



**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
MONDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 7.00 PM
AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and reminded those present of the fire safety procedures.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: - District Cllr Michael (left 7.33pm)
Sharon Dunn - Parish Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer plus five parishioners

1. **Apologies:** - Cllr Stevens (Personal) - Accepted
County Councillor Martin Allen and District Councillor Harrison - Received
2. **Declarations of Interest**
 - a. Register of Interests: Councillors were reminded of the need to update their register of interests.
 - b. To declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in items on the agenda and their nature: None
 - c. To declare any Other Disclosable Interests on items on the agenda and their nature: None
3. **To Consider Written Requests from Councillors for the Council to Grant a Dispensation** (S33 of the Localism Act 2011) - The following written requests were received by the Clerk prior to the meeting: None

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Notes from Public Question Time are appended to these minutes.

County Councillor & District Councillor reports were noted.

4. Minutes: Having been previously circulated, the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 10.08.2026 and the EOM held on 04.09.2026 were signed as a true and accurate record.
5. Correspondence for Information: - Under General Data Protection Regulations names of Identifiable subject/matter withheld
 1. Various Parishioner complaints - Tennis Court Lights and Floodlight Disturbance
The correspondence and concerns regarding tennis court lighting were noted. Further information is required from the Tennis Club regarding their light spill.
 2. 17.08.2026 - Response from Morrisons Daily - Kempsey
Morrisons had provided assurances regarding improvements to service.
 3. 18.08.2026 - Parishioner complaint about The Rocky and response - Noted
 4. 18.08.2026 - Request for maintenance on the PROW of Stonehall Common to be carried out
The matter will be referred to the Commons and Recreation Committee.

5. 06.09.2026 - Metal Detecting Permission request - Stonehall Common and Kempsey Common. Unfortunately, this request contravenes the bylaws which are administered by the District Council on behalf of the Secretary of State.
6. 07.09.2026 - Aerial Runway / Zip Wire
The request and subsequent correspondence regarding a possible aerial runway/zip wire were considered. Members were supportive in principle of exploring the proposal as a community project, subject to a suitable location plan, detailed proposal, feasibility report and funding. Plover's Rise was discussed as a possible location. Cllr Cooke and Cllr Stevens to work with Kempsey Promotions CIC to develop the proposal. Potential fundraising arrangements will be considered once a clear proposal has been established.
7. 07.09.2026 - The correspondence from Worcestershire CALC confirming that Local Government Reorganisation has been paused was noted.

PC/NS

6. Finance

1. Payment of accounts as per schedules were authorised.
The pay award, applicable from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027, as per the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services was applied to all Parish Office staff.
A query regarding an "Echo backpack" was clarified as equipment previously authorised by the Environment Committee.
Cllr Stevens and Cllr Gardener to authorise the online payments this month.
2. Monthly Bank Reconciliation Statement - The monthly bank reconciliation was received for information. Members noted that the Council's bank balance remains above £1 million but is expected to significantly reduce as planned expenditure is incurred.
3. Capital Budget - For Information Only
4. Conclusion of Audit 2025/2026 - The conclusion of the external audit for 2025/2026 with comments was noted. Thanks were expressed to the Clerk and other Parish Office staff for another year of excellent management of the Council's finances.

7. Committee Report Updates and Proposals: -

1. Finance & General Purposes Committee: Cllr Waller
Three insurance providers had been considered. One provider declined to quote and two quotations were received. Members considered the quotation from the existing provider, which provided bespoke cover reflecting the Council's current assets and requirements.
 - a. **RESOLVED:** To renew Parish Council insurance effective from 1st October 2026 for one year with AJ Gallagher at a cost of £6391.43.
 - b. **RESOLVED:** To purchase and install a larger capacity bin to replace the existing bin located by the shop from Glasdon at a cost of £431.60 (excluding VAT).
 - c. Update on Kempsey Pavilion Community Café - The monthly report was received.
Sales and expenditure remain on track.
Volunteer numbers and customer feedback were discussed.
The Council is awaiting the Environmental Health Officer's assessment.
The roof window continues to leak and requires attention.
A new volunteer has joined the café.
The invoice issued to Amigos following the fridge incident remains outstanding.
The café is supporting the daffodil planting event.
Attendance has fluctuated, including quieter days and a particularly busy Sunday during the recent hot weather.
Allergen training and records continue to be maintained.
The menu will be reviewed from mid-October, including the introduction of soup and removal of some items.
2. Environment: Chairperson position vacant.

