



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 10 AUGUST 2026 AT 7.00 PM
AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded those present of the fire safety procedures.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: - County Cllr Allen and District Cllrs Harrison & Michael
Sharon Dunn - Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer plus three parishioners including representation from the Police.

1. **Apologies:** - Cllr Gardener (Personal) - Accepted
2. **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
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: 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 13.07.2026 were signed as a true and accurate record.
5. Correspondence for Information: - Under General Data Protection Regulations names of Identifiable subject/matter withheld
 1. 14.07.2026 - Hedge Cutting - Hedge cutting policy
The Chair clarified that the proposal was intended to consolidate existing arrangements to address issues of overgrown hedges obstructing public footways. It was noted that statutory powers already exist to address such matters, although enforcement remains the principal issue. The matter will be considered further in due course.
 2. 16.07.2026 - Worcestershire CALC- Unitary Decision
From 1 April 2028, the seven existing county, city, borough, and district councils will be abolished and replaced by North Worcestershire and South Worcestershire Councils.
 3. 16.07.2026 Email from Vic Allison - Reorganisation decision
Members further noted the potential implications for parish councils, including the possible transfer of additional responsibilities and functions.

4. 27.07.2026 - Resignation notification & acknowledgement
The resignation of Councillor Stephen Clamp was formally noted. The Chair recorded thanks for his service and contribution to the Parish Council.
 5. 14.07.2026 - YMCA Sleep Easy Event - Sponsorship Request - See agenda item 7.1.g
 6. 03.08.2026 - Letter from South Worcestershire Leaders - Update on the Local Government Reorganisation decision.
6. Finance
1. Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised.
Cllr Stevens and Cllr Gardener to authorise the online payments.
 2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement - For Information Only.
 3. Capital Budget - For Information Only
7. Committee Report Updates and Proposals: -
1. Finance & General Purposes Committee: Cllr Waller
The committee last met on 30 July 2026 where Members considered:
 - Reinvesting monies into a new 6-month fixed rate bond with Cambridge & Counties Bank which allows flexibility due to upcoming capital projects.
 - Security of the playing fields at Plovers Rise - Please refer to the proposal below.
 - the building design of the IT/Youth Hub relating to the final internal layout and external appearance.
 - Kempsey Art Trail Project – Nearing completion
 - Evidence required for the Community Wellbeing grant
 - Bus Service Improvement Plan - Members discussed and welcomed Worcestershire County Council's proposal to replace existing bus shelters.
 - Social Media Guidance for Councillors - The Committee considered draft guidance which provides suitable principles for councillors.
 - Members discussed the current reduced number of serving councillors and the implications for committee meetings and quorums - Please refer to the proposal below.
 - Applying for a Premises Licence for the Pavilion - Please refer to the proposal below.
 - Solar Battery Insurance - Members noted that, following submission of additional technical information, the Parish Council's insurers had agreed to provide cover for the proposed lithium-ion battery storage system without requiring alternative insurance arrangements.
 - The Hire Agreement for the 2026 Fireworks Event - Please refer to the proposal below
 - The Hair Gallery Lease - Please refer to the proposal on this agenda.
 - a. Update on Kempsey Pavilion Community Café
Sales, expenditure, volunteer numbers and compliance updates were reviewed.
The year-to-date financial position of the Pavilion Café was reported as follows:
 - Income: approximately £7,600
 - Expenditure: approximately £6,810
 - Surplus: approximately £790
 It was noted that there are ten volunteers and that nine positive reviews have been received.
 - b. **RESOLVED:** To apply for a Premises Licence for the Pavilion as soon as possible, restricting the application to the sale of alcohol only ahead of the Fireworks Event.
 - c. **RESOLVED:** To grant delegated authority to the Finance & General Purposes Committee to review and approve the final Fireworks Hire Agreement once the agreed amendments have been incorporated and subject to all requirements being met.
The agreement may be used as a template for future events.
 - d. **RESOLVED:** That until 30 April 2027, any member of the Parish Council attending a meeting of the Community Centres Committee or the Environment Committee or the Commons & Recreation Committee shall be considered a member of the committee for the purposes of discussion and voting, in order to maintain quoracy at committee meetings.

