

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KEMPSEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY, 9th FEBRUARY, 2009 AT 7.30 p.m. AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY
CENTRE**

Present :- Mr. D. Harrison, in the Chair

Ms. M. Baker; Mr. K. Blackwell; Mr. N. Brookes; Mrs. C. Campbell;
Mrs. P. Gerrard; Mrs. A. Hart; Mrs. J. Jones; Mr. M. Legg; Mr. J. Michael
and Mr. T. Ward.

Also in Attendance :- Mr. R. Bullock, County Councillor and Mr. M. Biddle, District Councillor.

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. N. Atkins and Mrs. K. Biddle. The Parish Council accepted these apologies. Apologies were also received from Mrs. M. Walters, District Councillor.

6518 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

As someone holding registered grazing rights, Mr. Harrison, declared a personal interest in respect of the Commons and Hams Committee Report at Agenda Item 12 and in respect of Agenda Item 9(i) relating to correspondence from Natural England about Ashmoor Common. He also declared a personal interest in respect of Agenda Item 22, the accounts for payment relating to a payment to his son.

Mrs. Campbell declared a prejudicial interest in respect of Agenda Item 9(o) relating to correspondence about Kempsey Flood Action Group and Agenda Item 18 relating to flooding in Kempsey.

6519 OPEN FORUM

It was proposed by Mrs. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Hart and resolved that Standing Orders be suspended for the Open Forum. Notes from this part of the meeting are annexed to the Minutes. At the conclusion of the Open Forum the Chairman re-imposed Standing Orders.

6520 PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the previous meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday, 12th January, 2009, having been previously circulated to the members, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

6521 PREVIOUS MINUTES – RECOMMENDATIONS AND UP-DATES

There were none.

6522 COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT ON LOCAL ISSUES

Mr. Bullock reported that at a Cabinet meeting held that morning, it had been agreed that the County Council element of the Council Tax would increase to 2.98% for the 2009/2010 financial year. He asked whether there had been any progress following the closure of Kempsey Post Office? The Chairman advised him that this matter would be dealt with at Agenda Item 16 later in the meeting. Ms Baker expressed her bitter disappointment at Mr. Bullock's report that there was no likelihood of roadworks being undertaken in Old Road North in the current financial year as the area was considered to be one of low priority. Mr. Bullock agreed to speak to County Officers again to see if this could be done before the end of the present financial year. Mr. Ward felt that the recent Budget presentation given by the County Council was excellent and that this should be communicated back to those concerned.

6523 DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

Mr. Biddle reported that the District Council had agreed to increase their element of the Council Tax to 2.95% for the 2009/2010 financial year. He reminded those present that Kempsey Church would be the venue for a presentation by the South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy on 23rd February, 2009

6524 CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence, both for report and for information had been made available for

inspection by Parish Council Members between 7.00 p.m. and 7.30 p.m.

(a) National Blood Service – Health & Safety re Sports Pavilion

The Parish Council resolved that Kempsey Sports Association should be asked to complete this questionnaire.

(d) Kempsey Tennis Club – Renovation of Court 3 – Access for Contractors

The Parish Council resolved that this matter should be referred to Kempsey Sports Association but with the stipulation that access must not be via the Playing Field.

(e) Mr. R. Bowley – Freedom of Information Act – Request for Commons and Hams Information re Receipts and Expenditure for 2007/2008

The Chairman reported that this information had already been sent to Mr. Bowley in order to meet the deadline imposed by the Freedom of Information Act.

(f) Mr. R. Bowley – Parish Council Comments to MHDC re Kerswell Green Planning Applications

The Parish Council noted that this was the fifth letter from Mr. Bowley on this particular matter. The Clerk was asked to advise him that the Parish Council considered that they had already answered his question in their four previous responses to his letters.

(h) WCC – Children and Young People’s Strategic Partnership

This document was passed to Mrs. Gerrard.

(i) Natural England – Ashmoor Common – Assessment of Geological Interest

Mr. Harrison, the Chairman had previously declared an interest in this matter and left the room. The Chair was taken by Mr. Ward, the Vice-Chairman. Mr. Michael reported that he and the Clerk had held a meeting with representatives from Natural England and that an application was being prepared to enter into a new Stewardship Scheme.

