

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH MEETING OF KEMPSEY PARISH COUNCIL.
HELD ON MONDAY 9TH DECEMBER 2013
AT 7:30pm AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

PRESENT: - Cllr Michael (Chairman), Cllr Stevens, Cllr Gerrard, Cllr Campbell, Cllr Patrick, Cllr Hay, Cllr Hart, Cllr Bowley, Cllr Rea, Cllr Geens & Cllr Bevan.

IN ATTENDANCE: - District Councilor Mr. Harrison, County Councilor Mr Sutton and 6 members of the public.

1. **Apologies:** Cllr Bannister (Work), Cllr Blackwell (Illness) – Accepted
2. **Declaration of Interests:**
 1. Register of Interests: Councilors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
 2. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI): **None**.
 3. Other Disclosable Interests (ODI): Cllr Gerrard and Cllr Bevan disclosed an interest in Item 13a.
3. To Consider Written Requests from Councillors' for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011): **None**

The meeting was adjourned for Public Question Time, notes of which are appended to these minutes.

4. Having been previously circulated the minutes of The Parish Council meeting of Monday 11th November 2013 were signed as a true and correct record.

5. Correspondence for Information:

1. Subsidised Bus Service Review 2013 from Worcestershire County Council
2. Parking Permit for use in Priory Road or Brunel House Car Parks – Official Parish Council Business only.
3. Letter from Iain Selkirk offering his services as an internal auditor.
4. Thank you letter from Rev.David Hassell.
5. Copy Email from Matt Roberts, Signature Gardens offering his services for 2014 grass cutting.
6. The General Power of Competence.
7. Letter from Hanley Castle High School regarding future levels of subsidy for bus services in Worcestershire.
8. Letter from Malvern Hills regarding Council Tax Precepts 2014-2015
9. Email from Malverns Hills enclosing copy letter from Lower Broadheath Parish Council.
10. Email from John Evans (FCRM Advisor) regarding Channel Conveyance works.

6. Reports from representatives:

6.1 Police Report - Crime Statistics were reported as follows:-

- 1 Catalytic converter has been stolen.
- 1 Attempted Burglary.
- 1 Theft of a trailer.

6.2 County Councilor

Cll Sutton reported on the proposed cut backs to the bus services throughout the region. He suggested the consultation be well publicized and people should be encouraged to respond.

There will be public engagement with regard to the improvement to the Southern Link Road and improvements to the Ketch roundabout.

Cllr Sutton confirmed the blocked culvert at Kerswell Green is the responsibility of the County Council however he pointed out that budgets are tight and works have to be prioritized.

Cllr Sutton reported back that if the closing of the road to the Ford, would take a lot of procedural involvement including surveys.

The bench for the late Bob Bullock should not be a problem however there is procedures to follow.

Parish Councillors made the County Councillor aware of the following:-

Cllr Patrick.

The bus company may be overcharging. A return ticket from Kempsey to Worcester shows the return as being Upton upon Severn. She questioned if the companies are being over paid in their subsidies'.

Cllr Bowley commented that the culvert at Kerswell Green is not blocked, its decaying.

Cllr Campbell commented that the footpath at Plovers Rise appears to be collapsing and may need some attention.

6.3 District Councillor. Mr Rea.

Nothing to report.

District Councillor. Mr Harrison.

Cllr Harrison mentioned the proposed changes to the bus service and felt it would be advantageous to send out forms for the consultation. The more people that respond the better.

He attended an appeal by Lion Court Developments and was disappointed that no members of the public and no members of the Parish Council were present. He pointed out that he has made his views known to the inspector with regard to play and sporting areas.

The application for 10 houses was approved under delegated powers subject to agreements being reached on various contributions.

The councilor discussed affordable housing and time frames for local people to purchase or rent before they are available to the wider general public. He suggested that the Parish Council write to request a time frame for affordable housing on any new application.

The District Councilor confirmed that affordable housing is built to the same specification as other buildings and its the Housing Development Officer who decides the placement of affordable housing.

