



PARISH COUNCIL
Kempsey

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 7.00 PM
AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: - County Cllr Allen (arrived at 8.45 pm), District Cllr Harrison (left the meeting at 9.06pm). Sharon Dunn - Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer plus 2 parishioners.

1. **Apologies:** - Cllr Varley (Personal) - Accepted
County Cllr Allen gave advance notice that he would be joining this meeting later this evening.
District Cllr Michael (Personal) - 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 - Cllr Plummer declared a Pecuniary Interest being a neighbour of the proposed new Community & Sports Centre.
 - To declare any Other Disclosable Interests on items on the agenda and their nature – Cllr Clamp, Cllr Gardener and Cllr Plummer declared non-pecuniary interests in relation to planning application for Sunnyside Garage which is to be discussed under agenda item 9.6.1 due to a potential conflict of interest as they are clients of the business.
3. **To Consider Written Requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation** (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) - The following written requests were received by the Clerk prior to the meeting: -
 1. **Request from Cllr Clamp - Dispensation request granted**

Reason – The item concerns a planning application for Sunnyside Garage which is to be discussed under agenda item 9.6.1.
Details of Interest – He uses the services of the business, and the garage is visible from his land, although from a distance
Time Period - Full KPC Meeting Monday 9th February 2026.
Dispensation requested to participate in discussions of the specified business - Yes
Dispensation requested to participate in any vote taken on that business - No
Reasons why you consider a dispensation is necessary – Potential for conflict of interest as he is a client of the business. Being familiar with the garage and its environments he can contribute to useful points of discussion.
 2. **Request from Cllr Gardener - Dispensation request granted**

Reason – To contribute to the presentation/discussion of Planning Application M/26/00002/FUL for extensions to Sunnyside Garage, 12 Old Road South, Kempsey, Worcester, WR5 3NJ
Details of Interest – Non-pecuniary. He is a regular customer of the garage.
Time Period - Full KPC Meeting Monday 9th February 2026 single item 9.6.1
Dispensation requested to participate in discussions of the specified business - Yes
Dispensation requested to participate in any vote taken on that business - No
Reasons why you consider a dispensation is necessary – There is local objection to the

proposed extension. Support for the application by Cllr Gardener may not be seen by the public not to be impartial in view of his customer association. However, as Chair of The Planning Committee he feels that he should be able to present factual policy and other considerations to assist the parish council in arriving at a recommendation to the Local Planning Authority.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Notes from Public Question Time are appended to these minutes.
County Councillor & District Councillor report was noted.

Action

4. Minutes: Having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 12.01.2026 were signed as a true and accurate record.
Comments: District Cllr Harrison to enquire about funding options and seek advice regarding a Housing Needs Survey in relation to renewing Kempsey Neighbourhood Plan.
Cllr White confirmed that he is happy to accept the position as an Internal Review Panel member to assist with complaints about responses to information requests. DH
5. Correspondence for Information this month
Received today, from MHDC - Local Government Reorganization Consultation - Consultation now open and runs until 26 March 2026. To feature on the March agenda for a collective response to be formulated for submission. Clerk
6. **ITEM DEFERRED:** To adopt the Kempsey Vision Report. Some additional time is required to refine the report. To feature on the March agenda.
To maximise the outreach for publicising the Kempsey Vision Report it was suggested to employ a video maker to help produce a short video and post on You Tube. Clerk
7. Finance CW
 1. Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised
 2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement - For Information Only.
 3. Capital Budget - Reviewed
 4. Final budget for the Financial Year 2026/2027 - For Information Only
 5. **RESOLVED:** To authorise the Clerk to open an electronic money account with SumUp Payments Ltd. Clerk
 6. **RESOLVED:** To authorise the Clerk to transfer card payments from the electronic money account with SumUp Payments Ltd to a designated Parish Council bank account. Clerk
8. Update on other grants and funding applications: Cllr Waller
A status update of the various grant applications was given.

IT Hub/Energy Efficiency Project

Tree Works – 3 quotes received

Solar Panels – 5 quotes received

MHDC have helpfully supplied the Funding Agreement template as requested

These are to be assessed at the next F&GP Committee meeting on Thursday 12 February 2026.

F&GP

Pump Track

Update provided in the Infrastructure Committee Report.

Community Café at the Pavilion

A proposed timetable for the appointment of a Café Manager, February-March 2026, was circulated.

