

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 13 July 2023 @ 7:00pm.

Present: Councillors – Bruce, Burnip, Craig, Elley, Inman, Jackson, Rippon, and Walker.

Also in attendance – John Kelly (Clerk) and County Councillors Waldock and Wilson.

Before the start of the formal meeting (as part of the public participation section), a representative from Investing in Children discussed their recent planning application, to convert The Elms at Kimbleworth into office accommodation, and fielded questions from Councillors. There will be an open day for locals to visit before The Elms opens to young people in 2024. There will be no overnight accommodation.

1. Welcome:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence:

All councillors were present so there were no apologies to offer.

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

3. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

Cllr Inman declared an interest in item 5 (I) regarding training.

4. Minutes of Council meeting – Ordinary Meeting 8 June 2023:

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 8 June 2023 were approved by the Council, subject to some minor amendments.

5. Parish Matters and on-going items:

a) County Councillors' Report

Councillor Waldock reported the broken glass at the bus stop at Kimblesworth, and the missing panes at the bus stop at Aged Miners' Homes. Cllr Elley stated the glass remains after a few days, so Councillor Waldock will chase its repair and clearance. County Councillors will see if a new bin can be placed at the Aged Miners' bus stop. Councillor Waldock advised DCC are still due to complete the playground works in September. Councillor Waldock advised the rubbish near the allotments at Woodland Terrace had been removed in and around the bin (the bin has been taken away too). However, the larger rubbish pile, nearby, has now been obscured by the overgrowth and will be cleared in the Autumn. Councillor Wilson advised he will investigate with DCC Assets their query on land ownership at Ugly Lane – DCC want to see the (missing) trust document from the deeds pack they hold, before approving car park works and this has led to delays. The Clerk was asked to contact CDALC for legal opinion on the missing document. Councillor Wilson advised there are continuing issues with Persimmon regarding the Cross Lane estate, as they have not kept to agreed conditions.

Resolved: *Councillors Waldock and Wilson to update on all queries at the next meeting.*

b) Highways, paths, and road signage

Councillor Wilson said he had asked Kevan Jones MP for support regarding the A167 crossing at The Red Lion. Durham Constabulary Traffic Management are supportive of making the crossing safer, following six accidents within three years, albeit not involving pedestrians. However, the strategic lead for highways is Durham County Council and they do not currently agree improvements are required, following minor injuries in the accidents, which they state were due to driver error rather than the positions of crossing or roundabout design. Section 106 money cannot be accessed for highways work. Nettlesworth are still in the queue for both speed wires and speed watch. The Clerk advised Durham County Council are still waiting for approval from the landowner for the work to the Public Right of Way at Plawsworth. Cllr Jackson asked if DCC can uncover the former gravel path (grass now covering) between Broadmires and the allotments (public right of way). Parking at the Green and The Crescent was discussed again. The Parish Council stressed their frustration that Karbon have not engaged over the last few years on the matter. The County Councillors will ask if a Karbon representative can attend a meeting soon.

Resolved: *Councillors Waldock and Wilson to update on all queries at next meeting.*

c) Primary School, Nettlesworth

Cllr Bruce said there had been no progression on a possible section 106 grant application by the school. The Clerk was asked to contact the head of the school, to ask if assistance was required from the Parish Council or Durham County Council.

Resolved: *To note update.*

d) Community Centre Report

No further progress was reported regarding renewal of the lease of the land.

Resolved: *To note update.*

e) Planning and Licence Applications

The following applications were discussed:

- DM/23/01528/FPA – The Elms, conversion, alteration, and extension.
- DM/23/01858/FPA – Twinn Cottages, Plawsworth, erection of detached garage)

Resolved: *No comment to be made on applications.*

f) Allotments

The Council agreed the Terms of Reference for the Allotment Committee. Four members were nominated, seconded, and agreed by Council: Cllrs Burnip, Craig, Jackson, and Walker. Cllr Burnip nominated Cllr Jackson as Chair of the Committee and Cllr Rippon seconded the motion. The Council agreed Cllr Jackson will be Chair. Quorum will be three members, agreed with a split vote (with the Chair making the deciding vote). Pest control will be attending site on 22nd July. Inspections are scheduled for 30th July. Rent letters will be sent in August for rent due September 2023.

