



PARISH COUNCIL
Kempsey

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY 15th MAY 2017 AT 7.30p.m.
AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

PRESENT: - Mr. T Geens (Elected as Chairman)

IN ATTENDANCE: - The attendance list indicated 28 parishioners were present.

1. Welcome from the Chairman.
2. Apologies for absence – Cllr Frazer Cann, District Councillors Harrison & Michael Melodie Baker, Sharon Joyce, Joy Padden, Margaret Davies, Ann Patrick and PC Paul Kennedy.
3. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting from Monday 23rd May 2016 were signed as a true and correct record.
4. Annual Report of the Parish Council
The Chairman referred to the Annual Newsletter recently distributed.

‘At the last Parish Council Meeting in May I was honoured to be elected as Chairman for a further year. I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their confidence and support. We also appointed a new Vice-Chair, Cllr Ann Smith. Cllr Smith has worked hard during recent years on the Community Centres committee and on the Environment committee which she chaired. We welcome her to this new post.

I mentioned in April’s report that Welcome Packs have been circulated to all the new houses in our village. What I should also emphasise is that if you have new neighbours move into established houses within Kempsey parish, then they will be equally entitled to a Pack. If you know of someone in this situation then please ask for a pack at the Parish Office or the Vicarage.

Over the last couple of years, a lack of money has meant that St Mary’s churchyard has not been kept as tidy as hoped and the grass has grown long and prevented people accessing graves. Our Parish Church only has so much money to budget with and so some things have had to suffer. The Parish Council therefore decided to significantly increase its grant for churchyard maintenance as this is a matter that can affect all parishioners and not just church goers. We hope that you will see an improvement and be pleased.

There are problems at the Taylor Wimpey and Linden Homes sites in that they have not yet had approval for the Main Road alterations regarding the permanent junctions into their sites. The road is to be widened to allow a central reservation for vehicles turning right into the sites. This is fine except that we will be losing the bus stop laybys in that area. We think these laybys should be maintained, and also we have asked for some form of pedestrian crossing in that area. The official response from County Highways is that we can have neither. At the May Parish Council meeting we asked our newly elected County Councillor, Cllr Paul Middleborough, if he would look into this and try to change some minds at the County Council as losing our bus laybys and no pedestrian crossing will, we strongly believe, lead to road safety issues.

Whilst on the subject of the County Council, I would like to thank Mr Roger Sutton for all his dedicated work as County Councillor over the last four years, and for looking after Kempsey’s interests at County Hall.

As I write, we have just had confirmation that planning permission for the four dwellings adjacent the Main Road, at the Lioncourt Homes site at the north of the village, has been refused on the grounds that they encroach into the Significant Gap, between us and Worcester, as outlined in the South Worcestershire Development Plan. This is very good news for Kempsey as we need to maintain this Gap as long as possible, and not allow a precedent for further development into it.’

An examiner has been appointed and started work on the Neighbourhood Development Plan this morning.

Cllr Michael is checking the contact details in the Community Emergency Plan.

The pumping station is working well and extra pumps have been installed with good footpath access down to the riverside.

5. Police Report – No report available.
6. County Council Report – County Councillor Paul Middlebrough.
Confirmed his role is to promote and support individuals in the Parish addressing concerns such as Infrastructure, Highway Matters, Flooding and Education.
7. District Council Report – A message from Cllr Harrison reported that it has been published that Kempsey Neighbourhood Plan is to be discussed at Executive Committee on 18.07.17.
The Chairman confirmed we value the assistance of our District Councillors and thanked them for all their hard work and efforts.
8. Discussions Arising from Reports:-
Mike Biddle
Q. Can the eroded verges in Brookend Lane (from The Bridge to Hatfield Brook) be inspected before an accident occurs?
A. County Cllr Middlebrough noted this request.
Seeking additional volunteers to join the Patients Participation Group at Haresfield House. Any person interested please contact Mr Biddle.
Mrs Kelly
Q. What percentage of Social Housing is on the Lioncourt and David Wilson sites?
A. The legal necessity is 40% on each site.
Q. Where will all the school children go?
A. Kempsey Primary School has approval for 3 new classrooms.
Q. Referring to the 2800 development by the Ketch, will schools be built before housing?
A. The education system is being looked into.

Mary Williams

Commented there is no further room for development at Hanley High School which is the nominated school from Kempsey Primary School.

Wendy Coen

Mrs Coen thanked Councillors and the Clerk for their hard work and efforts in serving the community.

Roy Clarke

Q. When is the cycle way/walkway from the village boundary to the Ketch roundabout likely to be complete? What are the plans to access across the bypass?

- A. There should be infrastructure money available to carry out this work.
At this stage, unsure of the timeframe. Design for a footpath underneath the Carrington Bridge is planned.

Penny Warren

As a new comer to the village, expressed her appreciation for receipt of a Welcome Pack.

Terry Ward

A large amount of rubbish has been revealed on the grass verge by Whits End.

Due to the location this does not fall within the PACT remit for a litter pick.

It is absolutely disgraceful; please can this be referred to District Council.

9. Statement of Accounts 2016/17

The Annual Accounts were distributed (Subject to Audit) for information only.

The Clerk/RFO confirmed the closing balance and earmarked reserves as of 31.03.17. The Chairman updated Parishioners on the purpose of the earmarked reserves currently set aside for Community Infrastructure Projects.

Questions

Q. Pat Whitehead referred to the 'Variance Figure' set against Room Hire/Rents stating that this should be positive and not negative.

A. The Clerk agreed that this figure should be positive.

Q. Joy Clee questioned the value of the 'Miscellaneous Receipts'

A. The Clerk confirmed she would supply a breakdown of how this figure had derived.

The Chairman thanked parishioners for attending. Meeting closed at 8.22 pm

Sharon Baxter (Clerk)

16th May 2017

Signed Chairman..... Date