6.4 Neighbourhood Development Plan Update *(Mr. Mike Biddle)*

Mr Biddle confirmed a report had been submitted to the Parish (Attached). He is also contactable at any reasonable hour.

The Neighborhood Development Plan is very close to draft stage.

Mr Biddle discussed the Supplementary Planning Document and the maintenance of open spaces. Developers are thinking of having a management company look after these.

Cllr Stevens asked if any help was needed from Parish Councilors to which Mr Biddle replied "Most definitely".

Mr Biddle informed that the local vicar wants to put the church open for community use and could be part of the plan. Cllr Michael informed the council that he has had meetings with the vicar and does appear to have radical plans. He suggested all parties should speak and be in more unison.

7. Reports from Committees (Update Only):

7.1 Recreation Committee

Cllr Campbell reported that the work on the drive at Plovers Rise was completed and overseen by Cllr Blackwell. The fencing has been repaired by Roger Martin.

The Sports Association have an obligation to paint the containers and should have a letter sent to them to remind them.

Cllr Geens raised some concerns regarding the work on the drive at Plovers Rise and suggested future works should be closely monitored.

7.2 Commons and Hams Committee

Cllr Bowley informed the Council that one complaint had been received about horses going onto farm land. They were put in touch with the tenant of the land as this is a civil matter and nothing to do with the Parish Council.

An external contractor known and acceptable to Natural England can produce a management plan for Ashmoor Common at an estimated cost of about £1000.00 for which funding is available from the ring fenced annual grant from Natural England. This to be discussed further.

7.3 Community Centre

Cllr Geens informed that the Parish Council that the car park has been marked out by the County Council at a greatly reduced cost of £250.

The heating service has been done and a radiator is now in the office which is now working. Quotations are being sought for an outside tap to be installed.

A new booking by an aerobics group has been taken on for Wednesday evening.

The new gas contract has been signed. Cllr Bowley pointed out that this still has to come back to the council for approval. The renewal of the contract had been an oversight and we should ensure it doesn't happen again.

Cllr Bowley also asked for an update on the Magic Moments lease. He was informed that this had been done. He pointed out that this has not been approved by the Council. Cllr Geens stated he believed he had been given approval by the Council to sign the document. It was suggested that the minutes be checked to confirm this. Cllr Rea pointed out that a copy of the lease is available for inspection by Councillors in the office.

7.4 Environment Committee

Cllr Stevens informed the Council that bulb planting in conjunction with Kempsey Primary School had taken place. Approximately 900 bulbs have been planted in the Rocky. Wild life improvements have also been undertaken.

Two benches have been installed in the Rocky and signage is to be made up.

No lengthmans report was available.

7.5 Planning Committee

Nothing to report.

Cllr Bowley asked if there had been any application for change of use at the old Farmers Arms. Cllr Patrick confirmed she was not aware of any.

A discussion took place with regard to the ongoing works at the only shop in the village. It was agreed that the works are ongoing and any concerns should be raised after completion.

7.6 F&GP Committee -

Nothing to report.

8. Chairman's Report

Cllr Michael informed the Council that the notice board for Broomhall should be with us soon.

As part of the emergency plan, additional equipment will be purchased for the Community Centre.

With regard to the Youth Centre, all Trustees with the exception of Joy Clee and Roy Clark have resigned. A meeting will take place in January.

Cllr Bowley informed the Chairman that he had attended a talk about insurances and the lady is prepared to address the councillors. It was agreed this would be a good idea. He also pointed out that the Parish Council is not protected under the FSA banking guarantee.

Cllr Geens suggested that any food that forms part of the emergency plan be given away prior to its use by date instead of being thrown away.

Cllr Rea informed the Chairman that the report from outside bodies has been deferred until next month's meeting.

Cllr Harrison (DC) informed the Chairman that the District Council supply the finance for the food and not the food itself.

