

Minutes of the Kempsey PACT meeting held at the Community Centre on Tuesday 28th February at 12.30pm

PRESENT: (34) Ann Smith (Chairman), Chris Waller (Chairman of Parish Council), PC Dee Stanley (West Mercia Police), Amy Carter MHDC, Faye Allen-Carter MHDC, David Harrison (MHDC), Jan Harrison, Paul Edwards (Platform Housing), Lisa Stevens, Trevor Geens (Parish Council), Neil Stevens (Parish Council), Shalini Bristow, Malcolm Holland, Jazmin Chester (Our Community Can), Rob Gardener (Parish Council), Sally Linsey (Cornflower Club), Joy Clee, Ian Fenton, Helen Fenton, Sue Cownie, Bob Cownie, Bryony Baynes (Headteacher KPS), Dave Willetts (Deputy Head), Jackie Smith, Melody Baker-Joyce, Simon Bott (Parish Lengthsman), Susan Bott (Parish Councillor), Gerry Abbot, Val Dobbins, Chris Gillies, Margaret Gillies, Jennie O'Regan, Brian Hewlett, Marian Walters,

- 1. Welcome and Introductions:** The new Chairman, Ann Smith, introduced herself then welcomed everyone to the Community Centre and thanked them for attending. Everybody then introduced themselves.
- 2. Apologies:** PCSO Brandon Knight, Martin Allen (County Councillor), John Michael (MHDC), Rev Mark Badger, Nancy Morris, Dave Bevan, Andrea Halford, Newton and Wendy Coen, John Baker, Sharon Baker-Joyce, Roy Clarke, Maxine Hemming, Lynda Billingham.
- 3. Reports from County, District and Parish Councils:**

COUNTY COUNCIL. Cllr Martin Allen was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following report.

FOOTWAYS & ELGAR DRIVE

Finally, after much pushing, the WCC have started on some footway repairs in Kempsey. WCC are in the process of spending 15million pounds on a new footbridge in Worcester, which I am not in favour of. I feel that the money would be better on bringing WCC present infrastructure back to a good standard of repair.

The work on the footway in Elgar Drive is now complete, and despite my offer to pay for the last 8 meters on the spur of Elgar Drive, WCC have refused to complete this section, they claim they do not own the land and they are unwilling to set a precedence. I feel this is a very poor decision and does not help elderly residents.

Other footways are going to be looked at this year, particularly I should mention Chapel Road and Church Street which should be done in May, if not before.

The Limes work has now been pushed back to the start of April 2024, due to a lack of funds, shame they spent the funds on the Worcester footbridge to nowhere!

Recently an elderly resident fell twice in Aston Close/Rookery Road, the footways there are in a very poor condition, and I have requested that WCC Highways investigate this matter urgently.

A38 THIRD LANE AND PIXHAM FERRY LANE

This has been very challenging for me; it has at times turned into a daily battle with Highways to ensure school children could cross the road safely and traffic could get out of the new estates. I will be glad when the end of April comes and the third lane that no one wanted will be completed. The only comfort to me is that there will be two refuge islands installed, this will make crossing the A38 much safer in that location.

SOUTHERN BUS SHELTER

A new bus shelter may be built on the A38 on the Eastern Side of the A38 at the Southern end of the Village, this may depend upon Kempsey Parish Council willingness to adopt the new shelter.

Following a Teams meeting on 27/01/23 I can confirm that the area for the Bus Standing including the proposed Shelter will be 4.4m deep and 7.8m wide. I have asked that this area is widened, it cannot be made deeper because of the ditch behind.

The matter will be looked at during the RSA Stage 3 safety audit. I have asked that they consider installing Grass Crete. There will be a site visit when the children are queuing to see if the Grass Crete will be required.

COMMUNITY BUS

I am very pleased to say that I have managed to set up a new community bus for Kempsey and Severn Stoke. It will commence on Friday the 24th of March, and initially run for 13-weeks. A survey was carried out prior to setting up the service:

53.1% wanted the service to run on a Friday.

59.4 % of those who responded wanted a morning service

It will be a dial a pick-up service on a Friday morning, taking people to the following locations in this order:

1. St Peters Garden Centre.
2. Tesco's
3. Aldi/B&M Bargains.

The costs are £2.00 return with a Bus Pass or £4.00 return if you don't have a pass.

WCC LEVELING UP FUND FAILS AGAIN.

I am sorry to hear that for the third time WCC have failed in a bid to secure funds

from the Government, this time it was for the Cycle Path from Kempsey to Shrub Hill Station. This would have included a controlled crossing outside the Community Centre.

WCC have finally admitted to me that there needs to be a crossing and are beginning to do a study to work out the costs. I will let you know more when I have more information.

DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Cllr David Harrison said it was 10 years ago today that Cllr Bob Bullock died.

For Kempsey to be named as a Smart Water Village, Just 150 more people are needed to sign up for Smart Water,

MHDC have three operatives litter picking from The Ketch to Old Road North today.

David has sent in his response to amendments put forward for the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

Roadworks on the A38 are running a few weeks late. David had objected to the Open Barn planning application and does not approve of a change to the village boundary. Roads will not be adopted on the Modwen site. Parts of the road on the Saxon Meadows site are being re-surfaced and will be adopted and roads on the Taylor Wimpey and Linden Homes sites will also be adopted.

Astons buses are funded by Section 106 money which will be running out soon. When this happens, nobody knows what the next stage will be. MHDC is setting up Active Travel which would make for a healthier lifestyle for cyclists and pedestrians. At present the path from Kempsey to Worcester is not wide enough for a mobility scooter and the edges need to be cut back. The new housing development at the Ketch will have its own school, shops etc.

Concern was expressed that Old Road South from Meadow Close to Pixham Ferry Lane was dangerous for pedestrians as there was no footpath. Why could the native hedges not be cut back to allow room for a path? DH said there were no plans for a footpath to be put there.

PARISH COUNCIL.

Cllr Chris Waller congratulated Ann Smith on taking over chairmanship of PACT due to Terry Ward's failing health. The Parish Council is now meeting with the architects to discuss changes to the design of the proposed Sports Centre at Pixham Ferry Lane. It is hoped that planning permission will be applied for by April. The next step will be a public consultation at the Youth Centre the date of which has yet to be decided. Two consultants have been appointed to provide MHDC with various reports including ecology, acoustic, traffic, archaeology etc. Discussion regarding passing bays on Pixham Ferry Lane are on-going with issues still to be resolved. Concern was expressed at the length of time it has taken to get the project off the ground and how the costs have escalated in the nine years since its conception.

A report on the 2022 parish survey for which over 550 responses were received, will be published in March.

In January, the Parish Council became aware of funds from MHDC for community build up and a successful bid was made.

The Parish Council has increased the precept by 5% for the coming year. There are 8 bands in Kempsey (A –H), covering 2100 properties. Half of these are in bands C or D with only one being in band H.

Work is in progress to upgrade the PC's annual report which will be mostly electronic although hard copies will be available for people who cannot access it in this way. The Annual Meeting will take place on Monday 24th April.

Cllr Rob Gardener said the SWDP review consultation closed on 23rd December. The PC objected to the Open Barn farm development allocation in the strategic gap. This was originally 8 hectares but has now reduced to 2 hectares. The timetable for the review is now four months behind time but should be submitted in March and following an inspector's report, could be adopted by February 2024. The three applications for development are in **Post Office Lane, Brookend Lane and Napleton Lane which has access off the A38**. The **Post Office Lane** application has been refused planning permission but is being appealed. The five day hearing will be held at the end of April/beginning of May. The **Napleton Lane** application has been refused and has not yet gone to appeal. The **Brookend Lane** application has not yet been decided. All three are outside the Village Development Plan and when the applications were made, MHDC could not show a five year housing land supply so development housing policies could be out of date. However, MHDC now does have a five year housing plan. The Parish Council objected to the application for an EcoPark at Hartlands, but outline planning permission has been granted.

4. Reports from School, Police and Church.

Bryony Baynes, Headteacher of Kempsey Primary School gave the following report. School continues to be very busy with 371 pupils on roll. About 100 people attended the recent ever popular Kempsey Café, when children mingled with their guests showing them their work, serving them with delicious cakes, coffee and tea and singing at the end of the morning. The next one will be held on Friday 31st March from 10.00am – 11.30am. There is going to be an IsingPop concert in church on Thursday 9th March at 2.00pm and 6.00pm. Some of the children will be taking part in recording music for the coronation at Muff Murfin's recording studio in the village. In reply to a question, Bryony said that since the implementation of two-form entry, the maximum number of pupils would be 420. Parking in the vicinity of the school continues to be an on-going problem and the PTFA are going to purchase some cardboard people cut outs to hopefully deter bad parking. Bryony said she has limited powers but will continue to do her best to deal with the minority of parents who upset local neighbours by being so inconsiderate. The new owners of The Talbot are

allowing parents to park on their car park, providing they do so in a responsible manner. Martin Lloyd Morris also allows parking in front of the Walter de Canteloupe. Bryony said she was proud to be Head of such a wonderful school where the children are happy and healthy and the staff all love their jobs. She said she was always happy to have people in school to hear children read. Dave Willetts said they were doing work on the curriculum regarding the local community. He will liaise with Malcolm Holland who has hundreds of photographs mapping the history of Kempsey through the ages. Bryony was thanked for the Friday morning praise assembly on Facebook which was much appreciated by many parents and grandparents.