- **Love Kempsey Working Party**) A meeting was held on 1st September and (following Cllr Clamp's resignation) it was decided to continue with the Working Party.

Clerk

Deputy

The following items were discussed:

Planters and Raised Beds

- Maintenance of the raised beds and two of the planters is being carried out by Nuyards – Thanks were given to the Lengthsman Team for all their work in watering the plants this summer.
- The two barrels at either end of the village are being looked after by Working Party members.
- The four barrels outside the Community Centre are looked after by the Parish Office staff.
- It was agreed to ask Nuyards if they could also be responsible for the planter by the Parish Hall. A meeting is to be arranged at Nuyards to discuss this towards the end of September.

Daffodils

- The big daffodil planting day is all set for Friday 16 October – ‘Daffodil HQ’ will be at the Pavilion Community Café, and people will meet there at 9.30am, where planting areas will be allocated.
- The plan is to plant more/replacement daffodils along the Main Road in Kempsey to address any obvious gaps and to plant daffodils along the ‘Golden Mile’ between Kempsey and Severn Stoke.
- Posters are up around the village, and the Café Manger has also put posts on social media.
- Bulbs will also be provided for Stonehall Common and Kerswell Green.
- More volunteers are always needed.
- Daffodowndilly event will take place on 13 March next year. A poster has been paid for by Martin Allen (photo featured in this month’s Kempsey Times) and additional meetings about this event will be held nearer the time.

Picnic Area at The Rocky

- There was considerable support for this project and there is money in the budget to pay for two picnic tables.
- Towards the end of September, a visit to the Rocky with the Lengthsman is to be arranged to see what, if anything, needs doing to the proposed site before ordering the picnic tables.

Christmas

- The Tree Lighting event will be on Saturday 5th December at 5.45pm - everyone is welcome.
- New tree lights have been purchased

3. Community Centres: Cllr Stevens

- There is a new (additional) Pilates session now running on Thursday mornings and there is also the possibility that Magic Moments may use Room One at the Community Centre on a permanent basis on a Monday morning.
- Still waiting for quotes for the roof at the Community Centre and the Sports Pavilion

4. Infrastructure Committee: Cllr Waller

Members received an update on the pump track project and associated planning matters. The Council continues to work closely with the planning Case Officer to ensure that proposed conditions to the planning permission are appropriate to the project.

The Section 106 Agreement authorised for signature at the Extraordinary Meeting and has now been signed and delivered to the solicitor.

The biodiversity monitoring requirement has been revised, reducing the anticipated cost from approximately £15,500 to £5,500, a saving of approximately £10,000.

Outstanding ecological requirements include a badger management and monitoring strategy, an ecological mitigation/compensation/enhancement scheme and a habitat management and maintenance plan.

The target remains to obtain planning consent by the end of September 2026, with completion of the pump track targeted for the end of March 2027 to meet funding requirements.

Members considered concerns raised by the Local Lead Flood Authority regarding the capacity of the SuDS basin and potential flooding implications. The Council's engineer considers the calculations to be correct, but clarification is awaited.

5. Commons and Recreation: Cllr Cooke

The condition of the existing steel gate on Kempsey Common was discussed. The gate has deteriorated significantly through rust and is allowing livestock to escape.

Two quotations were considered. The proposed works involve removing the existing gate, repositioning the pedestrian/horse-rider access arrangement towards the centre of the track and installing fencing on either side. Members considered that the revised arrangement would make access easier for horse riders and encourage the gate to be closed properly.

RESOLVED: The Council unanimously approved acceptance of £883.82 from Alpha Fencing and Garden Services, subject to confirmation that the price is a quotation rather than an estimate. The works are expected to take approximately 2–3 weeks.

Clerk

6. Planning Committee: Cllr Gardener

Applications considered

Application No: M/26/01000/HP to replace an existing conservatory with single storey rear extension & existing garage with a prefabricated timber clad garage at 153 Main Road, Kempsey.

We had No Objection subject to there being no objecting comments from the occupants of the adjoining semi-detached property at 151 Main Road.

Application No: M/26/01136/ADV for 2 single sided sign boards on posts, advertising the future development of the site on land at Bath Road, Broomhall and Norton Road

The sign boards are already in place and announce that Bovis Homes are coming soon – hurrah! We had No Objection.

Application No: M/26/00854/FUL to subdivide a bungalow and land to form 2 separate dwellings each with independent vehicular accesses at Stanhurst, Fox Lane, Green Street, Kempsey.

