



PARISH COUNCIL
Kempsey

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 8 JUNE 2026 AT 7.00 PM
AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

PRESENT: - Cllr Waller (Chairman), Cllr Stevens, Cllr Cooke (arrived 7.33pm), Cllr Biddle, Cllr White, Cllr Clamp and Cllr Varley.

IN ATTENDANCE: - County Cllr Allen (arrived 8.41pm), District Cllr Harrison and District Cllr Michael Sharon Dunn - Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer plus three parishioners.

1. **Apologies:** - Cllr Gardener (Personal) - Accepted
County Councillor Martin Allen confirmed he would be joining the meeting later this evening
District Councillor Michael (meeting MHDC) - Received
2. Councillor Vacancy - To appoint by co-option - One expression of interest has been received.
Awaiting completed application form before progressing further.
3. **Declarations of Interest**
 - a. Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
 - b. To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature - None
 - c. 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) - The following written requests were received by 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.

5. Minutes: Having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11.05.2026 were signed as a true and accurate record.
6. Correspondence for Information: - Under General Data Protection Regulations names of identifiable subject/matter withheld
 1. MHDC 18.05.2026 - Removal of requirements to publish a member's home address as part of the Register of Interest Form. Councillors expressed their personal views both for displaying and omitting their home addresses, but this must be a personal preference.
 2. Kempsey Community Café Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) Confirmation - For Information
 3. Resignation - Cllr Emily Plummer and Parish Council Acknowledgement - She was thanked for the commitment given to this role and her dedication in supporting the community.
 4. Additional information in respect of agenda item 13. and formal expression of interest request.

7. Finance
 1. Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised.
(The Chairman will read out any *additional* payments to be authorised)
 2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement - For Information Only.
 3. Capital Budget - For Information Only
 4. VAT reclaimed for FY 2025/2026 £10,355.67 - For Information Only
Please note, no VAT has been reclaimed relating to the Sports Pavilion in FY2025/2026 as per the free discovery meeting (which took place on 26.01.2026) following accountancy advice.
 5. The Financial Risk Schedule 2026/27 - Reviewed and approved.
 6. Annual Internal Audit Report 2025/26 - Reviewed and approved.
 7. **Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) to 31.03.26 - Part 3**
 - a. **RESOLVED:** Section 1 - Annual Governance Statement 2025/26 was approved and signed.
 - b. **RESOLVED:** Section 2 - Accounting Statement 2025/26 was approved and signed.
 8. Please note the confirmation of the Dates of the Period for the Exercise of Public Rights commences on Tuesday 1 July 2026 and ends on Monday 11 August 2026.
 9. **RESOLVED:** To engage Ruth Mullett as Internal Auditor for FY 2026/27 with Terms of Reference (subject to her agreement).
8. Committee Appointments - Members of Committees for 2026/2027 were agreed as follows: -
 - Environment - Cllrs Biddle, Clamp, Stevens, Varley & White
 - Commons & Recreation - Cllrs Cooke, Waller & White
 - Community Centres - Cllrs Biddle, Stevens, Varley & Waller
 - Planning - Open to all members
 - Infrastructure - Open to all members
 - Finance & General Purposes Committee - Includes the Chairman and Vice Chairman and the Chairman from each of the Standing Committees
9. Appointments were also made to the following Working Parties: -
 - Police Liaison - Cllr White
 - Biodiversity Working Party - Cllrs Cooke and Waller
 - Love Kempsey Working Party - Cllrs Clamp, Stevens & White
10. Diary Date - Please Reserve Monday 16th November 2026 at 7.30pm for a Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting to arrive at a provisional precept figure for Financial Year 2027/28. This will then be presented to the full Parish Council for comment on Monday 14th December 2026 with final approval in January 2027.
11. Local Government Reorganisation - A position paper had been prepared and circulated to support discussion regarding the potential transfer of responsibility for public open spaces currently owned and/or managed by Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC), specifically at Oakfield Drive, The Limes and Christina Close. MHDC has indicated that it is willing to transfer responsibility for certain public open spaces to local parish councils as part of impending Local Government Reorganisation. The sites under consideration form part of the public amenity and green infrastructure within Kempsey. The next steps are to contact MHDC to enquire if these areas could possibly be transferred to a Local Residents 'Association.
12. Committee Report Updates and Proposals: -
 1. Finance & General Purposes Committee: Cllr Waller
A meeting took place on 19 May 2026. Items included:
 - An update from the Pavilion Café Manager on the operation of the café and possible future developments.
 - Further quotes are being obtained for the supply and installation of the security bollards and safety barrier at the playing fields, Plovers Rise.
 - Works were approved for Openreach to upgrade delivery of the fibre internet service across Stonehall and Kempsey Common.
In confidential session the following items were discussed: -
 - The Hire Agreement for the 2026 Fireworks Event
 - Planning Application M/26/00436/FUL relating to Magic Moments Day Nursery
 - The Hair Gallery Lease

- Pump Track Development

- a. Update on the Kempsey Pavilion Community Café: Deputy Clerk
Sales, expenditure, volunteer numbers and compliance updates were reviewed.
The Deputy Clerk to advise councillors on a weekly basis as to any planned social media activity.

