

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KEMPSEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY,14th APRIL, 2009 AT 7.30 p.m. AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Present :- Mr. D. Harrison, in the Chair

Mr. K. Blackwell; Mr. N. Brookes; Mrs. C. Campbell; Mrs. P. Gerrard;

Mrs. A. Hart; Mrs. J. Jones; Mr. M. Legg; and Mr. T. Ward.

Also in Attendance :- Mr. M. Biddle and Mrs. M. Walters, District Councillors.

Apologies for absence were received from Ms M. Baker and Mrs. Biddle who were on holiday and from Mr. J. Michael whose wife had had an accident and been admitted to hospital.. The Parish Council accepted these apologies.

6562 MR. NORMAN ATKINS

The Chairman reported that Mr. Norman Atkins, who had been a Parish Council Member since December, 1998, had resigned after the last Parish Council Meeting as he felt that he was unable to give the appropriate amount of time to this role. Unfortunately, he had died a few days later. The Members stood in silence as a mark of respect.

6563 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Mr. Harrison declared a personal and possible prejudicial interest in respect of the Commons and Hams Committee Report at Agenda Item 13 for all matters relating to Kempsey, Stonehall, Normoor and Ashmoor Commons in respect of which he held registered grazing rights. He also declared a personal and possible prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item 7 – recommendations 1 and 3 from the Commons and Hams Committee. He also declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item 23 relating to payment of his Chairman's half-yearly allowance of £50.00

Mrs. Campbell declared a prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item 19 relating to a request from Kempsey Flood Action Group for financial assistance from the Parish Council. She also declared a prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item 10(e) relating to a letter from Kempsey Flood Action Group about this same matter.

Mr. Legg also declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item 19 relating to a request from Kempsey Flood Action Group for financial assistance from the Parish Council and Agenda Item 10(e) relating to a letter from Kempsey Flood Action Group about this same matter.

6564 OPEN FORUM

It was proposed by Mrs. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Gerrard and resolved that Standing Orders be suspended for the Open Forum. Notes from this part of the meeting are annexed to the Minutes. At the conclusion of the Open Forum the Chairman re-imposed Standing Orders.

6565 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 9th March, 2009, having been previously circulated to the members, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

6566 MINUTES OF THE COMMONS AND HAMS COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting of The Commons and Hams Committee held on Monday, 23rd March, 2009, having been previously circulated to the members, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

6567 PREVIOUS MINUTES – RECOMMENDATIONS AND UP-DATES

Commons and Hams Committee

The Chairman, Mr. Harrison, had previously declared an interest in respect of recommendations 1 and 3 from the Commons and Hams Committee and left the room whilst they were discussed.. The Chair was taken by Mr. Ward, the Vice-Chairman for these two particular matters.. The first recommendation from the Commons and Hams Committee was that in order to prevent vehicular access and the associated on-going erosion of the grazing

areas, wooden posts set approximately 4 feet apart should be installed in a line from the locked gate down to the edge of the hardstanding area around the side and back of this area and then in a line down to the access track to Orchardene. The Parish Council noted that at present there were no costings for this proposed work and no exact details of where the posts would be installed. As such, support for this recommendation would be in principle. On the proposal of Mrs. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Jones this recommendation was carried. The second recommendation from the Committee was that having reviewed the Parish Council's previous decision in respect of the ditching works at Kerswell Green Common, they now wished to resolve that this work should be carried out as soon as possible, but with all the other conditions remaining. On the proposal of Mr. Legg, seconded by Mr. Ward this recommendation was carried. The third recommendation from the Committee was that the un-spent sums of £1,000 for professional fees, £50 for postage, £500 for gates, locks and notices, £150 for courses/fees together with the under-spend of £500 for commons clearing and the contingency sum of £1,000 should be ring fenced and be carried forward to the 2009/2010 financial year where the appropriate allowances could then be made when setting the Budgets for 2010/2011. On the proposal of Mrs. Gerrard, seconded by Mrs. Hart this recommendation was carried

6568 COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT ON LOCAL ISSUES

In Mr. Bullock's absence, the Clerk reported that Mr. Bullock had not heard anything further from Cllr. John Smith but was aware that Cllr. Smith was going to speak to Mrs. Oram. There would be a new Council following the June elections so whilst the County Council would be able to find some money to support the Kempsey Flood Scheme, they would be unable to commit themselves to exactly how much they would be able to give to the Scheme.

