



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
MONDAY 13 APRIL 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 (left 7.20pm), District Cllr Harrison and District Cllr Michael (left 7.40pm) Sharon Dunn - Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer plus two parishioners.

1. **Apologies:** - Cllr Varley (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 Waller declared a potential pecuniary interest under agenda items 9 and 10 of this meeting being a resident from Stonehall Common who could benefit from National Grid providing electricity supply in Kempsey Parish that are dependent on heating oil or LPG for domestic heating. A dispensation request has been requested below.
  - 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) - The following written requests were received by the Clerk prior to the meeting:  
Name: Cllr Chris Waller  
Reason for which you require dispensation: To be able to participate in discussions on agenda Items 9 and 10 at the Parish Council meeting of 13 April 2026 as per KPC's Code of Conduct  
Details of interest: My property is one of the properties in the parish which will require improvements To the electricity power supply from National Grid Energy Distribution in order to transition from the use of heating oil to an electric heat pump system.  
Dispensation requested to participate in discussion of the specified business: Yes  
Dispensation requested to participate in any vote on that business: Yes  
Reasons why you consider a dispensation is necessary: Potential pecuniary interest under agenda items 9 and 10 of this meeting. This dispensation request was granted

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Notes from Public Question Time are appended to these minutes.  
County Councillor & District Councillors' reports were noted.

Action

4. Minutes: Having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 09.03.2026 and the EOM of 31.03.2026 were signed as a true and accurate record.

5. Correspondence for Information: - Under General Data Protection Regulations names of Identifiable subject/matter withheld
1. 30.03.2026 Citizens Advice Worcestershire - Donation request - Councillors suggested a £500 donation. A proposal will feature on the May full Parish Council agenda.
  2. 27.03.2026 Neighbourhood Planning Funding - An Expression of Interest form is to be submitted. Cllr Gardener to seek guidance from Andy Ford from MHDC on the benefits of renewing Kempsey Neighbourhood Plan.
  3. 18.03.2026 Public Consultation - Police Force Mergers - Deadline 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026.
  4. 31.03.2026 Horses on Kempsey Common - update request - Advise parishioner to contact MHDC
6. Finance
1. Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised. The payment for AAT Trees is to be paid once the tree works have been finalised.
  2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement - For Information Only.
  3. Capital Budget - Reviewed
  4. Ashmoor Common Expenditure to 31.03.2026 - Noted
7. Proposal to adopt the Kempsey Vision Report  
The Parish Office to finalise the vision document to include: -
- final formatting of the document to remove blank spaces, include page numbers etc
  - creating a front page and adding a list of contents
  - adding the logo's required by the funding agreement for the Community Builder funds where necessary.
- The report is to be circulated to District Cllr Harrison and County Councillor Allen for comment on the document prior to publication and to incorporate any inaccuracies that they may identify.
- Cllrs Waller, White and Plummer to progress a promotion video to show case the Kempsey Vision. Cllr Plummer also made a suggestion to incorporate Councillor Recruitment into this video.
8. The Pavilion Community Café  
The original proposal was amended to read proposal to purchase outdoor furniture for the Pavilion Community Café as listed in Option 2 as circulated. This was agreed and then taken to a vote.
1. **RESOLVED:** To purchase outdoor furniture for the Pavilion Community Café as listed in Option 2 to include a recycled plastic bench, 2 flip top tables, 8 stackable chairs and 2 x grey slatted benches costing £1397.46 in total (excluding VAT).  
Councillors favoured the recycled plastic picnic table over wooden material due to low maintenance and longevity.
9. **RESOLVED:** To permit National Grid Electricity Distribution (West Midlands) Ltd to carry out reconductoring works on Kempsey and Stonehall Commons subject to clarification of the works to be carried out: Cllr Waller
10. The proposal was modified to by removing the word 'rural' in front of properties in Kempsey..... This was agreed and then voted on.  
**RESOLVED:** To urge the National Grid to use their best efforts to provide an appropriate electrical supply to properties in Kempsey Parish that are dependent on heating oil or LPG for their domestic heating so they can transition to electrical heat pump equipment. In particular the National Grid are urged to future proof electrical supply lines for domestic properties when carrying out maintenance works.
11. Committee Report Updates
1. Finance & General Purposes Committee: Cllr Waller  
The Committee last met on the 24 March 2026 with proposals addressed at the EOM on 31.03.2026.

Action

Clerk

RG

Deputy

P.Office

Clerk

CW,JW,  
EP

Deputy

CW

CW

2. Environment: Cllr Plummer

The noticeboard that was located at Broomhall has now been relocated to the shop.

