The Chairman relayed data supplied by the PTFA showing the importance of the event as a revenue stream and its popularity with parishioners. Another parishioner made a lengthy statement which referred to the alleged effect of fireworks on children with sensory needs and on military veterans, expressing dissatisfaction with the PTFA in strong terms which had to be curtailed by the Chairman as not relevant to the discussion on the fireworks evening. Other members of the public spoke in support of the firework event.

A suggestion was made for KPC to open room one at the Community Centre as a place where pet owners could come with their pets during the firework display. However, no councillor was available to supervise the event (a number mentioned that they will be participating at Plovers that night) and a volunteer from the Parish Hall offered the Parish Hall as an alternative venue. There was no suggestion for the PTFA to be involved.

There were a number of views expressed supporting the use of quieter fireworks and /or alternative displays but a councillor confirmed that the technology does not yet exist for pet friendly fireworks to be used in professional displays. However, this proposal will be included in discussions for a 2024 fireworks event at Plovers Rise, assuming that the PTFA proposes holding one.

Mr Geens - Squires Close

Expressed his concerns over quoracy numbers of the Planning Committee. He expressed the importance of this committee which has delegated powers to respond for the whole council. He asked to be mindful should quoracy number be reduced.

Future of the noticeboards urging that the one outside the Parish Hall should be kept up to date. He was advised Cllr Bott had volunteered to help service this.

A parishioner also requested if the defunct noticeboard located outside St. Peters Garden Centre could be moved to the south of village, outside the Lawns. This will be considered.

Mr Biddle

Made reference to the Demand Responsive Transport emphasizing to make use of it or lose it. Patients Participation Group (PPG) made reference to a newsletter report, highlighting that all items should remain confidential, until authorisation is granted from the practice to disclose them. He encouraged people to use Kempsey surgery in order to support it.

The next PPG meeting is due to take place in November if anyone would like him to report back anything.

District Councillor: John Michael — Nothing to report.

District Councillor: David Harrison

- SWDPR had been submitted for independent examination.
- The felling of a walnut tree had been reported to MHDC Enforcement Officer and the Tree and Landscape Officer as it falls within a conservation area.
- He reported on delays to the road being adopted at the Grove/Kings Hill development due to issues with the gabion baskets.

County Councillor: Martin Allen

Good evening,

PIXHAM FERRY LANE BAYS

I still don't have any further information have you or your District Councillors had anything?

COMMUNITY BUS

Following my pointing out that the On Demand Bus Service next meeting has not taken place and I was extremely unhappy with the loss of the Community Bus until the new service was running properly, we have found funding so that the Community Bus service will continue until 17/11/23.

ON DEMAND BUS SERVICE

I have been told that the Worcestershire On Demand Bus Service will be relaunched on 19th of October 2023.

Cllr Tom Wells and I are still waiting for another meeting to see if WCC officers have agreed to the Hospital, Haresfield House Surgery, Tesco's, Aldi, and St Peters Garden Centre being included as destinations.

CROSSING NORTH END OF KEMPSEY BY THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

My next meeting with Highways about this matter is this coming Thursday; so hopefully I will have more to tell you at our next meet. I have also suggested to WCC that at the next meeting Cllr Rob Gardner and one other Parish Councillor we invited to the Teams meeting to raise any concerns the Parish Council has. I will also be inviting both of our District Councillors.

A38 SOUTHERN END ROADWORKS #5638

I does not seem that I will get my public enquiry.

I reported two drain covers that are making noise as traffic passes over them, after much gnashing of teeth; these have been fixed.

Also, I have requested a Speed Survey in the area to determine the current speed of traffic.

TARMAC AT CLIFTON

Following their merge/takeover, there is still no news if they are staying or leaving the site. There is a Community Liaison Group meeting this coming Thursday where I hope we will have some answers.

KERSWELL GREEN VASS POLES

Thank you for agreeing to the new locations for the two VASS poles. I am chasing up and install date for them.

ADOPTION OF 3 NEW ESTATES TO THE SOUTH OF KEMPSEY

I have been chasing for an update as to where we are with WCC taking over the roads on

the three new estates to off the A38 in Kempsey southern end. I emailed you the details I had on 22/09/23:

I have received the following response from our S278/S38 team in answer to your questions:

1) S38 (phase 1) Bight Farm (Taylor Wimpey) - S38 Agreement ready to be signed but developer needs to pay fees first.

STW S104 Agreement signed 06/01/2017 but vesting certificate not yet available so sewers still on STW Maintenance period.

2) S38 (phase 2) Lygon Green (Taylor Wimpey) - S38 Agreement ready to be signed but developer must pay the Ph2 fees and pay Ph1 fees and sign phase 1 Bight Farm S38 Agreement first. It's important that Ph1 Bight Farm S38 Agreement is signed first because without phase 1, the second phase (S38 Lygon Green) is isolated from the highway network.

STW S104 Agreement was signed 07/06/2023 so still on STW maintenance period.

3) S38 The Lawns (Linden Homes) S38 Agreement signed 02/12/2021 The S38 works are currently on maintenance.

STW adopted sewers retrospectively under a S102

SQUIRES CLOSE PAVEMENT ISSUES #5740

30.09.23 I have requested the WCC look at the poor state of the pavement on

Squires Walk. They have come back and said there are no safety issues. But work may be considered in the future.

Warmest regards

Martin Allen.

Standing Orders were reimposed.