9. Commons & Hams:

- 1 Motion to accept a quote for the selected clearance of Scrub and Gorse on Kempsey Common (Cllr Rea/Cllr Bowley)
As detailed in the rational circulated with the agenda, 2 quotations have been received. Company 1 viewed the job. Company 2 did not.
The proposal by Cllr Bowley was to accept the quotation from company No.1 for the value of £2900. This was seconded by Cllr Rea. This was voted upon and carried unanimously. The successful contractor was "Stump Cutters".
2. Ashmoor Common culvert. Motion to approve contract for clearance of block material within the culvert at the entrance to Ashmoor Common (Cllr Bowley). A rational was circulated with the agenda. Cllr Bowley gave some background to the history of the pipe. He pointed out that there is no guarantee with this type of works. He proposed to accept quotation No.3 for half days work (5 hours) for the removal of debris at a cost of £450. This was seconded by Cllr Rea. This was voted upon and carried unanimously. The successful contractor was "On Site".

10. Community Centre:

1. Proposal to accept quotation from electricians for relocating the Community Centre distribution unit

(fuse box) from the Nursery to the Community Centre main corridor. (see attached) (Cllr Geens)

Cllr Geens proposed that quotation No.4 be accepted for £1332. This was seconded by Cllr Gerrard. With the exception of Cllr Bowley who abstained, all Councillors voted for the proposal. The motion was carried.

2. Proposal to accept quotation from plasterers to remove loose plaster from the Nursery staff toilet and re-plaster the walls. (see attached) (Cllr Geens) **This motion was deferred.**
3. Proposal regarding security of the Community Centre. Should a door bell be fitted to the rear entrance door so that the door can be kept locked during meetings and group sessions. (Cllr Geens)
The motion was discussed and concerns were raised about fire safety.
Cllr Geens tabled the motion. However this was not seconded and the **motion failed.**

11. Environment Committee

- 1 Update on the Rocky Improvement Scheme (Cllr Stevens)
A proposal was made by Cllr Stevens to request funding, this was seconded by Cllr Rea. The motion was carried.
- 2 No Report on Lengthmans Activities
- 3 It was agreed to formally ask Cllr Sutton to investigate funding for footpath improvements to overgrown hedges.

12. General Power of Competence. Motion to adopt the General Power of Competence as defined in the Localism Act 2011 section 1 to 8. (see attached) (Cllr Bowley)

Cllr Bowley informed the Council that we have at least two thirds of the Council elected and have a qualified Clerk. Therefore we meet the requirements for General Powers of Competence. He tabled a motion to adopt the General Powers of Competence. This was seconded by Cllr Rea and carried unanimously.

13. Planning:

Application Ref: 13/01443/HOU

Proposal: Erect a brick and UPVC porch at the front of the house, with sloping tiled roof

Location: 6 Oakfield Drive, Kempsey, Worcestershire, WR5 3PP

No Objections. Cllr Rea abstained as did the two Councillors who declared an ODI.

Application Ref: 13/01445/HOU

Proposal: Two Storey Front, side and rear extension

Location: The Orchards, Green Street, Kempsey, Worcestershire, WR5 3QB

Differed to the next planning meeting.

For Information, Approval to Planning Application:

Application Ref: 13/01226/HOU

Proposal: Demolition of existing single storey garage and replacement with two storey double garage

Location: 84 Main Road, Kempsey, Worcester, WR5 3JY

Application Ref: 13/00692/FUL

Proposal: Change of use to B2 garage and MOT service centre and erection of new garage building.

Location: Land adj Baynhall Garage, Formerly In Plants) Old Road South, Kempsey, Worcester, WR5 3NJ

14. Finance and General Purposes:

1. Proposal to organise CALC Chairmanship Training for all current chairmen plus any other council members who wish to attend – (Cllr Stevens).
This was proposed at a cost of £150 by Cllr Stevens and seconded by Cllr Patrick. The motion was carried.

15. To discuss:

1. The removal of kissing gates on village footpaths. Removal of these and similar items should not be requested to MHDC before due discussion has been taken place in full council. (Cllr Geens)

Cllr Geens pointed out that gates have been removed by the County Council without any consultation with the Parish Council.