An Interview Panel was formed comprising of The Clerk. The Deputy Clerk, Cllr Stevens and Cllr Plummer. Item to feature on the March agenda.

1. **RESOLVED:** To authorise the Clerk to sign the Funding Agreement with the MHDC Legacy Grant Scheme for the Energy Efficiency Improvement project at the Youth Centre, Plovers Rise, following acceptance by the Grant Scheme of quotations for tree surgery and for the installation of a solar panel system. Clerk

2. **RESOLVED:** To authorise the Clerk in conjunction with the Chairman to accept one of the quotations approved by the Legacy Grant Scheme for tree surgery works for the Energy Efficiency Improvement project at the Youth Centre.
 3. **ITEM DEFERRED:** To implement a security policy for the Pavilion at Plovers Rise. The consensus was to spend up to £3K upgrading the security measures at the Pavilion as recommended in the policy
9. Committee Report Updates and Proposals: -
1. Finance & General Purposes Committee: Cllr Waller
A meeting took place on Monday 29 January 2026 to include the following: -
 - Banking investments type of accounts were agreed
 - VAT - investigating obtaining specialist advice on VAT matters.
 - Pump Track and Other Projects - Status update with site visits and quotes/tenders
 - Site Issues at the Sports Pavilion - roof repairs required
 - Worcs CALC - New support ticket system to direct queries
 - An Interview Panel was set up to assist with recruiting a new Lengthsman
 - Advertisement for a Café Manager
 - Request from tenant - to add an additional outbuilding - a meeting is to be arranged to understand the scope of work.
 2. Environment Committee: Cllr Plummer
A quiet month for activity due to the time of year but in the background continuing to manage enquiries and manage the background administration for the upcoming 2026 projects. We expect to hear whether we have been approved for the Rocky Bridge replacement grant by mid-March. ROSPA are booked in to do their annual playground inspection during March. The next committee meeting is planned for w/c 23rd February.

- Love Kempsey Working Party (LKWP) Update: Cllr Clamp.
Continuing to prepare for the daffodil weekend on 21/22 March 2026.
 3. Community Centres Committee: Cllr Stevens
The focus has involved work refitting the pavilion for the new café. Complaints received about the wi-fi at the Youth Centre, so a booster has been purchased and installed. CCTV issues have now been resolved. A five-year electrical condition report is planned in March for the Youth Centre.
 4. Infrastructure Committee: Cllr Waller
Infrastructure report - Planning application M/25/00408/FUL issues update
There has been no further information regarding the conditions being required by WCC Highways since our meeting with the Case Officer at MHDC Planning on 6 January. Calfordseaden have been requested to expedite the outstanding responses to the South Worcestershire Land Drainage Partnership, WCC Lead Local Authority regarding flood risk and the Worcestershire Fire Service.

An updated Construction Operation and Management Plan (COMP) has been sent to Exolum. They are requesting further minor changes to the document. It seems that Exolum are happy with the KPC proposed condition to the planning permission and indeed are now suggesting that the standoff distance from the pipeline can go back to the original 3 metres on either side of the pipe instead of the 7m+5m as they requested previously. However, their latest communication contains the following:
'Our external legal firm VWV require confirmation (an undertaking) that you are happy to cover their legal fees (circa £6,000 + VAT) to formally fix the agreed Exolum future working area to the land covered and shown in the COMP statement.'
KPC has previously indicated that we believe the lease to be unnecessary.

Pump track.

There have been three accompanied site visits by interested pump track constructors and, we understand, a fourth unaccompanied visit. A further site visit is scheduled for this week. The Evaluation Panel met on 14 January and agreed to revise the tender closing date and the bid evaluation timeline to take advantage of the extended period before the groundworks have to commence to qualify for the Legacy Grant Scheme funding. The revised dates are:

- tender now closes on 23 February
- evaluation period begins on 24 February and ends on 6 March
- possibility of a public consultation on the submitted designs on 28 February at the Youth Centre.

