

Minutes of the Kempsey PACT meeting held at the Community Centre on Tuesday 27th February 2024 at 12.30pm

PRESENT: (31) Ann Smith (Chairman), Cllr David Harrison (MHDC), Cllr Martin Allen (County Council), Cllr Chris Waller (KPC), Cllr Neil Stevens, (KPC) Joy Clee, Simon Bott (Parish Lengthsman), Cathy Garner (Community Builder), Jan Harrison, Paul Edwards (Platform Housing), Sally Linsey (Cornflower Club), Joy Clee (Churchwarden), Wendy Coen, Newton Coen, Bryony Baynes (Headteacher), David Willetts (Deputy), Val Easterlow, Brian Hewlett, E Plummer (Kempsey Cattery), Patricia Jaye, Trevor Geens, Lynda Billingham, Margaret Gillies, Chris Gillies, Kathleen Padden, Mike Biddle, Penny Warren, Pauline Ranson, Maxine Hemming, Bob Bowley, Marian Walters.

1. Welcome and Introductions: Ann Smith welcomed everyone to the Community Centre and thanked them for attending. Everybody then introduced themselves. Ann Smith thanked Cllr David Harrison and Cllr John Michael for their donations to PACT.

2. Apologies: Cllr John Michael, Cllr Rob Gardener, Angela Allen, SJ Smallpage, Nancy Morris, Ian Fenton, Helen Fenton, Mel Baker-Joyce.

3. Minutes: Copies of the November meeting had been circulated prior to this meeting and also distributed at the meeting and were approved.

Matters Arising: None.

4. Reports from County, District and Parish Councils:

COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr Martin Allen gave the following report.

WCC BUDGET HAS NOW BEEN APPROVED

We have had the full WCC meeting on 15/02/2024 and the budget has now been approved.

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%

300 VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCIES FOR WCC

WCC are currently looking for 300 voluntary redundancies.

150 WCC LONG TERM EMPLOYEES ARE FACING A PAY CUT

WCC are about to cut the pay of some of the lowest paid employees of WCC by 5.4% from April this year.

ON DEMAND BUS

This service was officially launched in January 2024, it is charging £2.50 per trip, with a second person on the same booking being charged £1.25. The buses will take you to anywhere within the designated County Council Divisions of Croome and Powick. Also, it will now 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 and Church Street in Malvern. I promised last November to you that Tewkesbury would be added as a destination, I am pleased to report I have been successful, and it has been added. I have sent Sharon the parish clerk a PDF of the new leaflet; this is an improvement from the last one. I am still waiting for hard copies.

PUFFIN CROSSING NORTH END OF KEMPSEY BY THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

As you may know, the trees along on the Service Road that runs parallel to the A38 have been removed.

The next phase is to resurface the A38 north of the new crossing, there will be some overnight closures.

The final phase will be to install the new Puffin crossing after that. Again there will need to be some overnight closures. When I have firm dates I will let you know.

A38 REMEDIAL WORK SOUTH END OF THE VILLAGE

Remedial work on the Section 278 Work at Main Road, Kempsey commenced on 19/2/24 and expected to finish on 15/3/24.

HEREFORD & WORCESTESHIRE FIRE SERVICE CONSULTATION

Currently, there is a review of the Fire Service ongoing.

This is the link if you need it again:

<https://www.hwfire.org.uk/your-right-to-know/consultation/>

It looks like HWFB would like to cut services.

My group at county hall have two County Councillors sitting on the fire committee, following their and many others raised concerns I understand the Chief Fire Officer has changed his mind about removing one of the two crews in Malvern. The second crew is going to have a smaller fire engine, which carries less water.

Worcester is still to lose a crew and go from three to two crews.

This could potentially put your safety at risk.

ROADS TO BE RESURFACED IN APRIL

Following my repeated requests for action to be taken to resurface the roads in St Mary's Close and Hetherington Close, Highways have agreed to resurface both roads. Work is expected to commence on St Mary's Close on 18th of April and when finished they will move onto Hetherington Close. I am still chasing action on for the pavements in St Mary's which is in a very poor condition.

ADOPTION OF ROADS IN KEMPSEY

I have been chasing up the situation with the adoption of roads on the new estates in Kempsey.