The application explains that it is to regularise an already existing situation. It is a large building in extensive grounds with other structures indicating an original agricultural use. We had No Objection, subject to clarification of the lawful use of the large area of land proposed to be subdivided into 2 residential plots.

For Information Only

Application No: M/26/01058/FUL for a change of use from amenity area to form extended garden and erection of 1.8m high close boarded fence together with the retention of a section of 2m high acoustic fence to rear of bus shelter at 1 Centurion Drive, Kempsey.

Although the application had already been withdrawn, it was reported to committee because the existing unlawful fence is still in place. The new scheme had proposed an alternative fence design and alignment. It was submitted by Taylor Wimpey but withdrawn by the owner without explanation. The matter was simply noted.

Appeal Update

Application No: M/25/00323/OUT for the demolition of no. 45 Bannut Hill and the construction of up to 99 dwellings; vehicular access from Bannut Hill; green infrastructure, sustainable drainage systems, and associated infrastructure on land at Napleton Lane Kempsey.

In respect of the current planning appeal, members were advised that additional information had been submitted mainly by the appellant at the Inspector's request. It was noted that the revised National Planning Policy Framework has introduced changed policy considerations for development proposed outside settlement boundaries, again subject to there being a demonstrable five-year housing land supply. In this case, the local planning authority maintains that a five-year supply exists while the appellant claim that it does not.

We had submitted a further statement on these issues, but it was turned away by the Planning Inspectorate since we are only a Third Party to the appeal. However, it was forwarded to the council and appellant, as Main Parties. Since then, the Inspector agreed to accept it at the Hearing which has now taken place.

New Appeals

Appeal Ref: 6014393 following refusal of Application Ref: M/26/00425/HP for an annex outbuilding at The Laurels, Kerswell Green

This appeal is proceeding under the new provisions by which the Inspector will decide the matter using only the information available to the local planning authority when the decision was made. No further representations, including from the parish council, are allowed unless requested by the Inspector. No action required.

Any Other Business.

Hopfields Phase 1b: Associated planning application 13/00656/OUT

Notification had been received that Vistry have submitted a Reserved Matters application for Phase 1b of the Worcester South Urban Extension (Hopfields) for 246 dwellings. At this stage it was simply noted for further detailed consideration once the application and supporting material are available. However, the proposal relies on new highway works from the A38, outside the site. These works were included in another Reserved Matters application but have since been removed from it. It was agreed that this, and possibly other infrastructure requirements, would be raised with Vistry's agents.

8. Chairman's Report: Cllr Waller

- Kempsey Times - The deadline for the next contribution is Tuesday 15 September 2026. A draft contribution had been prepared covering the IT hub and the recent planning appeal.
- Local Government Reorganisation Meeting - The proposed Local Government Reorganisation meeting scheduled for 15 September 2026 has been cancelled due to the current uncertainty and indefinite pause in the reorganisation process.
- IT/Youth Hub - Members considered an update on the proposed gaming nights at the IT Hub. Positive feedback received through social media had been received. Members agreed that the proposal should be explored as a social activity for young people. However, appropriate adult supervision, safeguarding and security arrangements will be required. The IT Hub is anticipated to be operational around October, allowing time to establish the arrangements.
- Daffodil Bulbs - The availability of daffodil bulbs held in Parish Council storage was discussed in connection with the community initiative.

Meeting Closed at 8.54 PM

Signed Chairman..... Date

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Standing Orders were adjourned.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Residents from Pear Tree Fields raised concerns regarding litter and dog fouling around the new development and requested the provision of a bin close to the pathway. WCC has agreed to install a suitable bin. KPC is in the process of obtaining permission in writing from the landowners.

Residents also raised concerns regarding estate management, including management charges, maintenance of roads and drainage, landscaping and the orchard/communal areas. Residents were advised to review their contractual arrangements and seek appropriate legal advice where necessary.

Concerns were raised regarding alleged restrictions on the export of electricity from solar panels due to the capacity of the estate cabling. Residents were advised to contact the relevant electricity distribution network operator to establish the position and, if necessary, seek independent technical or legal advice.

Residents were encouraged to consider becoming involved with the Parish Council, particularly given the number of vacancies and the housing growth in the north of the parish.

An update was provided regarding the planning appeal. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Gardener, District Councillors and residents who had assisted with representations.

The Inspector's decision is awaited.

District Councillor John Michael

Members discussed the current position regarding Local Government Reorganisation and the uncertainty surrounding the future structure of local government and planning arrangements.

Councillor Michael advised that he does not intend to stand at the next District Council election. He requested that this be minuted.