- e. **RESOLVED:** To accept a quotation from Barriers Direct for supply and installation of removable bollards at the Napleton Lane entrance (£305.69 supply) and a 2.1 m height restrictor (£2045.08 supply) to the entrance of Plovers Rise, playing fields. Both items to be installed at a cost of £2592.00.
A further automatic barrier remains under consideration, subject to resolution of power supply requirements. The logistics of emptying/storage of the waste bin needs to be resolved.
 - f. **RESOLVED:** To accept a quote for the installation of a smoke detector in the electrical enclosure adjacent to the Youth Centre by A & E Fire & Security at a cost of £700.74 (exclusive of VAT.)
 - g. A request for sponsorship relating to a YMCA Sleep Easy event was considered. Members noted that the event was not locally based and did not demonstrate clear direct benefit to the parish. It was resolved that no financial support be provided.
 - h. The proposal was amended to specify the monetary value of £20K to be transferred from within the agreed budget from Environment to Community Centres. This was agreed upon and then taken to a vote.
RESOLVED: To transfer funds of £20K within the agreed budgets from Environment to Community Centres to support works and replacement furniture.
2. Environment: Chairperson position vacant. Proposal sponsored by Cllr Waller
 - a. A proposal for installation of a litter bin at Pear Tree Fields, funded via Councillor Allen's divisional allocation was considered. Members were in support of this proposal. Further assessment of type, size and specification of the bin is required. Cllr Stevens and County Cllr Allen to visit the site to progress.
Concerns regarding the overflowing bin near the shop were noted. Cllr Stevens to investigate further.
 - Working Party: LKWP Update: Cllr Stevens
A meeting has been arranged for 1st September 2026 at 1.30pm at Kempsey Community Centre to discuss the next steps following the resignation of Stephen Clamp who used to chair this working party.
 3. Community Centres: Cllr Stevens
The Committee met on 27 July 2026.
The contractual cleaning arrangements are under review.
 - a. **RESOLVED:** To accept a quotation from Office Furniture Online for the supply of 96 chairs at a cost of £3168 (excluding VAT) for use at Kempsey Community Centre and Kempsey Youth Centre. Disposal or reuse of existing chairs will be considered separately.
 5. Infrastructure Committee: Cllr Waller

Solar System Project
The solar and battery storage system at the Youth Centre is now operational.
Arrangements are required for export of surplus electricity to the National Grid and associated contractual arrangements.
Prior to further payment, warranties and building control certification are to be provided.
The Council noted the benefits of the system and expressed thanks for grant funding received from Malvern Hills District Council.

IT/Youth Hub
The design of the modular building is substantially complete, with minor details outstanding. Internal toilet arrangements have been agreed. Final drawings and programme information are awaited. The project remains on schedule for commencement, with completion anticipated in autumn.
The funding agreement for the pump track has been signed. The Council awaits receipt of the funding. No construction contract will be entered into until planning conditions are fully resolved.

Pump Track
An update was provided on the pump track project. The funding agreement for the £80,000

grant has now been signed, with the Parish Council awaiting release of the funding. Discussions have continued with the planning case officer regarding the outstanding planning conditions, particularly the proposed £25,000 Section 106 contribution for highways and wayfinding works. The Parish Council remains concerned that this could delay the project and is seeking clarification on whether this requirement can be deferred to a later phase. A separate biodiversity-related Section 106 contribution, initially around £15,000, is expected to be reduced to approximately £5,500 following revisions to the biodiversity metric. Further consideration will be given to passing bays and associated works.

5. Commons and Recreation: Cllr Cooke

The Committee met on 6 August 2026

Resident concerns regarding ditches and biodiversity at Kerswell Green were noted.

A site inspection will be undertaken as part of a wider audit of common land areas, with findings to be reported back.

The installation of Openreach infrastructure on the common was also noted. While concerns were raised locally, the wider benefits of improved broadband provision were acknowledged. Correspondence with sports clubs regarding waste disposal costs was noted. Responses are awaited following internal club discussions.

Kempsey Colts Football club intends to resume cooked food provision during matches, subject to compliance with food hygiene and safety regulations.

6. Planning Committee: Cllr Gardener

Applications considered

Application No: **M/25/01386/CCO** Discharge of condition 9 (Design Principles) of planning permission 13/00656/OUT, Land at Bath Road, Broomhall (Hopfields)

Condition 9 required a document to be produced for approval setting out the design principles for the whole development of what we previously referred to as the Welbeck land (the largest part of the SW Urban Extension) now known as 'Hopfields'. We previously commented on the original Draft version last October; this version is titled 'Final'. An explanatory letter identifies the changes which clearly follow extensive negotiations.