5. Commons and Recreation Committee: Cllr Cooke
The Tennis Club are upgrading their lighting to LED, which should not impact local residents. Pursuing quotes for cutting and maintaining the grass/pitch at the playing field. Will seek to arrange a meeting with KCFC. A meeting of the Commons & Recreation Committee is to be arranged soon.
6. Planning Committee: Cllr Gardener
At the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 2 February 2026 various planning applications were discussed with comments formulated. These included: -

Application No: M/25/02057/DEM - No objection but with comments

No Objection to the following applications:

Application No: M/26/00015/HP

Application No: M/25/01386/CCO

Application No: M/26/00082/HP

Application No: M/26/00019/TPOA

Application No: M/26/00108/HP

Application No: M/25/02026/HP

Updates presented on the following applications with no further comments

Application No: M/22/00704/FUL

Application No: 21/01217/FUL

Planning Application: M/26/00002/FUL was deferred, due to only three committee members present and voting conflicts. It was agreed to refer to full council for comment. Please see below

South Worcestershire Development Plan Review Main Modifications – Consultation (ends 17 February 2026).

The Committee briefly discussed a summary report of those Main Modifications likely to affect the parish which has now been circulated to all councillors. Particular reference was made to a new policy, SWDPR 08, which specifically and separately covers Significant Gaps. This is recommended by the Inspectors to avoid confusion with Green Belts, both of which were included together in the original SWDPR Spatial Strategy policy. The Worcester - Kempsey Significant Gap is unaltered.

We felt that there is an obvious inconsistency between the purpose of the policy (to keep the gap open and free of development to prevent the settlements merging) and the allocated 2ha. employment site in the gap at Open Barn Farm.

Other new and modified policies will be referred to at the meeting as outlined in the circulated summary report.

The Planning Committee did not consider that, having considered the circulated summary, representations were required but, in view of the importance of the SWDPR in managing future development, felt that the matter should be **referred to full Council**. It is for discussion and formulation of any responses considered necessary. However, acceptable responses are limited to the Main Modifications only, not the SWDPR as otherwise submitted if not recommended to be changed.

(prior to any discussion on planning application M/26/00002/FUL Cllr Plummer left the room)

The following were considered: -

- 1. Planning application: M/26/00002/FUL - Malvern Hills District Council
 Location: Sunnyside Garage, 12 Old Road South, Kempsey, Worcester, WR5 3NJ
 Proposal: Proposed single storey rear extension and alterations to garage building
 Consultation Ends: 30 January 2026 (extended to 10th February)
 Comments: No Objection to the principle of the proposed extension, which we consider is supported by Policy K13 of the Kempsey Neighbourhood Plan, but are concerned at:

Car parking

- A. The proposed layout plan does not include the existing portacabin office sited close to Old Road South, which reduces the number car parking spaces shown.
- B. Conversely, in reality more car parking is needed and currently takes place over a much larger area with tandem parking rather than the single row shown.
- C. Re-aligning the building entrances to face this car parking area would be likely to reduce the number of spaces available to allow vehicular access into and out of the workshops.
- D. An accurate car parking and manoeuvring layout should be provided and assessed in order to ensure that it is sufficient and satisfactory for the expanded business and to help prevent parking on Old Road South.

Amenity

- E. Noise levels need to be assessed and controlled. In that respect, openings on the north elevation of the existing building facing the adjoining dwelling should be permanently bricked up to reduce noise escaping in that direction.
- F. External illumination should be controlled to existing levels.
- G. Hedge and tree planting should be undertaken along the southern boundary of the application site (not the land ownership boundary) to mitigate the increased industrial visual impact of the premises onto open countryside and residential properties to the south.

(Cllr Plummer rejoined the meeting)

2. South Worcestershire Development Plan Review Main Modifications - Consultation
 Discussion and formulation of any responses considered necessary to the SWDPR Inspectors proposed Main Modifications.

Comments: Clerk to submit comments with guidance from Cllr Gardener by 5.00pm on 17 February 2026.

Clerk

/RG

10. Chairman’s Report: Cllr Waller

- Discussion of Parish Council activity and outcomes communication documents. Various summary extracts of the full parish council meeting, indicating the style and content had been circulated. Councillors agreed that they would like a brief summary, with bullets points indicating key decisions and updates.
- Kempsey Times - Deadline for next submission is Friday 20 February 2026.

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

11. **RESOLVED:** To extend the Service Agreement to 31 March 2026 for the Community Builder to complete and embed current projects.

Clerk

Meeting Closed at 10.29 PM

Signed Chairman..... Date

Standing Orders were adjourned.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A parishioner asked for an update on the clothing bank, located outside the pavilion at Plover's Rise. He was advised it was a tidy operation with very few complaints.

