

Minutes of the Kempsey PACT meeting held at Kempsey Village Hall on Tuesday 12th July 2022 at 7.30pm

PRESENT: (31) Terry Ward (Chairman), Martin Allen (County Councillor), PCSO Brandon Knight (West Mercia Police), Angela Allen, David Harrison (MHDC), John Michael (MHDC), Jan Harrison, Maxine Hemming (Parish Hall), Joy Clee, Ian Fenton, Helen Fenton, Ann Smith, Rob Gardener (Parish Councillor), Mike Biddle, Simon Bott (Parish Lengthsman), Susan Bott (Parish Councillor), Neil Stevens (Parish Councillor), Julie Stevens, Nancy Morris, Sally Linsey (Cornflower Club), Kath Padden, Dave Bevan, Brian Hewlett, Bob Cownie, Sue Cownie, Chris Gillies, Margaret Gillies, Stuart King, Jackie Smith, Sharon Baker-Joyce, Marian Walters,

- 1. Welcome and Introductions:** The Chairman, Terry Ward, welcomed everyone to the Parish Hall and thanked them for attending. Everyone then introduced themselves.
- 2. Apologies:** Chris Waller (Chairman of Parish Council), Rev Mark Badger, Bryony Baynes (Headteacher KPS), Wendy & Newton Coen, Roy Clarke, Cllr Bob Bowley, Lesley Cox, Melody Baker-Joyce, Pat Walker.
- 3. Reports from County, District and Parish Councils:**

Cllr Martin Allen gave the following update. There have to be passing bays on Pixham Ferry Lane, but unfortunately the Parish, District and County councils had not liaised on this. However regular meetings are now taking place and the Chief Planning Office is now involved. A third lane will be added to the A38 to enable traffic to turn right onto the Taylor Wimpey and Linden Homes estates, but the bus lay bays will disappear. Feedback on the Upton roundabout has so far been good. Planning permission has gone in for the new development in Post Office Lane. Officers from the Highways department are to visit the site in person as WCC Highways have to give permission for access. Footpaths in Kempsey are in an appalling condition and The Limes is top of the list. Elgar Drive, Chapel Road, Church Street and Lyf's Lane are next and work will be done in two stages over the next two financial years. Draycott Lane has been re-surfaced and work done on the drainage. Both lengthsman were praised for the excellent job they do in the village. There has been some improvement in speeding enforcements – between November 2021 and March 2022 63 motorists were fined. The WCC bid to transform bus services in Worcestershire was rejected by the government as it was “lacking ambition”. Funding will disappear in September which could result in even fewer buses coming through Kempsey. Cllr Allen said that following a motion put by him, the County Council chairman wrote to the Queen officially thanking the county's servicemen and women for their efforts and sacrifice in the Falklands war. It is a requirement that the County Council should have planning policies for the winning and working of minerals and a new Minerals Plan is to be voted on next Thursday.

Cllr Allen was thanked for his detailed report.

Cllr John Michael said that since his election to Chair of MHDC, he has represented the council at a number of functions. His first was the Lord Lieutenant's Jubilee Garden Party at Hartlebury Castle, followed by the lighting of the Malvern Beacon and attending a recital by the ESO at the Guildhall. He also attended the Mayor of Tenbury's Civic Parade and opened the Great Malvern food festival which was very well attended. A Civic Service will be held in St Mary's Church on 20th November followed by refreshments in the village hall. His nominated charity is Age UK Worcester and Malvern Hills and a skittles evening will be held in the Crown Pub on 16th September to raise money for this charity. His ward work has principally been dealing with planning issues and representing concerns of residents with Platform Housing.

Cllr David Harrison gave the following update. There is one live planning application in at the moment, that is the proposed development at the top of Post Office Lane. There are two other speculative developments, one at Bannut Hill and the other at Brookend Lane. Work is progressing on the southern link road and the bearings under the old bridge have been replaced as they are likely to wear out and this will mean the road will not have to be dug up again in a few years time. A phased sequence of openings will start from 23rd July and cross-over points will be left on the central reservation in case of serious accidents. MHDC, Wychavon and Worcester City Councils lost their appeal on the SWDP and a new plan will go out before the end of the year. The cycle and pedestrian lane is due to open very soon. Cross hatching is not allowed unless there are traffic lights and the Keep Clear signage is not being re-installed at the Ketch roundabout. However, both the Powick and Ketch roundabouts have ducting under the road, so if problems occur in the future, traffic lights can be installed. The underpass is open but the cameras are not yet in use.

He thanked the Parish Council, MHDC, Simon Bott, Tracey Were, Jade Hudspeth, Bob and Sue Cownie, Joy Clee, Dave Bevan and many other people involved in organizing the very successful Jubilee celebrations. A huge amount of work went on behind the scenes which resulted in a fabulous weekend of events through the whole village.

