

**PRESENT:** (30) Terry Ward (Chairman), Cllr Roger Sutton (WCC), Cllr David Harrison (MHDC), Cllr John Michael (MHDC), Trevor Geens (Chairman Parish Council), Ann Patrick (Parish Council), Ann Smith (Parish Council), Hugh Hanmer (Parish Council), Mike Biddle (Neighbourhood Plan Chairman), Joy Clee, Simon Bott (Parish Lengthsman), David Bevan, Helen Willcox, Tilly Willcox, Peter Scurrall, Roy Padden, Gerry Abbott, Val Dobbins, Marian Walters, Newton Coen, Wendy Coen, Bob Stokes (Kempsey Sports Association), Martin Butcher (PCSO), Sarah Ransome-Williams (WMP), Paul Kennedy (WMP), Rob Gardener, Alex Matthews, Sue Cownie, Bob Bowley, Pat Whitehead,

- 1. Introductions:** The chairman, Terry Ward welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Everyone then introduced themselves.
- 2. Apologies:** Mel Baker, Sharon Joyce (Neighbourhood Watch), Bryony Baynes (Headmistress Kempsey Primary School), Rev Mark Badger, Pam Gerrard (Parish Council), David Walters, Roy Clarke, Margaret Davies, Jan Fowler.
- 3. Minutes of the meeting** held on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2016, having been circulated were agreed as being a true record.
- 4. Matters arising:** Cllr Sutton asked if the 50 children whose parents had requested a place for next September, were in one year group or throughout the school. MW replied that there were now 53 requests for a Reception class place in September (13 above the Planned Admission Limit of 40) along with others throughout the year groups.
- 5. Police report:** TW welcomed Sarah RW to the meeting which was to be her farewell after serving Kempsey for eight years. She said it had been a difficult decision, but the opportunity to move on had arisen and she felt it was time for a fresh pair of eyes to take over. She introduced her successor, Paul Kennedy, who commended Sarah for her commitment to Kempsey. He has been in the police force for fifteen years and is looking forward to the challenges ahead. Martin Butcher then gave an update on recent crime figures. There had been five violent crimes/assaults, three on Christmas Day, one incident of criminal damage, three non-dwelling burglaries, one theft, one drugs offence and one vehicle theft. He added that the WMP now deployed Number Plate Recognition cameras, the location of which was not disclosed. A live investigation is on-going following the theft of the ATM at McColl's shop. Police had arrived on the scene within seven minutes of the incident which is well within the twenty minute rural response time. WMP has since increased its passing patrol plan. There have been eight recorded incidents of anti-social behaviour and letters are being sent out to those involved. Police investigated reports of youths congregating at the end of Lanes End and one person has since been charged with a drugs offence. Paul said there was no reduction in policing and they were operating 24/7. In rural areas, criminals have to travel, so cars passing through the village are likely to be stopped for police to check the occupants are the legal owners. The police are working across the borders to build up an intelligence picture, targeting arterial routes in rural areas, but he emphasised that crime figures here are very low and it is a safe place to live. JC said there were concerns about Community Speed Watches particularly in smaller villages and hamlets, and asked how far down the list we are. PK said that with 25 parishes in the area, it was not practical to attend every Parish Council meeting, but newsletters will be produced giving feedback on speeding. Speed Watch set specific criteria – Education, Engineering and

Enforcement, the most important of these being Engineering. These have to be carried out through the Safer Roads Partnership. He said that merely by seeing a police car, drivers nearly always slow down so a visible police presence is a deterrent to speeding. The Safer Roads Partnership will look at hazards, accidents and how they are attributed to speed. TG said the Parish Council are trying to put together a case for Safer Roads Partnership to look at speed through Kempsey. Concern was expressed that there was no safe place to cross the A38 at the north end of the village. The Parish Council has agreed to have a second Vehicle Activated Speed Sign at the southern end of Kempsey. AP said the ATM will be replaced at the shop in about three months. PK said it was important that people ring 101 if they see anything suspicious. The police officers then left the meeting and Sarah was once again thanked for her support – she will be sorely missed.

