



## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 14 APRIL 2025 AT 7.00 PM AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

**PRESENT:** - Cllr Waller (Chairman), Cllr Stevens, Cllr Gardener, Cllr Plummer, Cllr Anstey, Cllr Cooke and Cllr Biddle.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** - County Cllr Allen (arrived 8.25pm), District Cllr Harrison and District Cllr Michael plus 7 members of the public.  
Sharon Dunn - Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer.

1. **Apologies:** - Cllr White (Personal) and Cllr Clamp (Personal) - Accepted  
County Cllr Allen had given advance notice that he would be attending later due to his attendance at Ripple Parish Council.
2. **Declarations of Interest**
  - Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
  - To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature - None
  - To declare any Other Disclosable Interests on items on the agenda and their nature - None
3. **To Consider Written Requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation** (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) - written requests to be submitted to the clerk prior to the meeting - None

Action

### PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Notes from Public Question Time are appended to these minutes.

County Councillor and District Councillor reports were noted.

4. **Minutes:** Having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10.03.2025 were signed as a true and accurate record.
5. **Correspondence for Information:** - Under General Data Protection Regulations names of Identifiable subject/matter withheld
  1. Email request from parishioner dated 25.03.2025 and response from KPC - Tree located on footpath damaging fence - Guidance offered by Kempsey Parish Council
  2. Various correspondence regarding issues with horses on Kempsey Common - Cllr Waller explained the issues experienced with horses on Kempsey Common following a parishioner complaint together with some historical background information.  
To follow up with a separate meeting requested by District Cllr Harrison with District Cllr Michael, Cllr Waller, Cllr Cooke, Cllr Anstey to attend.
6. **Finance**
  1. **RESOLVED:** Payment of accounts as per schedule were all authorised, subject to clarity with the cheque presented for the Gaming event before it is released for payment.  
Expenditure on Infrastructure to date - From the first tranche of money received from MHDC there is approx. £120K unspent funds of which some is likely to be spent before the determination of the planning application.

Clerk

2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement - For Information Only.
3. Capital Budget - For Information Only
4. Ashmoor Common Expenditure to 31.03.2025 - For Information Only
7. Committee Report Updates and Proposals: -
1. Finance & General Purposes Committee: Cllr Waller
- The Committee met on 03.04.2025 where automated banking, an automatic car park barrier, an entry at the land registry, progression with tenant's leases, updates to Financial Regulations including the new legal process in tendering, the proposed Unitary Authority Devolution and the impact on Town & Parish Councils as well as reviewing assets owned by Malvern Hills District Council relating to Kempsey that KPC may wish to acquire, together with an ongoing matter of seeking recovery of costs for debris/tree removal were all discussed.
- a. Proposal to proceed with in-house Fire Manager Training - **ITEM DEFERRED**
- Due to the late notification and confusion over pricing in the quotation and the misleading information presented by the provider.
2. Environment: Cllr Plummer
- The committee met on 04.04.2025 where a review and response submission was agreed for the Public Spaces Protection Order relating to the dog control consultation. Cllr Biddle to check the S278 agreement to pursue the provision of bus shelters. A temporary repair has been carried out to the wooden bridge located at the Rocky. The Committee is to seek a structural survey to determine if the bridges need replacing fully and to outline the state of the handrails and bearers. The ROSPA inspection for this year has been conducted highlighting some minor repairs including having some of the play equipment metal work re-painted.
- a. **RESOLVED:** The Noticeboard Policy was approved for adoption.
- b. **RESOLVED:** Two quotes were approved from Elan City Ltd
- (1.) for the inspection of the VAS sign to check if it could be converted to solar power at a cost of £254.40 (inc. VAT) and (2) provision & installation of a solar panel at a cost of £619.28 (inc. VAT) on one VAS sign in the village.
- To write to the Police & Crime Commissioner to try to seek funding in the first instance emphasising that although KPC is taking measures to attempt to limit the speed of traffic through the village, there are an inadequate number of pedestrian crossings and speeding issues repeatedly feature on our policing priorities.
- Working Party: MRWP Update: Cllr Clamp.
- a. Proposal to change the name of the Main Road Working Party to "Love Kempsey Working Party" - **ITEM DEFERRED**
- The newly planted cherry tree located outside the Community Centre has recently been inspected by Cllr Waller who confirmed the Parish Office staff have agreed to water it throughout the summer, pending possible relocation of the tree in the autumn.
3. Community Centres: Cllr Stevens
- The external lights at the Community Centre were examined and it was established that the motion sensors seem to be working but one of the lights located at the top of the apex is no longer working. To follow up with the electrician.
- In the process of obtaining quotes to decorate the Youth Centre
- The waste bin located next to the Pavilion is to be replaced with a new one following a recent misunderstanding of use as it displays a 'Trade Waste' sign.
- Car parking is an issue at the Community Centre on Wednesday afternoons due to limited parking and the presence of Bridge Club. As this is impacting on the work of the Parish Office, the office will close at 12 noon on Wednesday afternoons until the situation is resolved.
- Rooms to Hire/Bookings - Now advertised on the Parish Council website.
- The booking confirmation is to be attached to all new invoice bookings advising the user of the conditions to adhere to.
- Investigating installing solar panels on the roof of the Youth Centre.

Action

Deputy

Deputy

P Office

Deputy

4. Infrastructure Committee: Cllr Waller

A report had been circulated confirming the planning application was submitted by Calfordseaden on 10 March 2025 and validated by MHDC on 19 March 2025. The consultation period officially ends on 26 April 2025. In conjunction with Calfordseaden addressing various comments/issues raised from statutory consultees.

Community Facility Legacy Grant Scheme - The Grant Scheme will distribute £1M into new and existing public open space and community facilities. The grant pot will be awarded to projects across two tiers: -

Tier 1 - (up to £15,000) Projects can apply for 100% of the total project cost, up to a maximum of £15,000. Match funding is not required.

Tier 2 - (£15,000 to £100,00) Projects can apply for 80% of the total project cost, up to a maximum grant of £100,000 with 20% match funding required.

Various questions around the guidance to refer to MHDC. Several ideas to illustrate how to make multiple applications were shared with the preference from councillors to make 3 or 4 applications. Ideas suggested - included new play equipment at PFL, skatepark/pump track, solar panels at the Youth Centre, replacing Rocky bridges, upgrading stiles, establishing Ashmoor Common as a wetland area and setting up a portacabin for the Youth Hub to avoid issues of dual use of the Youth Centre, as this provides a dedicated space, more room and greater flexibility.

Close of Expression of Interest is 8 June 2025.

5. Commons and Recreation: Cllr Cooke

The Parish Council has received a report from Kempsey Skatepark Club with some potential designs for both a pump track and a skatepark. A meeting took place with one member of the club at the new Battenhall pump track off Bath Road to discuss the design, build and practical use of the track. The layout of the PFL site submitted in the above planning application includes space for both facilities.

The main issue now is to investigate funding opportunities for these two facilities, as these are not budgeted for within the available PFL project funds.

A meeting was held with the newly named Amigos Kempsey Cricket club (AKCC). They have a new logo and entered a second team into the league. The club will play 22 x 1st team matches starting on April 19th (away) and 14 x 2nd team matches starting on May 4th (Home). They are looking for more players and we committed the Parish Council to advertise for such through social media and the Kempsey Times. A Juniors section will also start this season although this will just be training/coaching this year. This will be on a Friday eve this season. AKCC wants to purchase the ground maintenance equipment from the former KCC but ownership of the kit/equipment first needs to be established.

All users of the containers at Plovers Rise playing fields have agreed to have them painted green by a working party hopefully organised by KCFC in the near future.

The field gate to Kempsey Common near Common Farm, Green Street has been replaced by a 2-in-1 gate which includes a pedestrian gate to encourage walkers to the common and allow easier access.

6. Planning Committee: Cllr Gardener

A meeting took place on 07.04.2025 that was well attended by local residents concerned about the Napleton lane housing application. County Cllr Allen explained that the Parish Council is only a consultee and would not be deciding on the outcome of the application, it being MHDC responsibility. A wide range of questions were asked by local residents.

Various other applications were discussed for comment.

Cllr Gardener expressed his gratitude to Cllr Cooke for his representation at the SWDPR Hearing due to his temporary incapacity.

8. Chairman's Report: Cllr Waller

- Community Builder update - A Guiding Panel meeting took place on 08.04.2025.

A youth event has been booked for 22 April in the Easter holidays.

Cathy Garner is seeking professional youth workers to support youth activities in the small meeting room on Tuesday evenings between now and July.

Work is on hand on designs for the youth lounge to be reviewed at the next Community Centres Committee meeting and for implementation by Platform volunteers on 13 and 21 May.

Final drafting of the Vision Report is underway to be circulated a week in advance of the EOM.

The use of a horse box pop-up cafe on Fridays 2,9,16 and 23 May at Plovers Rise as proof of concept for the Pavilion Café has been offered. Organisational details for these events are being finalised.

Platform Community Chest Fund - £1500 has been offered by Platform Housing Group towards the Kempsey Youth Hub project. A fund agreement draft document has been requested.

Cllr Waller had responded to Claire Vaughan who co-ordinates all the Community Builders funded by MHDC to advise this was working very well and that KPC would welcome further financial support assistance for 2026-2027.

- Police Electric Bike – Cllr White

A meeting was held on 02.04.2025 to progress the electric cycle. To reach a final decision an agreement between the police and KPC needs to be in place. To request a timeline and if they have a template for a draft funding agreement.

- Kempsey Times May Article

The deadline for submission is 22 April 2025. To attempt to place a one-page cricket advertisement in addition to a submission from the Parish Council.

- Annual Parish meeting – Unfortunately, as the proposed date of Monday 19 May is no longer an option, a new date is to be determined. Guest speakers to include talks on Planning, Kempsey Promotions CIC, Community Builder, Unitary Authorities and Health & Well-Being.

- Grounds Maintenance Association (GMA) - Turf Management Day 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025 - Bristol  
Cllr Waller expressed an interest in attending this event.

- Elevating the role of Community in creating good health and preventing illness 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024  
9.30am – 1.30pm The Arena, University of Worcester, Joel Richards Suite

9. Tarmac Clifton Liaison Meeting: Cllr Clamp attended this meeting on the 6 March 2025 confirming there is some uncertainty about moving operations to the east of the A38. Next meeting to take place on 04.09.2025.

10. Police: The following three policing priorities for the upcoming quarter April - June 2025 are to be submitted: -

- Dangerous and illegal parking at the shop during opening hours and anti-social behaviour including shoplifting
- Anti-social behaviour at the Rocky
- Illegal parking on pavements throughout the village, especially at the doctor's surgery and on Post Office Lane during school pick-up/drop-off times.

Meeting Closed at 9.57 PM

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

*Standing Orders were adjourned.*

### **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The Footpath Warden confirmed she had reported a rotten wooden top step to a stile located between Ashmoor Common and Teal Turf land to WCC Countryside Access Services confirming they needed to ascertain who was responsible for the stile before any action could be taken for its repair or modification. Cllr Waller suggested a future project might be to modify the stiles located around the Parish to ensure they're more dog friendly. Cllr Cooke/Cllr Waller agreed to consider.

A parishioner urged support for a pump track/skatepark at an early stage.

Representation was made from a young bike enthusiast who lives in the village, in support of a pump track confirming it would be amazing to have a designated space to have fun and practice his skills promoting health and wellbeing.

### **County Councillor Martin Allen**

Emailed Report to Kempsey Parish Council for April 2025

Good evening.

### **UNITARY AUTHORITY'S**

I have no more news that which I provided previously.

We now know that Worcestershire's district and county councils are in the second wave to become a Unitary Authority.

As you also know, a progress report must be in place by the end of March this year. A full plan is to be in place in November this year.

The Shadow Authority will be formed in 2027, currently both WCC and MHDC will run until April 2028.

MHDC voted to explore both a Worcestershire Unitary Authority and a South Worcestershire Unitary Authority.

MHDC currently favour the SWUA option, **which I also voted in favour of.**

Worcester City, Wychavon and MHDC residents total approximately 320 thousand.

North Worcestershire total 280 thousand.

It is not known at the moment if the government will accept this option.

### **BESTMANS LANE GULLY BLOCKED AND MUD ON THE ROAD #6117**

The work has now been done, I am not happy with the end result, I will be asking WCC to look at it again.

### **PEDESTRIAN SIGNS REQUIRED BROOKEND LANE #8536**

Still now news.

Traffic Management have ordered pedestrian warning signs for either side of this bridge. These should be installed in approx. 2 months' time.

### **MORE WORK ON TAYLORS LANE**

As you know, 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**

Following my repeatedly asking for this to be done, work will now commence on 17/04/25, lasting until 30/04/25.

## **ROOKERY ROAD FOOTWAY**

As you know, long with St Mary's Close, I have been battling to get Rooker Road refurbished. Just to confirm this work will now commence on 29/04/25 until 09/05/25.

## **BROOMHALL FOOTWAY OPPOSITE ST PETERS GARDEN CENTRE**

WCC have accepted my request to resurface the pavement outside Broomhall Cottages.

Currently we don't have a date when the work will be carried out.

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

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.

## **NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE**

I am appalled at the Highways response to the new community centre planning application, I have of course contacted officers at director level to ask for this to be looked at again.

## **SIDING OUT OF THE PAVEMENT ON THE A38**

I am delighted to say that, after my repeated requests, the pavement on the A38 from Kempsey to the Ketch Roundabout has been Sided out and is now much wider. T

## **FINALLY, THANK YOU**

As you may know there is the county council election on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May. I just wanted to thank you all for your hard work and dedication over the last four years, I know being a Parish Councillor can be a thankless job. During my time as your County Councillor, I have I have achieved far more than I thought I would, and it's been my pleasure to serve my community.

Warmest regards

Martin Allen.

## **Questions/Comments**

On behalf of the Parish Council Cllr Waller expressed thanks and appreciation to Martin for all his efforts as our County Councillor, serving the community, expressing we would be delighted to see him back again in the future.

Cllr Plummer asked if there was any further information regarding the litter bin request to be installed at the same location as the noticeboard opposite St. Peters Garden Centre. Cllr Allen confirmed he was merely passing the request on for consideration.

**District Councillor John Michael**

Planning Development Plan (PDP) related to environmental & biodiversity matters within MHDC.

Requested if KPC could think of any schemes or advice moving forward requiring help and assistance.

To invite along to the next Commons & Recreation Committee meeting to progress forward.

**District Councillor David Harrison**

Cllr Harrison confirmed commercial food waste has started and the issues encountered.

*Standing Orders were reimposed.*