



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 11 AUGUST 2025 AT 7.00 PM
AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

PRESENT: - Cllr Waller (Chairman), Cllr Stevens, Cllr Gardener, Cllr Biddle, Cllr White, Cllr Cooke, Cllr Varley (arrived 7.12pm) and Cllr Clamp.

IN ATTENDANCE: - County Cllr Allen plus 5 members of the public.
Sharon Dunn - Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer.

1. **Apologies:** - Cllr Plummer (Personal) and Cllr Anstey (Personal) - Accepted
District Cllr Harrison (Personal), District Cllr Michael (Malvern Hills Trust meeting) - Received
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

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Notes from Public Question Time are appended to these minutes.

County Councillor & District Councillor reports were noted.

4. Minutes: Having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14.07.2025 and the EOM on 15.05.2025 were signed as a true and accurate record.
5. Correspondence for Information: - Under General Data Protection Regulations names of identifiable subject/matter withheld
 - Town and Parish Survey 2025 - The survey closes at midday on Tuesday 14th October 2025
To refer to F&GP Committee to respond
 - Parking Issues at Windmill Lane and police response - For Information
 - Rights of Way Improvement Plan Parish Survey - Questionnaire closes at midnight on 26 October 2025 - To obtain a pdf copy and recirculate for comment and place on September agenda
 - Draft Worcestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy Public Consultation - Comments to be received by 5pm 26th September 2025 - To obtain a pdf copy and re circulate for comment and place on the September agenda.
6. Finance
 1. Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised. Cllr Stevens and Cllr Gardener to authorise the online payments.
 2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement - For Information Only.
 3. Capital Budget - For Information Only

Action

F&GP

Clerk

Clerk

7. Committee Report Updates and Proposals: -
1. Finance & General Purposes Committee: Cllr Waller

The proposal was amended to read 'Proposal to adopt Kempsey Parish Council Community Emergency Plan April 2025 V2' This was agreed and taken to a vote.

 - a. **RESOLVED:** The Kempsey Parish Council Community Emergency Plan V2 was adopted.
 - b. Update on grants and funding applications: -

MHDC Legacy Grant Scheme.

MHDC have advised that KPC's funding applications to MHDC's Legacy Grant Scheme are going forward to an Executive Committee decision in mid-September. This includes:

 - (a) funding for a pump track to be located at the new Community and Sports Centre at Old Road South / Pixham Ferry Lane; grant request for £80k developed in collaboration with Kempsey Skate Park Club.
Planning approval for this project remains to be resolved as does the likely construction date.
 - (b) funding for an IT Hub / Youth Cabin at Plovers Rise to be located adjacent to the Youth Centre; grant request for £80k. Need to progress a planning pre-app and obtain other quotations
 - (c) funding to improve environmental performance of the Youth Centre at Plovers Rise through insulation and the addition of solar panels; grant request for £40k. Need to obtain further quotations.

MHDC Rural Fund

Awaiting the outcome of the initial evaluation of KPC's application for £7,250 for refurbishment of the Plovers Pavilion club area into a Community Café. Round 2 submission deadline now extended to 15 September for end October yes/no decision. Business case for the project to be presented to KPC at the September meeting.

MHDC Community & Arts Fund.

A last-minute application for £1000 to support a 'Kempsey Players Revival' project. The application has not been accepted and the Parish Office has asked for feedback on the application from MHDC.

Communities Foundation & Severn Waste Services Communities Action Funds

Two funds for which KPC is eligible due to proximity to the landfill site at Pershore. Proposals on the agenda for discussion. Deadline 20th August.

Community Builder funding extension.

KPC has been offered a further three months of funding worth £6,500.
The variation to the agreement is to be signed by the Clerk to secure funds with a formal retrospective proposal placed on the September Parish Council agenda

 - c. **RESOLVED:** For the Clerk to apply to the FCC Community Action Fund for funding to replace or refurbish the bridge in the Rocky
 - d. This proposal was amended to read 'Proposal for the Clerk to apply to Severn Waste Services Community Action Fund for funding to refurbish the Sports Pavilion.' The amendment was agreed upon and then taken to a vote.
RESOLVED: For the Clerk to apply to the Severn Waste Services Community Action Fund for funding to refurbish the Sports Pavilion.
 2. Environment: Cllr Plummer

Continuing to work on projects previously reported on.
Cllr Biddle confirmed he had inspected the bus shelter that requires repainting and repositioning. He will produce a report for referral to the Environment Committee.

- Love Kempsey Working Party (LKWP) Update: Cllr Clamp.
Daffodils are on order for further planting this year.
Sadly, some plants have been stolen from the raised beds and planters. These incidents are to be reported to the police.

Action

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

Clerk

MB

The summer bedding plants are struggling to survive in the intense heat, despite being watered, so moving forward it is the intention to replace these with shrubs with the exception of where there are prominent plant displays.

