

**Minutes of the Kempsey PACT meeting held at Kempsey Youth Centre
on Thursday 16th January 2020 at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: (20) Terry Ward(Chairman), Paul Middlebrough (County Councillor), Chris Waller (Chairman of Parish Council), PCSO Martin Butcher, Val Dobbins, Gerry Abbott, Mel and Sharon Baker-Joyce, John Baker, Trevor Geens (Vice-Chairman Parish Council), Simon Bott (Parish Lengthsman), Susan Bott, Mike Biddle, Ian Fenton, Chris Marshall, Elspeth Marshall, Bob Stokes (Kempsey Sports Association), Bob Bowley (Parish Councillor), Neil Stevens (Parish Councillor), David Harrison (MHDC), Marian Walters.

- 1. Introductions:** The Chairman, Terry Ward, welcomed everyone to the Kempsey Youth Centre, wished them a Happy New Year and thanked them for attending. Everyone then introduced themselves.

Apologies: Bryony Baynes (Headteacher KPS), Martin Allen (Parish Councillor), Wendy Coen, Newton Coen, Brian Hewlett, Dave Bevan, Sue Cownie, Bob Cownie, Roy Padden, Kath Padden, Roy Clarke, PC Paul Kennedy, Rev Mark Badger

Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11th June 2019, having been circulated, were agreed.

2. Reports:

Parish Council: Chris Waller welcomed Susan Bott onto the Parish Council. Three working parties have been set up to look at the following:

- to set in motion improvements to the Main Road. Terms of Reference have been agreed and schedules to identify potential measures to enhance the Main Road are to be prepared.
- Rob Gardner will carry out an annual review of the Neighbourhood Plan.
- to look at the issue of climate change. MHDC has declared a climate change emergency and is in the process of producing an Action Plan to reduce carbon emissions. Young people should be encouraged to become involved and everyone should engage with each other to tackle the problem.

The Parish Council is in the process of applying for a grant to further Bio Diversity across the network. It is part of the Neighbourhood Plan to enhance Bio Diversity. Work is ongoing to bring high speed broadband to Kempsey. A new green box at the Community Centre belongs to Airband which is a receptor for the necessary radio signal and poles to carry the cabling are being installed. It is planned to have two free Airband modems set up, one in the parish office and one in the meeting room. The SWDP is being revised and the Parish Council has submitted comments regarding business units. The Parish Council has approved an increase of 4.4% in the precept, 1% of which will go towards addressing climate change and some towards paying for the parish clerk's assistant. The Parish Council is to consult with the bus companies regarding the continuation of bus services to Kempsey. The

existing contract runs out in August and it is hoped it will continue. Norton-juxta-Kempsey is looking to set up a community bus contract. Graffiti is an on-going problem in the village and people are encouraged to report any incidents to the police. The land in Pixham Ferry Lane on which the new Community and Sports centre is to be built, has still not been transferred to the Parish Council from Taylor Wimpey. The soil needs to be looked at and it is hoped the matter will be resolved in the near future.

The bus stops need to be re-sited as they are not passenger-friendly and a pedestrian crossing is needed to ensure safety of pedestrians.

DH and TG are looking into this.

County Council: Cllr Middlebrough said not enough people were using the bus service. It costs £75 per hour to run the buses and Astons Coaches receive a £30 subsidy for each trip during the day. Fares amount to £15-£20 which shows there is a significant shortfall. People MUST be encouraged to use the buses or the contract may not be renewed in August.

The County Council has not yet declared a climate change emergency; County Hall is heated by a wood-chip boiler using fuels from local renewable sources. LED lights are replacing the old-style street lighting bulbs and tree planting is in progress. Cllr Middlebrough said he has £500 available for specialist tree planting in the parish. He noticed when he was canvassing prior to the election, how difficult it sometimes was to identify houses. He asked that everyone looked at their own property to see if its number or name was easily seen from the pavement. A Unique Identifier system was mentioned which could be looked into.