Cllr Biddle questioned if any road works had recently been carried out at Pixham Ferry Lane. Cllr Plummer advised that work was last carried out in September/October lasting 3-4 days. He also referenced the SUDS area, advising there had been some disturbance to the base. He was advised that this initially was made by a fox and had been further enhanced by children playing there.

District Cllr Harrison reported a serious incident on Pear Tree Way, where the police had experienced difficulty locating a property to attend to an incident. Cllr Harrison stressed the importance of street naming, especially in relation to the emergency services. The District Council is endeavouring to get the developer to accurately position street names signs so the start and end can be clearly defined.

County Councillor Martin Allen

Good evening.

COUNTY MATTERS:

COUNCIL TAX AND FINANCES - CHANGE OF BUDGET MEETING DATES

Currently, we are waiting for the county council budget meeting later in the month.

The council meeting date of 19th February has been cancelled.

A new council meeting date of the 26th of February has been set, with a reserve date of 6th of March lined up for another meeting if required.

One of the reasons for the change is that the application for Exceptional Financial Support will not be decided by the government until around the 20th of February.

SECONDARY SCHOOL

Last year I said that WCC intended to build a new High School. The new administration has now said no to this project.

At the WCC Cabinet meeting 05/02/26 the Cabinet noted that currently the sufficiency of secondary school places for Worcester City secondary pupils will be provided through the expansion of Bishop Perowne CE Academy and Tudor

Grange Academy Worcester and then through the surplus places at other secondary schools, namely but not exclusively Dyson Perrins CofE Academy (the closest alternative school to Christopher Whitehead Language College) and Pershore High School (the closest alternative school to Nunnery Wood High School).

SCHOOL PLACE NUMBER

At the same Cabinet meeting held in February 2026, the Assessment of Sufficiency of Education Provision in Mainstream Schools was presented and discussed. The Worcestershire County Council (WCC) education department has acknowledged that Kempsey School is currently oversubscribed and unable to accommodate all applicants. Conversely, Upton's School and Hanley High have available capacity and are projected to offer sufficient places for the foreseeable future.

When inquiring about the arrangements for students who would typically attend Kempsey, WCC advised that these children will be required to attend the nearest school with available places.

Additionally, I sought clarification regarding the construction timeline for the new two-form entry school near Taylors Lane. WCC indicated that the projected opening date is September 2030, with funding part sourced from Section 106 contributions.

UNITARY AUTHORITY'S AND COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

As I have said before, the government will announce in the summer whether Worcestershire will become a single or two-area Unitary Council. WCC and MHDC will be dissolved one year after the new council is established.

REFORM ADMINISTRATION APPOINT ANOTHER CABINET POST

Bromsgrove councillor Nik Price who was elected in May has now been appointed to the post of delivery, operations, governance and efficiency (DOGE)

The County Council is battling a budget shortfall for 2026/27 of more than £70m and has requested permission to have the option to increase council tax by 10%.

In addition, the CC has had to ask central government for Exceptional Financial Support of approximately £70M, on top of the £33 the last administration had to ask for.

DEMENTIA CAFÉ

A new dementia café has started, based in Upton's Rugby Club, it meets every other Tuesday morning from 1030 – 1200, yesterday, both Upton Town Councillor Rebecca Rollinson and I were invited, and I was pleased to see how many people attended, there were games, laughter and I was really pleased I went.

If you would like any other information, please contact Deb Ashwell of Ashwell Home Care Services by either telephoning 01684 778750 or by email info@ashwellhomecareservices.co.uk

THE FORD, SQUIRES WALK

A resident has asked me to ask WCC to look at the Ford again. I have contacted WCC asking that both white depth signs that sit in the Ford have their depth indication marks extended.

DOUBLE YELLOW LINES OLD ROAD NORTH

These have now been installed on the bend by the doctor's surgery.

FINALLY

I have applied to WCC for £1000.00 to aid your Community Café.

Warmest regards

Martin Allen.

Questions/Comments

1. Cllr Plummer highlighted that the traffic lights located near Pear Tree Fields appear to be permanently set on red. She was advised they are often vandalised and any issues can only be resolved by the operator.
2. Cllr Waller asked if there was a comparable report regarding early years nursery provision. He was advised that an enquiry could be directed to Tanya Crake at WCC Highways

District Councillor David Harrison - Nothing further to report