- 6. Update on the Neighbourhood Development Plan:** Ann Smith said the document was with MHDC and the six week consultation comes to an end on 24<sup>th</sup> February. Very few comments (in fact four) had been received and it was not too late to send one in. A resident asked where it had been publicised that comments were welcome; an article had been placed in the February issue of the Parish Magazine, it was in the Parish Council minutes placed on the PC notice boards, on the PC website, on the parish notice board by the Parish Hall and on the MHDC website.

## **7. Updates on:**

- i) The school:** In the absence of Bryony Baynes, MW gave a report saying that barring any unforeseen circumstances, KPS will convert to academy status on 1<sup>st</sup> April. This will bring many benefits and secure educational provision for pupils within the catchment area and ensure high standards for 4 – 18 year olds. The HUET Educational Trust is founded on the principle of maintaining maximum autonomy for all the schools involved, so no one should see any difference in KPS's ethos or provision. It will be able to access additional funding to improve the site and facilities and will be looking to put in a bid to the DfE asap to enable them to build some additional classrooms. With the new housing development and the school's increasingly good reputation, more and more parents are wanting to send their children to KPS and at present they are having to turn away pupils from both within and outside the catchment area. With some additional classrooms they would be able to accommodate them. Pupils follow the National Curriculum and the International Primary Curriculum, and learning is topic based with the staff working very hard to plan engaging and lively lessons which appeal to all learning styles. The building work undertaken during the summer holidays has made a huge difference to many internal areas and school security is now very much tighter. Mrs Baynes would welcome any members of the community to go into school and help with various activities. A fused glass workshop is being held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> March at 6.00 pm, and anyone interested in having further details should call in and speak to the school office.
- ii) The Church:** In a written report, MB said work on the graveyard extension is now complete with only planting to be done. It is hoped the extension will be consecrated in the summer. The Probation Service has been tidying up the land opposite the rocky as part of MB's long term vision to make church land around the church more attractive. This has become part of the thinking of the Project Board to make both the church building and the adjacent land more suitable for community use and creating a heart to the village. The Project Board will meet again in March to consider plans for re-ordering the church. These have been down-scaled in response to proposals for a new village hall and community centre. The Grasshopper Playgroup meets on Thursday afternoons in the Youth Centre and attendance is averaging over 30 toddlers. MB has been discussing the possibility of another Forest School type of activity group based at

the Centre. MB is in negotiation with various parties including the YMCA to re-establish a Youth Group within the village and to engage in outreach work within Hanley Castle High School. The Come On In activity at The Talbot on Monday and Wednesday morning continues to go from strength to strength with attendance in the 20s. After school clubs are run in Kempsey and Norton juxta Kempsey schools with about 30 children in each club. Messy Church continues to be successful in both Kempsey and Norton with about 50 families engaging in the meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month. MB will be licensed as Curate in Charge of Norton by the Bishop of Dudley during Messy Church on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March.

- iii) **The Parish Hall:** MW read out a report from Henry Morris, the Parish Hall committee chairman. In it he said the Parish Hall had served the village well for over a hundred years. During WWII school dinners were produced there and for years afterwards at 2s 1d a week, 5d a day, and dances were held there for soldiers and airmen in the area at the time. Film shows were screened on Thursday evenings at a charge of 6d. It is now time to move on, so the Parish Hall committee has obtained planning permission (with no objections) to construct a new building on the same site. The architect would like to begin work in twelve months, during which time the committee has to raise the £690,000 required. The committee will be seeking donations and grants towards the scheme and various user groups will be running events to raise money. Anyone wishing to donate please contact the treasurer, Mrs Joan Chambers on 01905 820130 or the chairman Henry Morris on 01905 820601.
- iv) **Community Youth Centre:** Cllr John Michael said there was a rolling programme of improvements and new toilets have been installed. The Centre will be run on a sustainable basis. New signage is also in place.
- v) **The Surgery:** AP said two new signs have been put up and the bushes cut back. They are keen to maintain the surgery and have nineteen new patients on their list with spare capacity now that the surgery is open on more afternoons, but they need more doctors. Internal improvements are also planned.
- vi) **Norton roundabout:** Cllr Sutton said the night closures have been extended until late March. The priority is to complete the downhill carriageway after which work will start on dueling the uphill carriageway. The two bridges (pedestrian and railway) are posing a serious problem with the railway bridge not being finished until 2019. The government will hopefully contribute the necessary £80 million to dual the Carrington bridge after 2020. The WCC has given no serious consideration to the completion of the northern ring road around Worcester. Cllr Sutton has spoken to John Frazer, the lead communications officer for Highways, regarding the amount of heavy traffic using Taylor's Lane. Severn Trent have resolved the problems at the Walter de Cantelupe. Cllr Sutton asked that he is informed of complaints regarding parking on pavements so he can review residents' parking.
- vii) **Road closures:** DH gave details of road works in the vicinity of Kempsey, all of which are available to read on his website [davidharrisonkempsey.co.uk](http://davidharrisonkempsey.co.uk) The laybys near the Linden Homes and Taylor Wimpey developments are to disappear and there is to be no pedestrian crossing at that point. The Parish Council will write to Cllr Sutton about this and he will take it forward. Footpaths were swept by the new MHDC sweeper last week. Green Street is to be closed at The Hunstman on 12<sup>th</sup> March for 2 weeks. The sign to the playing fields has been put back near The Lawns Nursing Home. The Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) has put forward a proposal to build a full size cycle path from Kempsey to Worcester.

**8. Planning matters:** 150 houses are now occupied on the three sites in Kempsey. MHDC has a new planning website. Black bags are to be replaced with black bins with a probable fortnightly collection, ie alternative weeks with the green bin. The current black bags are flimsy and are easily break into, so the introduction of black bins should lessen the amount of litter. This should be introduced in 2018. David Wilson Homes have had to amend their street names for the new development at Post Office Lane – they are out for consultation with the Parish Council. Astons Coaches have submitted a planning application for the conversion of their yard to a 32 bed care home and 66 houses. The EA are to alter the flood defences which will benefit Kempsey. There is a flooding problem at Taylors Lane due to the County Council tarmacking the road and covering over the gullies. MHDC Council Tax is to rise by £5 a year. Lioncourt Developments have submitted plans for four bungalows on their site – two three-bed detached ones and two two-bed semi detached. Taylor Wimpey has submitted a full application for 113 houses and outline planning for playing fields and sports centre near to Pixham Ferry Lane.

**9. Litter Picking report: Tilly Willcox has been litter picking in the village for six months as part of her Duke of Edinburg’s Award Scheme.** She was thanked for setting such a good example and TW said it was very encouraging when someone so young took on such a project. She said in her report that the process was quite addictive and was pleased to have helped make the village look so much better.

The planned litter pick for 12<sup>th</sup> February had been postponed because of the MHDC initiative for the Great British Spring Clean due to take place on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March. TW suggested we consider that date for our next litter pick. We need to inform MHDC which is the main “grot spot” and it was agreed that they would be asked to focus on the road north out of Kempsey as far as Clerkenleap Motors. TW hoped for a good turnout at 2.00 pm on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March.

**10. Any other business:**

- The Welcome Packs have been produced and will be delivered to new homes in the near future.
- A de-fibrillator is to be installed in the Community Centre. The cost has been met by money donated from the Flood Group which has now disbanded. It is not in a cabinet so has to be within the building. Training sessions will be arranged for users of the centre.

**11. Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 12 noon for 12.30 pm.

Many thanks to those who made tea and cleared up after the meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

Terry Ward  
Chairman