The County Council budget has been approved and will increase by 4%, 3% of which will be for the general budget and 1% ring fenced for Adult Social Care.

Floods have slightly slowed down progress on the new bridge, the new Worcester Parkway station is complete but subject to safety inspection and none of the library services are being closed down.

District Council: DH said there were only six street lights still to be changed in Kempsey. He said there was £50K in the section 106 money for improvement to the bus stops and this does not include the ones close to the Taylor Wimpey and Linden Homes developments. The SWDP proposed submission consultation has received over 10000 responses. Graffiti has been reported in Post office Lane, the Rocky, on a road sign in Brookend Lane, Squires Walk and the back alley behind the shop. Several representations have been made regarding the recent improvements to the footpath where air vents and windows have been covered over. Negotiations are still on-going with regard to the condemned house in Church Street and an executive committee meeting is due to take place in February. Drains on the Taylor Wimpey site have now been passed but the same cannot be said for the Linden Homes site. The emergency exit at the back of the Linden Homes site is being blocked with parked cars and signs are to be erected to prevent parking there. Improvements are due to be made to the play area on the Taylor Wimpey site. Three litter bins will be put on this site as well as on the Blossom Fields and Saxon Meadows sites.

The footpath across the green at The Limes is hazardous. Simon Bott said the lengthsman maintains it as a gesture of goodwill.

Why aren't solar panels essential on new builds? PM said the number of houses having solar panels on a new development is due to increase to 20%.

- 3. Police report:** PSCO Martin Butcher said that due to the increase in population in Kempsey, there is now close wider working relationships with patrol officers. He read out the report below.

In October several incidents of criminal damage and anti-social behaviour, believed to be youth related, were reported, focused mainly on the Playing Fields, changing rooms and youth centre at Plovers Rise. In addition, there were reports of riders on motocross bikes riding around the area without helmets. SNT patrols were stepped up on late shifts.

In November, ASB levels declined and some success was reported to Parish Council on the youth ASB issue. Two local youths were served with Level 2 and shortly afterwards Level 3 ASB letters. A further 3 local youths received ASB Level 1 letters. The details of offenders are recorded on our Police Collector system.

At the end of December another case of damage to a window at the back of the Youth Centre was reported.

The SNT is aware of the on-going issues with youth ASB. PS Simon HALLAM and PC Nadia WHITE who is standing in for three months as SNO in PC KENNEDY's absence patrolled the village yesterday evening and the issue has been raised at the monthly command team meetings – so support from other (shift) Officers will be available from time to time. A recruitment campaign has been ongoing for some months in the South Worcestershire Policing Area and recent increases in Patrol Officers are now being seen.

In all there were 14 incidents of ASB reported over the past 3 months, 10 of those were in October.

In terms of acquisitive crime – there were 5 burglaries or attempted burglaries reported in the same period and 2 thefts.

Cllr Middlebrough added that domestic abuse goes on behind closed doors and if anyone has concerns about the safety of children, partners or vulnerable people they should report it.

- 4. The School:** The Headteacher, Bryony Baynes, was unable to attend the meeting but sent this report which was read out by MW.

We have returned to school for the January term and everyone is feeling very excited about the topics and activities planned for this term. As a new initiative, Erik the Therapy Dog will be visiting school once a week with his handler, Tracey Blanchard, to spend time reading with children. Erik is very placid and will be a great influence on some of our more anxious children or on those who struggle to concentrate enough on their reading.

As the PACT meeting will be aware, planning permission was approved for two additional classrooms to be built on to The Heights – the three classrooms which were opened in 2018. This building work has been largely funded by Section 106 money provided by the Local Authority (with a contribution from the school) and is in response to the LA's request that the school increase its PAN (Published Admission Number) to 60. Effectively, with the new classrooms, the school will move to two form entry and will be able to provide single year group classes throughout. We have had single year group classes in Key Stage 1 this year and will extend this to Key Stage 2

next year. I must stress that this expansion is to accommodate pupils moving INTO our catchment and **not** to take pupils from out of catchment!

