



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 11 MAY 2026 AT 7.00 PM
AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

PRESENT: - Cllr Waller (Chairman), Cllr Stevens, Cllr Gardener, Cllr Cooke, Cllr Plummer, Cllr Biddle, Cllr Varley, Cllr White and Cllr Clamp.

IN ATTENDANCE: - District Cllr Harrison and District Cllr Michael Sharon Dunn - Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer plus two parishioners.

1. Election of Chairperson (and signing Declaration of Acceptance of Office) - Cllr Waller was re-elected unopposed as Chairman and his Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed.
2. Election of Vice Chairperson (and signing Declaration of Acceptance of Office) - Cllr Stevens was re-elected unopposed as Vice Chairman and his Declaration of Acceptance of Office was duly signed.
3. Apologies - County Councillor Allen (attending Hill Croome Annual Parish meeting) - Received.
4. Declarations of Interest
 - Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
 - To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature - Cllr Plummer and Cllr Clamp declared a Pecuniary Interest being neighbours of the proposed new Community & Sports Centre.
 - To declare any Other Disclosable Interests on items on the agenda and their nature - None
5. To Consider Written Requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) - None

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Notes from Public Question Time are appended to these minutes.
County Councillor & District Councillors' reports were noted.

Action

6. Minutes:
One correction was made to minute reference 7. Amended to read ... The report is to be circulated to District Cllr *Harrison* and County Cllr Allen.
Having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 13.04.2026 were signed as a true and accurate record, taking into account this correction.
7. Correspondence for Information: - Under General Data Protection Regulations names of identifiable subject/matter withheld
 1. 21.04.2026 CIL Parish Payments - £40444.99 - relating to Brookend Lane for up to 40 dwellings.
 2. 15.04.2026 Dame Harriet Baldwin MP Annual Report to Parish Councils
 3. 23.04.2026 WCC Kempsey School (Post Office Lane, Ellsdon, Ellsdon Rise, Oakfield Drive) - Proposed waiting restrictions Traffic Regulation Order - Comments requested by 21.05.2026

4. Correspondence from Open Reach Gigabit Fibre Project - Access Request Across Common Land
 5. Kempsey Tennis Club - Notification of Works to Court 3.
 6. Friends of Kempsey Primary School Fireworks Event Request to use Plovers Rise Playing Fields on Saturday 7 November 2026
8. **RESOLVED:** To allow Friends of Kempsey Primary School to hold a Fireworks Event on Saturday 7 November 2026, at Plovers Rise Playing Fields subject to signature of a hire agreement for the site and F&GP approval of an appropriate risk assessment, insurance documentation and any other required documentation.
9. Finance
1. Payment of accounts as per schedule were authorised.
Please note the Nisbets invoice included the cost of some of the outdoor furniture for the Pavilion Community Café, as previously authorised.
 2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement - For Information Only.
 3. Capital Budget - For Information Only
 4. Budget Monitoring to 31.03.26 - Reviewed and agreed.
10. Committee Reports Updates:
1. Finance & General Purposes (F&GP): Cllr Waller
Next meeting to take place on Tuesday 19th May 2026 at 12.30pm at Kempsey Community Centre.
 - a. **RESOLVED:** To make a donation of £500 to South Worcestershire Citizens' Advice (SWCA) - correspondence item indicated on the April Parish Council agenda.
 2. Community Centres: Cllr Stevens
The potholes in the car park at Kempsey Community Centre have been repaired. Long-term consideration is to be given to resurface the whole car park when budgets are next formulated.
Various options are being explored to enhance the security to the entrances to the playing field at Plovers Rise. Electric entrance barriers, height restrictors and retractable bollards are being investigated. The precise locations of the underground services need to be identified.
 3. Environment: Cllr Plummer - An Environment Committee meeting took place on 1st May 2026. The items below were discussed:
 - Councillor Stevens & Plummer agreed to meet the new Maintenance Technician at the playground to go through and make a plan for all the items from recent inspections that need improvement/repair. Request from Parishioner for a zip-wire at the playing field (agreed to look into this before next financial year)
 - The committee agreed to order a CCTV camera for placement in the Rocky and this has been done. Exact location for fixing to be determined. Signs will also go up at the entrances.
 - We have received the offer of a £20k grant to replace one of the Rocky bridges and have now progressed to getting ITQs from suitable grounds work companies and bridge kit manufacturers. These will be assessed at our next committee meeting with our preferred option to be brought to main council for approval.
 - WCC have confirmed that we will be getting two bus shelters (on either side of the road) for the south end of the village. It was suggested that consideration should be given to locating both shelters on the east side of the A38 to increase shelter space for school children.
 - Re-jig of noticeboards - shop and pavilion noticeboards being replaced and improvements to other boards planned.
 - a. **RESOLVED:** To authorise the Clerk to submit a letter of authority to the FCC Communities Foundation to the effect the Clerk is authorised to sign the funding agreement for a replacement bridge in the Rocky.

Clerk

NS/EP

Clerk

- Update from LKWP: Cllr Clamp - A meeting took place on 30 April 2026
The following was discussed:
Watering of Planters & Raised Beds
Nuyard Garden Centre have offered to KPC to sponsor the planters i.e. essentially to plant and maintain them, in return for advertising.
Bedding plants - whether and where to plant bedding plants was discussed. The consensus was that there should be at least some colourful bedding plants.
4000 bulbs have been ordered for Autumn planting.
Ideas for 2027 bigger Daffodil weekend event
Village Sign Project - Pre-planning application has been submitted for the proposed location near the bus stop outside the tin hut.
Planting along fence by new crossing - The plants are too small and possibly will not survive and may take too long to mature.
The Rocky - A seating/picnic area with bench is being considered, together with some reduction of canopy, with advice from the tree officer.
Lights for Christmas Tree - Expand on lights, plus replace existing ones which are failing slowly.

4. Planning: Cllr Gardener

Planning Applications considered at the Planning Committee meeting held on 05 May 2026

- Application: M/26/00514/HP - *Despite noting possible discrepancies in the plans, we had No Objection to a single storey rear and side extension at 58 The Limes, Kempsey.*
- Application; M/26/00604/HP - *There was No Objection to an extension to an existing front porch and a side veranda extension at The Cottage, Kerswell Green.*
- Application: 21/02274/FUL and Application: M/26/00540/CCO - Both items concerned additional information submitted following conditions attached to the planning permission for 79 dwellings on land at the former Astons Coaches site, Clerkenleap, Bath Road. They included a Travel Plan, Residential Welcome Travel Pack and noise assessments for several of the dwelling plots. *All were Noted without the need for further comment.*
- Application: M/22/00714/FUL - Proposed demolition of the existing buildings and the erection of 48 affordable homes, including associated vehicular access, car parking, landscaping and other associated works on land at Bath Road, Broomhall. *We have reported on this application on several occasions and the objections we have made.*

It has yet to be decided. Severn Trent Water had previously made a Holding Objection since the development may have a detrimental impact on the foul drainage network and treatment works with potential to cause flooding or pollution. This refers to the network to, and the treatment works in Bromwich Road, Worcester, on the opposite bank of the River Severn, not that serving Kempsey village.

Although STW continues to have concerns, a developer has a right to connect to the public foul network at the nearest or most convenient point and STW then has a statutory duty to reinforce the network to take the additional flow. Investigations are underway and if improvements are required they will be undertaken. There is no planned investment, but STW feels they cannot object to the application. However, they ask for conditions to require drainage plans of both foul and surface water disposal to be submitted for approval and then implemented before any of the dwellings are occupied.

Nationally the pollution of rivers is of increasing concern. While STW cannot object, the risk of flooding and pollution from new development are still material considerations for the local planning authority when deciding planning applications. Government advice is that conditions of the type requested by STW may be a way forward, but local authorities may also require the developer to first provide information on how they will deal with sewage from its development.

Committee agreed that MHDC be advised to adopt a precautionary principle. The developer should show that the network and treatment plants have adequate capacity to cater for the development without risk of flooding or pollution before granting planning permission but in any event any of the dwellings should not be first occupied until satisfactory foul drainage is in place.