6569 DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Mrs. Walters reported that there would be a public collection in Kempsey for Christian Aid Week.

Mr. Biddle reported that the Leader of Malvern Hills District Council had resigned, that the South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy had done a study which had shown a funding deficit for infrastructure of approximately £150m. and that the District Council would be reviewing their charges for wheelie bins in light of the cheaper charges made by Wychavon District Council and Worcester City Council.

6570 CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence, both for report and for information had been made available for inspection by Parish Council Members between 7.00 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.

(a) Norton-juxta-Kempsey PC – Parking outside Broomhall Cottages

The Parish Council fully supported the views expressed by the parishioner about the parking problems. The Clerk was asked to send copies of the correspondence to Mr. Bullock and the Police asking for their comments on the problem.

(c) WCC – Parish Lengthsman Scheme – Participation for 2009/2010

The Parish Council resolved to participate during the 2009/2010 financial year. The Clerk was asked to inform the County Council that the Parish Council were keen for their Lengthsman to carry out additional work on behalf of the County Council and to enquire whether they would contribute additional funding if he did so?

(e) Kempsey FLAG – Posters/Financial Assistance

Mrs. Campbell and Mr. Legg had previously declared an interest in this matter. This letter was deferred for consideration at Agenda Item 19.

(f) SWJCS – Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment

The Chairman asked the Parish Council Members to give their suggestions to the Clerk by Monday 20th April, 2008.

(j) Mr. T. Dillingham – Overhanging Hedge at Playing Field

The Clerk was asked to provide Mr. Dillingham with the requested information.

6571 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

(a) Tree Works at The Rocky

The Clerk referred to Minute No. 6549(a) and reported that in conjunction with the Parish Council Vice-Chairman and the Chairman of the Environment Committee an estimate in the sum of £1,365 had been accepted from Wild Contracts for the work at The Rocky. She pointed out that the District Council Tree Officer had reminded the Parish Council that the work had to be completed by the end of March, leaving just a few days in which to carry out the authorised works. As a result, other tree contractors had indicated that because of other business commitments, they were un-able to meet this very tight deadline. The Parish Council approved this delegated decision.

(b) Baynhall Bus Shelter

The Parish Council noted that a vehicle appeared to have collided with the bus shelter roof. The Clerk was asked to draw this matter to the attention of the Environment Committee Chairman when she returned from holiday.

6572 PLANNING REPORT

(a) For Report :-

County Council Planning Application for New Pumping Station at Kerswell Green

A copy of the Parish Council's comments on this planning application are annexed to the signed minutes.

(b) Comments made to MHDC under Delegated Powers

MH 201/09–Oast House Cottage, Main Road – Erection of Garden Shed (Full) – Objection
MH 342/09 – 19 Napleton Lane – Extension (Full) – No objections.

6573 COMMONS AND HAMS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Harrison, the Parish Council Chairman had previously declared an interest in this item and left the room. The Chair was then taken by Mr. Ward, the Parish Council Vice-Chairman. .

(a) Ashmoor Common

In the absence of the Committee Chairman, the Clerk reported that application forms to get new grants had been signed on behalf of the Parish Council and submitted to DeFRA.

6574 RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

(a) Trees overhanging The Playing Field

It was noted that some parts of the hedge still needed trimming. The Parish Council agreed that a site meeting should be held to discuss this matter.

(b) Report by the Joint Committee Chairmen

Mrs. Campbell reported that the meeting organised by Wychavon District Council about a Play Trail had been very useful. She and her co-chairman felt that a bigger committee to discuss this matter and the provision of additional play equipment would be beneficial. Mr. Ward agreed to put this matter to the Parish Plan Working Party.

(c) Signage

Mrs. Campbell reported that it was a legal requirement to have signs erected in the Play Area giving details of the contact number to report breakages etc. She agreed to provide the Clerk with the appropriate form of wording approved by RoSPA.