(j) and (k) Mr. P. Jones and Mr. T. Dillingham – Overhanging Hedge at Playing Field

The Parish Council agreed that a site meeting should be held with Messrs. Jones and Dillingham in the hope of resolving this matter.

(l) SWJCS – Workshop Events in the Area

The Parish Council noted that a meeting would take place in St. Mary’s Church on 23rd February. Mr. Ward urged all Parish Council Members to attend.

(m) WCC – Parish Paths Partnership Scheme

The Clerk reported that it would not be necessary to complete the form as the Parish Council were not in the Parish Paths Scheme and did not have a Parish Paths Warden..

(o) Kempsey Flood Action Group – Two Parish Council Members to join Action Group

Mrs. Campbell had previously declared an interest in this matter and left the room. The Parish Council resolved to appoint Mrs. Campbell and Ms. Baker to serve as their representatives on the Kempsey Flood Action Group. The Clerk asked whether the Group could have use of the Parish Council’s photocopier if they provided their own paper and paid the appropriate meterage fee? The Parish Council authorised this use.

(q) MHDC – Children & Young People’s Seminar

Mrs. Gerrard agreed to represent the Parish Council at the seminar on 27th February at Upton Rugby Club.

(s) Kempsey Youth Club – Kempsey Youth Centre

The Clerk was asked to inform the Youth Club that this was not a matter in which the Parish Council had any jurisdiction but was one for the trustees of the Youth Centre, to whom they should draw their concerns.

6525 ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

(a) Tree Works at The Rocky

The Committee Chairman reported that following a site meeting with the District Council’s Tree Officer, a new planning application had had to be submitted. The new specification meant that new estimates would have to be obtained for the new works. The Committee Chairman then reported that following a delegated decision, an overhanging tree at The Rocky which was considered to be a hazard had been removed at a cost of £80.00. The

Parish Council approved this expenditure.

(b) Notice Boards

The Committee Chairman referred to the comments made at the previous meeting about notices not sticking on the new boards. It was agreed to try using some borrowed magnets and, if they were successful, to consider purchasing some. It was also agreed to try putting sealant into the holes in the notice boards to prevent condensation and insects getting into them.

6526 PLANNING REPORT

(a) Tree Preservation Orders

The Chairman reported on the consultation from the District Council about some trees at Kerswell Green being made subject to Tree Preservation Orders.

(b) Comments made to MHDC under Delegated Powers

MH 1961/08 – 10 Elgar Drive – Front and rear extensions (Full) – No objections

MH 038/09 – Severn Oaks, Oakfield Close – Change of use from office to ancillary residential use for live-in carer with side extension (Full) – No objections provided conditions are attached re ancillary use.

MH 036/09 – The Paddocks, Stonehall Common – Bedroom and en-suite extension (Full) – No objections

6527 COMMONS AND HAMS COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Harrison, the Parish Council Chairman had previously declared an interest in this item and left the room. The Chair was then taken by Mr. Ward, the Parish Council Vice-Chairman. The Committee Chairman reported a site meeting would be held with residents at Kempsey Common for their final input on the Parish Council's proposals to install posts to prevent vehicular access to the grass areas in the vicinity of The Gurkha Knight. The Committee Chairman then reported that the hard access which had been installed across Normoor Common by Teal Turf blocked the roadside ditch and would need a culvert installing.

6528 ELECTION OF RECREATION COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

At the previous meeting, Mrs. Biddle had indicated that she wished to stand down as the Recreation Committee Chairman. The Chairman asked for nominations for this position. No single member felt able to take on this role which it was acknowledged could be time-consuming and involve applying for grants etc. After a short discussion Mrs. Gerrard and Mrs. Campbell agreed to become joint Committee Chairmen, helping each other out. It was then formally proposed by Mrs. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Hart and unanimously agreed that Mrs. Gerrard and Mrs. Campbell should be elected as the Recreation Committee Chairmen.

6529 RECREATION COMMITTEE REPORT

(a) Trees overhanging The Playing Field

The Parish Council resolved to hold a site meeting with Messrs. Jones and Dillingham

6530 COMMUNITY CENTRE COMMITTEE REPORT

(a) Royal Mail – use of Brick Building at Community Centre

The Committee Chairman reported that a new agreement would be needed for use of the brick building by Royal Mail.