Cllr Rob Gardener explained the proposed new housing developments in Kempsey. His report follows.

It is useful to consider the parish in 2 parts – the first is around Kempsey village itself and the other is the northern area south of Broomhall Way extending down to Broomhall Lane. Around the village there are currently 3 known sites where interest is being shown in building more houses. However, planning permission has been applied for only on the site to the south of Post Office Lane opposite Sallowbed Way. This is an outline application with, in addition to the principle of development, only the access included at this stage. The parish council has made objections to it, including against the access. The other 2 are land to the south of Brookend (Richborough Estates) and to the east of the A38 around Bannut Hill and adjoining Plovers Rise playing fields (Hallam Land Management). Both have carried out public consultation. At their requests, members of the parish council have met both developers who explained the scope of their proposals and their intention to apply also for outline planning permission, again including the means of access. These 2 possible applications have not yet been made. In consultation with the County Council, as education

authority, the Hallam suggested scheme includes a site for a new primary school. Together the 3 sites would add about 230 additional dwellings to the village. About 540 have already been added in the last 8 years or so.

In all 3 instances, the sites are outside the village development boundary and therefore contrary to the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) and the Kempsey Neighbourhood Plan, as councillors stressed at the meetings. Local concern at further growth was also explained, including the fact that services and facilities had not been increased to meet the demand created by recent housing developments. However, since it seems that Malvern Hills cannot show a 5-year housing land supply, as the government requires, the housing policies of these plans may be considered out of date in which case we may be vulnerable to such ad hoc proposals being approved if it can be shown that they are otherwise sustainable. This gives added importance to the current review of the SWDP being completed as soon as possible and further delays prevented.

There are 4 current applications for planning permission for housing in the northern area. Since they are all within the South Worcester Urban Extension as defined in the SWDP, the principle of development is effectively already established. However, the schemes still need to meet other requirements and the parish council has objected to all 4 for a variety of reasons. In particular, we are concerned that a number of smaller sites, not held by the largest landowners/developers, are being proposed in isolation without forming part of an overall comprehensive masterplan. This has for instance, led to individual access onto the A38, including 2 pedestrian crossings, lack of internal footpath/cycleway links to wider area and continuing discharges of surface water to the Hatfield Brook catchment area (which has caused flooding in the village and when the largest developer is proposing a new outfall direct to the River Severn which could be connected to). Three of the applications are solely for affordable/social housing and the other has a component of such housing. The numbers involved exceed the identified social housing need either for Kempsey itself or for the adjoining parishes, although they would also help meet the housing need for Worcester City.

4. Progress with Community project at Pixham Ferry Lane/Old Road South.

Chris Waller, Chairman of the Parish Council, sent the following report which was read out by Rob Gardner.

The Parish Council has received the Legal Agreement for the first tranche of the £1.74 million grant funding from the District Council and is considering its provisions. We are also in discussions with another funding organization for a significant sum that will enable the construction of more community space within the centre to be brought forward. The downside of this opportunity is that the funding application process is likely to introduce a delay to completion of the Phase 1 project of between 6 months and one year due to the requirement of full planning approval to have been granted for the site prior to the date of the funding application.

The Parish Council has received specialist tax advice regarding the possible liability for VAT on the cost of construction of the new centre and is taking action to mitigate the liability for what would otherwise be a very significant amount of tax to be paid to HMRC. The first step in this process will be for the Council to register for VAT which will mean that some changes, but not all, that the Council

needs to make, will increase by the standard rate of VAT, currently 20%, from this year onwards.

In the meantime work continues with our preferred architects to finalise the design brief and to commission the various specialist reports that will be required to develop a detailed design and to submit the application for full planning approval to the District Council.

The District Council has also clarified its policy on communications with the media and the public regarding this project by removing the requirement for MHDC oversight of all communication materials.

Whilst much work continues behind the scenes to bring this project to fruition, it is likely to be another year before any significant work starts on the site at Pixham Ferry Lane.

Chris Waller

Chairman, Kempsey Parish Council.

Rob Gardner added that provision will be made for public consultation.

The plans for a Skate Park are being brought forward by another working party.

5. Reports from School, Police and Church.

PCSO Brandon Knight gave the following report.

- Reports of drug dealing in Anglia crescent/Mercia way. We are aware of the situation and are continuing to patrol the area regularly.
- ASB near the church yard. We are aware and are engaging with those we believe are responsible.
- ASB with a vehicle near Pixham ferry lane, doing doughnuts. We are aware and safer neighbourhood teams and response are patrolling the area.
- To be aware, attempted vehicle theft of a motorcycle from a home address. Please remember to try and use effective locks/disc locks/alarms/chains, please make sure vehicles are locked and nothing valuable is left visible inside.

If anyone has information regarding the issues above or would like to report a new/ongoing issue, please call 101 or use our online submission form found on our website.