Through an appropriately rigorous tendering process, Leon Builders have been appointed to undertake the building work. This is very good news because Leons completed the building work for the previous classrooms and are familiar with the premises and the surrounding area. Building will start in the first week in February and everything will be completed by the end of August in time for the new academic year. Included, in addition to the building of two new classrooms onto The Heights, will be adaptations to the school hall to make it larger and replacement of some of the windows on the front of the school. There will also be work done on the school playground and the provision of additional parking spaces in front of the school, including a disabled parking space.

On the subject of parking, I am aware of some of the concerns of some of the school's neighbours in terms of congestion or parking issues at the end or beginning of the school day. I would like to assure the PACT meeting that we do everything within our powers as a school to encourage responsible and thoughtful parking on the park of our parents. We constantly remind them through letters, texts and the website. I am very grateful to the landlord at The Talbot who continues to allow parents to use his car park. There is little else we can do if parents choose to be irresponsible in their parking (we do not have powers to hand out tickets, despite the commonly held belief that we do!). If residents are concerned about a particular individual's parking, please notify the local council or the police.

And, at the conclusion of this report, I reiterate what I have always said: We are a very welcoming and open school and are very happy for any members of the local community to visit us to look round, at any point, either to see the building work in progress or to see what we do on a daily basis. We hold half termly Cafés for the older members of the local community (which are extremely well attended) and everyone is welcome to come to these. The next one is on the 14th February from 10.30 in the school hall.

I am very happy to answer any questions about any aspect of school life, or the building work, if anyone wants to pop into school. Alternatively, people can telephone the school or email me directly (bbaynes@kempseyps.org.uk).

- 5. The Church:** I was unable to read out Rev Mark Badger's report at the meeting because it had not arrived in my inbox beforehand despite the fact that he had sent it on Thursday morning!

The first of 2 music projects for teenagers will start on 27th of Jan in St Mary's. 'Beat Detective' offers the opportunity for young people to learn something about the technical side of music production including mixing and recording. This will be followed by a course with the opportunity to play instruments, sing, and record music. Both projects are open to local young people between the ages of 11 and 18 and will be delivered by professional musicians from Revolt Recording Studios. The projects are funded by the National Lottery Community Fund.

MB has also raised considerable funds in order to provide a social space and positive activities for young people and it is hoped that activities will be able to commence in the near future.

Work on the biodiversity and conservation project around the Church (Church Meadows, Rocky and Churchyard) is underway. Native wildflower seeding

and floodplain orchard planting has been undertaken on Church Meadows along with the creation of hibernacular. Bird and bat boxes have been erected in the church yard. In the next few months an otter box will be placed in the area of the Rocky adjoining the churchyard, invasive plant species will be removed and replaced with native floodplain plants.

The works are part of a biodiversity enhancement project funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and EU Regional Development Fund via the Worcestershire CC Natural Networks programme.

The project will involve an ongoing programme of ecological management and development in the area around the church which we hope will both aid the environment and provide a valuable space for the local community.

6. Report from Mike Biddle as a member of the Patient Participation Group:

He said patients are now able to access help for various things via social prescribing and the surgery is hoping to have self-referral in place in the near future. All of these will cater particularly for housebound patients. The car park is in the process of being repaired. On-line appointments should be available in April 2020.

7. Litter picking: Simon Bott showed two large posters which will be placed at the north and south ends of Kempsey the week before future litter picks. TW said the Parish Council initiatives to enhance the appearance of the Main Road will require volunteers to carry out the work. He hopes to encourage the MHDC "Adopt a Street" scheme to work with PACT to reduce the amount of litter in the village. Ian Fenton added that he and his wife have adopted Post Office Lane and he hoped more young people could be encouraged to participate.

8. Date of next Litter Pick: Sunday 8th March 2020 at 2.00 pm at the Community Centre.

9. Any other business: DH showed a leaflet from MHDC entitled Pride of Malvern Hills, which is asking for nominations for Community Awards 2020. He suggested PACT might be nominated for their community work.

10. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 10th March at 12.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.