For the most part, the changes do not alter our previous comments, although we repeated our concerns at the excessive building height proposed within the setting of the Grade II Clerkenleap Farmhouse (4 storeys, up to 15m.). In addition:

- i. *We noted that the phasing plan had been revised and that the parcel of land adjoining the Bromford North housing site was now in the first phase. This 'should' allow the Bromford site access to be linked through Hopfields rather than directly onto the A38 as temporarily allowed.*
- ii. *A new section has been added to cover the Employment Area, sited in Wychavon alongside Crookbarrow Way. The Illustrative Masterplan shows large buildings, similar if not larger than those erected off Norton Lane. At this point the road is in a cutting, and the site is elevated above it. We felt that buildings of this scale close to the road would be dominating and overbearing, which would detract immensely from the extensive and attractive vista currently available across the Severn Valley and to the Malvern Hills. It is a particular anomaly since elsewhere emphasis has been given to incorporating views of the wider landscape into the housing layouts, particularly to the Malvern Hills.*

Application No: **M/26/00901/CCO** to discharge condition 20 (Noise Mitigation) of planning permission 21/01217/FUL on land at Bath Road, Broomhall (Bromford North)

Noise assessment and proposed mitigation measures had been included with the application in any event and commented on then. Our only concern is that a 2m acoustic boundary fence alongside a 3-storey apartment block (to which we had objected) would require the removal of the boundary hedge, contrary to the illustrative landscape scheme.

Application No: **M/25/01398/RM** for infrastructure comprising southern landscape buffer (Crookbarrow Woodland Link) on land at Bath Road, Broomhall (Hopfields)

This application previously included principal highways to serve the Hopfields development and local centre from both Norton Road and the A38 but is now limited to the woodland link alone. This is a stretch of proposed amenity woodland along Broomhall Lane as a landscape buffer between the urban extension

and the open farmland to the south, which is the Significant Gap. It is also shown as one of the landscape character areas in the Hopfields Design Principles previously referred to. There had been no changes to the scheme itself.

We confirmed our previous comments, particularly concern for the abrupt emergence of 5 footpaths from the woodland buffer onto Broomhall Lane and another onto Norton Road from Norton Fields Landscape Character Area (in Norton juxta Kemspey). Neither road has footways or significant verges to provide safe refuge for pedestrians.

In addition, we are concerned that other important parts of early infrastructure have been removed from the application. This could result in delays in the development coming forward to contribute to the 5-year housing land supply and the primary school required to support the development.

Updates to applications:

Application No: **21/02274** Erection of 79 dwellings on land at the former Astons Coaches site, Bath Road, Broomhall

This is for another Discharge of Condition, this time not as a separate application, concerning a Construction Environmental Management Plan which we noted. However, we seriously questioned the purpose of it at this late stage when construction of the development is already well advanced.

Application No: **M/22/00714/FUL** for the erection of 44 affordable homes on land at Bath Road, Broomhall (Bromford South)

An amended layout plan confirmed that existing accesses onto Broomhall Lane would be permanently closed off and the gaps infilled. This was welcomed although we stressed that infilling should be with tree/hedgerow planting rather than fencing, as intimated, in order to reinforce and respect the rural character of the lane. However, we repeat our objections to the inadequate landscape buffer proposed along Broomhall as required by SWDPR 68A xv (NB the Crookbarrow Woodland Link).

AOB

- **Saxon Meadows** – *On the lack of maintenance of the open space at Saxon Meadows, MHDC Enforcement feel that the best way forward is to ensure that the approved maintenance plan is carried out. The planned maintenance cycle is recurring and so does not expire. The next scheduled grass cutting is in September and will be checked.*
- **Park Cottage, 6 Old Road North and The Old Chapel, Kerswell Green** – *The deteriorating condition of these heritage assets has been a matter of concern for some time. Previous contacts with MHDC conservation offices had not resulted in any action. However, Cllr Harrison had received a*

response from the Heritage Team. The chapel is not listed, and powers are not available to take action. In respect of the listed Park Cottage, difficulties and consequences of serving a Repairs Notice had been set out. These arise from the costs involved, which could fall on the Council, and because the cottage is occupied. However, discussions are taking place between the Heritage Team and the Enforcement section.

- **Napleton Lane Appeal** – MHDC’s Director of Planning and Infrastructure had explained the Council’s position in respect of the appeal. The Council is not declining to defend the recently adopted SWDPR and has pointed out to the Inspector that the proposal is contrary to SWDPR Spatial Strategy and that there is some landscape harm and harm from the loss of agricultural land. However, the officers consider that the benefits of providing market and affordable housing outweigh those factors and that the proposal is, on balance, acceptable. In addition, having taken further advice, they consider that the reasons for refusing the application cannot be substantiated to the extent that they alone justify withholding planning permission (construction traffic using Napleton Lane, lack of school places, intrusion into the countryside, landscape harm and loss of best and most versatile agricultural land).

