

**Minutes of the Kempsey PACT meeting held at the Community Centre  
on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023 at 12.30pm**

**PRESENT:** (19) Ann Smith (Chairman), Cllr David Harrison (MHDC), Cllr Martin Allen (County Council), Cllr Neil Stevens, Julia Stevens, Rev Mark Badger, Brian Boswell, Reg Wilson, Jan Harrison, Lynda Billingham, Sally Linsey (Cornflower Club), Joy Clee, Margaret, Chris Gillies, Helen Fenton, Mike Biddle, Angela Allen, 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.
- 2. Apologies:** Cllr Rob Gardener, Cllr John Michael, Bryony Baynes (Headteacher), Nancy Morris, Newton and Wendy Coen, Trevor Geens, PCSO Brandon Knight, PC Dee Stanley, Simon Bott, Susan Bott, Roy Clarke, Paul Edwards (Platform Housing), Maxine Hemming, Ian Fenton.
- 3. Minutes:** Copies of the May meeting had been circulated prior to this meeting and also distributed at the meeting and were approved.
- 4. Matters Arising:** None.
- 5. Reports from County, District and Parish Councils:**

**COUNTY COUNCIL.** Cllr Martin Allen gave the following report.

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.

**SPEEDING ON OLD ROAD SOUTH**

As I said in my report to you at the last meeting in May, I have asked for a reduction in the speed limit in Old Road South and Pixham Ferry Lane. The reply I had is that WCC will not consider a change until Kempsey Parish Council submit their planning application. I raised this with Cllr Mike Rouse who is the Head of Highways appointed by the ruling conservative administration, he agreed with WCC position and would not take up the cause. I am still waiting for Kempsey Parish Council to submit their planning application.

I was very pleased to see the Police outside the Walter's carryout speed checks.

**WEIGHT LIMITS REQUEST FOR OLD ROAD SOUTH AND ROMAN ROAD**

I have 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.

#### A38 WORKS AND BUS STOP

The work is now expected to be completed on or about the end of the first week in September. Can I remind you that our council are not paying for the work, Taylor Wimpy are.

I have got the contractors to change the size of the bus standing area on the Eastern side of the road to the correct size, it was far too small.

#### BULBS

I understood that replacement daffodil bulbs are needed on the A38 at the point where the endless roadworks have taken place. I found £200.00 to support the project.

#### PAVEMENTS REFURBISHMENTS

My battles continue and finally parts of Chapel Road, Lyf's Lane, Aston Close and Church Street and Windmill Lane have been completed this year. It is hoped that the remainder of Aston Close will be completed later this year, I have already got the County Council to fix the most dangerous part. I still don't have a timeline for the Limes, I am told they will now look at this in 2024 and it will cost in excess of £96K.

I know there are many other footways that need urgent attention, and I will continue to make representations to the County Council that they act urgently.

#### COMMUNITY BUS

This minibus takes residents on a Friday morning to St Peters Garden Centre, Tesco's, and Aldi. I would urge you to let anyone know who you think can benefit from the service. I have secured funding until the end of September.

#### ON DEMAND BUS

There is a new On Demand Bus that has been launched in our area. As I have previously said to Kempsey Parish Council, I am very disappointed that the Parish Council 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. Currently the On Demand Bus will take you to parts of Malvern, Upton, and Worcester Parkway. Finally, after some badgering, 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

Following the initial surveys, my request for a Zebra Crossing was rejected on safety grounds. However, a Toucan Signalled Controlled Crossing has in principle been approved, subject to funding. The cost has increased to approximately £250K. Tina, the WCC Officer who is helping me with this is applying for match funding to see if the funds can be found.

#### KERSWELL GREEN VASS POLES

I have written to Kempsey Parish Council asking for permission to erect VASS poles on their land at Kerswell Green. These poles when in place will allow the "Electronic Speed Signs" to be mounted where they are most needed. Hopefully, it will slow drivers down as they go through Kerswell Green.

#### FLOODING UPDATE

I am still working on the Old Road South problems, apart from that I seem to be mostly on top of the flooding problems in Kempsey.

Finally, I am here if you need me,

Warmest regards

County Councillor Martin Allen.

#### **DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

David Harrison re-iterated Martin Allen's sentiments on the passing of Henry Morris who had served as a District Councillor for 8 years some time ago and was a great servant to the village.

David was very pleased that the Post Office Lane development had been turned down. A planning application for seventy affordable houses on the Aston's Coaches site will be approved in the coming months. A new planning application has been submitted for the Bannut Hill/Napleton Lane development and only a few objections have so far been received. DH is quietly confident that these plans and those for the Brookend Lane development will not be approved. Grass verges have been well cut back. There were 58 people at the coffee morning on Monday morning at The Firs and 50 of them were not on the internet and therefore do not know what is going on in Kempsey. DH will print copies of the PACT minutes and Jan Harrison will hand them out at the coffee morning. Everyone was encouraged to use the Community bus on Fridays.

Police are aware that after dark, vehicles are racing down from the Whittington roundabout to the Powick roundabout and back, the fastest time so far recorded is 3 minutes.

## PARISH COUNCIL.

Unfortunately the Parish Council chairman was not present so there was no official PC report. Mike Biddle said he, Rob Gardener and the PC chairman were part of the design team for the Pixham Ferry Community Centre and the final drawings are nearing completion. A public meeting will be held in September and the planning application is also due to go in during September. It was felt that the public meeting should be held **before** the planning application is submitted. £1.76 million 106 money, along with £300K from the Parish council is available for the development.

