

## **Minutes of the Kempsey PACT meeting held at the Community Centre on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May at 7.30pm**

**PRESENT:** (27) Ann Smith (Chairman), Cllr David Harrison (MHDC), Cllr Martin Allen (County Council), Cllr Rob Gardener (Parish Council), Jan Harrison, Paul Edwards (Platform Housing), Trevor Geens, Lesley Cox, Malcolm Holland, Lynda Billingham, Penny Warren, Sally Linsey (Cornflower Club), Joy Clee, Helen Fenton, Nigel Piercy, Geoff Tyler, Mike Biddle, Patricia Jaye, Linda Jenkins, Kirsten Jenkins, Dave Bevan, Simon Bott (Parish Lengthsman), Susan Bott (Parish Councillor), Brian Hewlett, Ian Furlong, Angela Allen, 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. John Michael (MHDC), Rev Mark Badger, Bryony Baynes (Headteacher), Nancy Morris, Newton and Wendy Coen, Sharon and Melody Baker-Joyce, Ian Fenton.
- 3. Minutes:** Copies of the February meeting had been circulated prior to this meeting and also distributed at the meeting. Following an amendment on the last line of item 3 to read ***full planning permission rather than outline planning permission***, the minutes were approved.
- 4. Reports from County, District and Parish Councils:**

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

I hope to be with you tonight, however, tonight is the first Malvern Hills District Council meeting after the elections at the start of the month and I have to attend. I understand that it may take longer than normal due to a confidential matter that needs to be discussed. As soon as the meeting finishes I will come over to you, but I have sent this just in case I do not arrive in time.

### **SCHOOLS**

There is going to be a new High School built on the outskirts of Worcester near the Hospital. This is to accommodate the numbers of children from the new estates by the Ketch Roundabout and the developments behind the Bluebell pub in Warndon New Villages. Also, I am pleased to see that a new special school for children with autism has also been announced. This will provide 120 free full-time places for pupils aged 5 – 19. The school will be located in Malvern and is to be paid for by the Department of Education's Free School Programme.

### **SPEEDING**

Speeding has continued to be a problem, especially on the A38. I have continually called for Police enforcement. During one period of Police enforcement last year there were 64 offences at Clifton and 28 offences in Kempsey. I will continue to press for more Police resources to be made available here.

#### SPEEDING ON OLD ROAD SOUTH AND REQUEST FOR ROAD CLOSURES

I have had a request from a concerned resident about the speeding on Old Road South between Pixham Ferry Lane and the start of the 30mph restrictions. I have asked that WCC review the speed limit in old road south in this area and reduce the speed allowed from 60mph to 30mp. The reply I had is that WCC will not consider a change until KPC 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.

Regarding the M5 Closures, many residents have contacted me, they are greatly concerned about the amount of traffic using side roads. WCC have again refused my request for Virtual Closing of roads. Head of Highways conservative Cllr Mike Rouse reluctantly agreed to meet me last week, unfortunately he said that WCC would not close Old Road South and the Roman Road when the M5 is closed. He has suggested that I apply for Weight Limits to be put on both roads, I have made the applications, but this may take three months to be processed. I feel this will not solve the problem.

#### MOTION ON SCHOOL SAFETY VOTED DOWN

Last week in the County Council meeting, my group presented a motion to reduce the speed limit to 20mph by all schools and also to make it an offence to park on the zigzag lines. I am sorry to say that the ruling conservative administration all voted it down.

I was sad to see a non-party political motion thrown away.

#### A38 WORKS AND BUS STOP

The work is now expected to be completed on or about the 20<sup>th</sup> of June. At least WCC are not paying for the work, Taylor Wimpey are. As works continue, WCC are aware that the bus standing area is not of the correct size and they have now said it will be rectified before the contractor leaves site.

#### PAVEMENTS

My battles to persuade WCC to commence repairing and replacing the footways in Kempsey has finally started to have some effect. Both Elgar Drive and Hetherington Close have now been completed. Parts of Chapel Road, Lyf's Lane, Aston Close and Church Street and Windmill Lane are to be done in May and June, I don't have a timeline for the Limes, I am told they will now look at this in 2024. I was disgusted that only a small part of Astons Close has had any attention.

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

## KETCH ROUNDABOUT AND THE UPTON ROUNDABOUT

Both of these large projects are just about completed, I am especially pleased with the Upton Roundabout having become very heavily involved with the project. The red street lights installed there are Bat friendly.