Request for 3 new street names for housing development on land at Bath Road, Broomhall (Planning Permission 21/01217/FUL)

This request was deferred from the last meeting for several reasons. It was also mentioned at the last KPC meeting with an open request for ideas from members for possible names. None was received. We considered several possible themes based on the flora found on the site by the Ecological Appraisal which accompanied the application. Members felt that the names of grasses and the more obscure wildflowers found provided an appropriate local context. Additionally, there is sufficient variety for the same theme to be followed for further development likely to adjoin and be connected to the scheme.

We therefore recommend that Cleavers Close, Yarrow Drive and Campion Way be the three street names requested.

5. Commons and Recreation: Cllr Cooke

Cllr Cooke reported at the last meeting that KPC had been approached by an out of Parish men's football team for pitch space at Plovers Rise Playing fields. After discussions with KCFC, it appears that the women's team that played a few games last year are now going to stay and a Parish resident is also forming new a men's team. Cllr Cooke has requested contact details from KCFC, however, if these local teams do play, there is unlikely to be space for an out of Parish team as well.

It was also reported that the new cricket season has begun. Development of the square continues and new sight screens have been purchased by the club. KACC now have trained youth badge coaches and training for young players is expected to be launched in June. The Tennis Club has received grants from MHDC and has carried out both lighting improvements and resurfacing of court 3.

Kempsey Common: a government-funded infrastructure project known as Project Gigabit, aims to deliver upgraded Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) broadband to hard-to-reach properties. At present, the properties are served by a copper armored cable that runs across the common. The current cable is buried, however, due to its current condition and limitations, it is no longer suitable for use in delivering the upgraded fibre service. In order to proceed with the installation of the new fibre network, Openreach Engineers need to install new ducting and cable across the common to connect into the existing BT apparatus already located on site. This should be relatively straight-forward and the land will be returned to its current state. **Stonehall Common:** similar work on this common will be delivered by overhead cables and will only require the cutting/pruning of a few trees.

- a. The initial proposal was modified to read 'Proposal to approve the works across Stonehall and Kempsey Common to upgrade delivery of the internet fibre service subject to F&GP Committee approval of the clarifications from Openreach. This was agreed and taken to a vote.

RESOLVED: To approve the works across Stonehall and Kempsey Common to upgrade delivery of the internet fibre service subject to F&GP Committee approval of the clarifications from Openreach.

F&GP

6. Infrastructure Committee: Cllr Waller

Planning application M/25/00408/FUL issues update

Highways - The final recommendation from WCC Highways dated 1 April was posted on the MHDC website on 14 April. Contrary to their earlier position, they have settled on a recommendation to refuse planning permission. A rebuttal of the Highways recommendation has been sent to the MHDC Planning Case Officer. This has not yet appeared on the MHDC website.

Ecology - Further correspondence with Blade Landscape Architects regarding comments on the submitted Ecology and Biodiversity Net Gain reports from the MHDC Biodiversity Officer, including the photos of the previous land cultivation and plans identifying the boundary of the Severn & Avon Vales Biodiversity Delivery Area which runs across the site. Blade's Senior Ecologist undertook a site visit to the community land on 7 May to reassess the diversity of plant species along the field margins and appreciate the overall layout of the site.

At the visit, a useful conversation was had on the possible reporting requirements for Habitat Maintenance & Monitoring (HMM Plan) and for Ecology Maintenance and Monitoring (EMM Plan) over the required 30-year period.

A revised landscaping report and an updated BNG report are expected shortly with the HMMP and EMMP expected to be pre-commencement conditions, along with a badger monitoring plan. These are planned for September.

Exolum - KPC has formally and at some length declined to give an undertaking to pay Exolum's legal costs to establish a lease for the ground occupied by the oil pipeline and its protection zone. The Case Officer has been advised that KPC considers all other matters relating to the pipeline to have been agreed with Exolum, including the wording of a condition to be applied to the planning permission. KPC has again requested the company to withdraw its objection to the development, first posted by their agent Fischer German in March 2025. This has not yet appeared on the MHDC website.

Other consultee responses - Outstanding responses to the South Worcestershire Land Drainage Partnership, WCC Lead Local Authority regarding flood risk, the Worcestershire Fire Service and Sport England were all submitted by Calfordseaden with KPC input during April and are posted on the MHDC website.

Pump track - Receipt of an updated and complete set of plans for the pump track from Clark & Kent Constructors Ltd was completed on 20 April and the Phase 1 and Final Phase site plans have been updated by Calfordseaden accordingly. These will be added to the planning application shortly. The area of the pump track was pegged out with the assistance of Cllrs Plummer and Stevens prior to the above site visit by Blade's Ecologist. Negotiations are ongoing with Clark & Kent as to the final cost for construction of the pump track now that no work this month is required on site. Cllr Waller attended the meeting at the Battenhall pump track on 1 May and gained some useful insights into antisocial behavior at that pump track and in public open spaces in general from talking with the police at the event. It appears that the ASB incidents at the are mostly related to the characteristics of the site and the position being taken by nearby residents.

(District Cllr Michael left the meeting here at 8.50 PM)

11. Update on funding projects: Cllr Waller

1. Youth Centre Energy Efficiency - Relocation of the timber from the cutting back of trees to the south of the Youth Centre into the western tree zone remains to be carried out by the contractor. The invoice for all of the tree works remains unpaid.
The solar panel installer is proposing to start on 22 June constructing the base for the electrical enclosure on the west wall of the building. Once the base is set and the enclosure is installed, work can proceed with the installation of the solar panels and other electrical components. NGED approval for the export of solar electricity from the array to the National Grid is awaited.
2. IT and Youth Hub - A Zoom meeting including the Deputy Clerk and three councillors was held with the company proposing a turnkey project (Contractor 1) on 17 April to review updated plans for the building (changes requested by the F&GP Committee) that had been provided by the company. A number of other matters were discussed including air source heat pump heating, electrical sockets layout, a wish list of added value items, as well as next steps. Responses to further queries from the Parish Office on the proposed contract arrangements are awaited. Once all queries have been satisfied, KPC will need to place an order with Contractor 1 accompanied by a deposit of 30% of the contract value. It is proposed to await signature of the LGS Grant Agreement by MHDC before the order is placed.
To that end MHDC has supplied a draft Grant Agreement in the standard format as used in the Energy Efficiency project above. The project specific requirements under Schedule 2 of the Agreement is held by the Parish Office. An annual progress report will be required on these topics for the next 5 years. The latest start date for the project is given as end June.

The quotation included £82,273 for groundwork and services £77,597 for the modular building. As both elements are being delivered by the same provider, a combined procurement saving of £6,593 has been applied, which brings the total project cost to £153,227 being fully funded by MHDC (no match funding required from KPC).

- a. **RESOLVED:** To progress with the quotation from Anmer Construction Limited for the design, build and installation of a new IT/Youth Hub at Plovers Rise Playing Fields for inclusion in the Community Facility Legacy Grant Scheme Agreement.

3. Pump track - Please refer to Infrastructure Committee Report

4. Update on the refurbishment of the Sports Pavilion

A list of the potential works to feature in the refurbishment project prepared by the Deputy Clerk were reviewed at an on-site meeting on 22 April 2026. A surveyor's report shows no structural damage to the internal roof timbers due to water ingress from the leaking Velux windows. Works on the roof were considered to be the main priority and an ITQ to tile over all the existing roof windows except the one over the kitchen has been prepared, which includes the replacement of this window with a modern electrically operated opening window to maintain adequate ventilation in the kitchen area. The ITQ requests two quotes, one for works on both faces of the roof and one for works on the north face only.

A further ITQ is in preparation for the installation of 'tile' type solar panels on the south facing roof only. These would replace some of the existing roof tiles with no risk of exceeding the maximum weight loading on the roof.

Other possible components of the refurbishment remain to be costed.

The latest version of MHDC's S106 Grant Application Form has been received. Testimonials from the users of the pavilion and an 'added community value' justification of the works will be required.

12. Update on the Pavilion Community Café:
Sales, expenditure, volunteer numbers and compliance updates were reviewed.
An item is to feature on the next F&GP Committee agenda to discuss future operating proposals.
13. Chairman's Report: Cllr Waller
- Kempsey Times - June edition deadline is Friday 15 May 2026
 - Annual Parish Meeting - Thursday 21 May 2026 at 7.30pm at Kempsey Community Centre
14. **RESOLVED:** To accept dates/times and location of full Council Meetings for 2026/27.
(May be subject to amendment in exceptional circumstances).
Please note Parish Council meetings take place on the second Monday of each month at 7.00pm usually at Kempsey Community Centre.

RESOLVED: Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meeting(s)) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press from discussions only in respect of agenda item 15. as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

15. The initial proposal was modified to read 'Proposal to authorise the Clerk to sign the new lease relating to The Hair Gallery, subject to the extension of the term of the lease and the review of the final lease by the F&GP Committee. The modification was agreed on and then taken to a vote.

RESOLVED: To authorise the Clerk to sign the new lease relating to The Hair Gallery, subject to the extension of the term of the lease and the review of the final lease by the F&GP Committee.

Meeting Closed at 9.40 PM

Signed Chairman..... Date

Standing Orders were adjourned.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Parishioners expressed interest in the pump track asking if MHDC now has all the relevant reports required, whether all queries have been answered and when construction is likely to take place.

Cllr Waller confirmed, aside from WCC Highways, all queries had now been answered with the exception of biodiversity which is currently being progressed.

Construction of the pump track is likely to happen in the first quarter of next year.

A parishioner expressed a personal interest that they would like to see the Pavilion Community Café open for another day or two. She was advised that the Parish Council were aware of new proposals, which will be considered at the next F&GP Committee meeting taking place on 19th May 2026.

District Councillor David Harrison - Nothing to report

District Councillor John Michael

Advised that the road under the motorway junction at the Marlbank had been cleared and the litter collected

Thank you to the Lengthsman for clearing the overgrown vegetation in Meadow Close.

He confirmed he had been unsuccessful in having the grass verge cut in Church Street as this was not within scope and suggested perhaps in the short term that the Lengthsman could attend to it.

County Councillor Martin Allen - (Please note Cllr Waller read out this report for the benefit of members of the public).

Good evening.

KERSWELL GREEN ROAD CLOSURE

Severn Trent have given notice that they are going to close the road through Kerswell Green between 0700 – 1700 each day from 29/06/26 until 12/02/27, this is for major work to the sewage system. I am pleased that this time Highways have accepted my request for the diversion routine to go up through Severn Bank and then Kinnersley.

OVER NIGHT ROAD CLOSURES MAIN ROAD KEMPSEY

The A38 will be closed from the junction with Post Office Lane and Derrington Gardens overnight from 2000 -0600 on the 13/07/26 to 24/07/26 for carriageway resurfacing. I suspect that not all nights will be needed.

#11703 CONTROLLED CROSSING IN KEMPSEY NORTH OF THE SHOP

WCC have now in principle accepted that a controlled crossing is needed, so to proceed further, safety checks need to be undertaken, and funding needs to be found before we can move forward. Initially £26K needs to be found to do the detailed design and carryout the initially safety audit. I have applied to WCC for Project Heart funding. I will keep you updated as information becomes available.

#10685 STREET LIGHTING REQUIRED AT THE TOP OF POST OFFICE LANE

The area not safe to cross the road due to lack of street lighting, parents have been complaining that in the midst of winter it is difficult to cross into Sallowbed Way.

I have found funding for two light columns, and I hope they will be installed this year.

#10991 EXTENSION FOR 2 X DEPTH INDICATOR SIGNS AT THE FORD, SQUIRES WALK

Highways have accepted my request, and the work should be completed by the end of August 2026.

Warmest regards

Martin Allen.

Standing Orders were reimposed