Action

- b. **RESOLVED:** To authorise the Clerk to sign a contract with Anmer Construction Ltd. to construct, fit out and make operational a small building adjacent to the Youth Centre at Plovers Rise Playing Fields subject to signature of a funding agreement by Malvern Hills District Council.

Clerk

Solar Panel Installation at the Youth Centre - Update

- National Grid has now approved the export license
- A concrete pad is being installed on Monday 22nd June at the western elevation (to the right of the building) in preparation for battery storage housing.
- Scaffolding will be installed and in situ Friday 31st July- 3rd August 2026 inclusive
- Installation of solar panels on Monday 3rd August 2026 (external works are expected to be complete by the end of this day).

2. Environment: Chairperson position vacant

The last Committee meeting took place on 1st May 2026 where the following was discussed: The Committee agreed to order a CCTV camera for placement in the Rocky and this has been done. Exact location for fixing to be determined. Signs will also go up at the entrances. The offer of a £20k grant to replace one of the Rocky bridges has been received and we have now progressed to obtaining ITQs from suitable groundworks companies and bridge kit manufacturers.

These will be assessed at our next committee meeting with our preferred option to be presented to full council for approval.

WCC have confirmed that we will be getting two bus shelters (on either side of the road) for the south end of the village.

Re-jig of noticeboards - shop and pavilion noticeboards being replaced and improvements to other boards planned.

Complaints received regarding debris in the Rocky and a request to reinstate the bench are to be considered at the next Environment Committee meeting.

- a. **RESOLVED:** To continue with a new 3-year maintenance contract with SWARCO from 7 June 2026 to 6 June 2029 for maintaining two fixed VAS signs within the Parish at a total cost of £2133.80 inclusive of VAT.

- Working Party: LKWP Update: Cllr Clamp.

Requested councillor feedback on a potential new project to establish a picnic area in the Rocky and if this was a project worth pursuing. The general consensus was that councillors would like to see this happen.

- a. **RESOLVED:** To authorise the Clerk to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with Nuyard Country & Garden Centre for the maintenance of planters (subject to a few minor modifications to the wording, as agreed).

Clerk

3. Community Centres: Cllr Stevens

A request to purchase and install some new window blinds at the Youth Centre is to be considered at the first meeting of the Community Centres Committee.

A faulty CCTV camera at the Youth Centre (due to water ingressed) is to be replaced and a new camera at the Pavilion installed. This camera will provide a complete view of the playing field, with added security for the cricket club who will be installing a new sight screen. The cost will be £281.23 plus VAT and has been authorised by the Clerk.

4. Infrastructure Committee: Cllr Waller

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

Highways. The conditions being proposed by WCC Highways for the planning application were received from MHDC's Case Officer on 15 May. A meeting of Design Team members on 20 May discussed the issues presented and a response to the Case Officer has been drafted. Once the revised BNG report has been sent to MHDC Planning, a meeting with the Case Officer will be requested.

Exolum. No response has yet been received regarding KPC's rejection of Exolum's request for KPC to pay all the legal costs associated with the request for a lease over the ground occupied by the oil pipeline and its protection zone. A request has been received from the company that the trim trail at the northern end of the pipeline should cross the pipeline at 90 degrees. The track of the trim trail has been modified to accommodate this request and is shown in the latest site plan attached with this report.

Ecology. One of the conditions being proposed by WCC Highways is for the provision of a visibility splay for the site entrance. However, a visibility splay was provided for the outline application by Taylor Wimpey in 2016. There is a need to remove all the hedgerow to the south of the site entrance and to trim back the hedgerow to the north to accommodate the indicated 70 m visibility splay. Since the amount of hedgerow at the site features in the BNG calculation, Blade proposed modifying the hedgerow plans in the Arboricultural Impact Assessment as a basis for this part of the BNG calculation. This has been done and V3 of the AIA has been issued.

