

**Minutes of the Kempsey PACT meeting held at Kempsey Youth Centre
on Thursday 26th September 2019 at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: (31) Terry Ward(Chairman), Trevor Geens (Vice-Chairman Parish Council), Paul Middlebrough (County Councillor), Lesley Cox (Parish Paths Warden), Simon Bott (Parish Lengthsman), Susan Bott, Mike Biddle, Helen Fenton, Ian Fenton, Keith Dunkley, Barbara Dunkley, Chris Marshall, Elspeth Marshall, Brian Hewlett, Dave Bevan, Sue Cownie, Bob Cownie, Roy Padden, Bob Stokes (Kempsey Sports Association), Martin Allen (Parish Councillor), Bob Bowley (Parish Councillor), Neil Stevens (Parish Councillor), Maxine Hemming (Parish Councillor), Joy Clee, Peter Scurrrell Wendy Coen, Newton Coen, Kate Clarke, Roy Clarke, David Harrison (MHDC), Marian Walters.

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

Apologies: Bryony Baynes (Headteacher KPS), Rev Mark Badger, Peter Thompson (Chairman Kempsey PPG), Chris Waller (Chairman of Parish Council), PC Paul Kennedy, PCSO Martin Butcher, Mel and Sharon Baker-Joyce, Kath Padden, Cllr John Michael,

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

- 2. Reports:**

County Council: Cllr Middlebrough said work on the **bypass** was going to plan. The road from the Toby Inn to the roundabout will be widened to allow the installation of a slip road onto Temeside Way which will alleviate traffic approaching the roundabout. The traffic lights will be removed while this work takes place but will be put back when it is completed. In reply to a question about any speed control on the roundabout, PM said something needs to be done and he will be making representations regarding the matter. Ducting for traffic lights has been installed which could be helpful when all the work on the new bridge is completed. Traffic lights are likely to be installed near The Retreat pub in Norton and double yellow lines will be painted along the road to Morganite to prevent parking for the new station when it opens in December. **First Bus services** are introducing a new timetable from mid October which means there will be fewer buses available to take passengers from Kempsey into Worcester. A meeting between First Bus, PM, and some members of the Parish Council will be held on Friday 27th September to draw up a revised timetable to enable people to get to work in Worcester and run throughout the day and weekends. The county will use Section 106 money to subsidise this service. PM said people must be encouraged to use the buses in order for it to continue. First Bus should promote the ability to buy a book of tickets which work out cheaper than paying for each journey individually. PM said MHDC and the Parish Council can help subsidise the bus service, something that Upton, Powick and Welland PCs already do. With regard to **issues arising in relation to access to the**

new housing sites from A38 and maintenance, PM said the section 278 that allows developers to enter into a legal agreement with the council to make alterations or improvements to a public highway as part of planning approval, has to be complied with by the developers. On the Linden Homes site, this has been delayed because Severn Trent are not happy with the sewers. The possibility of losing two laybys on the A38 would create a very unsafe situation for the 18-20 children who wait there to catch the bus to Hanley Castle High School. There is to be a meeting of Taylor Wimpey, Linden Homes, the County and Parish Councils, to discuss the problem and find a suitable alternative. Feedback from this meeting will be discussed at the next PACT meeting.

District Council: DH said the Parish Council were working with Taylor Wimpey, Lion Court and David Wilson Homes to provide new waste bins and the developers will ask MHDC to empty them on a regular basis. He had met with Sarah Rouse, Leader of MHDC, who informed him that 400 trees were available for councils and organisations to apply for free of charge. The problems with re-surfacing of the alley way between the A38 and Meadow Close are on-going, but he is confident the work will be done in the not too distant future. This will mean a 6-week closure as it is a wheelbarrow and spade job as it is impossible to get machinery down such a narrow space. The dog mess issue is being addressed by MHDC and a camera is to be installed to catch perpetrators unawares. The camera situated in Pixham Ferry Lane has led to a great reduction in the amount of dog mess in that area. Household rubbish has increased with the number of new houses in the village and there are likely to be changes to the days on which rubbish is collected. The SWDP is progressing reasonably well and all relevant documents will be published on 14th October.

Parish Council: TG said work was progressing on the new Taylor Wimpey development. They have to expose and divert some large pressured sewage pipes and will install a sewage pumping station on the corner of Pixham Ferry Lane and Old Road South. This will pressure feed into the existing sewage works. Quotes are being sought for the building of the new sports facilities and after Christmas the parish will be asked what facilities are needed. Cricket will remain on Plovers Rise playing field and football will move to the new site. Following a deputation from people living on the common, the digging of holes for BMX bikes has to be stopped. MHDC enforcement officers are to deal with this. A new plot of land is being sought and Joy Clee suggested that when plans are put forward, people put their support in writing. It was mentioned that 25 years ago there was a huge amount of opposition to the playing field being where it is now.

3. **The School:** The Headteacher, Bryony Baynes, was unable to attend this meeting due to a Board meeting at HCHS, but she is more than happy to speak to anyone with any concerns, and welcomes people to visit the school and show them around.
4. **The Church:** The Rev Mark Badger was unable to attend the meeting as he was at a Deanery Synod meeting this evening. However he sent the following report.