In relation to a question regarding the old Neighbourhood Watch scheme, PCSO Knight said the new Neighbourhood Matters scheme, which is an online platform, is preferable, as it can pinpoint a problem in relevant areas and is regularly updated.

West Mercia Police are encouraging members of the public to sign up to hear about policing updates, crime prevention, ongoing incidents and to learn about

what they are doing in our community. To do so log onto www.neighbourhoodmatters.co.uk

Everybody is encouraged to report the smallest incident to the police, as this could be linked to create a larger picture

A question was asked if there are any regulations about how long dogs are allowed to bark for. BK will find out and email MW.

Post meeting update:

In relation to the question asked about laws/regulations about dogs barking late at night, this would be dealt through environmental health, not the police. The following link is to the Malvern district council environmental health section where information about dogs can be found - <https://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/environmental-health>

Bryony Baynes, Headteacher of Kempsey Primary School sent the following report. We are coming to the end of a long and very busy year at KPS. It has been lovely to see `a return to “normality” with the reintroduction of after school clubs, school trip and school productions. None of these were possible during the past two years because of the pandemic so it has been really great to see them return. The children get so much out of these extra-curricular activities and it has been super to see their excitement at their return. We recently took our Year 1 pupils on a trip to the Think Tank in Birmingham – their first every school trip – and the children loved every minute of it. We are planning to continue all of this next year.

Prior to the pandemic we had introduced several community offerings such as the Kempsey Café which, sadly, have been on hold for the past two years. However, as we move into the new academic year in September, we hope to be able to reintroduce something like this again. So, watch this space! We also ran a Food Bank from school which was used to great benefit during lockdown. I was recently approached by Mark Badger to ask if we would consider re-opening the Food Bank and we have agreed to do so. We have had a purpose built shed erected in the car park and, once it is stocked, will open it to the community on certain days and at certain hours. I recognise that, what with rapidly rising fuel and energy costs, not to mention the challenges of inflation, many families are feeling the squeeze at the moment. We hope that the Food Bank will be able to offer some help. We would love to hear from anyone who has any donations to help us stock the Food Bank in anticipation of its opening in September. Please drop off any donations at school.

Post meeting update: I spoke to Bryony last night and as the school will be open throughout the summer holidays, donations of unperishable goods can be dropped off at school at any time.

I understand – from seeing the occasional mention on “Spotted Kempsey” – that there is much concern about the proposed new housing in the village and its impact on the school. As a school, we have always tried to remain separate from such discussions and debate. Our primary purpose is to serve the children of the village and to give them the best possible education, rather than to become embroiled in village politics. If the village does expand further and if more families do move into the village, we will meet this need as we have met all previous needs up till now.

We are all looking forward to the end of term, which is fast approaching next Wednesday. Everyone in school has worked hard all year and I think we are all looking forward to the summer break and a bit of a rest. I hope that everyone has a good summer break and we shall look forward to welcoming back the children and their families in September.

Rev Mark Badger sent the following report:

We are delighted that Reverend Rachel Colthurst has now joined us as Curate in the team and that Kay Mason is completing her Licensed Lay Ministry training with Mark in the coming months.

Those months will be extremely busy and important for Mark, as in his capacity as Area Dean, he chairs a series of deanery-wide meetings about how we make optimum use of resources that are cost-effective and smart, and with maximum impact for the health and sustainability of the church in this deanery.

You may have noticed the new picnic benches on Church Meadows funded by grant monies from WCC and thanks to the support of Cllr Martin Allen.

We are delighted that St Mary’s will this year host the MHDC Chair’s Civic Service. This is at the invitation of Cllr John Michael in his role as Chair of MHDC (congratulations John). The service will be held in November and all the other Mayors and council leaders in Worcestershire are invited.

We are also pleased to announce that starting in September, we will be running some activities at the Walter de Canteloupe on Monday evenings beginning with three sessions entitled “Hope Explored”.

6. Report on the Queen’s Jubilee celebrations in Kempsey.

Simon Bott, chairman of the jubilee working party, expressed his thanks to the dedicated group of people who gave up their time on a voluntary basis to bring about a very successful community event. A Community Interest Company which is designed for social enterprises that want to use their profits and assets for the public good, is in the process of being set up and then a bank account can be opened.

Simon was thanked for his report which included the breakdown of the account as follows.

Jubilee Accounts

Donations

Parish Council	5202.05
Space Hive	1996.25
MHDC	2267.00
Just Giving	2482.53
	11947.83

Operating costs	-3561.71
Advertising costs	-1342.80
Music costs	-5240.00
Other entertainment	41.94
Stalls	- 600.00
Tea room	500.24

Total profit 1745.50

7. Any other business. None.

8. Date of next meeting. Tuesday 13th September at 12.30pm.

Date of next Litter Pick. Sunday 18th September 2.00pm from the village hall.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm.