

**Minutes of the Kempsey PACT meeting held at the Community Centre on Tuesday
18th November 2025 at 12.30pm**

PRESENT: (31) Ann Smith(Chairman), Cllr Martin Allen (County Council), Cllr David Harrison (MHDC), Cllr John Michael (District Council), Cllr Chris Waller (Chair of Parish Council),Cllr Mike Biddle (Parish Council), John White (Parish Council), Denise White, Rev Kat Mephram (Vicar), Joy Clee (Churchwarden), Neil Stevens (Parish council), Julie Stevens, Claire Witton (Parish Council, Sharon Dunn (Parish Council), Cathy Garner (Community Builder), Simon Bott (Parish Lengthsman), Susan Bott, Helen Fenton, Penny Warren (WI), Malcolm Holland, Peter Benham, Dave Bevan, Brian Hewlett, Maxine Hemming, Jan Harrison, Shalini Bristow, Trevor Geens, Gary Jacobs, Wendy Coen, Newton Coen, Marian Walters.

1.Welcome and Introductions: Ann Smith welcomed everyone to the Community Centre and thanked them for attending. Everybody then introduced themselves.

2.Apologies: Bryony Baynes (Headteacher KPS), Sally Linsey (Cornflower Club),

3.Minutes: Copies of the August 2025 meeting minutes had been circulated prior to this meeting and distributed at the meeting. They were approved after the following the amendment was made. *MHDC has agreed to make a further grant of £6.5k to extend the appointment of our Community Builder, Cathy Garner, from **01 January 2026** to 31 March 2026, which is very welcome to further the good work she has been doing.*

4.Reports from County, District and Parish Councils:

COUNTY COUNCIL

County Councillor Martin Allen gave the following report.

NEW COUNTY COUNCILLOR

A new County Councillor for Bromsgrove South has been voted in; Sam Ammar is a LibDem and I wish her well. Her predecessor, who was voted in in May this year did not attend any County Council meetings.

UNITARY AUTHORITY

At the last county council meeting it was approved that officers at WCC were to continue with a One Worcestershire Unitary Authority. The figures produced are very interesting and if believable clearly show a huge benefit financially to One Worcestershire option rather than the Two.

NEW SCHOOL

Also, at the last meeting the administration formally proposed that the £63m school be scrapped, this motion was defeated. However, WCC do not have the funds to build a new school, nor do I believe they will have them in the short to medium term.

CUTS PROPOSED BY THE COUNTY COUNCILS' ADMINISTRATION FAIL

During the last county council meeting, the present administration presented a proposal to carryout wide sweeping cuts. They made the mistake of proposing all the cuts as a job lot and it was voted down. I have respectfully pointed out to the Councillor who made the proposal that if he had asked for a vote, item to item, most would have been approved.

MY MOTION YET AGAIN FOR FREE COMMERCIAL BUS TRAVEL FOR VETERANS

In 2022 I had a motion to let Service Personnel and Veterans of His Majesty's Forces use the commercial bus service for free in line with the Pensioners bus pass. The previous administration all voted for it and then did nothing. I am pleased to report that at the last county council meeting I presented the case again and it will now commence from the 6th April 2026

HEAD OF HIGHWAYS TO ATTEND A MEETING WITH KPC

At the last county council meeting I asked Cllr Karl Perks, who is the head of highways to come and explain to you why WCC will not install a controlled crossing near the shop. With some reluctance he has agreed to come and meet you. I need to offer him some dates of future council meetings or possibly a PACT meeting.

#10272 BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

I have submitted a request that if WCC do proceed with the BSIP, two double size bus shelters are needed in Kempsey at the new southern bus stops. I have had a reply saying that any funding they will receive is already allocated and the best we can hope for are two good quality second hand shelters.

#9458 THE GROVE ADOPTION OF ROAD

Late October I received an update from Highways about The Grove:

The developer originally was going to keep the site private due to large retaining structures being problematic. The developer now wants the site adopted so Jacobs are currently checking their designs for the retaining walls. No section agreement has been signed so adoption is a long way off.

BROOMHALL PAVEMENT REFURBISHMENT

Broomhall Cottages footway has now been refurbished; I have sent you an email with photos. I am delighted to have got this done, especially for the disabled who live there.

NEW FOOTWAY

Work has now commenced on the new footway between Aston Close and the Shop. There is a small section unfinished, we are waiting for British Gas, or I should say Centrica to repair a gas leak.

As I said last time, it would have been nice if all the footpath from there to Windmill Lane could have been completed in one hit, however the funds were not available for this to happen.