The seating at Baynhall bus shelter has been temporarily removed to be powder coated.

ROSPA - Playsafety Inspection - To be reviewed at the next Environment Committee meeting.

A £20K grant has now been approved to upgrade the bridge at the Rocky. Groundwork quotes are now being pursued.

A contractor is attending to a fallen tree located in the Rocky which is obstructing the footpath.

The police have requested the bus shelter be moved from outside 1 Centurion Drive due to noise and illegal activity.

The white lines at the basketball court need reinstating at Plovers Rise.

- Working Party: LKWP Update: Cllr Clamp.

The daffodil weekend was a resounding success thanks particularly to the hard work and efforts by Susan Bott, the WI and Kempsey CIC.

A meeting is to take place tomorrow.

An order has been placed for the daffodil bulbs to plant in the Autumn.

P.Office

3. Community Centres: Cllr Stevens

Some minor damage to the main hall wall inside the Youth Centre has been reported, following a user booking. Repairs are in hand.

Repairs to a broken piece of guttering at the Pavilion are to be carried out.

A strategy for Kempsey Community Centre is to be devised following a damp survey report recently conducted.

Pothole repairs to the Community Centre car park are to be carried out.

Cllr Plummer questioned if the safety barrier to the car park located at Plovers Rise is to be progressed. The Deputy Clerk to locate the position of the utility services in the first instance.

CW

4. Infrastructure Committee: Cllr Waller

Pump Track - Clark & Kent Contractors Ltd have been chosen as the preferred provider, scoring the highest marks in the bid evaluation process over various criteria.

Solar Energy - The contractor has now cut down the trees behind the Youth Centre at Plovers Rise. The contract has been signed with Solar Severn Ltd and the deposit paid.

IT/Youth Hub - A zoom meeting is to take place this Friday to progress the construction of the IT / Youth hub at Plovers Rise, Kempsey. A timeline is required for construction works, so that the football and cricket clubs can be informed of a date when the containers need to be moved by.

Pixham Ferry Lane - The Chairman attended a meeting with Blade Landscape Architects to resolve issues associated with landscaping and ecology raised by the MHDC Biodiversity Officer. A site visit in connection with recalculation of the biodiversity net gain metric and development of a Habitat Monitoring and Management Plan has now been requested.

In the meantime, we continue to work to respond to the other statutory consultees on their comments on the planning application for the site whilst leaving Highways to the Planning Case Officer.

The Flood Authority have requested detailed calculations. This has been passed to Calfordseaden for comment.

Mark Hammond is liaising with MHDC Legal Team to help to ensure the funding agreements are robust so that KPC receives the funding of £80K (for the pump track) and the outstanding c.£1.5M (for the new Community and Sports Centre), are not subject to reallocation during the pending local government reorganisation. Awaiting progress update.

5. Commons and Recreation: Cllr Cooke

An issue was raised relating to the Tennis Club lighting, staying on until after 9pm. This has been brought to the attention of the Tennis Club who confirm they adhere to a 10pm curfew in compliance with the Planning permission granted. Cllr Cooke to double check the terms of the lease agreement.

PC

Cllr Cooke asked how do we feel about a new men's Football Team hiring the pitch at Plovers Rise? A meeting is required with both the football and cricket clubs in the first instance, before making any commitment to this request.

6. Planning Committee: Cllr Gardener. The last meeting took place on Tuesday 7 April 2026. (due to the Bank Holiday) where the following was discussed: -

### **Matters arising from previous minutes**

It was reported that the application for an alternative fence at 1 Centurion Drive has been withdrawn. The existing fence is subject to an Enforcement Notice requiring its removal, but which has not been complied with. While the proposed alternative offered some improvement, we still felt it was unacceptable and objected to it. It remains to be seen what follows.

### **Applications considered**

*Application M/26/00225/FUL for the change of use and conversion of agricultural buildings to one residential dwelling and outbuilding at Brookend Farm, Brookend Lane, Kempsey*

The site is within the open countryside and the Significant Gap where development is to be strictly controlled. Both the newly adopted policy SWDPR 08 and Kempsey Neighbourhood Plan Policy K4 identify minor developments which may exceptionally be acceptable, including the residential reuse of rural buildings. However, the corresponding policy SWDPR 24, also newly adopted, now specifically only applies to traditional rural buildings of notable architectural quality.

In this case, the proposal involves modern, utilitarian agricultural buildings erected in 1996/7 and 2003 respectively which are of no architectural merit. Accordingly, we **Objected** to the application as not being policy compliant.