The project to install an attractive village sign is now with MHDC Planning to seek their advice.

A daffodil day event is planned for 21/22 March 2026. Details to be confirmed by Kempsey Promotions CIC.

To create a small picnic area in the Rocky and to open the tree canopy to increase the light with an idea is to install two tree swings.

The landmark tree is still alive with berries but needs some attention.

3. Community Centres: Cllr Stevens

The Youth Centre is closed as it is undergoing redecoration this week.

The new clothing bank has been installed outside the sports pavilion.

The 5-year fixed wiring testing has been carried out at the sports pavilion.

Kempsey Youth Hub is starting on Monday 8 September 2025 at 7.00pm at Kempsey Youth Centre.

- a. **RESOLVED:** To purchase a new defibrillator (fully automatic, child mode with no extra pads and prep kit) and lockable unit to replace the one located outside the Sports Pavilion, Plovers Rise at a cost of £1435 plus VAT from Andrew Deptford.

Clerk

4. Infrastructure Committee: Cllr Waller

The case officer at MHDC has requested a time extension for the planning application to 3 October 2025. This is now the new timeframe for a decision.

5. Commons and Recreation: Cllr Cooke

1. A report by a resident in Kerswell Green of a blocked ditch has been investigated. The ditch lies between a field owned by Teal Turf and the road, but is not part of the common land.
2. A gate post to the Bridleway entrance to the back common has broken off and the gate is difficult to close. In addition, the main gate is in very bad condition. Consideration for a full repair will be made by the C&R Committee.
3. There are 3 gates to the entrance to Ashmoor Common at the Kempsey south end of the common. This creates a difficult access issue. We will look to repurpose a gate possibly to Pixham Ferry or elsewhere.
4. A drone survey of the Back Kempsey common was reviewed at our recent meeting. We will discuss a plan for the trees with Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.
5. The electric fence erected by a horse owner At Kerswell Green remains in place, despite a letter requesting its removal. This has prevented mowing of the area this summer. A further letter will be sent.
6. There has been no further contact with the former KCC over the cricket equipment. Amigos Kempsey CC continue to use it. A formal hire arrangement needs to be set up. They have mentioned the nets have disappeared from the far side of the Youth Centre. To try to pinpoint the day when these went missing.
7. The Tennis Club have submitted a grant application to MHDC's Legacy Facility Grant scheme for lighting and pitch improvements including a potential new club house.

6. Planning Committee: Cllr Gardener

A planning committee meeting took place on Monday 4th August 2025 where planning enforcement matters were raised, five planning applications were reviewed for comment and updates presented on various planning applications.

Cllr Gardener made reference to Breach of Planning Control, M/ENF/24/0321 - Draycott Villa Nurseries at Draycott Villa, 23 Main Road Kempsey and the Officer conclusion for this case.

Cllr Waller has asked for support from our District Councillors and will seek a progress update before the next steps are considered.

The preliminary findings for the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review have been issued. Cllr Gardener outlined the relevance to Kempsey. He also commented on the 5 year housing land supply.

		Action
7. Guiding Panel, Community Builder: Cllr Waller		
The Guiding Panel met on Tuesday 5 August 2025 attended by Cllr Waller, Cllr Stevens, Cathy Garner, the Clerk and the Deputy Clerk, where the following matters were discussed: -		
Pop Up Café - A secondhand coffee machine and grinder together with training for six coffee baristas had been offered for £900. After careful consideration weighing up the pros and cons against the budget the preference was to invest in a new coffee machine to start this new venture.		
As part of the MHDC Funding agreement all funds need to be dispersed by end of September, with any residual value to be used for a new coffee machine and barista training.	Clerk	
MHDC are aware of the funding arrangements and have accepted the situation, resulting in the £6.5K additional grant funding being paid. The Community Builder is preparing a draft business plan is for formal approval at the September Parish Council meeting.	CG	
The YMCA are running a Youth Hub at Plovers Rise, Youth Centre commencing on Monday 8 September 2025 from 7pm. The funding agreement is to be finalised and signed to enable release of funds. Equipment is to be purchased for the event (subject to approval below). The event is to be launched early September 2025.	CW	
Communities Foundation & Severn Waste Services Communities Action Funds		
Two funds for which KPC is eligible due to proximity to the landfill site at Pershore were discussed. Please refer to minute 7.1.b.		
Fete pledges - To follow up volunteer pledges from the Summer Fete.		
Vision Report - Next steps for councillors to comment on the report. Clerk to re-circulate.	Clerk	
a. RESOLVED: To authorise the Clerk to purchase gaming/IT equipment to the value of £1500, from the list specified by the Community Builder for the Youth Hub/IT Hub commencing on 8 September 2025.	Clerk /RV	
(Cllr Varley suggested purchasing refurbished equipment to help obtain best value for money and offered his knowledge to help identify the equipment to source).		
8. To consider measures to protect open spaces following police advice: Cllr White accompanied by PC Jon Hand conducted a tour of open spaces, in and around the parish, in an effort to determine the level of vulnerability and possible remedies. Several locations were identified but many were not in the ownership/care of KPC. It was identified that KPC needs to focus on the entrance to Plovers Rise playing fields and a remedy for both entrances is to install a height restrictor, a hidden clasp padlock, and/or a poacher's block. Cllr Stevens and Cllr White to help progress.	NS & JW	
9. Chairman's Report: Cllr Waller		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bloor Homes Introduction - Meeting to be rearranged at a future date. Kempsey Times articles - Deadline for next submission is Thursday 21 August 2025 		
Meeting Closed at 10.03PM		
Signed	Chairman.....	Date

