

**Minutes of the Kempsey PACT meeting held at the Community Centre on Tuesday
20th August 2024 at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: (20) Ann Smith(Chairman), Cllr David Harrison (MHDC), Cllr Martin Allen (County Council), Cllr John Michael (MHDC), Cllr Chris Waller (Chairman Parish Council), Cllr Mike Biddle (Parish Council), Simon Bott (Parish Lengthsman), Cathy Garner (Community Builder), Jan Harrison, Paul Edwards (Platform Housing), Joy Clee (Churchwarden), Wendy Coen, Newton Coen, Bob Bowley, Penny Warren (WI) Ian Furlong, Kathleen Padden, John Baker, Chris Gillies, 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: Nancy Morris, Helen Fenton, Brian Boswell, Rev Rachel Colthurst, Bryony Baynes, Trevor Geens, Susan Bott, Lynda Billingham, Margaret Gillies, Cllr Rob Gardener.

3.Minutes: Copies of the May meeting minutes had been circulated prior to this meeting and also distributed at the meeting and were approved.

Matters Arising: None.

4.Reports from County, District and Parish Councils:

COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr Martin Allen gave the following report.

ON DEMAND BUS – Just wanted to remind everyone.

This is going great guns, it's not perfect but at a cost of only £2.50 per trip, with a second person on the same booking being charged just £1.25. The buses will take you to anywhere within the designated County Council Divisions of Croome and Powick. Also, it will now take you to: Tewkesbury, Tesco's in St Peters, St Peters Garden Centre, B&M Bargains and Aldi. County Hall/The Countryside Centre, Croome Court, Worcester Parkway Railway Station, Upton Upon Severn, The Retail Park in Malvern, both of Malvern's Railway Stations and Church Street in Malvern.

You can use the service if you live in the county council division of Croome and you can book a trip using the app or by phone.

PUFFIN CROSSING NORTH END OF KEMPSEY BY THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Unfortunately, two street lights cannot be installed at present due to birds nesting, one of the nests had a fresh egg within last week.

#7678 BROOKEND LANE, KEMPSEY BRIDGE HIT AND DAMAGED AGAIN. ALSO, THE VERGE MASTERS ARE MISSING 03.07.24.

This has now been inspected and is on a very long list of outstanding jobs.

CHANGE OF BUS TIMES FROM 1ST OF SEPTEMBER 2024.

Service 32 /333 – First Bus Service

Service 32 from Worcester to St Peters will have a revised route around St Peters estate. Buses will now run in an anticlockwise one-way loop, running via Worcester Road (A38), Broomhall Way (A440) and St Peter's Drive.

School service 333 from Worcester to Hanley Castle will run a slightly different route from Norton Barracks to Kempsey, now running via Broomhall Way (A440) not Brookend Lane.

RAAC AND LEGIONELLA

As you may have heard or read in the local media, due to the continued RAAC and now Legionella, County Hall has mostly had to be evacuated. Many of the council officers continue to work from home or are now working in Wildwood near county hall.

What the current administration intend to do to resolve the situation is not yet known.

THE LIMES FOOTWAY

I am very pleased to see that this has now been completed, and as you may know, the cost was in excess of £96K.

DOUBLE YELLOW LINES JUNCTION OF A38/WINDMILL LANE AND HILLSIDE

Following repeated raised concerns from local residents about parking issues and vehicles driving on the verge owned by Platform Housing land, WCC are now proposing to install double yellow lines.

FINALLY I am here if you need me, enjoy the rest of the summer.

Warmest regards

County Councillor Martin Allen.

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr John Michael.

John is Chairman of the Malvern Hills Trust which looks after the Malvern Hills and Commons on behalf of the nation, and this post takes up a lot of his time. He has written to Platform Housing asking for the kerbing at Windmill Lane and Hillside to be moved. On 23rd September, Old Road South will be closed between Meadow Close and Pixham Ferry Lane for the installation of a water supply to the new house at Sunnyside Farm. John asked anyone to let him know if they had any issues with Platform Housing.

Cllr David Harrison.

David said the affordable housing development at the old Astons site was making progress and a planning application was in for additional retail and affordable housing

between that site and the Peugeot garage. It was legal for the house opposite The Talbot to be painted white despite being in a conservation area. Enforcement officers are going to take action at the Saxon Meadows site, but nothing has been put in writing yet.

PARISH COUNCIL.

Cllr Chris Waller gave the following reports.

Police liaison A police liaison panel of two councillors has been set up and a first meeting was held with our local police last month. The matters discussed included police coverage of the parish, antisocial behaviour, speeding along Main Road and reporting of incidents. Police numbers are due to increase by one PC and one PCSO in July, bringing the total number of officers to three. There have been only four calls related to antisocial behaviour in the past four months. Any instances of antisocial, threatening, or intimidating behaviour should be reported via the 101 phone number or through online reporting: www.westmercia.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime. If people do not report incidents (of any nature), the police will never have a true impression of what is going on. 'Posting' on Spotted Kempsey does not amount to reporting. Reporting online is quicker than making a 101 phone call, usually requiring just one form with a description of the issue.

KPC is currently exploring funding an electric bike for police use as these bikes have proved to be a very effective form of police patrolling elsewhere. When the police bike is in the village, a police car would be parked to ensure a visible presence. Finally residents are encouraged to sign up with 'Neighbourhood Matters' at www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk so that, through email, they can be informed of police alerts and advice, reports of criminal activity and police actions in the area.

Cricket at Plovers Rise. Kempsey Cricket Club has ceased to be operational post covid. With little prospect of it starting up again, KPC has recently signed a short term lease of the cricket pitches with Worcester Amigos Cricket Club for the duration of the 2024 season. However KPC and the club are working towards a much longer relationship from 2025 with the club incorporating Kempsey in its name, establishing a second eleven and a youth cricket club. Improvements to the cricket square will be required and the club held a 'softball', eight over, prize money tournament on 4th August to raise funds for the improvement works.

Overgrown footways and footpath. We continue to receive complaints about overgrown footways and footpaths. Where this arises from an uncut hedge overhanging a footway, the Parish Office endeavours to make contact with the owner of the property requesting action to cut the hedge back. This generally produces a satisfactory outcome. Overgrown footpaths are reported to our Paths Warden who assesses the extent of the clearance work needed prior to reporting the matter to WCC Highways. The last mild winter and heavy rainfall has made the problem particularly difficult this year.

Rocky Bridge. KPC apologises for the inconvenience caused due to the delays in repairing the bridge at the Rocky. The councillor organising the repairs has now left the Council and the bridge repairs were expedited shortly afterwards by another member of the Environment Committee.

Deputy Clerk

We are currently recruiting a part time Deputy Clerk in order to deliver a better quality of service to parishioners. The position is being advertised at KPC's website and elsewhere.

Fireworks evening

After an extended debate, KPC approved the request from the school PTFA to hold the annual fireworks event on 2nd November at Plovers Rise. Concerns were expressed regarding the effect of the noise of the fireworks on pets and wild animals but it was felt 12 minutes of fireworks at this event was preferable to having a number of domestic fireworks events in its place and that the event was a very important and irreplaceable fundraising opportunity for the school.

cw – 19 Aug 2024

Infrastructure Committee report

Work undertaken.

- Design Team held Zoom meetings with Calfordseaden (CS) on 16, 19, 26 July and 2 August with a Design Team only discussion on 6 August regarding the following:
 - Elemental Cost Plan revision 4 received 12 July. CS undertook this revision following in particular updating of the M&E components of the building and car park – drainage, heating, services etc. The Cost Plan indicated a cost overrun of £255,000 over the project budget of £1.9m for development works. A ‘Value Engineering’ exercise carried out by CS in the following ten days identified potential cost savings of £177,880 including changes to the external wall cladding and glazing of the cafe, a lower specification enclosure to the air source heat pump, change in transformer arrangements for the power supply and delaying construction of the overflow car park drainage, the trim trail equipment and the groundsman’s store. Further cost reductions from the cafe glazing, the solar panels and reducing the amount of permanent ball stop fencing would achieve further savings of £62,300 leaving a shortfall of c. £15,000. However the Design Team feels that some of the proposed saving would be significantly detrimental to the project and therefore recommends that the KPC budget for the project is increased, at this stage, by £80,100, principally from unbudgeted funds received since the start of this financial year. CS have advised that the final cost of the works can now only be determined via a tender exercise.
 - Fees and reports. In addition to the cost of the works, some £200k has been budgeted for fees and reports. A review of the fee budget is underway though the cost of any archaeological investigations remains problematic.
 - Noise Impact Assessment survey. Modifications to the report from Nova Acoustics have been requested with CS following up on the significance of the Air Source Heat Pump to the overall noise level from the site.
 - Landscaping report. Plans for landscaping of the community land have been received from Blade. There are a number of issues to be addressed including tall trees impacting the view to the west, the location of the mini orchard, whether a pond is to be included and the plant lists being proposed. The proposed scheme has not yet been costed but significant reductions in plantings will be proposed consistent with obtaining a 10% biodiversity net gain for the site for which the proposed baseline is a ploughed field. The current plan incorporates KPC’s suggestions for the fencing and planting arrangements for the northern boundary of the site and, subject to the final BNG plan, it is proposed to obtain quotes for fencing the boundary for consideration by the Council.
 - PFL passing bays. We understand that the Section 278 Agreement between WCC and Taylor Wimpey has been signed. Awaiting confirmation that the Agreement also includes the construction of both the vehicular and approved pedestrian entrance onto the community land. No clarity is available on the timeline to the start of works being dependent on the various permissions for traffic management being submitted and granted.

- Skatepark and pump track. Cllr Bicknell is leading this activity following the resignation of Cllr Charnock and was briefed on the issues during the month.

- Agricultural hardstanding. It is envisaged that the entrance gate, or gates, will be located at 1m from the roadside 'kerb', at least for the hinge post on the south side. As the entrance is at an angle to the road and slopes both towards the road and from north to south, the likely arrangement for the gates is two independent 3m wide gates meeting in the middle of the entrance. The vegetation overlying the entrance path has been cleared and slopes of the entrance path have been measured. A gate design incorporating a 'rising butt' component is being considered to enable the gates to open in the uphill (i.e. away from the road) direction.

Work in hand (main issues).

- review of the fees and reports costs budget
- review of the arboricultural and landscaping report from Blade
- establishing the timeline for the BNG calculation and plan
- review of the draft Design & Access Statement from CS
- deciding actions to be taken on archaeological investigations
- formulate a land management plan for the next 12 months
- update the Football Foundation on the project status with a view to seeking funding.
- design of the gates to the hardstanding

cw – 11 August 2024

Item 9.6 Planning Committee Report

The committee met on 05 August 2024, another well attended meeting.

Agenda applications considered:

Application No: M/24/00758/HP, a retrospective application to replace fencing at front of house and along party boundary, including new brick piers, at Ty Seren, Church Street, Kempsey

Formerly known as Nailbourne, the property adjoins The Rocky. Although disappointed at the poor contribution that the front fence makes to the Conservation Area, the committee decided that it could have no objection.

Application No: M/24/00605/FUL for the erection of 50 dwellings with associated works and landscaping on land off A38 including The Bungalow, Clerkenleap, Bath Road, Broomhall.

This site is sandwiched between the housing development for 79 dwellings currently under construction on the west side of the A38 and the commercial garages complex adjoining Clerkenleap Service Station to the north. It is proposed by the same developer, would share the same access onto Bath Road and is seen as Phase 2 of the current development. As with Phase 1, the dwellings – a mix of 2-storey houses and a block of 30storey apartments - is said to be a mix of market and social housing but may be entirely social.

Committee supported the bringing forward of this site within the South Worcester Urban Extension for additional housing, which would contribute to the housing land supply situation. However, objections were made to this particular scheme because of:

- i. Unresolved surface water drainage issues as it is intended to connect to the approved Phase 1 drainage system which it now appears cannot be implemented.*
- ii. The lack of a play area to support the overwhelmingly family housing, the same criticism applied to Phase 1.*
- iii. The proposed 3-storey block close to the A38 would be out of place, dominant and intrusive. No mitigating landscaping is proposed on this boundary and the existing ornamental trees in the highway verge cannot be assumed to remain into the future.*
- iv. The detrimental affect which the apartment block would have on the setting of nearby Grade II listed Clerkenleap Farmhouse.*
- v. The only inferred improvements to existing low quality habitats on the north and west boundaries which rely on the agreement of others. This must be given greater credibility and surety.*
- vi. The uncertain implications of features of archaeological interest, which have not been investigated, for the layout of the site.*
- vii. It is understood that the site is within the catchment area of Kempsey Primary School, which has neither capacity for further children or space to expand.*
- viii. The Transport Assessment does not take account of the increased traffic movements and intended significant highway works on the A38 as a result of the South Worcester Urban Extension.*

Additional applications considered:

Application No: M/24/00917/AGR for a general-purpose agricultural building at Douglas Castle Bungalow, Post Office Lane, Kempsey.

For a relatively large (40' x 60') open fronted barn, clad in green profiled metal sheets, it was felt that it related to the existing farm complex and committee had no objection.

Application No: M/24/00647/HP for a first floor side extension and two storey rear extension to replace an existing single storey extension at 3 Byefields, Kempsey (Amended Plans).

This application had been previously considered with no objection to the design of the extensions but with concern that it had not been shown how the required car spaces for what would become a 5-bed house could be provided. As the amended plans had only been received just before the meeting, it was agreed that the chairman would check whether the amendments met those concerns and respond accordingly.