Neil Stevens said the Main Road working party are to plant a rowan tree on the corner of Windmill Lane and Kingshill. Bulbs will be planted through the village and in the planters, but the planter outside the shop is causing a big problem as people are throwing all manner of disgusting rubbish in it. The new welcome to Kempsey signs at both ends of the village were put up in the wrong place and are the wrong height. WCC have agreed to reposition them with a member of the Main Road working party present. The Parish Council are aware that the Rocky area is becoming overgrown and it will be cleared during September. Neil said the public were welcome to attend PC meetings which take place on the second Monday of the month at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. The public are allowed to speak during the first half an hour.

### 6. Reports from School, Police and Church.

#### Church

Rev Mark Badger said following his appointment as Archdeacon of Worcester, he will be leaving his post as Rector of St Mary's and his last service will be on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October. He takes up his new post on 30<sup>th</sup> November. The Archdeacon of Dudley will head up the appointment process for Mark's successor at St Mary's. The PCC want to move forward with re-ordering the church building thereby allowing for broader uses of the internal space. The plan for Kempsey to merge with Powick and Callow End has been delayed due to Mark's appointment.

On behalf of PACT, Mark was congratulated on his new appointment.

**Police.** No police officers were able to attend but Dee Stanley sent the following report.

#### Kempsey – Priorities this quarter: Drugs / ASB – The Limes / Church St

We are currently gathering intelligence in relation to a couple of addresses in Kempsey drugs related. Since March we have received two calls specifically in relation to drug dealing in Kempsey. I would urge members of the public to call in if they have any suspicions that drugs are being dealt from an address or on the street or report anonymously through CrimeStoppers. This helps us build up an intelligence picture and action can then be taken once enough intel is there.

We do also currently have a local person on bail for possession with intent to supply (drugs) which was an offence that patrol officers came across.

The Limes we have paid attention to at various times of the day / week and have not seen anyone of note in that area apart from dog walkers or someone sitting on the bench, we also haven't had any calls regarding The Limes.

Numerous patrols Church St following The Limes, have seen some young people of the bench occasionally, not doing anything untoward. Reports of damage to Church field padlock, chain and grounds last week, unknown who did this at present but we are patrolling the area as much as we can and engaging with anyone around.

No recent reports of ASB (anti-social behaviour) Church St, a couple of calls regarding Anti-social behaviour o/s Morrisons. A group of youths have been banned recently which has caused this, we are working with the shop and people involved and showing a presence when we can.

Parking o/s the shop we always monitor this when passing by and on several occasions have spoken to people about their parking. Ideally we need the shop to block off the smallest space to prevent this continually occurring. This has been mentioned to the shop.

### **3: Speeding –**

Safer Roads Update – There has been a long-standing roadwork scheme through Kempsey on the A38 for a number of months, leaving our risk-assessed enforcement location unavailable. The last period of enforcement took place on 20/12/2022 where six offences were captured. Roadworks are still ongoing at this point in time. We are continuing to monitor this situation and will attend to enforce as soon as the roadworks are cleared.

Speed enforcement / monitoring by SNT when time allows.

There is a New Team Neighbourhood Crime Fighting Team who we SNT's can request to assist with Crimes the public want prioritised & reduce high impact crimes such as ASB, drugs, major thefts and criminal damage.

Also Problem Solving Hub have Intervention & Prevention officers who can work with young people if we refer them to divert away from Criminality / ASB. We are utilising this with some young people in Kempsey at present.

Should anyone want to contact us to discuss anything, please email: [ka.snt@westmercia.police.uk](mailto:ka.snt@westmercia.police.uk)

**There was no report from the school.**

## **7. Kempsey CIC (Community Interest Company).**

Neil Stevens said the Warm Spaces project would start again in the coming months but he wasn't sure that last winter it reached those who are really in need of warmth. However those who attended every week were grateful for the company and chat it provided.

The next event is an oral history project for Kempsey. The group has joined the Oral History Society which promotes the collection, preservation and use of recorded memories of the past. As well as offering practical advice and support, the Society aims to raise standards in oral history practices across a range of activities and disciplines. The group is looking for funding and needs a project manager. Kempsey Remembered, headed by Malcolm Holland, could work in close conjunction with the group.

Kempsey CIC will be involved in the Fireworks display organised by the PTFA of Kempsey Primary School on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November. This will be held at the playing field at Plovers Rise.

They will also be involved with the Christmas Fayre which will be held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November in church.

The Christmas Tree will be lit outside the village hall in early December.

D-Day celebrations will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 with a beacon being lit on Kempsey Common.

**8. Any other business.**

- Mike Biddle said he was a member of the Patients Participation Group at Kempsey Surgery and it desperately need more representation from Kempsey. The surgery is not coping with the huge increase in population in Kempsey and there is rarely a doctor on duty. Most patients have to travel to Haresfield House in Worcester to get an appointment to see a doctor and this is sometimes difficult as it takes two buses to get there. It was suggested that maybe the On Demand Bus might help.
- DH said the Parish Council is now only updating the notice boards at the Community Centre, the Shop and the Village hall. The others in Kerswell Green, Stonehall Common etc etc are not having up to date information in them. Neil Stevens said he would raise the matter with the Parish Council.
- Brian Boswell, who has been living in Byefields for 6 months, has had no information on village activities since he moved in. DH said he would deliver him a KLINKS magazine.

**9. Date of next Litter Pick.** Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 2.00pm from the village hall.

**10. Date of next meeting.** Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2023 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 2.20pm.