8. Chairman’s Report: Cllr Waller

- Kempsey Times - Deadline for next contribution is 14 August 2026.
- Local Government Reorganisation meeting 15th September 2026 at the Graeme Hicks Pavilion, Worcester. The Clerk and the Chairman are booked to attend. (Cllr Cooke will substitute for the Chair if required).
This may be an opportunity to discuss enforcement powers and the position from a parish council perspective.
- PACT meeting - 25 August 2026 7.30pm Kempsey Community Centre
- Moving forward with computer gaming at the IT/Youth Hub
The Council considered proposals for a youth gaming initiative at the IT hub. Equipment has been purchased with some currently unused. Options considered included:
appointment of a lead organiser
establishment of a youth-led gaming group
engagement with schools
competitive gaming activities
game development opportunities
Cllr Varley will undertake initial consultation with young people and report back.

RESOLVED: Under The Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting(s)) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press from discussions only in respect of agenda items 9 & 10. as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

9. The Hair Gallery Lease - **RESOLVED:** To authorise the Clerk to sign and seal the new lease on behalf of the Parish Council. to be witnessed by Cllr Waller and Cllr Stevens.
10. The Chairman updated councillors on the contractual arrangements with Calfordseaden LLP.
A separate arrangement may be required for future involvement in Phase 1 tendering and procurement.

Meeting Closed at 9.20 PM

Signed Chairman..... Date

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A Parishioner highlighted that the local shop was again closed yesterday and asked if a response/acknowledgement had been received from the letter issued to them. The Clerk confirmed no reply had been received to date, but this would be chased.

The Parishioner also highlighted that parking at the shop was still problematic and asked if the police could speak to the drivers obstructing the pavements.

It was reported that the brightness of the new Tennis Club lighting was affecting neighbouring residents. As planning permission was granted for this work to go ahead, Cllr Harrison will look into this matter further and advise.

District Councillor David Harrison

- Bannut Hill - The District Councillor update included matters arising from the planning process and that he has been summoned to attend a meeting the following morning to discuss the situation, before commenting further.

District Councillor John Michael

- Highlighted that he had been involved in challenging planning proposals and continued to monitor applications affecting the ward.
- He confirmed that he continued to deal with residents and individual matters relating to Platform Housing

County Councillor Martin Allen

COUNTY MATTERS:

TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS ELLSDON, ELLSDON RISE AND POST OFFICE LANE.

As you know in April this year, you were invited to a meeting with Kempsey School, the Police, including a Traffic Sergeant and various agencies. Both your two district councillors and MHDC were invited. The Head of the school made it clear that she would no longer ask members of staff to patrol the roads near the school. Also, despite the Police's attempts to stop dangerous and poor parking, it continues. Following that meeting, MHDC, the Parish Council and other road associations were consulted, none returned any comments.

Should other areas be affected by the changes, I am willing to meet residents and look to requesting other areas are also considered for restrictions.

Councillor Martin explained that the proposed restrictions are intended primarily to improve road safety, access for emergency services and conditions around the school, rather than simply displace parking into neighbouring roads. He acknowledged concerns from some residents about possible displacement of vehicles but said that any resulting problems could be reviewed.

There was discussion about the distinction between double and single yellow lines, including the rules relating to vehicles stopping to drop off or pick up children. It was noted that some vehicles currently arrive well before school collection time and remain parked for extended periods, rather than simply dropping off or collecting children.

Councillor Martin asked parish councillors to confirm their support for the proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) so that objections arising from misunderstandings about the scheme do not prevent the measures progressing.

PEAR TREE FIELDS GENERAL PURPOSE WASTE BIN

On 04/08/26 I sent you an email with a proposal to have a general-purpose waste bin installed on an existing post adjacent to the Pedestrian Footbridge in Pear Tree Fields.

MHDC have said they will collect from this new location.

WCC have now given permission for the bin to be installed.

I would be grateful if you could consider which post mounted bin you would like, it must have a metal liner, be selected. I will then find the funds for it. WCC will install it for you for free.

BOLLARD DEMOLISHED

#12323 Reflective central refuge bollard knocked on the A38 to the south of Kempsey reported to Highways.

KERSWELL GREEN ROAD CLOSURE

This closure has now been amended, the proposed start date currently is 17/08/26, with an end date of 09/04/2027.

BUS SHELTERS

#10272 I am pleased to report that WCC have confirmed that they will remove the old bus shelter, no timeline has been given for this work to take place. Also, the two refurbished shelters to be installed will be owned and maintained by WCC.

PLANNING APPEAL 8TH SEPTEMBER

I have requested permission to attend and talk at the planning appeal for Bannut Hill.

SPEED SURVEY

On 10/08/2026 I sent you the results of a speed survey that I had requested outside the Tarmac entrance on the A38.

CHANGE OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Cllr Karl Perks has left Reform and has now joined the Conservatives.

Also, I have now left the Greens and joined the LibDems. I did consider standing down for a By-Election, however, as the next elections are at the start of May next year, I felt I could not impose such a large expenditure on the taxpayers of Worcestershire.

Standing Orders were reimposed