6575 COMMUNITY CENTRE COMMITTEE REPORT

(a) Royal Mail – Use of Brick Building on Rear Car park

The Committee Chairman reported that Royal Mail had now cleaned out and vacated the brick building so it was available for hire.

(b) Community Centre Roof

The Committee Chairman reported that Messrs. Sneddens had now submitted an estimate in the sum of £396.00 plus VAT to make the necessary roof repairs. The Parish Council resolved to accept this estimate.

(c) New Tiles in Foyer

The Committee Chairman reported that the new floor tiling in the Foyer was causing

concerns and the Clerk had called the contractor back in to rectify the problems.

(d) Lock on Side Gate

The Committee Chairman reported that as a security measure, it had become necessary to install a padlock and chain on the side gate to prevent un-authorized access.

6576 VACANCY FOR A PARISH COUNCILLOR

The Chairman reported that 12 residents from Kerswell Green had submitted a written request to the District Council to fill the vacancy on the Parish Council by an election rather than by co-optation at the May Meeting. Unfortunately this would now cost the Parish Council an un-budgeted sum of about £1,500

6577 HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

The Chairman reported that the Housing Needs Survey forms would now have to be posted by the District Council to each household, having failed to meet the deadline for delivery with the Annual Newsletter by Parish Council Members

6578 FLOODING IN KEMPSEY

As the Parish Council Representative on FLAG, Mrs. Campbell reported that a meeting had been held Wednesday, 11th March at which representatives from the Environment Agency had been present. The next meeting would be on 19th April at 4.00 p.m. at St. Mary's House..

6579 FLAG – REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Mr. Legg and Mrs. Campbell had previously declared interests in this matter and left the room. This item had been deferred from the March Parish Council Meeting where the Parish Council had agreed to give their full support to the Kempsey Flood Alleviation Scheme.

The Members were concerned that, to date, there had been no agreed specification provided by the Environment Agency for the proposed works and, consequently, there were no costings for the project. As such, it was not known how much financial support would be needed from the Parish Council. The Chairman felt that once this information was to hand, financial assistance could be discussed when setting the Budgets for the next financial year. Mr. Ward supported the suggestion of funding through the Precept but only when the true costs of the project became known, what benefit would be provided by any such funding and where the funding money was to be sent e.g. The Environment Agency/the County Council/Malvern Hills District Council or FLAG?

Mr. Brookes then proposed that in principle the Parish Council should financially support the Flood Alleviation Scheme for Kempsey. This was seconded by the Chairman, Mr. Harrison. On being put to the vote two Members voted in favour, three voted against and two abstained. The Chairman therefore declared the motion defeated.

6580 KEMPSEY POST OFFICE

The Chairman reported that a further meeting would be held with Post Office representatives on Friday, 17th April in order to ascertain what progress was being made.

6581 ADOPTION OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS FOR 2008/2009

The Clerk reported that because Mr. Stokes, the Internal Auditor had been on holiday, he had not been able to finalise the audit of the 2008/2009 accounts. As such this matter was deferred to the May Parish Council Meeting.

6582 APPOINTMENT OF MR. R. STOKES AS INTERNAL AUDITOR

The Parish Council confirmed the appointment of Mr. R. Stokes as their Internal Auditor for 2009/2010.

6583 RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS/RECONCILIATION OF BALANCES TO 31/3/09

The receipts and payments/bank reconciliation to 31st March, 2009 had been previously circulated to the members. Copies of these documents are attached to the Signed Minutes.

6584 CONFIRMATION OF ACTION

The Parish Council ratified payment of the following urgent accounts which had been made under delegated powers :-

Staff salaries for March as shown on the list circulated to Members and annexed to the Signed Minutes

Bott Plumbing Services Ltd. – repair to leak in toilets - £97.75 (inc. £12.75 VAT)

R.W. Martin – Community Centre works - £220.00

Mrs. S. Cordell – Cleaning – 22/02/09 to 16/03/09 - £150.00

Ikon Office Solutions – Copier meterage - £74.87 (inc. £9.77 VAT)

High Green Farming Ltd. – Gorse mowing - £379.50 (inc. £49.50 VAT)

Mr. D. Harrison – Chairman’s Allowance (half year) - £50.00 – Mr. Harrison had previously declared an interest in this matter.

