



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 10 NOVEMBER 2025 AT 7.00 PM
AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: - County Cllr Allen, District Cllr Harrison and District Cllr Michael Sharon Dunn - Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
Cathy Garner - Community Builder plus 4 parishioners.

1. **Apologies:** - Cllr Plummer (Personal) - Accepted
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 - Cllr Varley declared a pecuniary interest in respect of payment he is due to be reimbursed for, referring to the skip hire, used for clearance of the agricultural hard standing at Pixham Ferry Lane.
 - 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 13.10.2025 were signed as a true and accurate record.
5. Correspondence for Information: - Under General Data Protection Regulations names of identifiable subject/matter withheld
 1. WCC - Email 28.10.2025 - Public Path Pre-Order Consultation - Proposed diversion of footpath KP-509 (Part) Formerly Footpath 3, Kempsey, Worcestershire - Comments to be submitted no later than 31 December 2025 - To refer to Planning Committee
 2. Email 5.11.2025 to Worcs CALC - Request for Guidance on Minimal Financial Assistance - This relates to agenda item 7.2.a. where guidance was sought from Worcs CALC.
6. Art/History/Nature trail project: Cathy Garner
Proposed as a wonderful opportunity to commission an environmental artist to co create an interactive community trail - a cultural, historical and ecological project that will invite residents and visitors to rediscover Kempsey's landscapes, heritage and wildlife in new creative ways.
 1. Proposal for KPC to support a grant application to Severn Arts Funding for an Art/History/Nature Trail project. This proposal was modified to read: -
'Proposal for KPC to support a grant application to Severn Arts Funding for an Art/History/Nature Trail project to a maximum of 4.5 days of Community Builder time plus £500 Community Builder expenses.' This was then voted on.

Action

Planning

Action

RESOLVED: To support a grant application to Severn Arts Funding for an Art/History/ Nature Trail project to a maximum of 4.5 days of Community Builder time (for project coordination and volunteer recruitment) plus £500 from Community Builder expenses (for printing and materials).

7. Update on other grants and funding applications: Cllr Waller

1. Legacy Grant Scheme (LGS) applications update and issues - Cllr Waller

- Youth Centre Energy Efficiency - The main development is in relation to the National Grid export licence.
- IT / Youth Hub - Awaiting the outcome of the pre-app submitted to MHDC Planning 11 September regarding whether KPC's permitted development rights apply to this project. To follow up with a request for determination
- Pump track at PFL - Following agreement at the October KPC meeting to consult with the LGS regarding the start date and the end date for the project, the difficulties likely to be encountered were explained in a letter to the LGS sent from the Parish Office on 27 October. Two proposals were made, either to carry out only limited groundworks prior to 31 March 2026 with the completion of the pump track in 2027 or substituting an alternative commitment from KPC to build the pump track such as signing a contract with a pump track construction company prior to 31 March 2026. A decision from the LGS is awaited.

Clerk

Efforts to secure 500 tonnes of used crushed stone from the Environment Agency's upgrading of the Kempsey flood defence pumping station for use in the construction of the pump track included Teams meetings and correspondence, but especially a great team effort to clear the rubbish from the hardstanding at the end of Pixham Ferry Lane as a location to store the stone. We have now been advised by the EA's contractor that the EA's Waste Regulations require the used stone to be processed and regraded before it can be re-classified from 'waste' to building material, a likely costly and uncertain process. Donation of the used stone to KPC has therefore been abandoned, at least for the first tranche of stone.

A very useful meeting with a pump track expert from Bike Worcester, was held on 5 November to discuss various aspects of the pump track project especially the process leading to a contract with a pump track construction company. Various options were discussed taking in account the design 'available' from Forte Trailscapes Ltd. It was agreed to await the decision from the LGS referred to above commencing tendering actions.

In order to clarify if the pump track design received from Forte Trailscapes Ltd. can be used in a tender, permission is being sought from the company by means of a permissions letter. Thanks were extended to Cllr Plummer for preparing the letter.

Finally in order to generate pump track user data, especially regarding traffic movements, for possible use in negotiations with Highways, Cathy Garner and Cllr Cooke undertook surveys of users at the Battenhall and Malvern Town pump tracks on 8th November. The relevant authorities were advised in advance of the surveys and had no objection. Mrs Garner presented an overview of the results conducted.

Thanks were expressed to all volunteers for contributing their time on a Sunday afternoon (2 November 2025) in helping to clear the agricultural hardstanding at Pixham Ferry Lane at such short notice.

a. **RESOLVED:** to accept a quotation from My Home Solar to obtain G99 compliance costing £780 plus VAT, to process an application to the National Grid to obtain a licence to export electricity from solar panels at the Youth Centre to the National Grid's network.

b. Proposal to acquire crushed stone from the Environment Agency and/or Jacksons Civils Ltd to facilitate construction of a pump track on the community land at Old Road South/Pixham Ferry Lane or for other appropriate uses at the site - **ITEM WITHDRAWN**

CW

<p>2. Rural Fund application</p> <p>a. RESOLVED: To authorise the Clerk to sign a Minimal Financial Assistance subsidy declaration requested by Malvern Hills District Council.</p> <p>b. RESOLVED: To authorise the Clerk to sign a Funding Agreement with Malvern Hills District Council relating to an award of £7321 in support of the Kempsey Community Café.</p> <p>An advertisement campaign to seek a café manager will be progressed.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>3. Other Funding</p> <p>a. Warm and Welcome spaces grant update - The tight application deadline was not achievable. However, an application has been submitted by Kempsey Promotions Community Interest Company.</p>	
<p>8. Finance</p> <p>1. The Council approved the list of cheque payments and the list of BACS payments for the month of November 2025. Cllr Stevens and Cllr Gardener to authorise the online payments.</p> <p>2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement - For Information Only.</p> <p>3. Capital Budget - For Information Only</p>	<p>NS/RG</p>
<p>9. Committee Report Updates and Proposals: -</p> <p>1. Finance & General Purposes Committee: Cllr Waller</p> <p>A meeting took place on 28 October 2025.</p> <p>a. For Notification - The F&GP Committee budget meeting to progress the budget/precept for financial year 2026/2027 will take place on Thursday 20 November 2025 at 7.00pm at Kempsey Community Centre.</p> <p>b. RESOLVED: To enter into a two-year contract with BT, in preparation for the public switched telephone network (PSTN) from analogue to digital at a cost £38.99 per month to include retaining the Parish Council telephone number, all calls, diverts and broadband.</p>	<p>Clerk</p>
<p>2. Environment Committee: Cllr Plummer</p> <p>The Environment Committee met on 24 October 2025 and discussed replacing the Rocky bridges, vandalism in the Rocky, bus shelters, shop noticeboard, litter bins, dog fouling and playground inspections. Proposals to come forward at a future full Parish Council meeting.</p> <p>- Love Kempsey Working Party (LKWP) Update: Cllr Clamp.</p> <p>A meeting took place on 27 October 2025 where ideas for the proposed Daffodil weekend were progressed, together with the budget for financial year 2026/2027 which will be fed into the Environment Committee budget.</p> <p>Preparations are underway, for the Christmas Tree Lighting Event due to take place on 6 December 2025 at 5.30pm at the Parish Hall with Cllr Stevens selecting a Christmas Tree tomorrow.</p>	<p>NS</p>
<p>3. Community Centres Committee: Cllr Stevens</p> <p>Looking into replacing the chairs at the Community Centre and Youth Centre.</p> <p>A damp inspection is due to be arranged shortly at the Community Centre</p> <p>A new electricity tariff has been arranged for the Sports Pavilion and seeking to have a smart meter installed.</p> <p>Repairs are to be carried out to the CCTV system located at the Youth Centre with the benefit of a price reduction if additional CCTV cameras are installed at the same time.</p> <p>RESOLVED: To accept a quotation from Oval Fire & Security Ltd for additional CCTV Cameras (£806.21 plus VAT) to be installed at Plovers Rise including repairs to the recorder and hard drive £442.89 plus VAT at a total cost of £1249.10 (plus VAT).</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
<p>4. Infrastructure Committee: Cllr Waller</p> <p>Still awaiting a response from WCC Highways following a submission made on 16 October 2025 with proposals for resolving matters. To progress with other consultee comments.</p> <p>a. RESOLVED: to accept a quotation from John Worthington to cut hedges on the community land at ORS/PFL at a cost of £150.00</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Action</p>

5. Commons and Recreation Committee: Cllr Cooke

- The Amigos had a good season with both 1st and 2nd teams promoted.
- The work on the square preseason and postseason has seen an improvement in the playing surface but with just five wickets in use. Outer wickets are in poor condition with significant weeds.
- They has a successful fundraising tournament and will spend approx. £1200 on a new sight screen before the 2026 season starts.
- Four people are expected to obtain Junior coaching badges this autumn and Junior training will commence at the start of 2026 season, on Fridays.
- Discussed a possible astroturf wicket on the square for both training and Junior matches together with Astroturf nets for practice and Junior training. Amigos will get some details and costs so that all are ready to apply for any grant funding that may become available.
- The Parish Council's investment in the Pavilion was welcomed.

6. Planning Committee: Cllr Gardener

The Committee met on Monday 3 November 2025 where various new planning applications and updates to applications were considered for comment:

New Applications

Application No: M/25/01398/RM

Application No: M/25/01499/FUL Associated Ref: M/25/00253/FUL

Applicationon No: M/25/01606/AGR

Application No: M/25/01637/CLE

Application No: M/25/01437/HP

Application No: M/25/01544/CAN

Updates to Applications

Application No: M/25/00323/OUT

Application No: 21/02274/FUL

Application No: 21/01217/FUL

Proposed Footpath Diversion

Application PMH/MHDC/KP562/C/1

This is to formalise the diversion of Public Footpath 562 which is required as a result of the housing development, Mill Meadows, now under construction on land at Brookend Lane.

10. Police: The following three policing priorities for the upcoming quarter were agreed: -

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

Clerk

11. Chairman's Report: Cllr Waller

- Kempsey Times - Deadline for next month's submission Monday 17 November 2025
- Councillor Recruitment Video - It was suggested to employ a person with experience to make a video to attract new councillors.
- Remembrance Service - Cllr Stevens represented the Parish Council at St. Mary's Church
- PROW Survey - Individuals submitted their own comments confirming they were support of this work.

Deputy

Clerk

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 12 &13. as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Action

- 12. Progress update to report on Kempsey Live Hire Agreement.
The Parish Council sought to accommodate the event hirer with his suggested hire fees on the condition that ticket prices are sold at the lowest price possible to benefit the whole community.
- 13. Staffing Matters - A contractual change relating to increase in hours relating to the Deputy Clerk was agreed, effective from 1 November 2025.

Meeting Closed at 10.27 PM

Signed Chairman..... ... Date

Standing Orders were adjourned.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A public apology was made by a representative of Fladbury Cricket Club who confirmed he had only recently been updated regarding the batting cage/portable nets matter and would like to apologize for his error in making assumptions but also for the actions of the person we had received communication from, who is not a member of this club. but had kindly donated her time and effort in helping with the transportation. He apologized for all the hassle and concern this has caused, confirming he hopes the matter can be resolved.

The Chairman thanked him for taking his time to attend the meeting this evening and for his words expressed. The Chairman confirmed he will not comment further due to where we are in this process, but this is a very unfortunate misunderstanding and once we have got through this situation, hopefully we can resume our previous very amicable relations.'

A parishioner acknowledged the success of the fireworks event highlighting that Kempsey Promotions CIC, which provided the Lovely Jubbly Tea stall, was able to raise some much-needed funds, to help it to continue to operate. Thanks were expressed to KPC for playing its part and offering support.

Referring to the pump track, a parishioner asked again if there was any chance that this project could be negotiated in stages rather than to just accept the conditions imposed, to try to advance it forward.

The Chairman responded the conditions are there to ensure the site is safe for the users, the Parish Council also wants to ensure the site is safe for users and it would be irresponsible of the Parish Council to propose the use of the site when it is not safe. The parishioner did not agree, commenting there are mitigating circumstances.

Cllr Biddle - referencing the latest Worcestershire CALC update with particular topics of interest precepts and bus shelters, confirmed he would be attending the Worcestershire CALC AGM on Thursday 13 November 2025.

He also referenced MHDC assets asking if there was any provision of what would happen to them under the government reorganisation. County Cllr Allen confirmed unfortunately we will not know the position until the unitary authority is formed and then we will have to wait for the elections.

A question asked by another member of the public - Is it possible to have conversations with the District Council and put something in place before the unitary authority is formed? A request was made to our District Councillors to enquire about the legality of transfer of assets.

John M

County Councillor Martin Allen

Report to Kempsey Parish Council for November 2025

Good evening.

NEW COUNTY COUNCILLOR

A new County Councillor for Bromsgrove South has been voted in; Sam Ammar is a LibDem and I wish her well.

UNITARY AUTHORITY'S

At the last county council meeting it was approved that officers at WCC were to continue with a One Worcestershire Unitary Authority.

The figures produced are very interesting and if believable clearly show a huge benefit financially to One Worcestershire option rather than the Two.

NEW SCHOOL

Also, at the last meeting the administration proposed that the £63m school be scrapped, this motion was defeated. However, WCC do not have the funds to build a new school, nor do I believe they will have them in the short to medium term.

CUTS PROPOSED BY THE COUNTY COUNCILS' ADMINISTRATION FAIL

During the last county council meeting, the present administration presented a proposal to carry out wide sweeping cuts. They made the mistake of proposing all the cuts as a job lot and it was voted down. I have respectfully pointed out to the Councillor who made the proposal that if he have asked for a vote, item to item, most would have been approved.

MY MOTION YET AGAIN FOR FREE COMMERCIAL BUS TRAVEL FOR VETERANS

In 2022 I had a motion to let Service Personnel and Veterans of His Majesty's Forces use the commercial bus service for free in line with the Pensioners bus pass. The previous administration all voted for it and then did nothing.

I am pleased to report that at the last county council meeting I presented the case again and it will now commence from the 6th of April 2026.

HEAD OF HIGHWAYS TO ATTEND A MEETING WITH KPC

At the last county council meeting I asked Cllr Karl Perks, who is the head of highways to come and explain to you why WCC will not install a controlled crossing near the shop.

With some reluctance he has agreed to come and meet you. I need to offer him some dates of future council meetings or possibly a PACT meeting.

#10272 BUS SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN

I have submitted a request that if WCC do proceed with the BSIP, two double size bus shelters are needed in Kempsey at the new southern bus stops. I have had an acknowledgement, and the request will be looked at should funds become available.

#9458 THE GROVE ADOPTION OF ROAD

Late October I received an update from Highways about The Grove:

The developer originally was going to keep the site private due to large retaining structures being problematic. The developer now wants the site adopted so Jacobs are currently checking their designs for the retaining walls. No section agreement has been signed so adoption is a long way off.

BROOMHALL PAVEMENT REFURBISHMENT

Broomhall Cottages footway has now been refurbished; I have sent you an email with photos. I am delighted to have got this done, especially for the disabled who live there.

NEW FOOTWAY

Work should have now commenced on the new footway between Aston Close and the Shop. There is a small section unfinished, we are waiting for British Gas, or I should say Centrica to repair a gas leak.

As I said last time, it would have been nice if all the footpath from there to Windmill Lane could have been completed in one hit, however the funds were not available for this to happen.

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

The consultation period ended on 23rd of October, I am waiting for an update from WCC.

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

As you know the consultation period is over; again, I am waiting for an update from WCC.

ROAD CLOSURE AT KERSWELL GREEN

This work has now been delayed; I don't have a new date for its commencement as yet.

#10287 LYCHGATE IN CHURCH STREET, KEMPSEY FOOTWAY DANGEROUS

This has been repaired following my urgent complaint.

Warmest regards

Martin Allen.

Comments/Questions

School children are being transported from Worcester to Malvern due to lack of school places. The plans for a £63M school have been scrapped due to lack of money.

District Councillor David Harrison - Nothing to report

District Councillor John Michael

- There is an EOM on Tuesday 18 November 2025 re: Local Government Reorganisation
- The planning application for land behind Bannut Hill is being taken to Northern Area Committee in December 2025. (Possibly the 3rd).
- Remembrance Day Service – David attended St Mary's and John attended the service in Severn Stoke

Comments/Questions

- Q. Cllr Varley - Referencing the Bannut Hill planning application, should there be some publicity surrounding this?
- A. Taking into account the access, this is at your discretion.
- Q. Cllr Gardener - Would like to understand why is this going to committee?
- A. This has been in abeyance for some time now.
- Q. Is there any possible funding from MHDC available for continuing the work of the Community Builder beyond March 2026?
- A. Cllr Michael will make some enquiries and report back