



PARISH COUNCIL
Kempsey

**MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 4 APRIL
2025 AT 11.30 AM AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

PRESENT: - Cllr Plummer, Cllr Stevens, Cllr Clamp and Cllr Biddle.

IN ATTENDANCE: Claire Witton - Deputy Clerk

1. **Apologies:** None

2. Declarations of Interest

1. Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
2. To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature
3. To declare any Other Disclosable Interests on items on the agenda and their nature

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

None

3. Minutes:

Having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Environment meeting held on 24 February 2025 were signed as a true and accurate record.

Matters arising: None.

4. To review and agree our response to the Public Spaces Protection Order relating to dog control consultation.

Responses were agreed collectively to primarily yes/no questions, alongside the opportunity to add comments on the effectiveness of the current PSPO relating to dog control and submit suggestions for additional restrictions. Each noted below. Deputy Clerk will submit prior to the 14th April.

Comments on Effectiveness:

- The order can only be effective if the appropriate enforcement and penalties are applied.
- Additional publication of the reporting process is required to include reaching a wider audience.
- Clearer and frequent publication of the fines and penalties involved, for example through campaign.
- Clarity if it is an offence to leave bagged dog waste as many dog owners do.
- Consideration given to a scale of penalties for repeat offenders.
- Access to data relating to reports of dog fouling, enforcement or penalties to assist the Parish Council in determining if it's a priority.

Consideration to be given to the inclusion of the following:

- Dogs should always remain on a lead unless otherwise directed by way of signage, notice or designated area.
- Keep your dog away from all children's play areas, regardless of enclosed or fenced off.

5. Rocky

i. Update on Bridges at the Rocky

Cllr Biddle outlined recommendations for repairs following a site visit, which noted that two continuous wood planks required a replacement on the East Bridge that travels over the weir.

With regards to both bridges – work should be undertaken to scrape and remove debris from between planks to avoid damage to the bearers and that a regular maintenance of the wood, by way of treating with a preservative, should be carried out. A small area of wood that is rotting away on the turn on the main bridge and is to be kept under review.

A tradesman has already been contacted to assess the works, and instruction can be given now to complete the work as a matter of urgency.

Cllrs also resolved to commission a structural survey to determine if the bridges need replacing fully and outline the current state of the bearers and handrails. In the meantime, the existing action to enquire about the cost of replacement still stands. Cllr Biddle to provide the Parish Office with specific measurements to allow for accurate quotation.

6. Environment task tracker

i. Review of actions and new items

Two items had been added following communication to the office.

- i. One request from a parishioner for a mixed waste bin at Broomhall at a cost of £221 plus installation was reviewed and deferred until an understanding of all requests for bins could be reviewed and the need fully assessed, allowing prioritization of any additional bins.
- ii. The steps leading to the PROW at Bestmans Lane are in need of repair and have been reported to WCC for review – no further action required at this stage.

The application for tree cutting works on the Hornbeam has been submitted to MHDC.

7. Noticeboards

i. Review of and comments on draft noticeboard policy

The noticeboard policy was reviewed and Cllr Plummer to make minor amends. Proposal for full parish council meeting -

to Approve the draft noticeboard policy as drafted and/or with minor amendments which do not affect its substance, for it to be published by the parish council on its website and for the date of the policy and review date to be inserted into the policy.

8. MRWP

- i. **Update from Stephen including renaming.** Cllr Clamp proposed the name Love Kempsey Working Party following discussion at their meeting. Areas of focus include adding bedding plants to the Main Rd ready for summer, adding planters at the Rocky Bridge with confirmation that watering could be easily accessed from the Ford and progression of a village sign. Also referenced that the Landmark tree planted last year is now budding and appears in a healthy state.
- ii. **Update on Cherry Tree** A Cherry Tree donated from WCC has been planted in front of the Community Centre on Main Road. This wasn't the location identified for the tree nonetheless it will remain in situ. Frequent watering is required to establish the tree. WCC have confirmed a second tree can be obtained and planted in the preferred location on the north-bound A38 where there is a gap in the existing Cherry Trees.

9. Playgrounds

- ii. **Review of KPC playground inspections and actions**
- iii. **Review of March annual inspection report**
- iv. **To discuss the smoke free playground update from CALC**

The annual inspection report was discussed and noted that clarity is required on the legislation referenced on P17, regarding surface requirements for the area beneath the large swing. The Parish Office to contact ROSPA for clarity of the British Safety Standard and whether the wood should be removed or the artificial grass area extended.

Resolved to contact the play equipment provider to understand if a routine maintenance schedule is available and at what cost. If no such option is available to seek understanding of maintenance "best practice" from either the provider or WCC.

10. To review the response from WCC to link VAS signage to mains and prepare a proposal for

KPC.

The correspondence from WCC was reviewed noting there is not an option to link the current VAS sign into the mains and advisable to add a solar panel. A proposal for full council was agreed as follows: ***to approve the 2 quotes obtained for (1) the inspection of VAS sign for proposed change to solar panel and (2) installation of a solar panel on one VAS sign in the village.***

In addition Cllrs noted and approved a request from the Lengthsman for replacement batteries. The Parish Office to order 4 replacement batteries.

11. Any Other Business.

Meeting Closed at 1.16pm

Signed Chairman..... Date.....