6585 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

The Parish Council resolved to authorise payment of the above items and of the following items :-

Mrs. A.P. Halford - Petty Cash for March - £56.85

Wild Contracts – Tree Works at The Rocky - £1,315.00

Accentika Internet – Kempsey Website - £276.00 (inc. £36.00 VAT)

6586 CHEQUE NUMBER 02527

The Clerk pointed out that this cheque in the sum of £80.00 was made payable to Colliers Landscaping Services in respect of tree works at The Rocky. Mr. Collier senior had pointed out that the company did not have a bank account in this name and requested that the cheque should be made payable to himself. The Parish Council authorised the Clerk to issue a new cheque made payable to Mr. V. Collier.

6587 CONFIDENTIAL SESSION

The Parish Council resolved that in view of the nature of the business about to be transacted, that the public and Press should be excluded

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.31 p.m.

Signed at the next ensuing meeting of
Kempsey Parish Council

Chairman of such next ensuing meeting

6587 STAFF RELATED MATTER

(a) Annual Pay Rise for Assistants to the Clerk with effect from 1st April, 2009

The Parish Council noted that the current hourly rate for the Clerk's two Assistants was £7.10 per hour. The resolved that with effect from 1st April, 2009 this rate should be increased by 20p. per hour to £7.30 per hour.

(b) Lengthsman – Increase in charges to the Parish Council with effect from 1st April, 2009

The Parish Council resolved to increase the hourly rate which they paid to their self-employed Lengthsman by £1.00 per hour to £11.00 per hour with effect from 1st April, 2009.

(c) Clerk – National Joint Council – Final Salary Award for 2008/2009

The Parish Council resolved to pay their Clerk the additional 0.30% salary award recommended by the National Joint Council with effect from 1st April, 2008.

6588 TENANT RELATED MATTERS

(a) Magic Moments Day Nursery

The Community Centre Committee Chairman reported on the administrative difficulties being experienced as a result of the continued late payment of accounts sent to Magic Moments in respect of the hire of Room 1 and utility charges. The Parish Council agreed that his matter should be raised at the next meeting with Mrs. Chapman.

(b) The Hair Gallery – New Lease

The Community Centre Committee Chairman reported that the lease for the Hair Gallery needed to be renewed with an appropriate change of names on the new lease. On the proposal of Mr. Blackwell, seconded by Mrs. Hart the Parish Council authorised the start negotiations for a new lease.

14TH APRIL, 2009 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

OPEN FORUM

MR. R. BOWLEY FROM KERSWELL GREEN referred to the ongoing flooding problems at Kerswell Green and pointed out that despite lots of official visits there was still nowhere for the water to go. He asked when the problem drainage would be rectified? It was pointed out to Mr. Bowley that this was not a Parish Council matter.

MR. TONY GOODYEAR FROM KERSWELL GREEN asked if landowners had been notified of their legal obligations in respect of flooding? It was pointed out that this also was not a Parish Council matter. He also pointed out that trees were growing through the overhead power cables at Kerswell Green and could cause a power breakdown. The Clerk was asked to contact EON about this matter.

MR. R. BOWLEY pointed out that there was no fence on the southern boundary of Ashmoor Common and asked who could enforce its replacement? It was pointed out that the Parish Council had no responsibility in this matter and it was suggested that he should seek advice from DeFRA. The Chairman pointed out that he would be attending a meeting the following morning to discuss the problems of flooding at Kerswell Green and Baynhall.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER MRS. PAM GERRARD pointed out that on the morning of Saturday 4th April, a tractor and mower were cutting the Playing Field grass whilst 3 separate games of junior football were taking place. The Clerk was asked to draw this matter to the attention of the Sports Association and ask them to ensure that their contractor only mowed the grass during the week and not at weekends when matches or junior football training sessions were taking place.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER MRS. ANN HART complained about the large number of people who were allowing their dogs to foul the Playing Field.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBER MR. KEN BLACKWELL pointed out that a section of the grass area at The Oaks was now about 15 feet wide with an overgrowth of weeds. He was asked to draw this matter to the attention of the County Council who were believed to be the landowner.