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Cllr Waller had kindly brought in a tray of plums and invited everyone to help themselves.

Parish Path Warden

Re: Kempsey Times – August 2025 edition

'I have to clear anything I wish to write or say in public, and this statement has been cleared and has the approval of the County Council Officer I report to directly.

I would like to know who wrote the article about volunteering for the August edition of the Kempsey Times.

I am wondering why the article says that a volunteer is needed for “checking our public rights of way to ensure they are passable”?

I am currently the Parish Paths Warden. The main purpose of this role is to check Parish Public Rights of Way. My volunteer role was sanctioned at a Parish Council meeting approximately 7 years ago. In that time, a huge improvement has been seen to the 70 plus miles of Public Rights of Way in Kempsey Parish. We (and I include here my partner, Malcolm) have cleared numerous paths, fitted step sets, repaired gates and stiles, strimmed paths, walked and checked all the paths on a regular basis and I am aware of all long-term issues. There is an annual proactive summer clearance undertaken by contractors on certain paths as well as reactive clearance as required. The maintenance and upkeep of Public Rights of Way is actually the responsibility of the landowner and careful negotiation by the County Council officers is often needed in the handling of reports.

The County Council Countryside Service oversee the volunteers, following an initial training session. There is a system on the Worcestershire County Council website for reporting issues and there are currently 45 reports for this parish. Any work undertaken (apart from snipping back vegetation like brambles and nettles) must tie in with the Definitive Plan and is organised and overseen by the officers responsible at the Countryside Service.

I keep as many Kempsey Public Rights of Way open as I can. Obviously at certain times of year paths become difficult or impossible to walk due to muddy ground and overgrown vegetation.

Nature always has the final say. Someone once called me The Footpath Fairy but I'm not sure that the person who wrote the article for the Kempsey Times was aware of the fairy's existence.

I didn't undertake the role of Parish Paths Warden for praise and adulation; I did it because of Blue (who always accompanies me) and wanting to walk in our local countryside.'

Cllr Waller offered sincere apologies for this error, confirming the Deputy Clerk had written the article who was unaware of the remit of this role. He confirmed he had spotted this mistake but never made the correction before the deadline submission.

On behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr Waller extended thanks and appreciation for this work carried out. The Parish Path Warden suggested for the next edition of the Kempsey Times to include a public thank you not for her benefit, but in recognition of all volunteers who committed valuable time, help and efforts within the Parish and wider community.

A parishioner requested if we could facilitate improved communications. Cllr Waller confirmed both the Parish Council, and the Community Builder include a submission in the Kempsey Times and the long-term project is to also revamp the Parish Council website. Cllr Waller suggested to approach the Community Builder for any further assistance.

Cllr Biddle highlighted that the next Patients Participation Group meeting is on Tuesday 2 September 2025 and he will offer feedback following this meeting.

A parishioner commented that he was pleased that the Kempsey Parish Council Emergency Plan is moving forward, asking if the old plan would be officially stood down. He was advised that once the new plan is adopted, this would supersede any old plan.

The same parishioner asked whether the Parish Council intended to stop writing articles for inclusion in the Kempsey Times moving forward. Cllr Waller confirmed this was certainly not the case.

A parishioner thanked Cllr Varley for his fund-raising efforts relating to the pump track. He also referenced the noticeboards commenting that these should be kept up to date as part of the communication process. He also requested if the Parish Council would consider, as part of traffic calming measures, to purchase 30 MPH stickers for residents to place on their litter bins, located along the A38 Main Road.

Cllr Stevens confirmed that Kempsey Promotion CIC were looking into holding a music festival, at Plovers Rise in July 2026 from 4 – 10pm with various bands/tribute bands. A formal proposal will come forward from Kempsey Promotions CIC in due course, once further details have been obtained and finalised.

