

**Minutes of the Kempsey PACT meeting held at the Community Centre on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.30pm**

**PRESENT:** (20) Ann Smith (Chairman), Cllr David Harrison (MHDC), Cllr Martin Allen (County Council), Cllr Chris Waller (KPC), Cllr Rob Gardener (KPC), Cllr Neil Stevens, (KPC) Joy Clee, Simon Bott (Parish Lengthsman), Jan Harrison, Paul Edwards (Platform Housing), Sally Linsey (Cornflower Club), Joy Clee, Margaret Gillies, Chris Gillies, Kathleen Padden, Mike Biddle, Penny Warren, John Baker, 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 John Michael, Bryony Baynes (Headteacher), Nancy Morris, Newton and Wendy Coen, Brian Hewlett, Ian Furlong, Dave Bevan, Susan Bott, Roy Clarke, Sharon and Mel Baker-Joyce, Maxine Hemming, Helen and Ian Fenton.
- 3. Minutes:** Copies of the August meeting had been circulated prior to this meeting and also distributed at the meeting and were approved.
- 4. Matters Arising:** Mike Biddle said a senior partner of PPG had informed him that there was no danger of the Kempsey surgery being closed. Mike added that people should continue to try to get an appointment with a doctor at Kempsey rather than have to travel to Haresfield House.

**5. Reports from County, District and Parish Councils:**

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

**ON DEMAND BUS**

I and Cllr Tom Wells have now had our meeting, this has taken months to be organised.

The fourth official launch is to commence soon. Once I have the leaflets, I will be able to give you more information. But it now looks like the buses will take you to anywhere within the designated County Council Divisions of Croome and Powick.

Also, it will take you to: Tesco's in St Peters, St Peters Garden Centre, B&M Bargains and Aldi. County Hall/The Countrywide Centre, Croome Court, Worcester Parkway Railway Station, Upton Upon Severn, The Retail Park in Malvern, both of Malvern's Railway Stations. Not all of these destinations may yet be on the App but should be soon.

It is hoped that Tewkesbury may be added in December 2023.

Because of the new on demand bus, the Community Bus will end by Christmas.

### **PUFFIN CROSSING NORTH END OF KEMPSEY BY THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

I am very pleased to report that my two years of hard work has finally paid off and we are going to have a controlled crossing at the north end of the village.

I have had more requests for this crossing point than anything else in the village.

A presentation has been given earlier in the month at the Community Centre, I was pleased to see so many residents attend.

I will wait for the full timeline from WCC for the work to be done, however the trees running along the Service Road/A38 will be removed before the start of the bird nesting season. The main part of the work will be carried out in June/July 2024.

### **A38 SOUTHERN END ROADWORKS #5638**

The results of the speed survey are in, the survey was conducted between 04/10/23 to 10/10/23.

New daily volume of traffic North Bound mean average speed 28 mph, 85% 32mph.

Old Daily volume of traffic North Bound mean average speed 30.9 mph, 85% 34.9 mph.

This is a decrease in speed of just under 3 mph.

New daily volume of traffic South Bound mean average speed 29 mph, 85% 34 mph.

Old daily volume of traffic South Bound mean average speed 30.4 mph, 85% 34.9 mph.

This is a decrease in speed of just less than 1.5 mph.

The new top speed recorded is 38 mph and this was after 2300 one evening.

The old top speed recorded was 39.71 mph.

### **KERSWELL GREEN VASS POLES**

At my urging these have now both been installed, one at each end of the village where they will be most effective.

### **TACTILE BLOCK POST OFFICE LANE**

I have finally been given a date for the Tactile Blocks at the junction of Post Office Lane and the A38 to be replaced. This work is now scheduled to take place on 11<sup>th</sup> of December.

### **FOOTWAYS AND ROADS NEEDING ATTENTION.**

During the last 12 months, I have managed to get quite a lot of our pavements refurbished. Aston Close, Church Street, Windmill Lane to name but a few.

I have been asked to provide a list of the pavements and roads in my division that need attention. It is hoped that they may be attended to in the next financial year.

The Limes, already booked in for next year.

Footways Main Road in many places the paths are coming to the end of their life and need attention.

St Mary's Close the footways including the walkway path through to Church Street are in a very poor state.

St Mary's Close, the roadway needs attention.

Rookery Road, the footway is also in a poor condition.

Squires Close, the footway is in places dangerous.

## **OVERGROWN HEDGES**

I am pleased to report the hedge and trees between the Crown and the Village Hall have been cut back, I would like to think the letter from the County Council helped resolve this issue.

## **DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

David Harrison said the SWDP had been submitted on time and the inspector had accepted it. SWDP officers will respond to questions before Christmas. DH will photocopy PACT minutes and distribute them at The Firs and the Cornflower Club. This is much appreciated by the many people who are not on email. The planning application for 40 houses at Brookend Lane will be discussed at the MHDC Planning Committee meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> December and is recommended for approval. Access will be on a dangerous corner, but the County Council says it is safe. The field often floods as does the planned footpath. The bridge has a split which must have been caused by a vehicle and MHDC councillors will look at this when they hold a site visit.

## **PARISH COUNCIL.**

**Cllr Chris Waller** reported that maintenance of The Rocky was on-going. Six new litter bins have been placed around the village and new welcome signs are now in place. Bulb planting has taken place and a Roan tree has been planted at Hillside. A recent inspection of the play area at Plovers Rise showed it was in good order and a new door has been installed at the pavilion. The defibrillator kindly donated by Taylor Wimpey, will be shortly be installed on the wall outside the Parish Hall. Audit reports for the last year showed no issues and the PC is looking at new deposit accounts to obtain better interest rates.

Kempsey Colts are holding a family fun day on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May

The 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day will be commemorated on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June and the PC has given a substantial donation towards this event.

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust is to better manage open spaces.

## **Cllr Rob Gardener**

*Although the planning applications for further housing at Brookend Lane and Napleton Lane remain undetermined, that for Brookend Lane is going to the Northern Area Planning Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2023 with a recommendation to grant planning permission.*

*A number of previous technical and resource issues are being overcome, including drainage. The highways issues for Napleton Lane have yet to be resolved.*

*For both applications, Worcestershire Children First's (the County Council Education Authority) objection because of lack of primary and secondary school capacity for children from the developments has now become a 'no objection' They have decided that Home to School Transport for both sets of pupils to unspecified schools elsewhere will be enough to mitigate the lack of school places. It requires financial contributions from developers to pay for it. WCF states that this is sufficient only on a temporary (7-year) basis but there is no guarantee that money would be available to build a new school in that or any time frame and it could become permanent.*

*The Parish Council feels this is unacceptable and is a further example that further housing is unsustainable.*

*The South Worcester Development Plan Review has now been submitted for independent examination. The 3 councils' hope to adopt the Plan in late 2024 but as yet we are not aware that a timetable has been set.*

*In the meantime, it is understood that there is not the required 5-Year Housing Land Supply which means that the housing policies of the existing plan may be out of date and speculative proposals for even more housing have an improved chance of success. This is despite land already allocated for 2500 houses between Broomhall Way and Broomhall Lane and longstanding applications for planning permission which have yet to be decided which could then be included in the 5YHLS.*

*On other matters, residents of Saxon Meadows have received a letter, seemingly from one of the purchasers of the plots which make up what was to be Public Open Space and community orchard, notifying them of the intention to make an application for planning permission for 5 houses and a café as well as "recreational open space". The Parish Council has written to the developer pointing out that the proposal is against policy since the land is outside the village development boundary and in the significant gap between Kempsey and Worcester. We also pointed out a number of errors in the scheme.*

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

### **Church**

As you may know Rev Mark Badger has left this parish to take up his new appointment as Archdeacon of Worcester. Our curate, Rev Rachel Colthurst has settled in well and we are doing our best to continue services and functions at St. Mary's especially in the busy Christmas season.

Last Saturday was our annual Christmas Fair which was great fun, raised over £2100 and was a good community event in church.

Special mention must be made of Stepping Stones -the Mother and toddler group enjoying play and exercise in St Mary's twice a week.

The other group meeting on Wednesdays is the Youth club which is growing in popularity and enjoying the space.

Building on the success of these groups and regular worship we are exploring better use of such a large building. A re-ordering group started by Mark Badger, is looking at architects plans to make better use of space and of course this will involve replacing pews with another seating method.

We are also looking to continue work with Worcester Wildlife in managing the churchyard and surrounding fields.

One more event started by Mark Badger is the annual carol singing outside The Lawns. This year it will take place on Wednesday 20th December at 6.30pm accompanied by Malvern Hills brass band. Hot chocolate, mulled wine and mince pies will be available kindly sponsored by Platform Housing.

Due to the retirement of its editor, Klinks magazine had to cease and will become Kempsey Times incorporating much more news. All subscriptions will be honoured by delivery of this new format and eventually this will be a free newspaper for all.

**Joy Clee**  
**Churchwarden**

### **School. Bryony Baynes sent the following report.**

It has been a busy term at KPS since we returned in September. Our Geography topic across school has been based on local Geography and the children have very much enjoyed looking at their locality. Most of the year groups undertook a local walk as part of this unit of study and were surprised at how much there was to still discover in Kempsey.

We are now gearing up for Christmas with all its different activities - such as the Reception nativity play, the Year 1 Carol concert and our whole school Carol Service in church at the end of term. A highlight of this time of year is always the visit from Father Christmas who, this year, will be accompanied by real life reindeer!

Our fantastic PTFA held a hugely successful fireworks event and raised almost £10,000 - an astonishing amount of money. This is going towards a much needed sensory room at school.