The removal of the temporary car park from the original planning application, which was proposed as a step to address Highways concerns, together with the re-routing of the trim trail as above has meant that modifications to the Landscaping plan are required. A draft version 4 of the Landscaping plan has been received from Blade and has been reviewed with additional proposals:

- replacing the 15 trees to the west of the trim trail with a coppice of appropriate tree species in the north-west corner of the site. Following up on the Worcestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy after the presentation by Rebecca Lashley at the 2026 Annual Parish Meeting has revealed that coppices of species providing habitats for the 'nationally endangered' six spotted pot beetle (*Cryptocephalus sexpunctatus*) (i.e. hazel, aspen, birch and crack willow) are supported in the LNRS under Potential Measure 70 to the extent that this PM qualifies, it would appear, for the 15 percent strategic significance BNG 'uplift'.
- implementation of the single variety plantings in the mini-orchard to the west of the trim trail as Previously requested (December 2024).
- inclusion of a 'bee bank' as previously requested
- removal of the re-instated trees over the rising main sewer along the eastern boundary
- inclusion of rowan trees to the west of previous temporary car park to provide winter berries for birds.
- inclusion of a specimen tree to the front of the building; Liquidamber styraciflua 'Worplesdon' proposed.

A request to the Case Officer for MHDC to waive the fee, currently estimated at c. £15k, for BNG monitoring - because MHDC is funding 83% of the cost - has been refused. This means that a S106 Agreement between KPC and MHDC will need to be in place prior to the planning application being determined.

Other consultee responses. No further comments have been posted at the website to date.

Pump track. Clark & Kent Constructors Ltd has reduced the cost of the pump track to take account of the revised build schedule now that no work is required until full construction starts. A commitment from the company to maintain their price until the end of this year is being sought prior to uploading the amended Phase 1 and Final Phase site plans incorporating their pump track design to the MHDC website.

5. Commons and Recreation: Cllr Cooke

A complaint received by a walker is to be addressed concerning accessing Ashmoor Common. The cricket club has confirmed that they are willing to make a contribution towards the cost of the new CCTV camera. This has been waived, as the camera is required by the Parish Council. Stonehall and Normoor Common are due to be topped soon. Permission was granted for the contractor to cut the overgrown brambles prohibiting access to allow the topping works to proceed.

Report of Planning Committee Meeting 01 June 2026

Applications

Application: M/26/00436/FUL for the erection of a classroom building including toilets and a deck to south elevation at Magic Moments Day Nursery, Kempsey Community Centre, Main Road, Kempsey
Comments: In view of neighbours' concerns and particularly WCC Highways' request for additional information concerning potential parking and traffic issues, we deferred further consideration. However, the application has now been withdrawn.

Application: M/26/00682/HP for a single-storey side extension and garage link at 9 Constantine Close, Kempsey

Comments: we had No Objection to the principle of an extension in the location proposed right on the edge of the road but felt its impact on the street scene in front of the building line would be improved if set further back.

Application: M/26/00685/CLPU for a Certificate of lawfulness for proposed installation of two air conditioning condenser units at 5B Church Street, Kempsey

Comments: The application relies on the proposal being 'Permitted Development', as defined. However, we pointed out that Condition 7 of the Planning Permission granted for the house specifically removed those rights for external changes to the building.

Application: M/26/00698/TPOA to reduce the height of Silver Willow tree by approximately 3 meters with canopy reduction over road to approximately 12 metres at Inchincroft, 6 Old Road South, Kempsey.
Comments: We were concerned at the extensive removal of areas of the tree proposed and the impact it would have on its visual appearance and on its local amenity value. However, the Tree and Landscape Officer had recommended an alternative, lesser scheme of works to the tree which we supported.

Application: M/26/00704/CAN to remove three ash trees and two Leyland Cypress trees and coppice two hazels at 6 Squires Close, Kempsey

Comments: While we had No Objection to the application seemingly for tree works in a conservation area, the site is in fact outside the Kempsey Conservation Area boundary.

Application: M/26/00717/CAN to reduce the canopy of one hazel tree at 15 Church Street, Kempsey
Comments: We had No Objection

Application: M/26/00728/CAN to fell and replace a silver birch tree Orchard House, Napleton Lane, Kempsey

Comments: We had No Objection

Application: M/26/00747/GPDE Prior Notification for a Larger Home Extension - single storey rear extension at 153 Main Road, Kempsey

Comments: We had No Objection subject to there being no objecting comments from the adjoining semi-detached property at 151 Main Road.

Updates on applications

Application: 21/02274/FUL for 79 dwellings including access from Bath Road at Clerkenleap, former Astons Coaches, Bath Road, Broomhall

Although construction of the dwellings is now well advanced, numerous documents continue to be received including to discharge planning conditions. On this occasion, having considered the topics covered, the documents were noted without comment.

