

**Minutes of the Kempsey PACT meeting held at the Community Centre on Tuesday
19th November 2024 at 12.30pm**

PRESENT: (26) Ann Smith(Chairman), Cllr David Harrison (MHDC), Cllr Martin Allen (County Council), Cllr Mike Biddle (Parish Council), Cllr Rob Gardener (Parish Council), Simon Bott (Parish Lengthsman), Cathy Garner (Community Builder), Claire Witton (KPC), Jan Harrison, Paul Edwards (Platform Housing), Joy Clee (Churchwarden), Brian Boswell, Helen Fenton, Ian Fenton, Brian Norfolk, Tracey Were (PTFA), Jane Hudspith (PTFA), Bob Bowley, Penny Warren (WI), John Baker, Chris Gillies, Margaret Gillies, Trevor Geens, Maxine Hemming, Sally Linsey (Cornflower Club), 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), Cllr Chris Waller (Chairman Parish Council), Rev Rachel Colthurst, Bryony Baynes, Susan Bott,

3.Minutes: Copies of the August 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 UPDATE

Following my continued pressing of WCC, I am pleased to report that as from 6th of Jan following locations will become live. Taylors Lane, The Firs, Ledbury, Malvern Science Park, Barnards Green. A huge number of people are using the bus booking it via the APP and by phone.

In the future, WCC are going to look at the Hospital and Haresfield House, which is the main doctors surgery for Kempsey but no date has been set as to when these will come live.

It is also hoped that during 2025 part of the Wychavon area will be included.

In addition, following my Motion at the full WCC council meeting on the 07/11/24, it has been agreed that from 06/01/2025 all Veterans and Service Personnel living in the Worcestershire On Demand Bus Zone will be able to have the same concession that pensioners have, i.e. free travel after 0930.

This has been a very long campaign I have fought against the ruling administration, and I am absolutely delighted that finally the veterans in Worcestershire will get more than hot air and warm words.

LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN 4 (LTP4)

There has been some confusion about if the cycle/pedestrian route from Kempsey to Worcester would still go ahead.

Earlier in the month at a full WCC Council meeting, I asked Cllr Marc Bayliss (Head of Highways) if the plan was dead, or it was going to go ahead, and if so, when. His reply was that it was still a wish of WCC to complete this work and should funds become available it will go ahead.

CHRISTMAS TREE MAINS SOCKET

WCC have installed a socket for the Christmas Tree.

BROOKEND LANE, KEMPSEY BRIDGE HIT AND DAMAGED

This has now been repaired. Someone else has already hit it since the repair. I have asked for additional Verge Masters to be installed at either end of the bridge. Concern was expressed about the safety of pedestrians on this road, and it was suggested that a single file traffic sign would be beneficial. Cllr Allen will mention this to the WCC.*

****Meeting update from Martin:***

Following our PACT meeting, as you can see below I did request action from WCC. Please see their reply below.

I have now asked for the Pedestrian in the Road signs. WCC are not willing to do anything else at this time.

Subject: RE: Site meeting Brookend Lane

Good afternoon Martin,

Due to limited staff and increasing work loads as it may be some time before a site visit could be arranged, therefore I have contacted the Structures team and they have already inspected the bridge (following on from the report of the bridge being struck again). They found no evidence of the bridge being hit since our last repairs, please see the attached pictures. Apart from the vehicle strike this year, we last worked on Brook End in 2012 and the cracks then were longstanding and non-structural.

The 30mph speed limit would not be extended to this area as Worcestershire County Council takes guidance on new speed limits from the Department for Transport (DfT) and one of the key aims, when setting local speed limits, is to provide a consistent message between road geometry and environment, so that changes in speed limit reflect changes in the road layout and environment. This also ensures that speed limits are effective, in the absence of enforcement. Looking at this section of the road it is predominantly rural with very little frontage development. When considering this

information, given the character of the road and the immediate environment, the road does not lend itself to a speed limit lower than the national one, which applies to the majority of the rural road network. Bends, narrow sections and other factors, that restrict forward visibility, typically mean that actual vehicle speeds on such routes are usually well below the posted national speed limit.

Having checked the Police injury collision data for the last 3 years there have been no incidents recorded on this section of this route (copy attached) For the reasons detailed above, and in order to maintain consistency throughout the County, it is concluded that the current speed limit should remain unchanged.

If you can confirm that pedestrians use this lane frequently, I can look in to providing pedestrians in the road signage for the area to compliment the horse and rider warning signs that are already in place.

Kind regards,

Tanya Crane

County Highways Liaison Officer

FOOTWAY BETWEEN PIXHAM FERRY LANE AND BESTMANS LANE NEEDS SIDING OUT

I have asked that WCC carryout this work. I have been told the job has been added it to the long list of jobs needing doing, but nothing will happen until funds become available.

PUFFIN CROSSING NORTH END OF KEMPSEY BY THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Finally, I am delighted to report that the Puffin Crossing by the Community Centre has now been turned on. There are still jobs outstanding, but it is working and helping to keep our community safe.

Warmest regards

County Councillor Martin Allen.

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr David Harrison gave the following report.

He believes the speed limit should be reduced before the bridge on Brookend Lane.

The developers did not appeal following the refusal of planning permission for 140 houses at Napleton Lane/Bannut Hill. However a updated application is going in with a new entrance via Bannut Hill to include a **site** for a school, **not** the building of a school.

The RSPCA have received planning permission for a caravan to be placed on their site to house their manager.

At present there is a lot of wrangling regarding party politics at MHDC and he reassured everyone that both he and Cllr John Michael work solely for the good of our community. He thanked Cllr Martin Allen for achieving the installation of the Puffin Crossing at the

north end of Kempsey, and also the PTFA of Kempsey school, for the first class organisation of the recent fireworks event at Plovers Rise.

PAIRISH COUNCIL.

Cllr Chris Waller sent the following reports.

KPC was very pleased in November to welcome Claire Witton to the Parish Office team as Deputy Clerk, working with Sharon Baxter, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, and Bethan Emerick, Administrative Assistant. Claire, who lives in the village, brings a range of complementary operational skills to the team and will be supporting the Clerk to expedite tasks arising from an ever increasing workload as well as assisting councillors progress the projects that they have volunteered to lead. With one full time and two part time office staff, from the New Year the Parish Office will be open to the public from 10am to 2pm each weekday.

Audit reports

KPC's financial affairs are audited each year by both an internal and an external auditor. Both auditors have again approved KPC's books with no concerns, a reflection of the excellent work of the Parish Office team in scrupulously recording and reporting the Council's use of its funds.

Remote meetings

The government has launched a public consultation on 'Remote meetings' for local authorities including parish councils i.e. the use of Teams, Zoom, etc for council meetings as an alternative to 'in person' meetings. Members of the public would also presumably be able to join the Council's public meetings remotely. The lengthy link to the government's consultation, which is open to members of the public, is available at KPC's website until the closing date of 19 December.

Hardstanding at Pixham Ferry Lane

Opposite the Severn Trent Water treatment plant, this area has become a tip due to anti-social dumping of litter and household waste by people too lazy to take their discarded property to a Recycling Centre. Some substance misuse is also suspected to have occurred at the site. KPC will be gating the area off as soon as we can organise some bespoke gate hinges as the gate will have to rise when opened inwards due to the slope of the entrance.

New Community & Sports Centre

We are finalising the Landscaping and Arboricultural reports with our consultant to enable a scheme for the mandatory 10% biodiversity net gain to be proposed to the District Council. A revised version of the Design and Access statement is also under preparation. We are in conversation with the Grounds Management Association of irrigation and tendering for the construction of the sports pitches.

Gorse clearance

A large area of Kempsey Common has been cleared of gorse and some of the large blocks of gorse have been reduced. Clearance of a bridleway and well use footway at Stonehall Common has also been carried out.

Christmas tree

A permanent clamp for a Christmas trees has been installed by Highways outside the Parish Hall, so we are confident the tree will not fall over this year.

Rob Gardener gave the following planning report.

On the planning front, the parish council has recently submitted a response to a government consultation on 'Proposed Reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework'. The Framework sets out government policy to be taken into account when considering applications for planning permission. The proposed changes could have important effects for further development proposals in the parish, in particular the methodology of how the required housing land supply is to be calculated is to be revised. Without an adequate supply the local plan, which identifies suitable sites for development, would be considered out of date and proposals on other, unallocated, sites would be more likely to be approved. Part of the change is that Malvern Hills would not again have to show a 5-year supply rather than the lower 4-year supply requirement in place since December 2023.

MHDC is currently unable to show a 5-year supply. That means that it is all the more important that land in the South Worcester Urban Extension, in the north of the parish, which has been allocated since 2016 but not included in the land supply calculation, should come forward for development. While some is underway, other applications have experienced problems and delays. For instance, an application for 77 dwellings north of Broomhall Lane was first made in 2021. An issue there is the highway authority's concern that the intended access onto the A38 could interfere with more extensive roadworks required to serve the Urban Extension. The authority now accepts that the access could be acceptable on a temporary basis until the development could link to the new highway network in due course. However, that would mean crossing land in other ownership and it is not at all clear that could ever happen. The parish council has pointed out these and other obvious problems.

A scheme is underway on the A38 just south of the Ketch garages and a new application to add a further 50 dwellings on adjoining land is being considered by MHDC. This has problems over drainage and archaeology as well as design objections by the parish council. While it is desirable that this allocated land is developed as soon as possible, and so prevent ad hoc schemes elsewhere, it is clearly important that they are suitable and satisfactory in all respects if future problems are to be avoided and good quality development achieved.

Elsewhere, the purpose of excavations on the Napleton Lane site, which was refused planning permission for 140 dwellings, has been questioned. The best guess is that they are for further archaeological investigation which was identified as necessary when the planning application was being considered. The fact that further cost is being incurred strongly indicates that development is still intended here and a further application should be expected.

Reports from School, Police and Church.

School. No report had been received from school.

Police. The report sent by PC Jon Hand is attached as a separate document.

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

Rev Rachel Colthurst's tenure as Curate in Charge is about to come to an end and Revd Kat Mephram will be installed as Priest in Charge on Sunday 8th December at 4pm in St Mary's church. Invitations to this service have been issued to the wider community and anyone is welcome to attend. Stepping Stones play group meets every Tuesday and Thursday in church and gives young mother's a lifeline with a chance to meet and get to know each other. A Youth Group led by Libbirty, meets in church every Wednesday evening. We are hoping to re-order the church in the near future which would make the space suitable for a variety of events which would involve the whole parish. We do need a cable to enable us to install Wi-Fi. The Christmas Fayre is on Saturday 30th November from 1.30pm – 5.00pm. Please come along to support what will be a very enjoyable event. A concert is being held in church on Saturday 7th December at 2.30pm to raise money for a water supply at a school in Morogoru .

6. Kempsey CIC (Community Interest Company).

Platform Housing kindly donated £200 for additional daffodil bulbs which have been planted throughout the village and surrounding area. The Tuesday working party received £500 from the WCC's Stay Connected Communities fund with which to purchase tools, coffee and tea etc. BIFFA, the Waste Management Company, have given hardware to support digital inclusion for youth. Carols on the Green will take place on Wednesday December 18th starting at 6.00pm and there will be a bucket collection for St Richard's Hospice.

7. Update on Community Builder activities.

Cathy gave a Powerpoint presentation which is attached as a separate document. It shows the eight priority areas which were shown up in an online survey

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

Monthly digital meetings have been arranged at the Youth Centre starting at 4.15 for 4.30pm the next one being on Monday 16th December which will focus on last minute online Christmas shopping.

There is little digital provision for young people and when asked what they would like, they said they would appreciate a welcoming space in which to meet. Cathy said they were going to form a partnership with the YMCA, Platform Housing and MHDC to apply for lottery money to set up somewhere suitable.

There are thirteen families in the village who are getting anonymous support and Cathy aid any donations of money would be appreciated via JustGiving. Kempsey school collects dry goods for the food bank.

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

communitybuilderkempsey@gmail.com 07876 680600

8. Litter Pick. The last litter pick on Sunday 22nd September was very poorly attended. This could well have been due to the atrocious weather that day, but it does appear that fewer people than before are turning up. It could be that more people have joined the Adopt a Street scheme run by MHDC. MW will contact the street scene department to ask which streets in Kempsey are being covered. It was agreed that there would not be another organized litter pick before our next meeting in February.

11.Any Other Business.

The Parish Council will speak to the manager of Morrisons to ask the member of their staff who parks on the front of the shop to move their car to the side. If the problem continues, please email David Harrison who will get in touch with the owner of the property.

Platform Housing are holding an event at The Firs on Tuesday 10th December at 1.00pm at which those attending will be entertained by a singer and offered a buffet lunch.

Jan was thanked for providing tea and coffee.

12.Date of next meeting. Tuesday 25th February 2025 at 12.30pm.

The meeting closed at 2.30pm.