We are also working to build up links with the Lawns nursing home. Our Head Boys and Girls have visited once to talk about future projects and we are looking forward to getting involved in different activities there.

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 in school. 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.

We are also collecting donations to put toward making some Christmas hampers for some of our families at the end of term. Many of our families are really struggling in the current financial climate and we hope to provide them with some hampers of this special items that they might not otherwise be able to afford at this special time - chocolates, biscuits, scented candles, nice bath things, warm socks, etc. and as always, we welcome donations for our food bank. If you would like to drop anything off in the school office, we would be very grateful and, I can assure you, it will be much appreciated!

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

**Over the last two months we have had three reported incidents in the Kempsey area of ASB, two related to the same address, one was issues with a customer at a pub that wouldn't leave.**

**Two burglary dwellings have been reported, one distraction burglary and one burglary non-dwelling (a shipping container broken into). The distraction burglary was carried out by an unknown male who was invited into the victims address and while there has stolen a mobile phone from within the property. Burglary figures are low in Kempsey but are going up in other localities and other suburbs of Worcester. We tend to see this each year due to the darker evenings, and we increase patrols in vulnerable areas to combat it.**

**There have been other incidents reported to police in the Kempsey area but not ones that impact the wider community. Incidents such as domestic disputes, reports of persons driving while disqualified and road traffic accidents.**

### **7. Update on Parish Magazine.**

Sue Cawley, the editor of KLINKS magazine for several years, is standing down in December and Alan Hughes owner of a printing firm in Pershore, who has been producing the Pershore Times, Upton Times and Powick Times for many years, is keen to produce a similar magazine for Kempsey. It will be a free publication so distributors will not have to collect annual subscriptions in future. All advertisers who have paid for inclusion in KLINKS will be honoured and the format will be very similar to the other magazines he produces. Organisations would send in articles for inclusion as before.

It will not be purely a church magazine, but church services and events from St Mary's, St Deny's and St James will be included. The first copy will be issued in February 2024.

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

#### **Current and upcoming projects**

#### **Oral History Project**

- planned as a two year project to capture first hand memories of life in and around Kempsey. The project includes recruitment and training of a Project Manager and volunteers, securing funding for producing a range of legacy archives, documents and events. Grant from Martin Allen purchased professional recording equipment. One day training event by Oral History Society held in Tesco Community ROOM.

#### **Kempsey St. Mary's Christmas Fair EVENT**

- this annual event involved the whole community of Kempsey, and last year saw 2,000 people come through the church to contribute to the wider community work undertaken by the church. Having this number of people inside the church caused a few problems so this year we mitigated against this by having less stalls and moving food and drink outside. We welcomed some new volunteers who are assets to the community. Tesco Elves were a big hit!

## **Police & Crime Commissioner Road Safety Grant Scheme**

- Applied for £6,400 grant to buy and fit a Solar Powered VAS Sign for Main Road

## **Bulb Purchase**

- £140 worth of bulbs bought and planted, £100 donation from Platform Housing Crocus 'Remembrance'

## **Networking**

-We attended Connected Communities Breakfast Club with speed dating slot, and as a result have been invited to address staff at Lucart Group to discuss Community Building

## **Christmas Carols at The Lawns EVENT**

- Another popular annual event which features singing carols and popular Christmas songs in front of The Lawns Care Home in Kempsey. £250 grant from Platform Housing.

## **Re-ordering of St. Mary's Kempsey as Community Space**

- The impressive building of the Church has a lot of potential as a Community Space, which will need additional welfare facilities and internal alterations.

## **Kempsey St. Mary's Summer Fete EVENT**

- The annual event that brings together the whole of Kempsey in a day of fun and fund raising with a variety of attractions.

## **D-Day80 (6 June 2024) Kempsey Common EVENT**

- A unique event to commemorate the D Day Landings in June 1944, Kempsey's last beacon lighting event took place in 2022 as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.

**Joy:** 07484 291770 jfclee39@gmail.com

**Simon:** 07767 818229 si.bott@btinternet.com

**9. Date of next Litter Pick.** Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2024 at 2.00pm from the village hall.

## **10. Any Other Business.**

- Chris Waller brought along Kresta, a breeding guide dog who lives with him. There is a national shortage of volunteers to have a breeding dog in their home and he asked if anyone was thinking about having a dog, to consider contacting Guide Dogs for the Blind for further information. It is also possible to sponsor a puppy or dog.
- A large fridge was fly-tipped on Roman Road recently and MHDC came out to remove it. Unfortunately, it was in a difficult position so Colin

Anstey kindly brought his tractor to lift it and MHDC were then able to take it away. MHDC also swept the A38 and Church Street prior to Remembrance Sunday. Thanks to MHDC.

- The village Christmas tree is to be installed outside the Parish Hall and will be lit on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at 6.00pm.

**11. Date of next meeting.** Tuesday 27th February 2024 at 12.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.