District Councillor – John Michael

‘The only items I wish the Council to note is that in my role as Chair of the Environmental Policy Development Panel that the following:

MHDC area is part of the West Midland Combined Authority Climate Adaptation plan details of which can be found at www.wmca.org.uk.

The Destination Zero Review is nearing completion and will be considered at the next meeting of the Panel in September prior to it going to Executive and Council for adoption. I have forwarded the review document on a separate email.

Historic England (historicengland.org.uk) have issues a series of guidance for the low carbon solutions for Historic Buildings these can be found at:

HEAG321 Adapting Historic Buildings for Energy and Carbon Efficiency

Energy Efficiency and Retrofit in Historic Buildings | Historic England (including Solar Panels and Heat Pumps)

Worcestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy:

The Parish Council are in receipt of the consultation document in respect of this strategy and is on tonight’s agenda. ‘

County Councillor Martin Allen

Good evening.

COUNTY COUNCIL

The second Cabinet meeting took place on 15/07/25, the new administration is going to look again at building a new school or instead expanding places in existing High Schools to get us over the bulge which will occur in 2029, after which school numbers will fall.

Also, they are going to look again at County Hall and come up with decision in the Autumn.

WORCESTERSHIRE ON DEMAND DATA

From the 1st of January 2025 until the 27th of July 2025 there have been 7208 passengers in our area. This is a huge success.

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.

SURVEYS AND ENGAGEMENT WITH WCC

I have sent you the following emails:

Development of Local Cycling Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) for the South Worcestershire areas of Droitwich Spa, Malvern, Pershore and Worcester public engagement exercise will be published on our [website](#) with a link to an online survey that features interactive maps for each area, going live from Monday 11 August.

Review of Worcestershire's Public Right of Way Improvement Plan

The questionnaire for the public is online at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/RoWIPengage This questionnaire also closes at midnight on 26th October 2025..

On-street EV ChargePoint's - Resident Engagement

Worcestershire County Council has just published an online engagement tool to let residents suggest where they would like an on-street EV charger.

This is part of their Local Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) project for which they have received £3.5 funding to start the roll out of public charge points for residents that don't have off-street parking.

They have published a mapping tool where people can identify a specific suitable roadside / on-street location where there is limited access to off-street parking.

It does come with the caveat: *"Please note that placing a pin on the map does not guarantee an EV charge point will be installed at that location but helps to build a picture of residents' needs. Sites will then be investigated with our delivery partners to understand viability of each location."*

You can read more about it here: [Electric Vehicle charging | Worcestershire County Council](#)

Or access the map tool directly here: [Help shape Worcestershire's electric vehicle charging network | Worcestershire County Council](#)

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 along with Cllr Harrison had a meeting with Cllr Karl Perks who I head of highways at WCC. He listened to our concerns about speed and noise.

He has said he will come back to us once he has consulted council Officers and the PCC.

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

Still on track to happen.

#9642 REQUEST FOR DOUBLE YELLOW LINES AT CORNER TO DOCTORS SURGERY.

This is now going out to consultation. I have emailed you details on 04.08.25.

#9828 WINDMILL LANE PARKING 08/08/25

Following my visit with my Highways Liaison Officer, WCC are looking at parking options, such as putting in slanted marked parking bays.

#5811 FOOTWAY FROM ASTON CLOSE TO MAIN ROAD BY THE SHOP

There was a delay in the tender process, it is expected that the contract will be awarded by the 18th of August. The work is due to be completed by the end of November this year.

CHURCH STREET ISSUES DURING CLOSURE

Following the closure of Church Street in July, Highways decided that the Ford was to be part of the detour route. When it came to the closure, Highways had a change of heart and said it was not to be on the detour route due to the danger of flash flooding, and they would not allow traffic lights to be installed.

I have asked for a meeting with Cllr Karl Perks, who is the Cabinet Member for Highways to discuss setting up a process to allow the Ford to be used as part of the detour routine if possible, accepting that flooding may prevent its use.

TYPES OF SHRUBS TO BE PLANTED AT THE NEW CROSSING

The following will be planted in September/early October

Choisya Sundance x8 [https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/96024/choisya-ternata-sundance-\(-lich-\)/details](https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/96024/choisya-ternata-sundance-(-lich-)/details)

Potentilla x8 <https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/potentilla>

Euonymus Emerald x8 [https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/97545/euonymus-fortunei-emerald-gaiety-\(v\)/details](https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/97545/euonymus-fortunei-emerald-gaiety-(v)/details)

Eleagnus pungens maculata x8 [https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/97434/elaegagnus-pungens-maculata-\(v\)/details](https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants/97434/elaegagnus-pungens-maculata-(v)/details)

The stretch of fence to be covered is circa. 56m so 32 plants should be enough to cover it once they have grown a little. The planting will take place in September/early October (in the hope we have had some rain by then).

Warmest regards

Martin Allen.