## COMMUNITY BUS

This 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. **On average only five people are using it regularly, and to maintain the service it will be necessary to have at least eight or nine on each journey.**

## CROSSING NORTH END OF KEMPSEY BY THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

I have repeatedly called for a safe crossing point to be installed near the Community Centre, in March this year, my badgering paid off and WCC admitted the need for a crossing. The first feasibility study has been completed, this shows that the crossing point can be a Zebra Crossing, there is a second feasibility study currently underway, this is a more in-depth survey. The work will be carried out late March or early April next year.

## COUNTY COUNCIL FAILURE

During the last 24 months the ruling administration at County Hall put in for two levelling up bids for infrastructure projects, such as the footpath/cycle way from Kempsey to Worcester and a bid for £87m to run the buses.

I am sorry to say the government rejected all of their proposals but the County Council has since found the funding.

## FLOODING UPDATE

In Kempsey, there are a number of roads that suffer from flooding, the worst have been:

Roman Road, from Brookend Lane to Bestman's Lane. Post Office Lane near Douglas Castle Farm, which has now had attention, and Old Road South in two places. Extensive work was carried out resurfacing Roman Road and also digging out ditches. I am still working on the Old Road South problems.

## DISTRICT COUNCIL.

DH said the SWDP was still going ahead. Most councils have stopped following the National Planning Policy Framework which sets out the government's planning policy for housing and topics including business, transport and the natural environment, but MHDC are carrying on.

MHDC are experiencing problems with appeals and have to improve although they are winning more than they are losing.

Further funding for Severn Stoke has been received to the tune of £750K.

There is a real need for another lengthsman as it is too much for just one. MHDC purchased an new pavement sweeper which broke down four times and has now been replaced with another new one.

CCTV is now in operation under the Ketch roundabout bridge.

The drug problem in the area is getting worse with Birch Lane and Ham Lane being particular bad spots. Please report any problems to the police.

### **PARISH COUNCIL.**

Cllr Rob Gardener said the election for a new PC of 13 councillors took place on 4<sup>th</sup> May, but only 9 nominations had been received so all were duly elected. There are currently four vacancies and it is hoped they will be filled in the near future. The PC committees are in the process of being set up but were not yet formulated.

### **Proposed housing developments.**

**Post Office Lane:** The five - day inquiry eventually lasted for eight days. It followed a refusal of planning permission by MHDC. There were several grounds for this, including the impact on character and appearance of the area, the development strategy including that the site is outside the village development boundary and whether or not there is a five-year housing land supply. The PC raised other problems including safe access, additional traffic, surface and foul drainage etc. The inspector is waiting for the 106 agreement to be completed the deadline for which is 1<sup>st</sup> June. A decision is unlikely until July/August.

The PC is involved in discussions with residents over the Saxon Meadows site where the community orchard is being sold off in 22 plots. MHDC enforcement officers are investigating whether the sale of 21 of the plots is in breach of the planning permission for Saxon Meadows.

**Napleton Lane:** Following an earlier refusal, the new application has been submitted reduced to 140 dwellings.

**Brookend Lane:** The application has not been determined yet.

### **Other matters.**

JC asked that the Parish Council is urged to make the land available for the skateboard facility. Cllr Gardener reported that an area has been allocated for both a skate park and pump track within the scheme which is being prepared with the appointed architects.

Passing bays in Pixham Ferry Lane to serve the Community and Sports facility will all be on the north side of the road on land owned by Taylor Wimpey. It is expected that the contractor currently carrying out works on the A38 will move directly to Pixham Ferry Lane once those works are completed.

Cllr Gardener was thanked for the sterling work he did at the Post Office Lane inquiry on behalf of the community.

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

Unfortunately, no reports were received from the school, police or church.