Resolved: *Terms of Reference agreed, and Cllr Jackson to Chair Committee. To note all other updates.*

g) Newsletter

The Summer 2023 newsletter was approved.

Resolved: *Newsletter approved for print.*

h) Trough completion.

The Working group provided three quotes for a bench, pump feature (dry), and plaques/noticeboards. They also provided details on how the work will be completed, including planting of bulbs around the trough. The Group advise a bin may also need purchasing for the area. There were no quotes for the bench and pump to be fitted so the Council asked the Working Group to provide these at the September meeting, and details of any grant funding for the work (as there is no current budget in 2023/24 for the further works).

Resolved: *Trough Working Group to meet prior to next meeting. The Admin Support Assistant to provide cost of fittings.*

i) PRow Consultation (DCC)

The Council discussed the recent consultation by DCC regarding improvement to, and management of, paths in County Durham.

Resolved: *The Council agreed to make no comment.*

j) Budget monitoring 2023-24

The Clerk presented the year-to-date actuals, against the budget set for 2023/24.

Resolved: To note update.

k) Bench at Cross Lane

The Council agreed in principle to place a bench at the top of Cross Lane, near to Edmondsley Lane. A request had been made by a local resident. The Council will consider quotes for the work at September's meeting.

Resolved: Council to consider quotes for bench and placement in September. Admin Support Assistant to gather quotes.

l) Publication Scheme

The scheme requires annual review. The item was deferred.

Resolved: Item deferred.

m) Social Media Policy

The policy requires annual review. The item was deferred.

Resolved: Item deferred.

n) Grants

The Council considered grant applications from Marie Curie (requesting a donation) and from Little Treasures (requesting £630 for room hire and play equipment). The Council agreed to a £250 donation to Marie Curie for their recent work in the parish area. The grant application from Little Treasures was deferred.

Resolved: The Council agreed to donate £250 to Marie Curie, with three councillors abstaining. The decision on a grant award to Little Treasures was deferred until September, with the Clerk asked to request further information from the organisation.

[Cllr Inman left the meeting].

o) Training

- ILCA/ CILCA.

Cllr Inman had requested access to training for the CILCA qualification. The Council agreed the cost of CILCA could not be budgeted for. The Council agreed to pay the cost of an ILCA qualification, as the knowledge obtained would be beneficial for the Council. The Clerk could not confirm the final cost due to VAT and potential mentoring sessions, but the Council agreed the cost based on the Clerk's recommendation the total cost would be below the remaining training budget.

Resolved: To note update. Clerk to send details of CILCA to Cllr Inman.

[Cllr Inman rejoined the meeting].

[The Chair suspended standing orders at 20.59, to complete the business of the meeting.]

p) Correspondence

- Thanks from Cestrian Flower Club for donation.
- New contact from resident regarding fires at allotments.
- Second contact from resident next to allotments (regarding fires).
- A167 crossing – concerns from resident.

Resolved: *Correspondence noted.*

6. Financial Matters:

a) Payments

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

- (1) The sum of £230.16 be paid to J Kelly (Clerk service, 1st – 30th June), 21 hours (note, hours change to 3pw from 12th June).
- (2) The sum of £4.49 be paid to J Kelly (HP ink, May)
- (3) The sum of £58.00 be paid to J Kelly (plants).
- (4) The sum of £148.26 be paid to G. O'Brien (admin, 1st – 30th June, 17.6 hours).

b) Receipts

Resolved: *The following receipts were noted and will be signed by the Chair:*

- PAYE (to HMRC) June hours, July submission (£94.61)
- Printer subscription with HP - see item 6(a)2 above (£4.49 May)
- Plants, Congburn – see item 6(a)3 above (£58.00)

c) Bank statements and direct debits

Resolved:

Statements checked:

- May 2023 (no.164)

Direct debits (and standing orders) checked by the Chair and signed:

- HMRC, April payment, £64.40
- HMRC, May payment £75.40

7. Date of Next Meeting

14 September 2023 to commence at 7pm.

Note: There is no August meeting.

The meeting terminated at 21.06.

Chairman

Date