



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

PRESENT: - Cllr Waller (Chairman), Cllr Stevens, Cllr Gardener, Cllr Plummer, Cllr Biddle, Cllr White, Cllr Cooke and Cllr Varley

IN ATTENDANCE: - County Cllr Allen, District Cllr Harrison and District Cllr Michael plus five members of the public.
Sharon Dunn - Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer.

1. **Apologies:** - Cllr Clamp (Personal), Cllr Anstey (Work Commitments) - Accepted
2. **To appoint councillor vacancy by co-option** - An applicant had expressed an interest and was anticipated at the meeting , but unfortunately no application form has been submitted.
3. **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 - Cllr Plummer declared a pecuniary interest in relation to Pixham Ferry Lane due to her business being in close proximity.
 - To declare any Other Disclosable Interests on items on the agenda and their nature - None
4. **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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Notes from Public Question Time are appended to these minutes.

County Councillor and District Councillor reports were noted.

5. Minutes: Having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 09.06.2025 were signed as a true and accurate record.
Minutes of the EOM of 15.05.2025 are still subject to review, so were deferred until the next meeting.
6. Correspondence for Information: - Under General Data Protection Regulations names of subject/matter withheld
 1. Email from parishioner dated 27.6.2025 - Travellers attempting to gain access to Plovers Rise. Access could not be gained so the Travellers went elsewhere.
 2. Offer from the Police on how to secure our open spaces - Cllr White to progress a meeting with the Police focussing on security for open spaces including the recreation area, plus securing the Commons and Hams.
 3. MHDC Neighbourhood Planning Survey - to be completed by midnight on Friday 25 July 2025.
 4. Request from a Parishioner - Update on the adoption of The Grove by WCC.

Action

JW

7. Finance

1. **RESOLVED:** The Council approved the list of cheque payments and the list of BACS payments for the month of July 2025. Cllr Stevens and Cllr Gardener to authorise the online payments.
2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement - For Information Only
3. Capital Budget - For Information Only
4. Quarterly Budget Monitoring to June 2025 - Reviewed

8. Committee Report Updates and Proposals:

1. Finance & General Purposes Committee: Cllr Waller

A meeting took place on 10 July 2025

1. Cllr Waller gave an update on funding applications and opportunities. These included:

a. MHDC Rural Fund - EOI Deadline Midday 7 July 2025

An Expression of Interest was submitted to MHDC Rural Fund in support of a Community Café proposed at the Sports Pavilion, Plovers Rise requesting funding of £7250 supported by match funding of £7250 from KPC.

b. MHDC Community Arts & Culture Grant - Deadline 9am Friday 1 August 2025

Cllr Waller and Cllr Stevens each identified separate organisations that this grant may be applicable to and will forward details on how they can apply directly.

c. MHDC Community Builder Funding - Additional Bridging Funding

Following some misunderstanding with the funding arrangements for the Community Builder, a request has been submitted to MHDC to be considered for an additional £6500 from the residual UKSPF Fund.

d. The FCC Community Action Fund - Closes 5.00pm 20 August 2025.

This funding application is to be progressed with the Community Builder.

e. Heritage Revival Fund is accepting applications for projects that will help to rescue and repurpose neglected historic buildings. Although not applicable to KPC, St Mary's Church, Kempsey has been identified.

2. Maturity Fixed Rate Bond - **RESOLVED:** To reinvest funds with Cambridge & Counties Bank in a new six-month fixed rate bond at 4.35% gross/AER Rate.

3. Proposal to authorise the Clerk to sign the Service Level Agreement between YMCA Worcestershire and Kempsey Parish Council for Youth Work Delivery.

RESOLVED: To modify this proposal to read 'Proposal to authorise the Clerk to sign the Service Level Agreement between YMCA, subject to clarification on the rental arrangements'

RESOLVED: The modified proposal was then voted on, where it was agreed to be accepted.

4. **RESOLVED:** To authorise the Clerk to sign the service level agreement with Clothes Collection Ltd for a three-month trial for a clothing bank to be sited near the Sports Pavilion. Clerk to inform our insurers.5. **RESOLVED:** Permission was granted to partially use the playing field plus Kempsey Youth Centre on 21 September 2025 from 2pm to host a Fun Dog Show, postponed from Kempsey's Summer Fete, subject to confirmation of public liability cover and risk assessment.