Cllr Rea pointed out that he believes the County Council does not have any obligation to consult the Parish Council. The Parish Council could write to the County Council to ask for the reasons why the gates were removed, however, it would be prudent to speak to the County Cllr R. Sutton in the first instance.

It was agreed that Cllr Geens would ask the County Council for advice.

2. A meeting to be held between Malvern Hills Planning Department and Parish Councillors regarding Section 106 agreement procedures and the consideration of a long term strategic view for Kempsey (Cllr Michael)

It was agreed that Cllr Rea will arrange for Duncan Rudge to give a talk on Section 106 agreements. Councillors should let the office know suitable dates.

3. Discuss procedures and responsibility relating to actions approved by the Council including letting of contracts (Cllr Bowley)

Cllr Bowley suggested a column is added to minutes to include an action by column. It was agreed in principle that the office should be informed. (Not voted upon).

4. Discuss potential threat of cessation of some activities that undertaken by Worcestershire County Council and Malvern Hills District Council (Cllr Bowley)

Cllr Bowley proposed a strongly worded letter should be sent from the Parish Council to both County and District Councils. This was seconded by Cllr Stevens. The motion was carried with one abstention by Cllr Rea.

5. To discuss the proposed withdrawal of bus services in Worcestershire, including removal of Worcester via Kempsey, Upton services. (Cllr Rea/Cllr Patrick)

Cllr Patrick pointed out that we currently have an almost hourly service Monday to Saturday, but no Sunday or Bank Holiday services. Evening services are few.

We will have approximately an extra 400 houses within the next few years where developers will be asked to make large payments to both Worcester Transport Strategy and the County Council so they can improve the bus service!

If these services are cut parishioners will be unable to get to medical appointments in both Worcester and Upton. The elderly will become increasingly isolated, workers will be unable to get to work and students wont be able to get to college.

We must write to the County Council expressing our total objection to these proposals and encourage all residents to complete the online questionnaire. Copies are available in the Parish Office for residents that don't have internet access.

We cannot allow the County Council to leave us without a regular bus service.

The bus company should also be asked why they repeatedly over charge return fares back to Kempsey.

16. Proposal to record outcome of discussions as well as decisions in the minutes. (Cllr Geens)

Cllr Geens informed the Council that minutes should record the discussions. Cllr Rea pointed out it is difficult to record discussions. **This item was differed for advice fro CALC.**

17. Proposal to make a financial contribution to St Marys Church in respect of the proposed graveyard extension. Details of estimates to be supplied for consideration of a % contribution (Cllr

Michael) After a lengthy discussion this item was **withdrew**.

18. Proposal to assist with Planning Application for graveyard extension. (Cllr

Michael) This item was **withdrawn**.

19. **Finance:**

1. To consider payments to be made as per schedule distributed.

A proposal to accept the payments was made by Cllr Michael and seconded by Cllr Campbell. The motion was carried unanimously.

2. Bank Reconciliation Statement Balance – For Information.

20. **Date of Next Meeting: Monday 13th January 2014 at Kempsey Community Centre at 7.30pm**

Meeting Closed at 10:32 pm

Cllr Hay
(Clerk Absent)

Signed _____(Chairman) Date _____

Standing Orders were adjourned for Public Question Time

Mary Hall (The Limes)

Mary Hall made comment on the Lion Court Development regarding Play Areas. She asked for assurance that they will be of good quality and variety and safely located away from the brook with suitable parking to prevent parking in 'The Limes'

Cllr Patrick responded by informing the council that there are plans to have a wild flower meadow in a safe location and she has asked for assurances from Lion Court for adequate parking to be provided.

Cllr Michael informed the public that the Council will be negotiating for the recreation areas to become the responsibility of the Parish Council.

Joy Clee (Brookend Lane)

Joy Clee made reference to P.A.C.T. She commented that they could do with notice board at the Parish Hall for other users.

She also suggested that a 'Welcome Pack' be produced for new people to the village.

Cllr Patrick responded that assurances have been given from Lion Court that all new residents will receive a welcome pack.

Standing Orders were re-imposed.