However, we also noted that there is an existing approval under permitted development provisions for 2 dwellings in the buildings which offers a fallback position. Even so, we felt this early test of the new policy SWDPR 24 justified the objection.

*Application M/26/00264/LB for Listed Building Consent for a single storey side extension to replace an existing lean-to and new rear window to an existing barn conversion at Hop Pockets, Taylors Lane, Broomhall.*

We had previously had no objection to the grant of planning permission for this proposal. However, since the converted barn is in the curtilage of the Grade II listed Upper Broomhall Farmhouse it also requires listed building consent. We confirmed that we also had **No Objection** to this application.

*Application M/26/00273/ADV for Advertisement Consent to retain 2no. temporary free-standing advertisements positioned as a V-Board and 4no. temporary flag advertisements at Mill Meadows, Brookend Lane, Kempsey*

As the description suggests, the advertisements are already being displayed along Brookend Lane either side of the entrance to the new housing development. They are typical of such developments, including at Pear Tree Fields on Taylors Lane, and are temporary. We had **No Objection**.

*Application M/26/00425/HP for the erection of an annex outbuilding at The Laurels, Kerswell Green*

Since Kerswell Green does not have a defined development boundary the whole settlement is in the open countryside where planning policy applies strict control over new development. The intended use is not given nor, other than a bathroom, is the purpose of the various rooms. However, although described as an annex, the inclusion of a bathroom strongly suggests a new self-contained dwelling, which is contrary to those policies which protect the countryside. The relationship with the existing residential use of the site

is not given nor are any special circumstances cited which might support an exception to policy. We **Objected** to the application.

In coming to this view, we knew of a directly relevant refusal of a similar application nearby which was also dismissed on appeal.

### **Street Naming and Numbering at Land at Bath Road, Broomhall (Planning Application 21/01217/FUL)**

This development has become known as Bromford Phase 1 or Bromford north and is the development with a 'temporary' access onto the A38 referred to on numerous occasions at council. The road system is to link to further development to the south and, hopefully, to the wider Urban Extension to the north. We had been invited to recommend suitable names for 3 streets.

However, the development has not even commenced, the ultimate status and extent of the roads in relation to adjoining proposed developments is not yet confirmed and, unlike elsewhere, the developer has not announced a name for the estate which may inform appropriate street names. It was felt that further investigation and consideration of appropriate names is required, particularly if they are to have relevance beyond the site itself. We **Deferred** the item.

### **Adoption of the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR)**

The plan was formally adopted on 26 March 2026. It now provides an up-to-date development plan to be used when considering both existing, as yet undecided, and future planning applications. A number of policy implications for the parish were discussed, including that there is now in place a 5-year housing land supply and confirmation of the Significant Gap. However, since the plan had been prepared under an earlier version of the National Planning Policy Framework, work is to commence by the end of October 2026 on a further review to meet current government guidance.

### **Planning Appeal Changes to Decision Making**

Members noted that, as of 1st April 2026, most planning appeals will be decided based solely on information available to the local planning authority at the time of the original decision. Further submissions will not normally be allowed. It was agreed that this places increased importance on preparing clear, detailed Parish Council representations at application stage.

### **AOB**

#### Neighbourhood Plan Funding

The Committee was informed of the availability of potential funding of up to £10k from MHDC for neighbourhood plan preparation and/or the review of existing plans such as the Kempsey NP. However, it was agreed that the matter of applying for funds is one for the consideration of Full Council.

#### Supplementary Planning Document Consultations

The Committee noted several recent consultations on Supplementary Planning Documents had been received which are to support the SWDPR. These cover, for instance, Air Quality, Affordable Housing, Developers Contributions and, for MHDC, Sustainable Building and Construction.

The closing date is 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026, before the next meeting, and there had been insufficient time to consider them for this meeting. It was agreed that all councillors would be invited to view the documents and provide comments, which would be collated as a response where appropriate.

12. Chairman's Report: Cllr Waller

- Kempsey Times May Article - Deadline for articles is Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2026. To report on the Daffadowndilly weekend of 21-22 March 2026.
- Annual Parish meeting - Provisional date Tuesday 26 May 2026 with a suggested guest speaker to talk about the Worcestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy plan. Cllr Allen suggested contacting Tanya Crake from WCC Highways.
- Locality are holding a Webinar on Community Asset Transfer 16 May 2026 which may be of interest.