2. Environment: Cllr Plummer

A meeting took place on 19.06.2025 where the following were discussed: -

Cllr Biddle provided an overview of a recent detailed inspection of both Rocky bridges to determine the extent of damage to the load bearing supports. It was noted that the west bridge requires a repair to the centre support only and the east bridge has more extensive damage and it was agreed to draft an ITQ to obtain quotes.

It was reported that the VAS signage is to be removed by Kempsey Parish Council and will be delivered to the provider for the solar conversion. The Lengthsman would be able to support this. The works are projected to be completed and the sign reinstated by early July 2025.

It was agreed to place an additional bin at the shop.

Clerk

Clerk

Ongoing playground monthly visual inspections with any items detailed as damaged on the monthly inspection, to be costed and presented back for review.

The playground inspections have expanded to include the two brick bus shelters, on the northbound side of the A38.

Next meeting provisionally booked in August 2025 or early September 2025.

- Love Kempsey Working Party (LKWP) Update: Cllr Clamp – No report available.

3. Community Centres: Cllr Stevens

A busy month at the Youth Centre with many events booked.

The five-year fixed wiring test is to be carried out on Monday 21 July 2025 at the Sports Pavilion.

Thanks were expressed to the Deputy Clerk for investigating funding opportunities to replace the defibrillator located at the Sports Pavilion. Both funding providers had some limitations, it conflicted with other funding applications with an extension list of criteria or could be offered but in an unsecured cabinet. District Cllr Harrison advised that an application be made to the British Heart Foundation and encouraged KPC to liaise with him for some assistance.

4. Infrastructure Committee: Cllr Waller

Infrastructure report - Planning application M/25/00408/FUL issues update

Highways Concerns

A meeting took place with WCC Highways on 8 July 2025 to address their concerns. They felt the site scheme as currently proposed was materially greater than that considered at outline. This was vigorously opposed by KPC. WCC Highways proposed additional measures to mitigate their concerns - a weight limit to be imposed along the lane to prevent coaches using that route, way-finding signage for pedestrians to use the route across the Elgar Park and Lygon Green estates, and speed restrictions on the lane and Old Road South.

The list of issues initially identified by WCC Highways on 11 April and responded to by KPC on 12 June were each considered. It became apparent that not everyone was aware of the key facts of the project including the scope of the S278 Agreement between WCC Highways and Taylor Wimpey or that the site development was to be phased. Options to apply conditions to some of the issues were discussed and left for WCC Highways to consider. To help move these issues along KPC will work on updating KPC's position on the various issues.

Pipeline - Exolum objection

On 11th July a Zoom meeting with Exolum (owners of the pipeline crossing the community land) to review their concerns, align on technical requirements, access provisions, and legal conditions for planning approval.

Exolum appear agreeable to a condition on the planning consent requiring KPC to comply with their approvals process for works in proximity to the pipeline prior to these works commencing. However, they were very keen to have an agreed Construction Operation and Management Plan (COMP) ahead of withdrawing their objection to the scheme. KPC to complete the COMP template supplied and update the site layout.

Ecology

Comments were received at MHDC Planning on 1 July from the Natural Heritage and Biodiversity Officer. These have not to date been listed the Planning website. They comprise a request for a badger mitigation and monitoring strategy, lighting concerns and four points relating to the BNG calculation. To be responded to in due course.

5. Commons and Recreation: Cllr Cooke

A meeting has been arranged to take place on 22.07.2025 at 12 noon.

Cllr Cooke met National Grid on site at Kerswell Green to establish the extent of the tree works required that were interfering with the powerline. This work also extended to the eastern edge of Ashmoor Common

6. Planning Committee: Cllr Gardener

A meeting took place on Monday 7 July 2025 where four planning applications were considered for comment, including enforcement matters and other matters.

It was agreed to complete the Neighbourhood Planning Survey initiated by MHDC and express interest in a number of matters, including assistance in preparing a review of the Kempsey NDP and the commissioning of a Local Housing Needs Survey.

9. Chairman's Report: Cllr Waller

- Kempsey Summer Fete - The Parish Council secured two stands at the fete. One to drive recruitment of councillors. There was a limited amount of interest but unfortunately no applications.
The second stand was for the Community Builder to seek volunteers. This was more successful, but we are yet to see the outcome.
Thanks were expressed to everyone who offered their help and support with special thanks to Cllr Neil Stevens and Simon Bott for their duet performance 'Under the Malvern Hills'.
- Parish & Town Briefing Local Government Reorganisation - Still uncertain on the impact this will have on Parish Councils at this stage. Cllr Waller to offer feedback and comments to Worcestershire CALC.
- Worcestershire Parkway Stakeholder Engagement - An in-person workshop took place on Monday 14 July hosted by Homes England and Summix for 5000 new homes by 2041, then another 5000 after this date. Further dates for stakeholder engagement have been arranged.
- Bloor Homes Introduction - A face-to-face meeting is to take place on 31.07.2025.
- Employment law update - New rules surrounding maternity and sexual discrimination coming into force later this year.
- The Ledbury Case - It was agreed to standardise a response to any complaint received from members of the public about KPC members.
- Kempsey Times - Deadline 21.07.2025. Please submit your ideas to the Deputy Clerk for inclusion in the next submission.