The current status and timescales for the highways listed are as follows:

1. Derrington Gardens - The **Provisional Certificate of Completion** (PCC) was issued on 27/10/2022. The site is subject to a minimum 36 month maintenance period after which it is re-inspected and when any snagging remedial works have been completed will be adopted.
2. Saxon Meadow estate (Mercia Way) - adopted on 31/10/2023
- 3.(i) LawnsPOOL Drive - PCC issued dated 24/01/2022 and the site is now part way through a minimum 36 month maintenance period after which it will be re-inspected and when all snagging remedial works are completed it will be adopted.
- 3.(ii) Centurion Drive - The S38 Agreement has not yet been signed but the legal process is at an advanced stage so hopefully this will be completed in the near future. This site will be subject to a minimum 36 month maintenance period.
- 3.(iii) Fortuna Way/Sabrina Crescent - The S38 Agreement has not yet been signed yet and the legal process is ongoing. This S38 Agreement cannot be signed until the Centurion Drive S38 Agreement is in place because access to Fortuna Way/Sabrina Crescent relies on Centurion Drive for access, without this it is isolated from the existing highway network.

Regarding The Grove, I am still awaiting an update from County Council Officers

FUNDING

I have managed to find Kempsey Parish Council funding of £400.00 to go towards the Lenghtsmans scheme, ever little helps!

D-DAY CELEBRATIONS

I am pleased to see that I have secured Kempsey pc £500.00 towards the D-Day Celebrations. I have now applied for an additional £500.00 to help this venture be the huge success that it will be, can I thank all those who have given their valuable time for free.

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr David Harrison said he was very pleased with the successful turning down of the Bannut Hill/Napleton Lane application, which will now go to appeal. There was strong opposition to the development centred on the lack of services and that Kempsey Primary School was at capacity so children would have to be bussed to schools elsewhere.

The plan for 76 houses to be built on the old Astons Coaches depot is published in the paper today. A Section 106 Document (legal agreement) has been made between the owners, developers and Malvern Hills District Council for the piece of land situated on the West of the A38 (just to the South of the old Astons Coaches Depot) and north of Broomhall Lane but on the west of the A38. In the first instance this allows for an overflow drainage pipe from the new development of "South Worcester" to take surface water directly to the River Severn and this relieving the water flowing through Hatfield Brook.

A public notice regarding the pipe crossing the Upper Ham (Common Land) and the public notice regarding the pipe crossing the Upper Ham (Common Land) and the change proposed for this land has been published in the Worcester News on Friday 8th March. All people with "Common rights" should have been informed directly.

Notice advertising proposals

Section 16 of the Commons Act 2006

Proposed deregistration of common land/town or village green at:

UPPER HAM COMMON (CL72)

Ms Kerry Ruff and Worcester County Council (as highway authority) have applied to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs under section 16 of the Commons Act 2006 for land forming part of the above-mentioned registered common land (the "release land") to cease to be so registered. The Planning Inspectorate will decide the application on behalf of the Secretary of State.

The purpose of this application is to enable a new storm drain to be constructed, diverting surface water drainage into the river Severn.

It is proposed that land (the "replacement land") be registered as common land in place of the release land.

The release land is described in the First Schedule to this notice, and the replacement land is described in the Second Schedule.

A copy of the application form and accompanying documents can be inspected at Worcester St John's Library, Glebe Close, St John's, Worcester WR2 5AX between the hours of 09:00 to 16:00 until 10 April 2024. A copy of the application may be obtained by writing to Carbon Law Partners, One Temple Quay, Temple Back East, Bristol, BS1 6DZ.

Any representations in respect of the proposed deregistration and exchange should be sent in writing ON or BEFORE that date to: Common Land Team, The Planning Inspectorate, 3A Temple Quay House, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN or commonlandcasework@planninginspectorate.gov.uk.

Representations sent to The Planning Inspectorate **cannot be treated as confidential**. They will be copied to the applicant and possibly to other interested parties. To find out more about how the Planning Inspectorate uses and manages personal data, please go to the privacy notice.

FIRST SCHEDULE

(The release land)

An area of 687.5 square metres of land forming part of Upper Ham Common (Register Unit CL72) in the parish of Kempsey, towards the northern end of unit CL72 and running approximately from north east to south west across the common from the eastern boundary (centred on OS reference S06511950979) to the western boundary and the bank of the river Severn indicated and shown edged red on drawing number 43904/2012/SK09/A referred to in the application.

