

Kempsey Parish Council Meeting Summary

8 June 2026 – Key Points and Decisions

The Parish Council met on Monday 8 June 2026 at Kempsey Community Centre. The meeting covered finance and governance matters, community projects, environmental improvements, planning issues and updates on major infrastructure schemes.

Governance and Finance

A vacancy remains on the Parish Council following a councillor resignation. One expression of interest has been received, and the co-option process will continue once a completed application form is submitted.

The Council approved routine financial matters, including payment of accounts, the Financial Risk Schedule for 2026/27, the Annual Internal Audit Report and the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for 2025/26. A VAT reclaim of £10,355.67 for the previous financial year was noted. Ruth Mullett was appointed as Internal Auditor for 2026/27, subject to agreement.

Committee memberships and working party appointments for 2026/27 were also confirmed.

Community Projects

Community Café

Councillors received a positive update on the operation of the Community Café at the Pavilion, including sales, expenditure, volunteer involvement and compliance matters. The café continues to receive positive feedback from residents, with comments during Public Question Time praising staff and the service provided.

New Building at Plovers Rise

The Council approved a contract with Anmer Construction Ltd to construct and fit out a small building adjacent to the Youth Centre at Plovers Rise Playing Fields. The contract will proceed once the funding agreement with Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC) is finalised.

Solar Panels at the Youth Centre

Progress continues on the Youth Centre solar panel project:

National Grid has approved the export licence.

Installation of the battery storage base is scheduled for 22 June.

Scaffolding will be erected at the end of July.

Solar panel installation is planned for 3 August 2026.

These works will help reduce energy costs and improve sustainability at the site.

The Rocky

Several improvements are progressing within The Rocky:

A new CCTV camera has been purchased to help tackle anti-social behaviour and fly-tipping. Signage will be installed at entrances to indicate CCTV is in operation.

A £20,000 grant-funded bridge replacement project is moving forward, with quotations currently being sought.

Requests to remove debris and reinstate a bench will be considered by the Environment Committee.

Councillors also expressed support for exploring the creation of a picnic area within The Rocky as a future community project.

Bus Shelters and Noticeboards

Worcestershire County Council has confirmed that two new bus shelters will be installed at the southern end of the village. The Parish Council is also replacing noticeboards at the shop and Pavilion, alongside improvements to other boards around the parish.

Village Planters

The Council approved a Memorandum of Understanding with Nuyard Country & Garden Centre to support the maintenance of village planters.

Speed Indicator Signs

A new three-year maintenance contract was approved for the parish's two Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS), helping ensure they remain operational and effective.

Community Facilities

New CCTV arrangements were approved for the Youth Centre and Pavilion. A faulty camera at the Youth Centre will be replaced and an additional camera installed at the Pavilion to improve security and provide wider coverage of the playing fields.

The Community Centres Committee will also consider a request to install new blinds at the Youth Centre.

Infrastructure and Planning

Local Government Reorganisation

Councillors discussed the potential transfer of responsibility for several public open spaces currently owned or managed by MHDC, including sites at Oakfield Drive, The Limes and Christina Close.

As part of the Local Government Reorganisation process, the Council will investigate whether these areas could be operated by a Local Residents' Association.

Infrastructure Project and Biodiversity Work

Work continues on the Parish Council's major infrastructure project, including:

Ongoing discussions with highways officers regarding access arrangements.

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) requirements.

Landscaping proposals that include wildlife habitats, additional tree planting, orchard improvements and a bee bank.

The Council was advised that MHDC has declined a request to waive the estimated BNG monitoring fee, meaning a legal agreement will be required before the planning application can be determined.

Pump Track

Progress continues on the proposed pump track project. Revised costs have been received from contractors and funding opportunities continue to be explored.

Planning Matters

The planning application submitted by Magic Moments Day Nursery for a new classroom building at the Community Centre has been withdrawn. As a result, related agenda items were removed from consideration.

The Parish Council also reviewed a number of planning applications during the month and submitted comments where appropriate. Concerns remain regarding revised affordable housing proposals at Bath Road, Broomhall, particularly in relation to open space provision, pedestrian and cycle links and connections to recreational facilities.

Public Question Time

Residents raised concerns regarding the reliability of service at Morrisons Daily in Church Street, reporting occasions when the store was closed during advertised opening hours. The Parish Council agreed that concerns should be brought to the attention of management.

A request was also made to consider the installation of a zip wire within the parish. This will be explored further by the Environment Committee.

Discussion also took place regarding raising awareness of the Parish Council and its work within the community.

District and County Council Updates

District Councillor Harrison reported on traveller activity near Pear Tree Fields and highlighted funding opportunities that may assist local projects, including the pump track.

County Councillor Allen provided updates on:

- Proposed speed limit changes for Old Road South and Pixham Ferry Lane.
- Holdings Lane surface dressing works expected between 31 July and 14 August.
- Long-term sewer improvement works causing closures through Kerswell Green.
- Planned overnight resurfacing works on the A38.

Looking Ahead

The Council continues to focus on delivering community improvements, progressing major infrastructure projects, enhancing local facilities and preparing for potential changes arising from Local Government Reorganisation. Key priorities over the coming months include the new IT Hub to be located at Plovers Rise, Youth Centre solar installation, The Rocky bridge project, CCTV improvements and development of the pump track proposal.