(On inspection, it was considered that it is uncertain from the small-scale plan how the 4 spaces claimed could be satisfactorily used with existing garden features and a substantial tree which had not been shown. While there could be sufficient space, it was felt that a different arrangement is needed.)

Notification of Appeals

Appeals have been made against the refusals of planning permission and Listed Building Consent for the change of use of Clerkenleap Farm House, Bath Road, Broomhall from Class E to Class C3 and refurbish to create 6 apartments and to demolish an existing garage and replace it with a 2 storey, 3-bedroomed dwelling and erect a further 2 storey, 3-bedroomed dwelling in the grounds to the southwest boundary.

It was agreed that further representations would be made to the Planning Inspectorate to support the committee's previous objections and comments on the applications.

Any Other Business

Concerns were raised about works carried out to 46 Main Road, situated opposite The Talbot Inn, within the Conservation Area. These appear to suggest that the property may be being sub-divided and there has been a significant increase in vehicles parking on the footway alongside. It was agreed to refer the matter to MHDC Enforcement.

(The referral has been made and the parish council has been informed that there is already an on-going enforcement file on this property to which our concerns would be added and we would be kept informed.)

RGG, Chair

09Aug24

Commons and Hams report

1. We are currently considering an access licence across Stonehall Common from Reservoir Lane to the rear of the Paddocks. In addition, we are considering our actions in regard to an unauthorised access across the North end of Stonehall common.
2. We have received a detailed reply to our request to the Environment Agency in relation to a hydrological survey of Ashmoor common . We have been advised to speak to Natural England with regard to our plans for a wetland feature and they recommend a site meeting. For the survey we have been asked to contact Rigare in Abergavenny who specialise in these surveys. This matter is still progressing.
3. We have met with two contractors recently with regard to gorse and bramble clearance on Kempsey common. The intention is to
 - a) Cut back the blocks of gorse in the lower common and re-establish clear channels
 - b) Cut back gorse encroaching on the vehicle track to the centre of the common
 - c) Cut back and remove 50 % of the gorse clumps on the upper part of the common including giving good access for livestock to the dew ponds .

The quotes received will be reviewed during August by C&H committee with a view to recommendation to full council at the Sept meeting .

4. Worcester Amigos Cricket Club Have signed their new lease and paid their 2024 fee to KPC . In addition, they recently held a successful 12 team cricket tournament to help raise funds for improvements to the square . This work will be carried out immediately at the end of the current season.
5. We held a meeting with representatives of the Kempsey Mens Adult Football team . They wanted to establish their interest in the Pixham Ferry Project and to advise us of their requirements. We will now maintain contact.

PJC – 12 August 2024

Reports from School, Police and Church.

Unfortunately I did not receive an acknowledgement or report from West Mercia Police, but please note information contained in the Parish Council report.

School. Bryony Baynes sent the following report.

At the time of writing this report, KPS is still on its summer break. We will return to school on the 2nd September. As is always the case at the start of the autumn term, we are looking forward to welcoming our new Reception pupils as well as seeing the return of all the other year groups. There has been much discussion in past PACT meetings about the capacity of the school to support additional pupils. Again, I want to stress that only one of our seven year groups is at capacity. All of the other year groups have space for additional pupils and, indeed, we are quite keen to encourage this. Our budget is directly linked to the number of pupils in the school so a shortfall in any of the year groups could directly impact the amount of money we receive from the DfE.

The exciting news over the summer is that our new sensory pod has been delivered! We are very much looking forward to getting this kitted out so we can use it as a withdrawal space for pupils who are struggling to regulate their emotions. This fantastic resource has been completely funded by our wonderful PTFA. We are incredibly lucky to have such a hard working and dedicated team of parents on our PTFA who plan a number of activities throughout the year to raise money for the school. At a time when school budgets are squeezed to the maximum, the work that our PTFA does is invaluable to us as a school. Their next big event is the Firework display in November and I urge all of you to support this.

As I always do, can I conclude this report by inviting any of you who wish to, to come and visit the school and see first hand all that we are doing. Thank you.

Church. Rev Rachel Colthurst sent the following report.

Further to the report given at the last meeting in May, the fallen chestnut tree in the churchyard has now been completely removed by an amazing team of faithful volunteers, the path has been filled in and is awaiting a little tarmac to complete the job. It has been wonderful to see the camaraderie and commitment of those who have been involved and, as others have also joined in, there is a real sense of community spirit amongst those helping out. We are so very grateful to all those who have given their time, energy and resources. Incredibly the children's graves were, in the main, unaffected by the tree although some larger, older graves have been impacted quite severely and advice from local stonemasons is being sought.