RESOLVED: Under The Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting(s)) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press from discussions only in respect of agenda item 10. inclusive as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

10. Staffing Matters

- Worcestershire Pension Fund Employers Discretions - The Employer Discretions exercise was completed and agreed.

Clerk

Meeting Closed at 9.40 PM

Signed Chairman..... Date

Standing Orders were adjourned.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A parishioner questioned what has happened to the Annual Report. He was advised that work is in progress.

A parishioner offered her sincere thanks for all the support, both physical and financial, in support of the Summer Fete which took place on Saturday 21st June 2025, bringing the community together helping to raise approximately £6K.

Referring to Pixham Ferry Lane and provisions for the youth, she emphasized the importance of working together to achieve the end goal. Cllr Waller confirmed the process was slow, but the Council were trying to work through these issues.

A resident requested an update on the adoption of the Grove. This is to be reported under the County Cllr report. District Cllr Harrison confirmed the District Councillors together with the County Cllr were willing to support residents of the Grove to help to try and resolve these issues.

Cllr Biddle commented on the housing expansion around Worcester Parkway station which had recently featured in the local news.

County Councillor Martin Allen

Good evening.

NEW AREA FOR THE WORCESTERSHIRE ON DEMAND BUS

Parts of Wychavon are going to benefit from a new On Demand Bus service, which will be limited to a 9-mile travel area. I have little other information about this service, but I will be watching to see if our residents can take advantage of maybe a trip to Pershore.

COUNTY COUNCIL

The first Cabinet meeting took place in the last week of June. The report to be discussed was the finance report of the financially situation. The cabinet member for responsibility for finance did not attend. I am unaware as to the reason why. The meeting was just over 20 minutes, and some cabinet members arrived late for the meeting, and one cabinet member was prevented from voting due to their late attendance. I asked a question about Veterans and the Worcestershire on Demand Bus and was assured by the Leader of the Council, Cllr Jo Monk that she and her party would continue to support the veterans.

NEW SEND SCHOOL IN MALVERN

There has been some speculation if the new SEND school in Malvern would now go ahead. Last week in full council I understand that the Cabinet Member for Responsibility said that it would go ahead. This is good news, especially as the government is paying for it.

NEW SCHOOL AND MULTI-STORY CARPARK NEAR COUNTY HALL

Earlier in the year I reported that the then administration has authorised the construction of a new high school and a multi-story carpark for the hospital. I understand that the new administration is looking at this again and may cancel the project.

UNITARY AUTHORITY'S

I have no more news than that I have provided previously, due to the importance of this issue, I will keep this on my list to remind me to report to you each month.

REQUEST FOR MEETING WITH KARL PERKS HEAD OF HIGHWAYS

Following my requests, you have had a meeting with Highways to discuss the planning application for the Community Centre, Skate Park and Bump Track.

I am pleased to hear it went well.

REQUEST FOR SITE MEETING WITH HIGHWAYS FOLLOWING TRAGIC DEATH

Following the tragic death of a father of three on the A4440 between at the Norton Roundabout (Near St Peters Garden Centre), plus other collisions and incidents, I and County Council Louis Stephen have requested a site meeting to discuss the situation and seek improvements. I have to say that the initial push back from Councillor Karl Perks who is the Cabinet Members for Responsibility for Highways has been quite firm, however he has agreed to the meeting towards the end of July.

PEDESTRIAN SIGNS REQUIRED BROOKEND LANE #8536

After six months, WCC finally managed to install the two signs!

MORE WORK ON TAYLORS LANE

Work has commenced 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.

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

I was informed today that once the consultation was over, if there were no objections, the lines would be installed in about three months from the date of the end of the consultation.

#9361 OLD ROAD NORTH OUTSIDE THE FIRS ISSUES WITH ENTRY TO THE FIRS

No more news that I gave you in June.

Following Cllr Harrison's assistance, my Highways Liaison Officer and I have visited ORN to look at the issue of MHDC refuse vehicle being unable to the Firs to collect waste. A formal request has now been raised to have double yellow lines installed in a small section of Old Road North.

#7134 DOUBLE YELLOW LINES CORNER OF WINDMILL LANE/HILLSIDE

The lines were installed mid-June, following problems with MHDC getting access to Hillside in their refuse vehicles, which means fire engines were also unable to access the road in an emergency. Clearly, that is unacceptable to WCC.

I have received one complaint from a resident, I have offered to go and talk to them about finding a solution to their parking problem, maybe to look at a disabled parking bay. However, they have not come back to me as yet.

FOOTWAY RECONSTRUCTION BRROMHALL OPPOSITE ST PETERS GARDEN CENTRE

Following my raising an issue about a partially sighted lady struggling with the footway outside Broomhall Cottages, opposite St Peters Garden Centre. Highways have accepted there is an issue and intend to carry out work on the footway between the 15 – 19 of September.

THE GROVE UPDATE FROM HIGHWAYS ABOUT ADOPTING THE ROAD

Update received from Highways as follows:

We are a long, long way away from adoption of The Grove. The site does not yet have a section agreement in place as originally it was to be kept private but after construction the developer now wants the site to be adopted.

There are large retaining walls that have yet to be approved (the developer has only recently paid for the walls to be checked), and when finally we can get the section agreement in place, it would be a 3 year maintenance period due to non-inspected works.

Warmest regards

Martin Allen.

Questions/Comments

Q1 Cllr Cooke commented that WCC spending was excessive, yet window cleaning was still taking place on an empty building at County Hall. Is this correct?

A1 Yes this may be the case and will be under scrutiny

Cllr Biddle requested double yellow lines by the doctor's surgery as visibility is obscured. Supported by the Parish Council, Cllr Allen offered to place a request.

Some confusion occurred concerning road adoption, talking at crossed purposes. Cllr Waller confirmed it is the intention to reengage with Taylor Wimpey in connection with PFL issues.

District Councillor David Harrison

Commented on various issues concerning the Grove where Enforcement have intervened. He confirmed there are major issues concerning the roads and drainage. He confirmed he is willing to hold a residents' meeting to try to help to resolve these issues.

Referring to the southern link road he commented on speeding, especially early morning and late at night and the number of road traffic accidents including a fatality, all of which have been reported to the police. We need to establish who is responsible who polices this road

He confirmed the SWDPr has now gone through the examination process to determine if it is sound. Worcester Parkway is acceptable. Throckmorton was not liked as it was not included in the current plan. Worcester South has been rejected from the housing allocations.

He commented on various planning matters objecting to the second site, that was Aston Coaches due to issues with flooding and drainage from phase 1.
Worcester South 2500 homes - Welbeck looks like it has been sold and is making slow progress.
The District Council is looking to alter the regulations after planning has been granted before planning is granted.
Objecting to the two sites, north of Broomhall Lane, that should have access through the Welbeck site.

He gave an update on the Community Facility Legacy Grant Scheme - Expression of Interest following a meeting which took place on Thursday last week.
Details will be disclosed on 17 September 2025. Four applications relating to Kempsey had been submitted, three by the Parish Council and one from another public group.
48 of 70 applications got approval to go ahead.
He is concerned with the compliance of stage 2, where quotes relating to costs are required, details of match funding, and details of landownership.

He suggests submitting a pre-application for each funding application for compliance purposes, highlighting work that needs to have commenced by 31 March 2026.
Cllr Waller confirmed the pump track forms part of the planning application already submitted, a pre-app will be submitted for the cabin and the solar panels do not require planning application and the details of the relevant legislation were referred to in the EOI application.

Questions/Comments

RG - Asked for clarification regarding the removal/rejection of Worcester South from the SWDPr. He was directed to the SWDPr site Examination 99.

CW- Not for a response this evening but how will the 5-Year Housing Land Supply work under a unitary authority?

REMINDER due to the hot weather please be respectfully reminded to put your refuse bins out the night before as work starts early the next morning.

District Councillor John Michael

The Worcester Parkway Seminar attended by Cllr Stevens and Cllr Gardener took place.

Last Tuesday there was an online meeting concerning the Local Government Reorganisation to help to try to establish a preference for a unitary or two authority option. Overwhelmingly, the two authority option is to be taken onboard.

He followed up the Community Builder funding with the District Council query so hopefully this will be granted to fund this important work in Kempsey both in the short and medium term.

Questions - None