Meeting Closed at 9.50 PM

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

DRAFT

***Standing Orders were adjourned.***

## **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Cathy Garner expressed her thanks for the opportunity to work in the role of the Community Builder over the last two years. A very rewarding opportunity thanks to funding secured. This presented the opportunity to be involved in so many projects to include a pavilion café, youth provision, digital inclusion, nature trail, food bank support, pump track and tech support, to name but a few initiatives.

She referenced the Vision Report and wanted to share her thoughts that perhaps in the Autumn there may be an opportunity to offer people to share their views again, as a means of referencing this document.

On behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr Waller extended thanks and appreciation to Cathy Garner for all her hard work and contribution in these projects. The progress she has made as Community Builder has been very significant with added value to Kempsey. Now is the time to consolidate some of the projects before venturing into new ones. Once the Vision report is published it will serve as a very good reference document for future councils and community groups. Thank you Cathy for all your efforts.

Cllr Waller as a member of the public explained the significance and impact of agenda items 9. &10, highlighting the increase in heating oil costs, the requirement for a three-phase supply with the emphasis on trying to future proof properties in Kempsey.

### ***District Councillor David Harrison***

Unfortunately, two District Councillors have departed. One from Tenbury Wells and one from Alfrick. The Ward Budget has been increased from £1K to £5K for each District Councillor for the benefit of local Community Groups.

Planning Applications / Planning Appeals

A new camera has been installed by the developers in Bannut Hill, Plovers Rise to monitor vehicles. It is anticipated there will be many planning applications will be coming forward and he requested if a social media post could be posted to alert parishioners.

Enforcement Notice

The cottage at No. 5 Church Street is permitted to carry out works. This building is not listed but is within a conservation area.

Comments/ Questions

Q1 Cllr Cooke - Is it true the Wychavon Town has been cancelled by the government?

A1. No, it is still going ahead but did not reach urban status.

### ***District Councillor John Michael***

The current Climate Change Plan for the Malvern Hills District has now been adopted which may be beneficial to Kempsey.

He will follow up the enquiry regarding responsibility of cutting the grass verge located in Church Street. Continues to assist with queries associated with Platform Housing

## ***County Councillor Martin Allen***

Good evening.

### **COUNTY MATTERS:**

#### **BUS TRAVEL FOR OUR VETERANS AND SERVING MEMBERS OF OUR ARMED FORCES**

Following years of disappointment and false promises, finally my wish for our Veterans and current serving members of our armed forces to travel free on buses within Worcestershire in line with the current pensioners bus pass commenced on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April.

#### **VOTE OF NO CONFIDENCE**

A vote of no confidence in the Leader of the Council, Jo Monk has been submitted by the LibDems. Depending upon what happens at the May council meeting may cause significant changes within the county council.

#### **PAVEMENT IN THE ALLEY LEADING FROM THE SHOP REPAIRED**

I am delighted that following my request to Highways to get the newly laid footway repaired following National Grid bodge, National Grid have been forced to repair it.

#### **MEETING WITH KEMPSEY SCHOOL AND POLICE**

Just to remind you that on Thursday 16/04/26 at 1000 I have arrange a meeting with the Police, School, WCC and MHDC to discuss the issues with parking and traffic flow. KPC are invited to attend.

## **ISSUES WITH MHDC REFUSE VEHICLE ACCESSING THE FIRS**

I understand that from a local resident at the Firs that again MHDC refuse crew had issues accessing The Firs. I have requested that MHDC let me know of any further issues experienced; so that I can build a case to take to Highways for double yellow lines.

## **ECO PARK – GANDIES CAFÉ OPENS**

I was delighted to be invited to the launch of our new café in the village. I wish Gandies every success.

## **NEW SECTION FLAG**

I was delighted last Sunday to attend the Blessing of the new Section Flag for the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, I am pleased to report the event was well attended and I would like to wish the troop continued success.

Warmest regards

Martin Allen.

## **Comments/Questions**

Q1. Cllr Plummer questioned what had happened to Cllr Perks and asked if Cllr Allen has met his replacement.

A1. Cllr Allen confirmed he had received an email from his replacement Nick Price.

Q2. Cllr Waller referenced the Local Nature Recovery Plan, as Kempsey has a large amount of Green Space an idea for a Guest Speaker, at the Annul Parish meeting, is for a representative from WCC who is familiar with this work to attend.

A2. Cllr Allen advised him to make a request to Tanya Crake.

Q3. Cllr Harrison asked if the On Demand bus visits Haresfield House GP Surgery and Worcester Royal Hospital.

A3. Cllr Allen confirmed he is still pushing for this to happen.

Q4. Can visitors, residing with residents in Kempsey use the On Demand bus service?

A4. Yes, providing they set up the app and use the address they are staying at.