We have undertaken a tree survey for the remaining trees in the churchyard. This has shown that, in the main, the trees are in good shape bar a few remedial repairs but has highlighted that a dead elder and silver birch tree need to be removed. Joy Clee is in conversation with the local council in regard to getting permission for this to happen safely.

We are delighted that John White & Jack Abbot have agreed to put on a performance to raise funds for the restoration of the churchyard. 'An intimate evening with Henry VIII' is taking place at St Mary's Church on 27th September 7pm for 7.30 start. Tickets £12.50. All are welcome.

We had another very successful summer fair in June which raised in the region of £6000. It was a real triumph and a testimony to the group of people who worked tirelessly behind the scenes. As a church we would like to formally express our thanks to everyone involved in making it all happen.

In terms of church news, we are delighted to announce that we have successfully appointed a new priest-in-charge to our Benefice. Rev. Kathryn Mephram is currently serving as Priest in Charge of the Benefice of Leadon Vale in the Diocese of Gloucester, and Bishop Martin will license her at 4.00 pm on Sunday 8 December (venue to be confirmed by the Area Dean). Kat is married to Ali, and they have five children.

Our children's work has continue to flourish with our Youth Club on Wednesday evening seeing around 20-25 local young people join in. In addition our toddler group, Stepping Stones which meets twice a week in church is thriving is well supported – with numbers having doubled over the course of the last year.

Create Sanctuary Arts continues to provide an alternative form of church with a creative focus on a Friday morning and it continues to be enjoyed hugely by those attending.

We have continued to keep in touch with the Diocese regarding a number of repairs and plans to change the interior of the church building to make it useful for all the new groups who are using it, as well as a more versatile space for our community.

6. Kempsey CIC (Community Interest Company).

Simon said the CIC was registered on 17th August 2022 and has now been operating for two years. They had helped with the summer fete and have bought a good quality gazebo which will provide shelter at events. They are helping with the Henry VIII fund raising event in church on 27th September and Lovely Jubbly will be present at the Fireworks evening on 2nd November. They will be helping to organise the Christmas Fayre on 30th November and the lighting of the Christmas tree outside the village hall in December. Carols at The Lawns at 6.30pm on 18th December, will take place on the green this year to avoid disruption on nearby roads. The Malvern Hills Brass Band will provide the music. BIFFA have donated some laptops to help with the digital inclusion initiative.

The next litter pick will be on Sunday 22nd September at 2.00pm starting outside the village hall.

Chris Waller asked Simon if the CIC had received the £100 they had donated to the Kempsey Skate Board Club which no longer exists. Simon will look into the matter. Chris said there will be space for a skatepark when the Recreation Park is completed.

Simon was asked if it would be possible to stream the Carol Service to residents at The Lawns.

7. Update on Community Builder activities.

Cathy Garner said she knows there are more than 63 clubs and activities in the village and she understands there are far more too. Monthly digital meetings have been arranged at the Youth Centre starting at 4.15 for 4.30pm on the following dates:

Monday 16th September Kempsey doctor's surgery online triage form

Monday 21st October Online banking and benefit apps

Monday 18th November Online entertainment and saving energy

Monday 16th December last minute online Christmas shopping

Weekly digital drop-in sessions are already being held at The Firs from 10.00-11.30 on alternate Mondays and Wednesdays.

Since June, multi agency surgeries are held each Thursday from 3-5pm at the Youth Centre for help with skills for employment and the careers teacher at HCHS has been in touch with Cathy.

The Parish Council would have no problem with Cathy being given a key to outlying notice boards in which she could put posters informing people of up and coming events.

If anyone wishes to speak to Cathy, her contact details are as follows

communitybuilderkempsey@gmail.com 07876 680600

8. Date of next Litter Pick. Sunday 22nd September 2024 at 2.00pm from the village hall.

11.Any Other Business.

* Ann Smith said somebody had asked her whose responsibility it was to clear broken glass from pavements near the local pubs. David Harrison said such incidents should be reported to MHDC.

* Thanks were paid to the Parish Gardening Team led by Susan Bott. The planters are so colourful and the daffodils make it a pleasure to drive through Kempsey in the springtime.

* David Harrison wished to thank the local gentleman who regularly litter picks throughout the village and helps out at many local events.

Jan was thanked for providing tea and coffee.

12.Date of next meeting. Tuesday 19th November 2024 at 12.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.