



PARISH COUNCIL
Kempsey

**MINUTES OF THE COMMONS & RECREATION COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 6 AUGUST 2026
AT 10.00 AM AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

PRESENT: - Cllr Cooke, Cllr Waller and Cllr White.

IN ATTENDANCE: - Sharon Dunn - Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

1. Appointment of Committee Chairperson - Cllr Cooke was re-appointed as Chair of Commons & Recreation Committee
2. Apologies: To receive apologies and to approve the reason for absence
3. Declarations of Interest
 1. Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
 2. To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature - None
 3. To declare any Other Disclosable Interests in items on the agenda and their nature - None

No Questions for Public Question Time

4. Minutes: Having been previously circulated the minutes of the Commons & Recreation Committee of 22.07.25 were signed as a true and correct record.
Matters arising from previous minutes.
 1. Members discussed access gates at Ashmoor Common. It was noted that:
 - Summer vegetation is restricting access around the gates.
 - Relocation of one gate may be possible, subject to vegetation clearance.
 - Works would be more practical during the autumn or winter.
 2. Tarmac Clifton Quarry Consultation: This is regarding the proposed mineral extraction development adjacent to the parish boundary. Following attending the consultation a member advised on the following: -
Proposed increase in HGV movements across the A38.
 - Replacement of the previously approved underground conveyor with road transport.
 - Proposed traffic signal operation across the A38.
 - Potential impacts from noise, dust and increased traffic.
 - Possible effects on nearby residents and Ashmoor Common.
 - Concerns regarding impacts on nearby SSSI and wetland habitats.
 - Proposed restoration of the site to extensive lakes.
 - Limited economic benefit to Kempsey Parish.
 - The consultation closes on Sunday 16th August 2026.

Action

RESOLVED: To contact the Environment Agency to seek further clarification regarding hydrological impacts.

Action

Clerk

5. General status review of all Commons items and specifically to include:

i. Stonehall Common

a. To discuss and identify potential tree planting areas

Two potential planting areas were identified:

- The track to Bootridge Farm and the Top of Reservoir Lane (east to West), which has largely been left unmanaged and has naturally rewilded.
- A strip of land on the western side of the Common where a line of trees could discourage unauthorised vehicle access across the Common into an adjoining field. It was suggested that the second location could be planted with a row of native trees protected by simple post-and-wire fencing.

The Committee discussed whether the Council's Grounds Maintenance Team could undertake the planting. It was recognised that available resources may have been reduced due to the additional workload created by prolonged dry weather and the need to water recently planted areas elsewhere in the parish. Members agreed that the remaining maintenance budget should be reviewed before deciding whether to use the Council's workforce or appoint an external contractor.

The purchase of trees could be funded from the Recreation Committee budget if necessary. Members also noted that a number of organisations, including the Forestry Commission and Severn Trent, periodically provide free trees through community planting schemes, and these opportunities should be explored before any purchase is made.

Discussion also covered the size of trees to be planted. Members agreed that relatively small native whips would be appropriate, as the purpose was to establish a long-term tree line rather than achieve an immediate visual screen. It was noted that any newly planted trees would require watering during their first growing season to ensure successful establishment.

Actions:

- Clerk to review the remaining grounds maintenance budget.
- Councillor Cooke to investigate free tree schemes, including Forestry Commission and Severn Trent initiatives.
- To progress a programme of tree planting and bramble cutting in the Autumn.

Clerk

Cllr Cooke

ii. Normoor Common

a. To discuss the removal of an Ash tree affected by ash die back.

Cllr Cooke agreed to take some photographs to assess the situation and decide if boughs need to be removed.

Cllr Cooke

iii. Kerswell Green

a. To discuss biodiversity improvement - Members considered the biodiversity report.

Ditches

Members discussed the condition of drainage ditches.

It was recognised that:

- Some ditches appear blocked.
- Ownership and maintenance responsibilities require clarification.
- Existing drainage information should be reviewed before works are commissioned.

Actions:

- Clerk to contact the South Worcestershire Drainage Partnership requesting drainage maps.
- Councillors Cooke and White to undertake an audit of the ditches.
- Historic drainage plans held by the Council to be located where available.

Action

Clerk

Cllr Cooke/

Cllr White

Electric Fencing

Members noted that electric fencing remains on site following the death of the horse owner.

Action: To inspect the fencing and make it safe where appropriate without removing private property.

Pond Management

Members considered recommendations to manage reed growth around the pond.

It was agreed that specialist ecological management may be required.

Actions:

Councillor Cooke to prepare an article for the Kempsey Times seeking volunteers.

Cllr Cooke and Cllr White to inspect the pond during the audit inspection.

Obtain a map of the drainage system of Kerswell Green for the South Worcestershire Drainage Partnership.

Cllr Cooke

Cllr
Cooke/White

Clerk

Signage

Members received a request for additional gate signage reminding visitors to close gates after use. This was primarily intended to reduce the risk of livestock escaping through gates left open by visitors and delivery drivers.

Action: The Parish Office to obtain professionally produced reminder signs and arrange installation.

Clerk

Common Inspections

Cllr Cooke and Cllr White agreed to undertake a joint inspection of Kerswell Green to review: Drainage ditches, pond management, bramble growth, electric fencing and other biodiversity matters.

Cllr

Cooke/White

Action: Site inspection arranged for Thursday 13 August 2026.

6. Review of Recreation items: -

- i. Kempsey Amigo's Lease – To review the lease for renewal
- ii. Kempsey Colt's Lease – To discuss the actions required to progress the lease

Members discussed lease arrangements.

It was noted that:

- The Club continues to seek formal leases to support grant funding applications.
- Communication has been complicated by changes in contacts and email addresses.
- Details of proposed men's and women's teams require confirmation.

Actions:

To re-establish official contacts and continue lease negotiations.

7. Any Other Business.

i. Members are awaiting confirmation from the Cricket Club regarding a financial contribution towards improved CCTV coverage. No further action at this stage.

ii. Pavilion Freezer Incident

Members were informed that the pavilion freezer had accidentally been switched off following a cricket fixture, resulting in the loss of several hundred pounds worth of café stock. Although warning signage is displayed, the incident will be formally investigated.

Actions

The Café Manager to provide an inventory of stock lost and replacement costs.

Deputy Clerk to notify the Cricket Club and seek reimbursement.

iii. Cllr White volunteered to undertake regular litter picking around The Rocky.

For identification purposes a high vis tabard will be worn to advise members of the public this activity is being conducted in an official capacity. He will arrange for some tabards to be printed with Parish Council branding.

8. Date of the next meeting:

Thursday 15th October 2026 at 10.00am Kempsey Community Centre

Meeting Closed at 11.03 AM

Signed Chairman..... Date