#8947 REQUEST FOR DOUBLE YELLOW LINES SQUIRES CLOSE/SQUIRES WALK ENTRANCE

The consultation period ended on 23rd October, I am waiting for an update from WCC.

#9642 REQUEST FOR DOUBLE YELLOW LINES AT CORNER TO DOCTORS SURGERY.

As you know the consultation period is over; again, I am waiting for an update from WCC.

ROAD CLOSURE AT KERSWELL GREEN

This work has now been delayed; I don't have a new date for its commencement yet.

#10287 LYCHGATE IN CHURCH STREET, KEMPSEY FOOTWAY DANGEROUS

This has been repaired following my urgent complaint.

Martin was asked if the double yellow lines at the surgery would be monitored. He said it would be monitored by a traffic warden, not the police.

The Parish Council asked the police for their policing priorities in November.

They are a) ASB, b) Illegal parking, c) dangerous parking at the shop

David Harrison said there had been two shop lifting incidents last night by middle class adults.

Chris Waller asked if anyone present had lost any packages from their doorstep. Only one person had and that had turned out to be a scam. Anyone experiencing this should notify the suppliers who should in turn, contact the delivery company.

John Michael added that most companies will deliver parcels to the local Post Office if asked.

DISTRICT COUNCIL.

David Harrison said regarding unauthorised work at Saxon Meadows, all owners of plots had been asked to cut the grass.

There are plans submitted for one of the Eco units at the old Hartland's Nurseries to be converted into a café/Community Hub.

One of two sites north of Broomhall Lane by the developer "Bromford's" has been granted planning permission and the other will consist of 48 affordable dwellings and will probably be granted permission soon.

The SWDPR is going forward and a meeting will be held on 16th December to ratify amendments for planning submitted in 2023 and will hopefully go out for consultation on 16th December 2025 for 6 weeks?

He and John Michael each have £1000 ward funds for community groups and these are mainly still available as of this meeting date. Chris Waller asked if there was any interest in reviving Kempsey Players. John White had approached Severn Arts suggesting he would write a murder mystery play, but they had refused to fund this. Could some of the ward funds be used for this? David responded that this is difficult as Ward Members should provide funding for community groups and not for Parish Council projects.

John Michael said that applications for the ward grants need to be in as soon as possible as the deadline is February. The SWDP is in progress and will be ratified in Spring 2026. He asked if anyone has a problem with a blocked gulley to get in touch with him.

PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman Chris Waller gave the following report.

Planning for the Sports & Community Centre at Pixham Ferry Lane has been delayed due to Highways concerns despite previous approvals and agreements. Rob Gardener's detailed submissions have helped move matters forward and Highways are now prepared to offer "no objection" to Phase 1 only. The Parish Council is now requesting that the pump track be included in Phase 1, with conditions to ensure Highways engagement for future phases.

Funding Applications

For the Youth Centre energy improvements to include cavity wall insulation, solar panels and battery storage. National Grid have offered to accept electricity generation paid for 10 years.

The Parish Council is waiting for confirmation from MHDC planning department regarding permitted development to the Youth IT Hub cabin.

Pump Track funding is in a compliance stage. The issue is that a grant requires work to start by 31 March 2026, but the site cannot be safely used until wider works are complete. Parish requesting flexibility to begin groundworks by March but build the track later.

The Parish Council invited expressions of interest in reviving the Kempsey Players drama group;.

The Parish Council Clerks were praised for their support with grant compliance work.

Disappointment was expressed that the original request was for a skate park, but this has now been reduced to a pump track.

5. Reports from School, Police and Church.

School.

Bryony was unable to come to the meeting as all children, apart from those who had opted out, were having their flu nasal sprays in school.

64 children had started in Reception in September. The admission limit was 60, but following appeals, 4 additional children were admitted. All the children have settled in well. There are now 384 pupils on role.

The recent fireworks event held on Saturday 8th November, which was organised by the PTFA, raised a record £15445. This money will be used to finish paying for the sensory garden surrounding the sensory pod which they raised money for last year. Any money left over will be used to make improvements to the playground. Anybody is welcome to come and see the garden, just ring the school to make an appointment.

Preparations are underway for Christmas activities which include a nativity play, a carol concert in school and a carol service in church.

The next Kempsey Café will be held on Friday 5th December from 10.00 – 11.00am.

Rev Kat wished it to be noted that she was very impressed with how well the Fireworks event was organised. She lives at the top of Napleton Lane and there were plenty of marshals on duty to control the crowds. It was the same at Plovers Rise.

Police. The police report is attached to the minutes as a separate document.

Church.