Application: M/22/00714/FUL for the 48 (44) affordable homes etc. on land at Bath Road, Broomhall

This is the southern phase of the Bromford housing proposals within the Urban Extension. The Northern Phase with access to the A38 has already been approved and construction has commenced. This is the third scheme which has been submitted under this application number and will share the A38 access. The last was considered in December 2025 when we raised a number of objections.

The new scheme is extensively revised; the number of dwellings reduced to 44 and meets some of our previous concerns. However, many remain and we have objected again for reasons principally relating to the inadequate and unsatisfactory buffer open space along Broomhall Lane as required by the SWDPR, the lack of a combined footpath and cycle way following the A38 and the need for improved links to the play area to be provided in the northern phase.

13. Magic Moments Day Nursery - **ITEM WITHDRAWN**

- 13.1 Proposal to consider a request from Magic Moments (Kempsey) Ltd to erect a building on rented land by the company at the Community Centre - This item is no longer under consideration as the planning application has been withdrawn.
- 13.2 Proposal for the Parish Council to respond to Planning Application M/26/00436/FUL regarding the erection of the above building. - The applicant has withdrawn the planning application.

14. Chairman's Report: Cllr Waller

Annual Parish Meeting - This was held on Thursday 21 May 2026 at 7.30pm with Guest Speakers Rebecca Lashley, Principal Nature Recovery officer, Worcestershire Local Nature Recovery Strategy Plan and Simon Bott on Kempsey Promotions Community Interest Company.

Thanks were expressed to those who attended and to the guest speakers for their very engaging and informative talks, despite the turnout being low.

Kempsey Times - Copy Deadline for July Issue - 15th June 2026. Please submit your article to the Deputy Clerk.

Public Consultation - Police Force Mergers - survey closes 15th June 2026 for individual comments.

Meeting Closed at 10.00 PM

Signed Chairman..... Date

Standing Orders were adjourned.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Community concerns were expressed regarding the reliability of service at Morrisons Daily located in Church Street. The Council has received comments and complaints from residents who have attended the store during its published trading hours only to find it unexpectedly closed. A request has been made to formally bring this to the attention of both local and regional management.

Thanks were expressed for establishing a Community Café and staff were praised for their excellent work. A request was made to consider a zip wire. This request to be explored by the Environment Committee.

Worcester residents are being asked for their views on how many parish councils there should be in the city and whether a new town council should be established.

The Future Worcester public consultation has been launched to give residents a say on how local governance arrangements should be enhanced in the wake of the upcoming Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) programme. Please express your views on www.worcester.gov.uk/futureworcester to find out more. The first phase of the Future Worcester consultation will run until Monday 15 June.

District Councillor David Harrison

Travellers have moved onto the field next to Pear Tree Fields, Taylor's Lane and the action he had taken to inform various official bodies. This land is the responsibility of Worcester City.

He reported that some people in the Parish are not aware of the Parish Council's existence and that the profile needs to be raised. The Chairman confirmed unfortunately, with limited resources at the moment that this is not possible, other than using the usual advertising avenues.

He expressed his disappointment, albeit not a member of the Planning Committee, that had not received notification of the Planning Committee meeting which took place on Monday 1 June 2026. This was due to an administrative oversight. He was advised the Planning Committee meets on the first Monday of each month and District Councillors will be included on future planning circulation lists.

He referenced a District Council publication, encouraging councillors to look at as there is £3M. of extra funding available which may be of interest. He referenced the pump track, as he did not want the Parish Council to miss out on any potential funding opportunities.

The Chairman highlighted a whole list of projects, including the pump track that the Parish Council were heavily involved with, confirming they were moving as fast as physically possible.

County Councillor Martin Allen

COUNTY MATTERS:

SPEED CHANGE AGREED

I have continued to press for a change of speed limit for part of Old Road South and Pixham Ferry Lane, I am pleased to let you know that Highways have finally come up with a proposal, which I am not fully happy with. I am meeting my Highways Liaison Officer tomorrow to discuss option.

SHRUBS NEAR THE NEW CROSSING

Following Cllr Clamp's request for Highways to sort out the plants planted by the new fence Highways have now said that they believe MHDC trimmed the area. I have asked Cllr John Michael to ask MHDC if they did. As WCC will not replace them, I can find funding to help, maybe a maximum of £200.00.

HOLDING LANE CLOSURE

Between 31/07 and the 14/08 Holdings Lane will be closed for surface dressing for 1 day.

KERSWELL GREEN ROAD CLOSURE

Just a reminder that Severn Trent have given notice that they are going to close the road through Kerswell Green between 0700 – 1700 each day from 29/06/26 until 12/02/27, this is for major work to the sewage system.

OVER NIGHT ROAD CLOSURES A38.

The A38 will be closed a number of nights for resurfacing, I have asked for the exact dates and I am waiting for an answer.