

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**  
**HELD ON MONDAY 19<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2014 AT 7.30p.m.**  
**AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**PRESENT:** - Mr. J Michael (Elected as Chairman)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** - The attendance list indicated 27 parishioners were present.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** - Apologies were received from Cllr Stevens & Cllr Hay

**2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL PARISH MEETING:-**

The minutes from Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2013 had been previously circulated were signed as a true and correct record.

**3. GUEST SPEAKER – MR JACK HANSON FROM THE HIVE**

Mr. Hanson presented an interesting and informative talk on the Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service. He presented a general overview to the services offered together with a slide show presentation of specific historical/archeological interests within Kempsey focusing on flooding, planning, housing development and design. He concentrated on what is distinctive to the village of Kempsey looking out significant and important features and characteristics. He advertised Walkpast 2014 –A guided tour is scheduled to take place around Kempsey on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2014 from 2-5pm.

**4. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PARISH COUNCIL: –**

The Chairman referred to the Annual Newsletter recently distributed to households.

**5. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2011/12:-**

The annual accounts were distributed (subject to audit) for information only.  
Any queries please direct to the Clerk.

**6. POLICE REPORT:** - Sergeant Ian Blanchard confirmed for the period April 2013 to March 2014 there had been 83 crimes (73 last year) .The following Crime Statistics were quoted:-

19 Thefts from sheds and mowers

20 Vehicle Theft

10 Criminal

11 Non dwelling

3 Burglary dwelling

1 attempted burglary

5 harassments

57 anti-social behaviour

**Questions**

Q1. Cllr Patrick questioned could Section 106 monies be used to fund another police officer for Kempsey?

Q2. Cllr Michael continued to ask about the criteria for an extra police officer..

A1&2 Ian Blanchard suggested writing to The Chief Constable.

Q2. Mr Brookes asked how much Developers contribution to West Mercia Constabulary was going to be?

A2. Cllr Harrison confirmed this was going to be in the region of £150K.

Q3. Cllr Harrison questioned Ian Blanchard as to why the police were not interested in interviewing two witnesses regarding a recent burglary in Old Road North.

A4. Ian Blanchard confirmed he would refer this incident to the pro-active unit.

Q4. Cllr Sutton questioned has there been an improvement with police operations as a result of the police crime commissioners?

A4. Ian Blanchard confirmed PCC takes an interest in public engagement and life goes on.

**7. COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT:** - Cllr R Sutton

Reported on the extension to the gravel extraction site located between Kempsey and Severn Stoke.

He highlighted that savings in the region of £100 million need to be saved over the next four years advising that 85% of services would be provided externally. This was voted for on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2014. This could impact on the role of Councillors and The Parish Council.

The last year has been dominated by cuts to:-

- Highway Issues
- 60% budget for Care Services
- Bus Service Consultation and Review
- Preserving Library Services
- Scrutiny Group to examine the demand for the operation of food banks.

Areas not affected by cuts include:-

- Lengthsman Scheme
- Divisional Fund

## Questions

Q1. Which Services will remain at County?

A1. Children's Advisory Support Services and certain aspects of Financial Management

Cllr Sutton confirmed there will be space available at County Hall available to rent.

Mr Biddle suggested the viability of good liaison links in respect of transport.

## 8. DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT: - Cllr Rea confirmed he had nothing to report.

Cllr Harrison reported on

- Planning applications incurred over the last 12 months (60+).
- SWDP Phase 2

A discussion took place concerning planning and the SWDP Scheme.

## 9. DISCUSSIONS ARISING FROM REPORTS:-

Mr Brookes requested an update concerning the graveyard.

Cllr Michael confirmed a planning application is to be submitted to extend the existing site.

Mr Brookes questioned if an audit of land had been conducted within the churchyard.

Cllr Michael confirmed Bill Mason had carried out an audit.

Mr Brookes thanked the Parish Council for being involved in trying to prevent cuts in the Fire to The Service. The final decision is to be made in June 2014. He advised an additional £3.00 per year from each household could prevent the loss of a fire engine and help to save lives..

Mr Ellis confirmed residents at Stonehall Common had not received the Annual Report 2013/14. He confirmed the old method where Councillors hand delivered door to door was more successful, and requested if we could revert back to this method.

Cllr Michael confirmed this it was felt Councillors time was better served elsewhere.

An idea for the future would be to Mix and Match delivery methods.

Mrs. Coen offered her praise to The Parish Council in that they had made a great attempt to encourage awareness.

Mr Ward highlighted the need to promote communication links to sell Kempsey to the outside world.

Cllr Michael confirmed we are in the process of updating the website.

Cllr Geens requested a show of hands from parishioners present as an indication of support in respect of the graveyard extension.

The majority of people raised their hands to indicate support, with the exception of Cllr Harrison who declined from voting due to a conflict of interests as he would not be eligible to vote at MHDC.

Cllr Rea confirmed he had raised his hand to indicate support subject to knowing all the full facts.

Cllr Patrick confirmed she is in the process of analyzing the responses in respect of the Churchyard questionnaire.

The Chairman thanked parishioners for attending. He then closed the meeting at 9.38pm