

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 20 MAY 2019 AT 7.30P.M. AT KEMPSEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

IN ATTENDANCE: - The attendance list indicated 44 parishioners were present.

1. Welcome from the Chairman Cllr Chris Waller.
2. Apologies for absence – Mr Patten
3. The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting May 2018 were signed as a true and correct record.
4. Guest Speaker – Police and Crime Commissioner - Mr John Champion
Presented an overview of the role of Police and Crime Commissioner and its functions and services.
Operates a £225 million budget and assets associated with Policing, working to a devised budget plan.

Questions:-

1. Do you consider that Kempsey, having regard to its size, in both area and population, has suitable police cover? If not, what plans are there to remedy this?
 - More police officers will be employed throughout Worcestershire to remedy this.
 2. The A38, Main Road, through Kempsey is the M5 motorway relief route when the M5 is blocked in a north or south bound direction. We recently had a situation when the M5 was closed northbound and all the traffic had to come through Kempsey. This occurred in a weekday late afternoon when the A38 was already experiencing its usual northbound congestion at the Ketch roundabout, where the A38 and A4440 intersect. Because of this ‘normal’ congestion, the M5 traffic was queuing right through Kempsey almost as far as Clifton to the south of Kempsey. The disruption to Kempsey people was enormous, as was the delay to motorway traffic. Can you please tell us why a police traffic team is not despatched to the Ketch roundabout to assist the flow of traffic when an obvious motorway closure is in place?
 - This is very difficult for the police to resource. Under The Police Act 1966 disruption on roads is under the remit of The Highways Authority.
 3. What can the Parish Council do to assist the police to deter crime in the Parish? It would be useful to know if any other substantially rural parish councils in Worcestershire have devoted time and resources to deterring crime in their communities. Should we be thinking about having our own Crime Prevention Adviser, either a volunteer or part time funded by the Parish? Do the police have the capacity to assist with training and how would they feel about liaising with such an individual?
 - The police are very supportive and are keen to provide assistance. Initiatives carried out to demonstrate this include white gates, road lineage and smart water kits.
 4. What can be done to help combat anti-social behaviour?
 - The Police are working with communities to combat low level issues, specific areas can be targeted with additional/security lighting, CCTV. It’s about identifying the problem and finding a solution to try to resolve the problem.
 5. In 2009 Kempsey had 2 PCSO’s and a Policier Officer. Why can’t this be implemented now given the increase in housing numbers in the Parish?
 - Times have moved on and we are not in a position to protect local policing via Council tax increases. The cost element is too high.
 6. A parishioner advised that two of her cats had recently been shot with an air pistol. Surely, more Police presence is required?
 - Any person over the age of 14 can buy an air pistol. Unfortunately the resources are not there but the Police are contactable via Direct Access.
 7. How can the police help the Youths from the Village?
 - Small grants are available to support youth projects. Applications can be made via The Superintendent. Often the challenges are to engage with these people.
 8. Do Police Officers have a defined list of duties they are expected to carry out on their shifts? What is their strategy to install confidence in people?
 - Their brief is to meet the needs of the Community.
 9. How about more Neighbourhood Watch teams in the Community?
 - There is currently a recruitment drive. Social media is also a valuable tool.
5. Annual Report of the Parish Council
The Chairman confirmed the Annual Newsletter that had distributed to all households in the Parish.

6. Police Report – An extensive report had been presented by Police and Crime Commissioner Mr John Campion and questions raised by parishioners had already been answered by him and/or Chief Inspector Sean Kent this evening.

7. County Council Report – County Councillor Paul Middlebrough.
 Now 2 years in post – still a learning curve.
 £330 million funds available 70% is spent on supporting Children and Adult Services.
 He expressed support for the Bus and Library Services.
 He confirmed he had allocated grant funding to support Youth Funding in the Parish.
 He continues to work with WCC Highways to progress and resolve problems within the parish.
 Thanks were expressed to all Parish Councillors, District Councillors and their families for their continued help and support.

8. District Council Report – District Councillor Harrison
 Planning – 75 decisions had been made of which 52 were approved, 12 refused and 11 withdrawn (including 1 appeal being refused).
 He briefed parishioners on refuse collection /freight vehicles, confirming that although there was an increase in property numbers there was a decrease overall of 5% waste.
 There is a new customer centre at MHDC where two members of staff are employed 9-5pm Mon-Friday to address queries.
 SWDPR (second version) – Limits are to be set by the end of the year in respect of housing allocation numbers.
 Confirmed he is a member on the Southern Link Panel and continually informs parishioners of road closures via the Parish Magazine. He also Chairs Planning for Croome Court and is a Portfolio Holder for Planning on the District Council.
 He expressed his thanks for the public support who voted for both him and District Cllr Michael to represent them.
 Q. Please provide an update on the new railway station?
 A. This is moving closer to completion, vigorous safety checks are being conducted and it is anticipated it will open before Christmas 2019.
 Q. There are parking issues and congestion in Old Road North near the Doctors Surgery. What can be done about this?
 A. Gather photographic evidence and submit to the Parish Office. Try and date stamp and obtain car registration numbers of culprits.

9. Discussions Arising from Reports:-None

10. Statement of Accounts 2018/19 - The Annual Accounts were distributed (Subject to Audit). Clerk available to answer any questions.

The Chairman thanked parishioners for attending. Meeting closed at 9.40 pm

Sharon Baxter (Clerk)
 21 May 2019

Signed Chairman..... Date