SECOND SCHEDULE

(The replacement land)

An area of 786.5 square metres of land adjoining the northeastern boundary of Upper Ham Common (Register Unit CL72) centred on OS reference S08511950979 and indicated and shown edged in light green on drawing number 43904/2012/SK09/A referred to in the application.

Carbon Law Partners, One Temple Quay, Temple Back East, Bristol, BS1 6DZ as agent for and on behalf of the applicant Ms Kerry Ruff the registered proprietor of the release land and the replacement land.

Dated 4 March 2024

A new director of planning has been appointed at MHDC – the post will be shared by MHDC and Wychavon councils.

PARISH COUNCIL.

Cllr Chris Waller gave the following report.

Plans for the new sports centre were on display to the public in February and over 200 members of the public attended the event. The consultation period for comments is now closed and all have now been collated. The PC will publish a summary of these later in March. Four significant offers of help have been received from the public three of which have been taken up. Leases are up for review at the Community Centre which involve Magic Moments and the Hair Gallery. The Parish Council notice board has been reinstated at the Village Hall. The skate park working party is under new leadership and there will be more progress in the coming months.

Reports from School, Police and Church.

School. Bryony Baynes gave the following report.

Bryony would like to point out that the school was not at capacity. The Planned Admission Limit (PAN) is 420 and at the present time there are 362 children on role so no children will need to be bussed to other schools. They have no projection as to when the capacity will be exhausted as projections, based on birth rates, are made five years in advance and we are three years off that at present. There are about 52 applications in for Reception in September with a PAN of 60 places. Funding is based on the number of children on role, so the more children we have the more money we are granted. The majority of our children live in and around Kempsey. The PTFA are working tirelessly towards funding a Sensory Room which children will be able to use when necessary. We are working on promoting reading in school and would love to hear from anyone who might be interested in volunteering to listen to readers. Some of our children do not have anyone to listen to them read at home and could really benefit from regularly reading to an adult volunteer in school. There is one vacancy on the Governing Body at present. In reply to a question, Bryony said not the whole of Yr3 will be in the hall at the same time for the next Kempsey Café on 15th March. Half of each class goes in then they rotate part way through the session. Parents have the choice as to where they send their children and Kempsey Primary School never turns any local child away. The average class size varies throughout the school with Yr5 being the lowest with 19/20 in each class and Yr3 being the highest with 30/31 in each class. There are 60 places in each year group. There are no temporary classrooms in KPS.

Church. Joy Clee, Churchwarden, gave the following report.

We are making progress with advertising and hopefully getting applications for the post of Rector in Kempsey, Severn Stoke and Norton. It will still be some months before we can expect a person in post, meanwhile we are fortunate to have our curate, Rev Rachel Colthurst to lead us with the help of a strong team of retired priests and volunteers alongside her.

The big event again this year is St Mary's Church Summer Fete on Saturday 29th June this year so please put this day in your calendar and volunteer if you can. This will be another grand occasion for the whole village.

We feel now that St Mary's is not quite suitable for modern use such as youth groups mother and toddler group and other social functions as well as regular worship. A specialist architect has been appointed to prepare plans to modernise our church building.

Police. No police officers were able to attend but **PC Jon Hand** emailed the following report.

Kempsey PACT
27th February 2024.

(The incidents below have been returned from a search with the date parameters of 01/01/2024 – 23/02/2024.)

January

At the start of the year we had a burglary dwelling reported on Old Road North, the property was broken into through a side window and items were taken from inside. The investigation is ongoing.

During January two off road motorbikes were stolen from a "lock up" on Bestman's Lane and one was stolen from an address, again on Bestman's Lane. The person suspected of the Bestman's Lane offences has since been arrested in relation to another theft in Pershore. Since patrols have been increased in the area and the suspect has been arrested, there have been no further incidents.

February

February has been a very quiet month. There are no incidents that residents would need to be made aware of. Incidents such as domestic disputes, road traffic accidents and concerns for safety are the only ones reported to police.

Following four reports at the tail end of 2023 concerning youths congregating outside the shop patrols have been increased. Fifteen targeted high visibility patrols were recorded in January and February at the relevant times, no youths were seen. No reports of youths congregating outside the shop have been received this year.