County Councillor Martin Allen

COUNTY MATTERS:

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

The government has put this on hold. Who knows what is going to happen.

This has left staff at all Worcestershire Councils in a very uncertain position, I feel this is an absolute disgrace.

The timeline was to be:

- Council meeting to consider South Worcestershire Voluntary Joint Committee Terms of Reference and appointments – September 2026
- Voluntary Joint Committee commences - October 2026
- Draft Structural Changes Order – Autumn 2026
- Finalised Structural Changes Order – early 2027
- Joint Committee – from February 2027
- Elections to shadow councils – May 2027
- (no district council elections)
- Shadow council – from June 2027
- Vesting Day – 1 April 2028

DEVOLUTION

We did have a little more information about Devolution. However, it is still not clear who we could be joined with, assuming it still goes ahead, it could be with one of the following:

1. Worcestershire with Herefordshire plus Warwickshire and / or Gloucestershire
2. Warwickshire and West Midlands Combined Authority
3. Gloucestershire and West of England Combined Authority

Footprints for Spatial Development Strategies and police forces is relevant,

Cabinet statement July 2026 “Rewiring the State” Mayoral Strategic Authority

WORCESTERSHIRE ON DEMAND BUS RIDES

Following my request, the following data has now been sent to me:

From 01.01.26 to 27.08.26

Total Rides 7337

Veterans 112

Pensions Bus Pass 3088

I view this as an overwhelming success. I will keep pressing for more.

REDUCTION IN BUS SERVICE TO AND FROM KEMPSEY

I am disgusted that First Worcester Bus has reduced their service to and from Worcester. When I raised this with the County Council, I was informed that in future residents should consider using the On Demand Service to get to Tesco's and get the 32 into town from there. I am now pushing for the On Demand Service to directly into Worcester.

EXISTING BUS SHELTER RELOCATION EMAIL FROM HIGHWAYS TO KPC 11.08.26

I have asked Tanya at WCC for an update. Below is an email that Tanya sent to the Parish Council.

Good afternoon, Sharon,

I have investigated your request and our approach with any shelter that can be refurbished, but is not owned by WCC, is to try and reallocate it within the village/town that it was removed from although this is subject to their being an opportunity to do so. Ideally and subject to condition, we'd want to take the shelter into storage for later use particularly as we're covering the cost of removing the shelter and installing 2 refurbished shelters under the BSIP fund.

I have been advised that if you would like the shelter for a non-bus stop project, then you would need to cover the cost of the removal and delivery to where you would like it stored. An indicative cost for this is £850.

Please let me know how you would like to proceed.

Kind regards,

Tanya Crake

County Highways Liaison Officer

I met and spoke with Tanya last Friday; she said that there had not been a response from the Parish Council and a response is requested.

KERSWELL GREEN ROAD CLOSURE

I see that the work by Severn Trent did not commence, I have not been provided with any new dates when the work will start.

OLD VICARAGE CLOSE FOOTWAY

This is now to be refurbished; the work is due to commence on 24/09/26 until 30/09/26.

PEAR TREE FIELDS GENERAL PURPOSE WASTE BIN

I sent you an email on 25.08.26 showing who owned the land where the proposed bin is to be located. As the land is not owned by WCC, MHDC or Kempsey Parish Council, WCC cannot fund a new bin unless KPC obtain permission in writing from the owners for it to be installed there. Please can you write to the owners asking for permission to install a full-size ground mounted general waste bin. MHDC will empty it for you.

CHANGES TO PLANNING POLICY

The government is requiring both county and district councils to change their planning policies. There will be significant changes. Planning Committees will be reduced to 13 members.

Also, almost all planning applications will soon be determined by Officers, with the local councillors not having the right to take the matter to a planning committee, nor will they be able to object to an Officers decision. While I do not think that at the County Council there will be much difference, at MHDC your local councillors will lose control over most planning decisions.

It is unlikely that I will vote for the change when it becomes before MHDC later this month. It is totally against the principle of democracy where unelected officials will not have any oversight by elected councillors.

There can be no democracy without representation!

BANNUT HILL PLANNING APPEAL

Can I personally thank both our District Councillors and especially Parish Councillor Rob Gardner and residents for their work and efforts at the planning appeal that was held last Tuesday. I thought that residents and local councillors put up a strong defence, while MHDC were weak and ineffective. If the Bannut Hill planning appeal is allowed, this then leaves the way open for every applicant to claim MHDC do not have a 5-year land supply, and also that the SWDPR is not a sound enough reason to turn down a planning application.

Standing Orders were reimposed