Rev Kat Mephram, who has been our Priest in Charge for a year now, said she was so pleased to witness the wonderful community spirit in Kempsey. Coffee mornings take place three times a week, and there are several groups who meet regularly, namely the knitting group, Come on In twice a week, the Cornflower group and the “graveyard” group which originated when a large tree was blown down in the churchyard, and several men willingly gave up their time and effort to remove it. All these are run by volunteers. Libbirty runs three sessions a week for mothers and toddlers and a youth group which meets on a Wednesday evening. There are lots of events planned for November and December. The Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 29th November in church, and forthcoming services include Christingle, Nine Lessons and Carols, Family Carols and the Crib service.

Mike Biddle said how well the community looks after the older residents.

6. Kempsey CIC. Simon gave the following report.

Our CIC registered with Companies House in August 2022, having delivered Kempsey’s celebrations of the late Queen’s Platinum Jubilee earlier that year, helped by Kempsey Parish Council, Malvern Hills District Council and Kempsey School’s PTFA.

Bringing our ‘Deeds not Words’ ethos up to date (since the last PACT meeting in August;)

2 September – M3 Floodtec kindly hosted a meeting where the CIC, the PTFA and Bark & Nurd discussed in outline the idea of a Summer 2026 Kempsey Live Festival. Following this a

submission was made to KPC floating the idea of siting the event at Plovers Rise Playing Field on 11 July 2026.

21 September – The CIC worked with St. Mary's Church, Trim Pets of Kerswell Green and Kempsey's branch of the Women's Institute to put on a Fun Dog Show on the KPC owned playing field at Plover's Rise. Edwards Garage generously hosted the trophies for fourteen different classes. This event had to be postponed from the scorchingly hot Summer Fete held on 21 June and saw the last event to be overseen by Trim Pets' Julia Pugh. A good day was had by all.

29 September – much success of the CIC comes from our networking, some of which extends westward to the other side of the mighty River Seven. Our relationship with Malvern's Volunteer Manager gave us the opportunity to grab a large picnic bench which is now installed on Plover's Rise just outside the playground. It is worth noting that the two benches already in place were bought with some surplus funds following The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

30 September – inaugural meeting for this year's Christmas Fair to be held at St. Mary's Church on 29 November. Again our networking yields fruit for Kempsey; sponsorship of Santa's Grotto by our friends at Platform Housing Group plus Paul Edwards of Platform donning the Santa outfit one more time. We are seeking raffle prizes, bottles and volunteers.

8 November – Currently the biggest annual Community Event in Kempsey, the PTFA Fireworks. By kind agreement with the PTFA and KPC, the CIC's Lovely Jubbly Pop Up Tea Stop was on hand in the Youth Centre to provide modestly priced hot drinks and baked sweets & savouries. Susan's Team worked hard throughout the evening and the money generated will go towards the running costs of the CIC.

Our long term Oral History Project continues to make progress and develops quite organically and with great promise. We have recently had very complimentary comments from The Oral History Society and will soon be featured in the Society's official journal and on their online blog. We have a couple of minor technicalities to resolve and will then be publicising the Project's interactive website. All credit to our leading team members, Peter Butler and Michelle Abbey. **We would love to hear from anyone who can lend images of old Kempsey for inclusion.**

7. Community Builder activities.

Cathy emphasised that all work stems from the eight Vision Priorities identified by local residents.

Recent & Ongoing Projects.

- Severn Arts funding secured for an Intergenerational Art/Nature/History Trail with artist Juliet Mootz. First workshop next Tuesday (2–4pm, Youth Centre).

- Youth Hub now running weekly: ~10 regular attendees, 13 enrolled. YMCA funded for three years.
- Pump Track research: site visits to other villages; strong support from young people; helps reduce isolation and encourage healthier routines.
- Café at Plovers Rise: Rural Development Grant secured; kitchen being installed; front room refurbishment will involve community input. Café expected to open Q1 2026. Café pilot showed strong social benefits and reduced isolation.
- Digital inclusion support at “Come On In” (Mondays & Wednesdays).
- Food bank support via Julie (13 families supported). The Parish Hall (Tin Hut) have donated a fridge freezer which is kept in Julie’s garage.
- Communication priority (#7): Spotted Kempsey, Parish website, and Kempsey Times used for local updates.
- Support for people in crisis: Cathy has completed domestic abuse and suicide awareness training; available for signposting and confidential support.
- Thanks given to volunteers supporting food bank and café pilot.

A question was raised about publicity; more promotion will be considered.

9. Any Other Business.

- * Jan was thanked for providing tea and coffee.

10.Date of next meeting. Tuesday 17th February 2026 at **12.30pm.**

The meeting closed at 2.30 pm.