We have had one complaint of excess speed on Main Road outside the shop, we will look into the possibility of conducting some speed monitoring in the coming month.

Regards.

PC 2483 Jon Hand

Kempsey & Alfrick SNO

6.Kempsey CIC (Community Interest Company).

Simon Bott gave the following report.

1. We have filed accounts for our first full year of trading with Companies House – and we are paying a little bit of tax.
2. We have advertised in the new look Kempsey Times seeking volunteers for D-Day 80; The Summer Fete; The Oral History Project and the Digital Inclusion Initiative.
3. We have now completed a number of pilot interviews for the Oral History Project, which have been safely digitally locked away in a Dropbox.

4. We have received some additional funding through the Ward Budget from our two District Councillors.
5. We have held an exploratory meeting with the Primary School (Mr. Willetts Deputy Headteacher,) to involve the school in some Oral History work – we'll be taking this forward at the next School Café on 15 March.
6. Through advertising on the Oral History Society's website we have recruited an additional volunteer to the Project Team – someone who brings experience to the group. Michelle has conducted one interview and is scheduled to hold a second interview on 15 March.
7. Following an approach from Platform Housing, the CIC convened and chaired an enabling meeting to discuss a Digital Inclusion Initiative. The meeting brought together stakeholders: Local District Councillors, Kempsey Parish Council's Community Builder, Platform Housing, MHDC's Community Housing, Severnside Parishes St. Mary's, The W.I., Come On In, The Cornflower Club, Community Support and PACT.
8. Following an invitation from a Director of Aston's Coaches we attended two networking events organised by BNI Rainbow – Business Networking International.
9. We have applied for funding towards the D-Day 80 Event from Asda's Community Fund.
10. We have just secured the services of volunteers from McDonalds Malvern Link to work as Stewards at the D-Day 80 Event on Kempsey Common. This connection came about through the Volunteer Coordinator at Malvern Hills who we met at the Speed Dating Event organised by Malvern Hills' Connected Communities.
11. We are at the early stages of looking at establishing a Community Orchard, from support on offer from Worcestershire County Council.

MacDonalds in Malvern have offered volunteers to help at the D-Day event on 6th June. The evening will commence at 7.00pm with the national beacon lighting taking place at 9.15pm.

7.Role of Community Builder.

Cathy Garner said she would be reaching out to everybody asking what their interests are and what they would like to change in Kempsey. She will speak to various focus groups and find out what is already happening in the community and how we can improve it. She will connect people with similar interests and support them to make their ideas happen.

8. Kempsey Times.

The new format has been extremely well received by everyone. Joy Clee said it is being hand delivered to all home who paid the KLINKS subscription up to July. Kempsey Times will be free to everyone and we will have to find various locations where the magazine can be picked up from such as St Peters Garden Centre, local pubs, the local shop, church, school etc etc.

9. Digital Inclusion.

Paul Edwards from Platform Housing said they wanted to involve as many people as possible. To encourage those who have not yet experienced using technology, computers and tablets would be lent out to various organisations with volunteers sharing their skills. Cathy Garner will carry out a survey to find out what is needed. Her contact details are communitybuilderkempsey@gmail.com. Mobile 07876 680600. It was noted that the On Demand APP is not easy to use.

10.Date of next Litter Pick. Sunday 21st April 2024 at 2.00pm from the village hall.

11.Any Other Business.

* Mike Biddle encouraged everyone registered at the Kempsey surgery, to try and book an appointment in the village rather than travel to Haresfield House in Worcester. He asked if anyone would like to join him on the PPG as he is the sole representative.

Post meeting update. Chris Gillies said he was willing to do this and Marian took his phone numbers and will ring Mike to let him know.

- Could the notices in the notice boards be in bigger print?
- People need to have help with tablets/IPads as well as lap tops.
- Ann Smith asked if people would prefer to have the winter (November and February) PACT meetings in the daytime and the summer meetings (May and August) in the evenings. This was generally approved.
- We need to advertise PACT more widely on lampposts and in Kempsey Times
- Jan and Lynda were thanked for providing tea and coffee.

12.Date of next meeting. Tuesday 14th May 2024 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 2.20pm.