### Post meeting update:

**I emailed the police regarding several issues that were raised at the meeting and Jon Hands' response is below.**

*Hi Marian,*

*Firstly apologies there was no presence on Tuesday, occasionally we aren't able to make meetings. We have a large and busy area so occasionally things slip through the net.*

*Please find attached the parish council report for last month, I've updated it slightly as not a lot has occurred in the last month.*

*In summary, during April, 18 crimes were recorded in Kempsey, a drop of 2 on the previous month, there were two reports of anti-social behaviour. The crime figures for May are not yet available but so far we have had 2 calls regarding ASB.*

*The knife sweep is nothing to be concerned about. It was conducted as part of Op Sceptre which is a nationwide knife campaign, any open spaces where youths congregate were searched for any bladed articles that could be stored there. Happily nothing was found at The Rocky.*

*To clarify, I wasn't disappointed with such with low turnout in Kempsey Surgeries, if anything it's a good thing, it shows that people don't have anything they wish to speak to us about or they are happy to contact us by more convenient means. The dates and times were publicised on Twitter and Neighbourhood Matters, in most cases a week before then again on the day or a few days before. As I'm sure you'll agree, an officer sat in an empty office for an hour is not a good use of our time. Clearly this can be revisited in the future if we feel the need has arisen, but, as I said last month in the Parish Council meeting, this time will still be spent in the community.*

*We have had one third hand report of suspicious activity on Ham Lane in Severn Stoke and one on Birch Lane, these were reported to us by the same person and there is no evidence to say anything criminal occurred, certainly nothing whatsoever to say that either of these incidents are in relation to drug abuse. We are looking to develop these reports and will be spending some time in those areas but at this stage there is nothing to link either to any form of criminality.*

*Two males were arrested on suspicion of possession of Cannabis in Norton, I think this may be the incident you are referring to. This is not related to county lines and was not on our policing area.*

*I hope this helps.*

*Enjoy the bank holiday weekend, let's hope the sun continues to shine!*

Joy Clee, our newly elected Churchwarden said the church Youth Club was growing and the church had been awarded a £10K grant towards funding for further work with children and young families.

## **6. 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 to set up Warm Spaces back in January. Fortunately, due to our relatively mild winter, people did not need to use it to meet for warmth in bitterly cold weather, but it developed into a weekly gathering of people who appreciate and gain mental stimulus from company. It will recommence in the Autumn and there is still some money left in the account. It was suggested that more elderly people might attend if they could be picked up and driven to the Community Centre. This used to happen at the Day Friendship Group which met at The Firs before COVID. How to know who would benefit from this is a problem, but the list of people drawn up by the church to be contacted during the pandemic might be a good source of information and also the doctor's surgery might know of people. Platform Housing said The Firs would be available for gatherings too.

## **7. Review of King Charles's coronation activities in Kempsey.**

The BIG LUNCH DAY on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May in Coronation Square, alias the Talbot car park, was a huge success. Ann Smith said there had been a lot of bad feeling about where the £1000 grant from the Parish Council had been spent. She stressed that The Talbot had NOT been given any money. People had questioned why the event was held on The Talbot car park rather than Plovers Rise playing field, but there was not the money to set it up in that location. The Talbot provided public liability, the stage, car park, loos, bouncy castle, tables and chairs free of charge. Susan Bott said she had been very upset by the many unpleasant Spotted Kempsey messages she had received. The organising committee deserve a huge vote of thanks for a really enjoyable celebration involving all age groups.

Below is a breakdown of the £1000 donated by the PC.

### **Financial Statement**

#### **Coronation Square 'Big Lunch 2023' Donation from KPC; £1,000.00**

Description	£
Hire of Studio for 'Coronation Day'	240.00
Medals for Kempsey children	493.19
Marquee Hire	60.00
DJ John Bray Sounds	200.00
Prizes for sideshows	10.00
Decorating sundries	12.00

Printing Fliers & Banner

64.00

**Total £1019.19**

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

Simon Bott said the group was heavily involved with the summer fete to be held in the church on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June.

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. MA said he would be able to help with funding.

#### **9. Any other business.**

- Paul Edwards from Platform Housing thanked Malcolm Holland for his recent, very interesting Kempsey Remembered presentation. Posters advertising the Museum of Royal Worcester Creative Workshops were circulated. These are being held at The Firs every Thursday from 25<sup>th</sup> May to 27<sup>th</sup> July from 2.00-4.00pm and are free of charge. People were encouraged to sign up as places are limited [gemma.bradley@platformhg.com](mailto:gemma.bradley@platformhg.com)
- Mike Biddle said he would help anyone to apply for a reduction in their Severn Trent water rates if their home is on soak aways not sewers.
- MB also said the Patient Participation Group at the Kempsey Surgery was looking for new members, particularly ladies. There are to be no improvements to the village surgery.
- Platform Housing has given the Football Club some money for community work following their involvement in the recent Litter Pick

**10. Date of next meeting.** Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2023 at 12.30pm.

**11. Date of next Litter Pick.** To be decided, probably sometime in September.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.