

**Minutes of the Kempsey PACT meeting held at the Community Centre on Tuesday  
14<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 7.30pm**

**PRESENT:** (29) Ann Smith (Chairman), Cllr David Harrison (MHDC), Cllr Martin Allen (County Council), Cllr John Michael (MHDC), Cllr Neil Stevens, (KPC) Julie Stevens, Cllr John White (KPC), Denise White, Ash Smith (PCSO), Simon Bott (Parish Lengthsman), Cathy Garner (Community Builder), Jan Harrison, Paul Edwards (Platform Housing), Sally Linsey (Cornflower Club), Joy Clee (Churchwarden), Angela Allen, Wendy Coen, Newton Coen, Jackie Smith, Sharon Baker-Joyce, Helen Fenton, John Baker, Trevor Geens, Lynda Billingham, Margaret Gillies, Chris Gillies, Mike Biddle, Penny Warren, 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, Ian Fenton, Brian Boswell, Rev Rachel Colthurst, Maxine Hemming, Bryony Baynes, Cllr Emily Plummer, Cllr Chris Waller, Dave Bevan.

**3. Minutes:** Copies of the February 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, its not perfect but at a cost of only £2.50 per trip, with a second person on the same booking is charged just £1.25.

The buses will take you to anywhere withing 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 Countywide 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.

**DRAYCOTT LANE**

This has now been resurfaced and I understand further drainage work may need to be undertaken.

## **THE LIMES FOOTWAY**

I am very pleased to see that after two years of pushing and prodding, WCC have finally got on with the replacement of the footway in the Limes. The cost is in excess of £96K.

I am still chasing action on for the pavements in St Mary's Close which is in a very poor condition.

## **ALLEY RUNNING NORTH FROM OUR SHOP**

It been a battle of mine to get WCC to tarmac the Alley running from our Shop heading northwards. Finally, I have been provided with a cost.

From the Shop to the junction with Aston Close £28/30K.

From Junction of Aston Close northwards £47/49K.

If I am elected again in May 2025, I intend to push for both parts to be done.

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

Letters are about to be sent out to local residents providing more information about the work that is expected to commence in June.

## **SEND SCHOOL IN MALVERN UPDATE**

This is a Government funded project; it is expected to open in September 2027. Currently there are 83 children of primary school age with Special Educational Needs, each costing £58K per year to send them out of area for education. The long trips to school are not ideal. By building the school, we will shorten their travel time and reduce the cost to £25K per pupil. Initially the school will be designed to take up to 120 children, but with the capacity to be extended to take 160 if required.

## **MORE NEWS ON THE NEW HIGH SCHOOL IN WORCESTER NEAR THE COUNTY COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS**

There are currently 89648 children in Worcestershire, 80K attend school. The remainder are either too young to go to school or they are home schooled. The new school opening has had to be set back to September 2028, there are problems with the access onto the school from the highway.

## **ADOPTION OF ROAD - THE GROVE**

The developer constructed much of this site before technical approval and therefore before an S38/278 Agreement was in place. This meant WCC were not able to inspect the site during construction. In addition to this there are five retaining structures on site which affect the S38 adoptable highways and one of them affects Kings Hill which is an existing highway. WCC/Jacobs have reviewed the highway and structure designs and this resulted in the largest of the structures which affects Kings Hill needing to be reconstructed to an approved standard (this structure is staying private)

However, the adoption process appears to have stopped because the developer still needs to remove a large retaining wall so it can be reconstructed to an approved design using the correct specification materials with an acceptable design life and also the structure needs to

be built so it no longer encroaches into the existing flood plain.

Because of the costs already incurred and additional costs required to replace the sub-standard retaining structure, the developer is now considering whether they will keep the highways private with their client and maintain them with a private management company.

## **D-DAY CELEBRATIONS**

Just wanted to say how pleased I am to be part of the celebrations on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June for the D-Day event. Again can I thank all those who have given their valuable time for free.

## **DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **Cllr John Michael gave the following report.**

The Ward Budget Grants that each District Councillor has to support local clubs and social groups plus assistance for one off events has been increased from £500 to £1000 per Councillor which means that David and I have a combined total of £2000 to provide assistance for local projects during 2024/5 year. So if any groups active in the village have a need for some financial support then do please contact either of us and we will send you the forms for you to apply.

As you may be aware planning was approved for up to 40 houses on the edge of the village in Brookend Lane but this does come with a requirement that the developer funds a pedestrian crossing on the A38 which will either be the one currently being constructed opposite the Community Centre or one further down nearer the village shop. Your County Councillor Martin Allen can provide further details about this.

The 140 houses at Bannut Hill were refused Planning permission but there will be an appeal which we must prepare for at some stage this year. The revised NPPF ( National Planning Policy Framework ) does offer local authorities a little more protection against some of these speculative developments in that the rules surrounding housing supply and how this is calculated has been amended which may assist us in defending the decision o refuse planning permission on this site.

There is little to add at this stage but if any resident has a query about anything within our remit as your local councillors then please contact either one of us.

### **Cllr David Harrison**

David said work is progressing on the Puffin Crossing. He has retained the port folio for planning and flooding at MHDC. He is working with the enforcement team on the sale of community land at Saxon Meadows. He explained that the developer/owner is selling 21 building plots with one still available for sale. Purchasers cannot build on their plot

and it is illegal to fence around it. One owner is taking the auctioneers to court saying their plot was misrepresented when sold. The land is meant to be an orchard.

## **PARISH COUNCIL.**

**Cllr Neil Stevens read out the** following report from the Parish Council chairman.

- Cllr Emily Plummer has joined KPC and brings much appreciated legal expertise to the team. There are still 3 vacancies for Parish Councillors
- Visit by MP Dame Harriet Baldwin organised by Cathy Garner. Viewed plans for the new Community Centre and discussed housing and other issues with Councillors. Has subsequently provided information on new funding opportunities from Central Government.
- Worcester Amigos Cricket Club is now using the cricket square at Plovers Rise on a regular basis as Kempsey Cricket Club is now defunct. KPC progressing an initial one season lease with a view to granting a longer lease next year provided the club incorporates Kempsey in its name, facilitates Kempsey residents going to the club and sets up a junior cricket team.
- Rocky bridge remains closed whilst repairs are organised.
- Unauthorised car parking at the Community Centre to be deterred.
- KPC working with Natural networks on tree planting, hedgerow gapping (PFL) and setting up demonstration wild flower strips at Plovers Rise.
- Planters and tubs being planted up shortly with summer bedding plants from Pershore College.
- KPC awaiting specialist reports from Worcester Consultants (Blade) on landscaping and arboricultural works (trees and hedgerows) prior to submitting for planning permission for the PFL site. Hoping to get an onsite meeting with the Archaeological Officer to discuss the extent of the (expensive) archaeological investigations required. In discussion with the architects on the heating system for the building – air source heat pump v. open loop ground source from boreholes.
- D-Day commemoration event is due to go ahead on Thursday 6 June at Kempsey Common starting at 7.00pm. This will be a family event for the whole village and includes, food and drink (including fish and chips to celebrate national fish and chip week!), a vintage singer performing wartime and 1940s songs and a performance from the Malvern Hills Brass Band, as well as a 'pop-up' museum staffed by volunteers from the Defford museum, highlighting the role of RAF Defford in WW2. There will also be a bouncy castle for the children to enjoy. The event concludes with a beacon lighting (part of a national beacon lighting) at 9.15pm – the beacon to be lit by our County

Councillor, Martin Allen. Please come along to this event if you can – everyone is welcome!

- Annual Parish meeting at the Community Centre tomorrow evening at 7.30 pm. Refreshments from 7 pm. Includes Nick Hubble taking about RAF Defford and its role in WWII and the development of radar systems at Malvern.

### **Planning Report from Rob Gardener.**

As a reminder, the Planning Committee meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month, although 2 meetings already this year have coincided with Bank Holidays and have had to be re-arranged to other days. The main purpose is to consider and make comment on planning applications referred to us by MHDC but other matters such as possible breaches of planning control crop up. They are public meetings with the opportunity for the public to ask questions or comment and all are welcome.

On the housing developments proposed around the edge of Kempsey:

It was known at the last PACT meeting that MHDC had decided to grant permission for 40 dwellings of Brookend Lane - that permission has now been granted, following the completion of a legal agreement which covers things like affordable housing, providing and managing public open space and financial contributions to, for instance education and health provision. It also includes money for transporting both secondary and primary school children to available schools, since Kempsey Primary School is full.

Conversely, the Napleton Lane application for 140 dwellings was refused planning permission, in part because the primary school is full. We expect an appeal will be made against the decision but has not yet. They have until 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024 to make it, being 6 months after the decision so watch this space.

In the meantime, the land for over 2500 houses in the South Worcester Urban Extension is slow in coming forward. However, as well as the St Modwen housing on Taylors Lane, development for some 79 social housing units on the former Astons Coaches site near The Ketch has also started. Other applications for social housing on the A38 close to Broomhall Lane have not been decided because unresolved issues. The largest area, although it now has outline planning permission granted to Welbeck Land, has yet to progress to detailed proposals.

At the moment, despite the permission and being allocated since 2016 when the local plan was adopted, this large area cannot count towards the housing land supply situation. At the moment the supply still appears to be inadequate to meet government requirements which means that we might still be vulnerable to further speculative developments. However, no further applications have yet been made.

The answer of course is to have up to date local plans. The Review of the South Worcester Development Plan, which will guide development up to 2040, although submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, continues to be held up. The updated data and information requested by the Inspectors appointed to deal with it is being prepared and is expected to be delivered in September with the possibility of an Examination early in 2025 and, if things go well, adoption by the end of the year.

This continued delay has caused us to rethink a review of the Neighbourhood Plan and a preliminary meeting with Council Officers to discuss process and procedure has already been held. However, no decision has yet been made on undertaking a review or what it should look at.

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

**School.** There was no report but MW reminded everyone that Kempsey Café was taking place on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May starting at 10.00am in the school hall.

### **Church. Joy Clee, Churchwarden, gave the following report.**

Churchyard - regular mowing will continue through the growing season with support of the Parish Council. The fallen chestnut tree is slowly being moved by volunteers to start and then professional help will be brought in. The path will be repaired and some stone on the buttress.

Children's gravestones are the responsibility of families, as are all memorials, but we hope there will be monies to help with repairs.

Youth Club on Wednesday evening is growing and Mother and toddler group is well supported..

An Art group meet every Friday morning to relax and create for exhibitions later.

We have no applications for the post of a vicar in our parishes so meanwhile Rev Rachel Colthurst with many retired priests, are covering for Sunday services, weddings, funerals and baptisms.

The highlight of our year is fast approaching so please remember Saturday 29th June is St Mary's Summer fete - Come and enjoy!

We still have plans to change the interior of the church building to make it useful for all the new groups who are using it.

We are committed to serve our community in many ways even without a rector.

### **Police. PCSO Ash Smith gave an update on local crime figures from May 2023 – May 2024**

13 assaults mostly domestic

5 ASB – public order offences

2 thefts

3 drug misuse offences

1 attempted burglary

5 burglaries

4 criminal damage offences

1 robbery

2 thefts from motor vehicles.

From January 2024 to date there have been 8 ASB reports, but he expected there would be a rise now that the evenings are drawing out.

He explained that he is new to our patch and that PC Dee Stanley has now moved on. It is hoped her replacement will be announced soon. The key areas the police are concentrating on in Kempsey are Plovers Rise, The Rocky and Morrisons. He was asked if they could also look at The Limes as residents are concerned about small gangs of youths congregating there. He emphasized that we should always report any suspicious behaviour either on line or by ringing 101. Plans are being put forward via Neighbourhood Matters, to have local councillors walk around with the police from 5.00pm and there are to be more dedicated foot and bike patrols in the village. Most people feel safe in Kempsey.

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

Simon said the Oral History project is moving along with eight interviews already done and the school have agreed to getting the children involved. The CIC is looking for funding to pay for a project manager to pull things together.

The CIC are helping with the D-Day event on 6<sup>th</sup> June and the Paella party at the Walter de Canteloupe on 21<sup>st</sup> July, proceeds from which will be split between the British Heart Foundation and the CIC.

MacDonalds in Malvern have offered volunteers to help at the D-Day event on 6th June. The evening will commence at 7.00pm with the national beacon lighting taking place at 9.15pm. Parking at this event will be available at the Farmers Arms and the Huntsman and transport will be available to take people from the Farmers Arms to the top of the common.

## **7. Update on Community Builder activities.**

Cathy Garner showed pictures of her presentation which explained what is planned for Kempsey. The main aim is to reduce social isolation and surveys have been carried out to ascertain what people would like to see. Following on from this monthly meetings have been arranged at the Youth Centre starting at 4.15 for 4.30pm on the following dates:

Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Parking Apps – Ringway and Just Park
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Spotted Kempsey and staying safe on line
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> August	Video calling friends and family
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Kempsey doctor's surgery online triage form
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Online banking and benefit apps
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Online entertainment and saving energy

Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December      last minute online Christmas shopping

Weekly digital drop-in sessions are already being held at The Firs on alternate Mondays and Wednesdays. Digital inclusion for Pop Up Gaming is scheduled for Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> July at the Youth Centre.

Starting in June multi agency surgeries are to be held each Thursday from 3-5pm at the Youth Centre.

Pop-up surgeries involving local councillors and politicians are planned, as is the forming of a Bereavement Café, the setting up of a Dementia Support Group and a Gardening Club.

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

[communitybuilderkempsey@gmail.com](mailto:communitybuilderkempsey@gmail.com) 07876 680600

**8 .Date of next Litter Pick.** Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 2.00pm from the village hall. Examples of the new equipment were shown, which include three different sized grabbers and a sack ring.

#### **11.Any Other Business.**

Paul Edwards from Platform Housing said they were working with the Parish Council and Police to hold a Bike Marking event at Anglia Crescent Green Space on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May. The morning session will run from 11.30-12.30 and the afternoon session from 1.00-2.00pm.

Paul then announced he would be leaving in the not too distant future as his bosses have told him his patch is too big. Everyone was surprised and disappointed to hear this news as Paul has been a fantastic friend to the village and will be sorely missed. He was thanked most sincerely, for all he has done during his time here.

Jan and Lynda were thanked for providing tea and coffee.

**12.Date of next meeting.** Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.15 m.