

Kimbleworth & Plawsworth P a r i s h & C o u n c i l

Kimbleworth and Plawsworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Kimbleworth and Plawsworth Parish Council held in the Community Centre, Nettlesworth, DH2 3PN, on Thursday 11th September 2025 @ 7:00pm.

Present: Councillors – Bruce, Jackson (Chair), McGuire, Pattinson, Rippon and Walker.

Also in attendance – County Councillor, Tim Robson

Before the start of the meeting, two concerns were raised: i) about public displays of nationalism and the weaponisation of the flag. There was some disagreement about this matter. ii) People seen gathering and drinking alcohol on the seat on the corner opposite Acorn Way, while someone had been seen sleeping on the bench at the top of Red Lion bank.

1. Welcome:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from Cllrs. Moon-Schott and Burnip.

The Chairman pointed out that apologies for absence must be submitted in writing to the clerk (including email) to be accepted.

Resolved: *Apologies noted.*

3. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Councillors Bruce and Walker declared a personal interest in respect of Kimbleworth and Plawsworth Community Association, to be discussed under Item 6I.

4. To receive and approve the minutes of the Meeting of the Council held 10th July 2025.

The minutes were approved by the Council.

5. Parish Matters and on-going items: ^[OBJ]

a) County Councillors' Report

County Councillor Robson reported that the provision of Section 106 money for parking at The Green would help the amounts to be allocated fairly between the four parishes of his ward. ii) Responding to Cllr Walker's query before the meeting, the county councillor would write to the Statutory Licensing Committee and raised the possibility of sending out the Enforcement Team regarding alcohol sales to under-aged people. He cautioned against the use of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) because of the effect such a measure

may have on the reputation of the locality and the value of property. iii) He reported that statistics on local crime published by the police were two months out of date, and therefore did not pick up on issues as they developed.

Cllr Bruce reported that stones had been removed from the wall in the corner of B6312 and Tanhills. Cllr Rippon questioned why Witton Gilbert is able to have a large Christmas tree close to the B6312, with wired-in lights, while Highways has refused to allow this in Nettlesworth.

Resolved: *County Councillor Robson and Clerk to report back at the next meeting.*

b) Highways, paths, and road signage

i) The County Councillor said he had made enquiries about the possibility of a raised crossing on Nettlesworth Front Street (as requested by Cllr Hall) and had been met with doubts regarding funding from Highways. ii) Exasperation was reported regarding trees over-hanging the road; no officer at DCC would appear to accept any responsibility. iii) The County Councillor said he would send a message to trigger the advertisement for a school crossing patrol at Nettlesworth.

Cllr Bruce reported a Briar Rose on the public footpath behind Hillmeads and The Crescent that keeps growing back, causing an obstruction.

- *County Councillor Pickard left the meeting.*

c) Primary School, Nettlesworth

Cllr Bruce read an update regarding the school. A newsletter would be forwarded to the Clerk for circulation.

Resolved: *To note update.*

d) Community Centre Report

Cllr Bruce read an update regarding the community centre, including the following. Funding was being sought towards the continued wages of the development worker and continuing the seated exercise class. Durham County Council quoted £700,000 for a full re-wiring. This seemed excessive and further quotes were being sought. Trees on the Association's land near the School had become an issue. A seating area with gravel was being created by Sacriston Youth Project.

Resolved: *To note update.*

e) Planning and Licence Applications

The following applications were discussed:

- DM/25/02128/FPA

The Clerk reported on submissions from members of the public via Facebook, and also from Cllr Bruce. Concerns were shared that the increase in traffic following the previous phase of the development was a danger in Nettlesworth and that local facilities including doctors, dentists and schools would be stretched. The issue of estate charges was also discussed.

Resolved: *Clerk to send submission summarizing these concerns to Durham County Council.*

f) Allotments

- Chairman: Allotment Committee. Cllr Bruce proposed Cllr Walker. This was seconded by Cllr

Jackson. Cllr Walker was elected unanimously.