Police – PC Dee Stanley, PC Jon Hand, PCSO Brandon Knight

PC Dee Stanley gave details of various problems being experienced in Kempsey recently. These included theft of motorbikes, ASB in King's Hill, criminal damage to flowers, ASB outside the shop and a knife attack outside the Walter de Canteloupe. She emphasised how important it is to inform the police of any incident, however small, so that the police can build up a picture of where and when crime is being committed. The police know who the culprits are and regularly patrol the shop and the Rocky. They are holding an open surgery once a month in the Parish Hall the dates being 27th March, 24th April and 22nd May all at 7.00pm. Anybody is welcome to attend these surgeries. It was suggested that other police are informed of the parking problems outside the shop and if they are motoring through the village and notice them, that they could stop and caution the people concerned. Dee said people have been warned and she will speak to the shop again. A resident said she doesn't feel Kempsey is a safe place to live any more. She walks her children to school every day and sees evidence of drug dealing when the HCHS bus drops off pupils after school near Brookend Lane.

Rev Mark Badger was unable to attend but sent the following report.

We are delighted to be planning a Fete again this year which will be on Saturday 24th June at St Mary's. We are hugely indebted to Simon Bott and his intrepid band of volunteers who, following the success of the Christmas Fayre, are once again taking the lead. We cannot stress how important these events are if we are to maintain an open and functioning Church (with a minister) in the Village!

A small working party is investigating the removal of the Church pews in order that the space might become more versatile both for worship and for community use. A more adaptable and more widely used building would also help to secure its future!

During March, the Children of Kempsey, Whittington and River Schools will be having their iSingPop concerts in St Mary's and Norton School in St

James. Any members of the congregation who would like to see the children singing and dancing would be most welcome.

Concerts:

St Mary's **Thursday 9th and 16th March** 2.00pm & 6.00pm

Tuesday 28th March 2.00pm

St James **Thursday 23rd March** 2.00pm & 6.00pm

Last month we welcomed the Bishop of Worcester the Rt Revd Dr John Inge to St Marys when he confirmed 9 members of our church family and blessed the church bells.

In April the Bishop of Dudley the Rt Revd Martin Gorrick will be joining us for our service at 10.30am on Sunday 16th April and all are welcome.

5. Update on Warm Spaces.

Simon Bott said he was grateful to have received money from MHDC and support from Platform Housing and the Parish Council in order to set up Warm Spaces in Kempsey. Initially it was to give people a warm place to meet in the cold weather, thereby not having to choose between eating and heating at home. It has developed into a weekly gathering of people who appreciate and gain mental stimulus from company. Each week new faces appear and the numbers are growing. It is held in the Community Centre every Tuesday morning from 10.00am to 12 noon and is open to all. It has shown to be so beneficial that it will continue when the weather changes.

6. Plans to celebrate King Charles's coronation.

Simon said there is to be a BIG LUNCH DAY on Sunday 7th May in Coronation Square, alias the Talbot car park. This will be a memorable day for all ages and further details will be publicised next month. Cllr Neil Stevens has composed a song which will be recorded by school children at Muff Murfin's studio. The King has asked that Monday 8th May is known as Volunteering Day, and Ann suggested that anyone with suitable equipment might like to volunteer to prune some trees on the Saxon Meadows estate.

7. Any other business.

- Jazmin Chester from *Our Community Can*, gave information about plans to support communities, particularly in rural areas, to reduce social isolation and loneliness, by bringing people and communities together through fun and engaging creative and physical activities. It is a four -year project funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and details will be forwarded to the Parish Council to see how Kempsey can benefit from the scheme. Jazmin's email is j.chester@worc.ac.uk
- Cllr Harrison said a resident had expressed concern that there were far too many people at the church Christmas Fayre and there was no evidence of a

qualified First Aider present. In fact there was a qualified First Aider on site all day.

- The Cubs and Beavers are at risk of closing due to lack of volunteers.

8. Date of next meeting. Tuesday 23rd May 2023 at 7.30pm.

9. Date of next Litter Pick. Sunday 12th March 2023 at 2.00pm starting from the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 2.50 pm.