(b) Repairs

The Committee Chairman reported that Mr. Kitching had completed the previously approved repairs, apart from the repair to the flat roof over the ladies toilets which had to wait for dry weather. Following the laying of the new floor tiles in the Foyer, he had been asked for an estimate to take a strip of the bottom of two doors and had quoted £7 each. This had been accepted by way of a delegated decision and the Parish Council formally authorised this additional expenditure.

Notices

The Committee Chairman reported that estimates had been obtained for the notices showing the location of the Parish Office etc. This matter was delegated to the Committee Chairman

and the Parish Council Chairman in consultation with the Clerk to compare the estimates and order the signs at a cost not to exceed £68.00 plus VAT

6531 KEMPSEY POST OFFICE

The Chairman reported on the short meeting which had taken place with a representative from Royal Mail at which assurances had been given that every effort was being made to re-open a Post Office in Kempsey.

6532 HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

The Chairman reported that a meeting was supposed to be held with the Housing Enabling Officer the following morning. Unfortunately the three emails from the Parish Council had not received replies nor had the phone call from the Clerk.

6533 FLOODING IN KEMPSEY

(a) Meeting Called by The Environment Agency

Mrs. Campbell had previously declared an interest in this matter and left the room. The Chairman reported on the meeting which the Environment Agency held in Church and also on the newly-formed FLAG group who were pressing the need for a flood alleviation scheme for Kempsey. Mr. Bullock, the County Councillor indicated that he was optimistic that the County Council would have funds available from September towards the proposed scheme.

(b) Update on Blocked Drains, Ditches and Road Flooding

The Chairman up-dated Members.

6534 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

This matter had been briefly discussed at the previous meeting and the Members had been asked to give some thought to the format and content of the Newsletter. It was agreed that it should be in a similar format to the previous year but with less writing, with more bullet points and some pictures.

6535 RECEIPTS & PAYMENTS/RECONCILIATION OF BALANCES TO 31/1/09

The Clerk reported that the accounts up to the end of December, 2008 had been audited by Mr. Stokes, the Parish Council's Internal Auditor. The receipts and payments/bank reconciliation to 31st January, 2009 had been previously circulated to the members. Copies of these documents are attached to the Signed Minutes.

6536 CONFIRMATION OF ACTION

The Parish Council ratified payment of the following urgent accounts which had been made under delegated powers :-

Staff salaries for January as shown on the list circulated to Members and annexed to the Signed Minutes

Mrs. S. Cordell – Community Centre Cleaning – 29/12/08 to 19/1/09 - £153.00

BT – Office Phone - £108.73 (inc. £13.04 VAT) (Cost of calls - £15.26)

Security Care Ltd. – Pavilion Roller Shutter Doors - £558.90 (inc. £72.90 VAT)

6537 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Mr. Harrison, the Parish Council Chairman had previously declared an interest in the item relating to the payment to his son and left the room. The Chair was taken by Mr. Ward, the Vice-Chairman for this particular item.

The Parish Council resolved to authorise payment of the following accounts :-

Mrs. A.P. Halford - Petty Cash for January - £20.99

Bott (Plumbing Services) Ltd. – Unblock main sewer - £212.75 (inc. £27.75 VAT)

Mark Harrison – PAT Testing in Parish Office - £50.00

R.J. Stokes – Internal Audit for 2008/2009 - £200.00

David Walters – Community Centre – Emergency re-glazing - £55.00

The Chairman pointed out the need to review and up-date the list of contractors used by the Parish Council for emergency repairs.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE

MEETING CLOSED AT 9.17 p.m.

Signed at the next ensuing meeting of
Kempsey Parish Council

Chairman of such next ensuing meeting

9TH FEBRUARY, 2009 PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

OPEN FORUM

PARISH COUNCILLOR MRS. A. HART Pointed out that the drains at the Sally Beds were still blocked and this was causing flooding half way across the road each time it rained.

PARISH COUNCILLOR MR. M. LEGG Pointed out that the triangle at Kerswell Green was diminishing in size on a day by day basis and that it needed kerbs around it to protect it. Mr. Bullock agreed to take up this matter but pointed out that the most likely cause of the damage was the cars which were always parked on this triangle.

PARISH COUNCILLOR MR. N. BROOKES complained about the mess left on the pavements after the hedge adjacent to the A.38 had been cut. He pointed out that the tractor had also made a mess of the grass.