- A follow-up inspection by the Allotment Committee on 27th August found no improvement in the condition of the six allotments found on the previous inspection to be below standard.
- The annual rent was now due.
- Cllr Rippon questioned expenditure on allotments versus rent.

Resolved: Cllr Walker elected Chairman of the Allotment Committee. Final warning letters to be sent to the six allotment holders whose plots were found to be below standard. Clerk to forward record of allotment income and expenditure.

g) Newsletter

Draft copies of the newsletter were circulated. It was decided to go to print, despite the communication from a member of the public (see Correspondence) regarding concerns about the front-page picture.

Resolved: To note update. Clerk to forward the newsletter to the printer following final adjustments.

h) External Audit 2024-2025

The Clerk reported that the External Audit of the Council had not been received from ForvisMazars yet. He had telephoned them and was told that the audit was clean and assured he would receive the report by 30th September 2025.

Resolved: Nothing to resolve.

i) Remembrance Day

Actions for Remembrance Day were discussed. The necessity for tubes to go in the ground to support the aeroplane and soldier silhouettes was stressed. As New College Durham was unable to produce these, two possible businesses were identified for the Clerk to contact.

Resolved: To note update.

j) Project updates

The Clerk read an update from the administrative assistant regarding ongoing and proposed projects, including that dialogue had finally been opened up with Highways regarding the positions of the stone place names

Clerk to ask Administrative Assistant regarding the bench at Cross Lane being moved.

Resolved: To note update.

k) Grants and Donations Policy

Proposed additions to the Council's Grants and Donations Policy were read out by the clerk, having been circulated prior to the meeting. All four additions were agreed.

Resolved: To update the Council's Grants and Donations Policy including the proposed additions.

l) Grants

- There were no grant applications.

Resolved: Nothing to resolve.

m) Training and events

- New Councillor Welcome training. Tues 23rd Sep. 6-8pm. Zoom. £20.
 - New Clerks training. Weds 24th Sep. 6-8pm. Bishop Auckland Town Council offices. £20.
 - An Introduction to Planning. Weds 24th Sep 2025. 6-7.30pm. Zoom. £20.
 - Managing Meetings. Tues 4th Nov 2025 6-7.30pm. Zoom. £20.
 - "Why your Council's Code of Conduct Matters." Weds 19th Nov 2025 6-7.30pm. Zoom. Free.
- Cllrs. McGuire and Pattinson requested to attend the New Councillor Welcome training. This was agreed.

Resolved: *That Cllrs. McGuire and Pattinson be enrolled on the New Councillor Welcome training. Clerk to arrange.*

n) Correspondence

- Via Messenger: Two resident Comments regarding planning application DM/25/02128/FPA.
- Via Messenger: Comment regarding post on Parish Council Facebook page.
- Letter from Cllr Bruce regarding DM/25/02128/FPA.

Resolved: *To note correspondence. The comments regarding the planning application were considered under Item e).*

6. Financial Matters

a) Payments

Resolved: *The following payments were agreed (and invoices signed by the Chair):*

1	£85.00 to D Inman	SLCC membership (1 year)
2	£6.49 to D Inman	HP ink, July
3	£6.49 to D Inman	HP ink, August
4	£222.77 to G O'Brien	Admin services, 1st- 31st August, 16.8 hours
5	£2.99 to D Inman	Receipt book for Council use
6	£114.95 to D Inman	Purchase of replacement defibrillator pads

a) Receipts

The Clerk informed the meeting that he was still unable to access the Council's bank account and therefore was not in a position to check receipts against the August submission.

The following receipts were agreed:

2	HP ink – see item 7(a)1 above (July)	£6.49
3	HP ink – see item 7(a)2 above (August)	£6.49

b) Bank statements and direct debits

Resolved: *See Item 6a. Checking of bank statements and direct debits to be completed during October's Ordinary Meeting.*

7. Date of Next Meeting

9th October 2025, Ordinary Meeting of the Council at 7pm.

The meeting terminated at 20.35.