As many of you may have seen on social media, sadly the Church wardens have decided that the church will remain locked for a period of time. This is due to continuing petty vandalism and antisocial behaviour in and around the building. We are aware of the culprits and I have spoken

to them and their parents in order to try and resolve the situation. We hope to have the church open again during the day very soon.

This situation is part of a wider issue within our community, something which as many of you know I have been working hard to address. To this end I have been successful in obtaining 2 grants for youth work. Kempsey PC's grant of £10,000 has been awarded to help bring local people together and build strong relationships, especially between the different generations and to improve the environment of the village by reducing low level anti- social behaviour. The grant will help to employ an experienced youth worker to who will working alongside other agencies in the community to make contact with a targeted group of young people. The funds will also facilitate the purchase of a portacabin which will be adapted for use as a dedicated space where the young people of Kempsey can meet and socialise. I am working with the Parish Council in order to progress the establishment of this facility (unfortunately the Youth Centre has no suitable availability).

In addition to this grant, local churches working under the banner of South Worcestershire Action for Youth has also been successful in a bid for £9700 for positive youth activities in the Kempsey area. The project will involve local 'Rock' musicians who will work with local teenagers to teach them guitar, keyboard, drumming, vocals and singing, both solo and as small backing harmonies; The project will also offer the opportunity for teenagers who have some musical skills already to form a band(s) and perform to live audiences at local open music evenings. The project will operate at St Mary's Church and Norton Youth Club.

These grants will enable us to provide much needed facilities and support for our young people and we hope aid the development of a stronger safer community too.

I am also pleased to be able to report that Kempsey Church Lands Trust has received funding for a biodiversity enhancement project around St Marys Church and Church Meadows.

The project is receiving £8,471 of funding from the England European Regional Development Fund. The Natural Networks programme is delivered in partnership between Worcestershire County Council and Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

The project will focus upon the protection, restoration and enhancement of Hatfield Brook's wetland habitats, restoration of wildflower rich grassland and the establishment of a traditional Worcestershire orchard for wildlife and the local community on Church meadows. St Mary's churchyard will also be managed in order to promote a mosaic of grassland and wildflowers.

The church and its surrounds are not just a monument to the past, but part of a living, developing community. St Mary's has a rich history which spans nearly 10 centuries and in a rapidly expanding and changing community it is important, that the church continues to develop new ways of serving local people.

We have also received some £10,000 from the National Lottery Awards for All programme. These combined funds will help us to achieve our vision of creating a community space around St Mary's which both protects and enhances the environment and affords the opportunity to foster a stronger sense of community too. We are committed to making St Mary's a spiritual and community resource.

- 5. Police and Neighbourhood Watch:** Unfortunately there was no police presence, but PM reported he had had a meeting with the Police Crime Commissioner who warned of the possibility of local demonstrations by the Extinction Rebellion between 7th – 20th October. Possible targets are areas with non-arable farms, so please inform the police if anyone has any concerns.
- 6. Rural Footpaths:** Lesley Cox gave an update on the excellent work she is undertaking in clearing the many footpaths around our parish. There is a new bridge and gate at the back of the surgery and several new way mark posts. So far she has

put three walks in the parish magazine and is promoting a Countryfile walk which she has organised for Saturday 5th October in aid of Children in Need. This will start from the Plovers Rise playing fields at 2.00pm and is about 4 miles long. TG has updated the Kempsey Hub and all the walks are on it. JC said she picks up a considerable amount of rubbish while walking across local fields. LC said she has a list of farmers to contact regarding the planting of maize. She is asking them to ensure there is a path for people to follow, as some of them have been planted over due to lack of use.

- 7. Litter picking:** TW thanked those who attended the last successful litter pick. The A38 and the side lanes are the worst areas to clear. MHDC have introduced an initiative to get people to sign up to carry out a litter pick in a particular street. People have to sign up on-line and will then receive a sack, litter picker, gloves, hi-viz tabard etc etc TW will speak to the organiser and find out more information. PACT has a small amount of money available and TW suggested we purchase two banners to place either end of the village to inform everyone when a litter pick is taking place.

8. Any other business:

- In reply to a question regarding the state of the derelict house in Church Street, DH said the owner has been to court three times and told to take it down. The whole site is a disgrace, much of which is not visible from the road. Progress is very slow but DH said there was a light at the end of the tunnel.
- Following the refusal by MHDC to allow the building of a Co-op store at the Anchor pub, the subsequent appeal is still underway. The Parish Council are fighting the appeal.
- Police are aware that two motor-cross bikes were speeding through the village at 3.00am a short while ago. The riders were not wearing crash helmets and it could have resulted in a dangerous situation.
- There are two vacancies on the Parish Council at the present time, so if anyone is interested, please contact Sharon Baxter, the PC clerk.

- 9. Date of next meeting:** This will be sometime in mid to late January.

- 10. Date of next litter pick:** To be advised.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm.