

**Minutes of the Kempsey PACT meeting held at the Community Centre on Tuesday
27th May 2025 at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: (18) Ann Smith(Chairman), Cllr David Harrison (MHDC), Cllr Martin Allen (County Council), Cllr Chris Waller (Chairman Parish Council), Cllr Mike Biddle (Parish Council), Cathy Garner (Community Builder), Sally Linsey (Cornflower Club), Jan Harrison, Joy Clee (Churchwarden), Trevor Geens, Kath Padden, Ian Furlong, Penny Warren (WI), John Baker, Chris Gillies, Sue Jacobs, Gary Jacobs, 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 Rob Gardener (Parish Council), Cllr Neil Stevens (Parish Council), Rev Kat Mephram (Vicar), PC Dee Stanley, Simon Bott (CIC & Parish Lengthsman), Bryony Baynes (Headteacher KPS), Margaret Gillies, Maxine Hemming, Pauline Ranson.

3.Minutes: Copies of the February 2025 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

County Councillor Martin Allen gave the following report.

NEW COUNCIL

Following the county council elections on the 1st of May, a new council has now been formed, Jo Monk has become the leader, I wish her well, it's a hard job.

I have been appointed to Vice-Chair of Planning, this is an unpaid position.

PLANS APPROVED FOR A NEW SECONDARY SCHOOL & A MULTI-STOREY CARPARK

WCC's planning committee have now approved the new secondary school plus a Multi-storey carpark adjacent to the hospital.

MORE WORK ON TAYLORS LANE

As I said in April, from 03/03/25 to 13/06/25 work is currently being carried out on the Norton Road end of Taylors Lane.

Additional work will commence from 27/06/25 to 23/09/25 in Taylors Lane from the entrance to Pear Tree Way to the A38. There is to be a new highway drainage system

followed with a new full carriageway and footway construction. The work is being undertaken by a contractor on behalf of a developer.

ST MARY'S CLOSE FOOTWAY

I am delighted to see that this has now been completed.

ROOKERY ROAD FOOTWAY

As I said in April, I have been battling to get Rooker Road refurbished, this should now be completed or nearly completed.

#8947 REQUEST FOR DOUBLE YELLOW LINES SQUIRES CLOSE/SQUIRES WALK ENTRANCE

As announced in April, I have now more news.

Following a complaint about the MHDC waste vehicle not being to access Squires Close due to poor vehicle parking, I have requested that WCC look at imposing double yellow lines at that junction.

#7134 DOUBLE YELLOW LINES CORNER OF WINDMILL LANE/HILLSIDE

This has now been approved, and the work has been booked for mid-June.

BROOKEND LANE BRIDGE

I am still chasing WCC to install the Pedestrians in the road signs.

DISTRICT COUNCIL

Please see Cllr David Harrison's report as separate attachment as it contains photos of his visit to Buckingham Palace.

PARISH COUNCIL

Cllr Chris Waller gave the following report.

Russ Varley, who came second to Cllr Martin Allen in the recent local elections, has joined the Parish Council bringing their number up to ten. However there are still three vacancies. The planning application for the new Community Sports Centre went live on the MHDC website on 19th March and the statutory consultation period ended on 26th April. Most of the 66 comments from parishioners were very favourable. The Parish Council is working in conjunction with the architect to address comments from various statutory consultees and this could cause a slight delay in receiving the planning officer's decision which they hope to get by September. Tenders for construction work and sports pitches will then be sent out and it will take at best 64 weeks between the granting of planning permission depending on conditions, which takes us up to 2027 before the site will be open for use. At a recent meeting at which our Cathy, our Community Builder was present, it was clear that the majority of parishioners want Kempsey to retain its rural identity and improve our community facilities and transport etc. This is the view of the community, not a Parish Council report. The cricket club known as the Amigos, has two teams and play most weekends. The Parish Council is working with Cathy to secure funding for digital inclusion for youth and older people. It is also working to secure the remaining £1.5m of section 106 money promised by

MHDC. The bridge at The Rocky needs major refurbishment which the Parish Council hope to carry out in the near future. Cllr Waller announced that MHDC had promoted a communities recognition scheme to nominate a person, group or business that has made a real difference to the local community. Mike Biddle was nominated for his commitment to public services for over half a century which was a thoroughly well deserved recognition of his untiring devotion to local issues. A huge round of applause showed how highly thought of Mike is.

5. Reports from School, Police and Church.

School. Bryony Baynes sent Marian the following report.

It has been a busy start to the summer term at Kempsey Primary School. We have had our statutory assessments in years six and two. Additionally, there have been lots of curriculum trips and activities taking place. Our pupils take regular visits to the lawns nursing home where they engage with the residents in Reading, singing and playing games. This has greatly benefited both the pupils and, hopefully, the residents of the lawns. We were pleased to turn out in red, white and blue to support the lawns residents on their VE day parade by lining the sides of the road and cheering as they went past. We have continued with our program of Kempsey cafés but have noticed that attendance at these is falling off. We will have to consider next year whether we continue doing them.

This final half of the summer term will be equally busy as we enjoy such events as the year six production, sports day, our annual colour run, as well as all the regular curricular events and activities. Looking ahead to September we had 74 applications for our 60 places in Reception. Other year groups still have some spaces however.

Police. *The police report is attached to the minutes as a separate document.*

Church. Rev Kat Mepham sent the following report.

It has been a busy few months at St Mary's. We have said goodbye to Rev Rachel who has done so much for the church and community here at Kempsey. It has been an important time in the church calendar journeying through holy week and celebrating Easter Sunday. Christian Aid week was a huge success with our big breakfast raising over £1500. All normal activities have continued. Our toddler group Stepping Stones and our youth group continue to grow and thrive. Come on In is a marvel as is Cornflower club. I am so grateful to all the volunteers who work so hard! Work on the development of the church building has begun again and we are keen to push forward on making our it more accessible and future proofing it for many generations.

Kat

Joy Clee, our churchwarden, added that Grand Draw raffle tickets for the Summer Fair had been delivered to households throughout the village, but it appears several areas have not received them. The Summer Fair will be held on Saturday 21st June at the church and this is a vital source of income for St Mary's which is self supporting. Re-

ordering plans include the removal of the pews and replacing them with chairs which will make the space far more acceptable for concerts etc.

6. Kempsey CIC. Simon sent the following report.

Last week I spoke at the Parish Council's Annual Meeting about the work of the CIC in Kempsey. Our Company continues to partner with Pillar Organisations within Kempsey as well as our local Councils and Funding providers. I likened the CIC's activity to an iceberg where only a sixth of the work is visible above the water line. Below the water line there is always a lot of work going on networking, securing funding for Kempsey and recruiting and motivating volunteers.

We successfully promoted and staged a Bike Marking event at St. Mary's Church on 1st. March in partnership with Malvern Hills Council. Twenty nine cycles were marked which is the biggest number at any of these events.

The CIC continues to support the marvellous Tuesday Club which is bringing Tender Loving Care to the Churchyard at St. Mary's.

Our ongoing Oral History Project is moving forward with the introduction of A.I. assisted translation of our interviews into worthwhile transcripts for future realisation of the project.

Most recently the CIC was able to facilitate a meeting of interested parties to take forward the building of a Pump Track for Kempsey Youth at Pixham Ferry Lane. This is a good example of the collaborative working so important in Kempsey, bringing together the Parish Council, the Community Builder and the Skatepark Club to benefit young people in Kempsey.

Right now preparation for the Summer Fete is intense, and we are still seeking help with the Gate Rosta and with manning sideshows and stalls. We also need donations of bottles and raffle prizes.

Date for your Diary:

LAST VOLUNTEERS' MEETING BEFORE THE FETE Wednesday 11 June at St. Mary's church at 7.00pm

Simon Bott for Kempsey Promotions CIC

7. Update on Community Builder activities by Cathy.

Cathy's PowerPoint presentation is attached as a separate document.

8. Litter Pick Update:

Ann said PACT had supported the Great British Spring Clean on 23rd March. Nine groups of people turned up which was lower than hoped for. The worst area was the shop car park. She said it might be a better idea not to arrange a future Litter Pick, but to wait

until the village really needs one. She encouraged people to join the MHDC Adopt a Street project and those doing so will receive the necessary equipment including a grabber, high-viz jacket, bin bags etc.

9. Any Other Business. David Harrison said Smart Water kits are still available free of charge to new residents from MHDC. Email him at davidthomasharrison@hotmail.com if anybody needs one.

The defibrillator at his home in Brookend Lane now contains a blood kit, the only one in Worcester. This was kindly provided by a relation of his wife.

The patch of land near the sewage works in Pixham Ferry Lane which is full of litter, is getting worse. David Harrison said the Parish Council had said they would put a gate there but this has not happened. Mike Biddle will mention this to the Parish Council.

Jan was thanked for providing tea and coffee.

10.Date of next meeting. Tuesday 19th August 2025 at **7.30pm**.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.