

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

Kimbleworth and Plawsworth Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Kimbleworth and Plawsworth Parish Council held remotely via Skype, on Thursday, 10 December 2020 @ 7:00pm.

Present: Councillors – Cole, Craig, Hilland, Inman, Jackson, and Kendall.

Also in attendance – John Kelly (Parish Clerk), County Councillor Wilson and one member of the public.

During the public participation section prior to the formal meeting commencing, a member of the public gave a summary as to why they were objecting to a planning application at the Premier shop/ Post Office – reasons included parking issues (additional traffic), health implications regarding fast food, and risk of extra litter in the area. The Clerk advised that County Councillor Liddle had requested the application be heard by the County Council's Planning Committee.

1. Welcome:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was noted that Cllr Rippon was online prior to the meeting commencing but was now unable to attend the meeting. The Chairman advised the Council that Cllr Pierre had resigned last month, and their seat will remain vacant until May elections, unless co-option takes place.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Written apologies were received from Cllr Hodgson and Cllr Walker.

Resolved: *Apologies for the above Parish Councillors were noted by the Council.*

3. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

No interests declared.

4. Minutes of Council meeting – 12 November 2020:

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 12 November 2020 were approved as a true record by the Council.

5. Police Report:

No PCSOs were in attendance. PCSO Payne asked that the most recent PACT report for November be circulated with the agenda (acting as his update). All councillors advised they had read the PACT report.

6. **Parish Matters and on-going items:**

a) County Councillors Report

Councillor Wilson advised he was chasing the County Council for a response to the request to install 'no parking' lines near the corner of Cedar Avenue, off the B6312. He continues to look at the possibility of bollards/boulders on the triangular corner, to prevent parking on the grass. There is potential to place the new wooden carving on this land to be both a feature but also prevent parking. Cllr Wilson will also enquire about parking prevention for the grass at Hillmeads and Tanmeads junction. He stated that the County Council had returned an extremely high quote for solar panel lighting on the multi-use path on the A167, and this was not a feasible option. An investigation is taking place by Durham County Council into a potential breach (by Persimmon) of planning conditions at Cross Lane, due to the mud and dust on the road (caused by the building work). Five speed bumps are to be installed at Cross Lane, paid for by Persimmon.

Councillor Liddle had sent the Clerk an update for the Council. Cllr Liddle and Cllr Wilson have contributed £999 from their small grants budget to the food bank, Nettlesworth Community Centre hot meals provision, and to The Fulforth Centre hot meals provision. They have also donated £999 to the Sacriston Youth project Christmas present appeal. Any donations can be made direct to either Sacriston Youth Project or Sacriston Salvation Army. Please contact Christmas@sacristonyouthproject.co.uk for further information or information on how to donate. Cllr Liddle stated she was pleased that PACT House in Stanley has offered to provide a free cooked hot lunch on Christmas Day to those who need one, "This is such a generous act of kindness and we are lucky to have support from such a fantastic charity whose volunteers are already stretched to capacity". If anyone is available to help deliver meals for PACT House on Christmas Day, they can email Darren McMahon at pacthousestanley@outlook.com

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

b) Community Centre Report

No update.

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

c) Planning Applications

- DM/20/02851/FPA (demolition of garage and extension, Wray's House, Tan Hills)

The Clerk advised that Durham County Council state all work before an application is approved is at the owner's risk. Cllr Inman raised a motion for the Parish Council to submit comment that building work should not have begun before the application was approved (yet some demolition has already taken place). Cllr Cole seconded the motion and the Council unanimously agreed for the Clerk to submit this comment.

- DM/20/03359/FPA (additional use/change, Premier/Post Office, Tan Hills)

Cllr Inman advised that a takeaway would not be negative for the area. However, it should not be approved by the County Council as parking would be a major issue. Cllr Cole raised a motion to object to the application, which Cllr Inman seconded, and the Council unanimously agreed for the Clerk to submit this objection.

Resolved: *The Clerk will submit comment for the first application, objecting to the early start to building work (although there is no objection to the application itself). The Clerk will submit comment for the second application objecting to the application due to the detrimental effect it would have on the parking situation outside the shop. Parking is already limited, and additional stress on parking may lead to accidents between both cars and pedestrians, if traffic is unsighted.*

d) Allotments

The Clerk gave an update to advise that pest control had carried out their 6-weekly visit the weekend before last and inspections were due in January. The Clerk praised the efforts made by some new tenants to improve the garden that had been left in poor condition by previous tenants. However, there is cause for concern that some tenants have not been utilizing their gardens – this will be discussed at the next inspection. Cllr Jackson asked if there was an update regarding the quote for a second water tap. The Clerk advised that the Council had already approved the collection of quotes and these will be returned in 2021.

Resolved: *To note updates.*

e) Highways and road signage

Cllr Craig advised that DCC are to carry out further repairs to the road surface at Wheatleywell Lane in January 2021 and the road will be resurfaced completely in July 2021 – chipped and tarred (by DCC).

Resolved: *To note update.*

f) Budget

The Clerk advised that the current year's budget was causing no concern and there was nothing to raise, other than the ringfence for the new playground and community centre heating works would be carried forward. The Clerk presented the second draft of the budget for 2021-22 and asked for councillors to consider what may be required next year. The final draft will be approved in January 2021, along with the precept. A small budget to help with broadband funding, the Spring Project, new planters and salt bins, additional Christmas trees and additional ringfence for a new playground at the community centre have all been included. Cllrs Craig and Cole advised they were happy with the progress so far.

Resolved: *To note update.*

g) Spring/ water trough at the roadside, Nettlesworth entrance (west)

The Council discussed the potential design and scale of the feature. The Clerk read a note from Cllr Rippon to advise a member of the public may be able to enlist two friends, both engineers, to assist with the project. This had been offered at a previous meeting but to date, the engineers have not yet been involved. The Council had agreed at November's meeting that the Spring Working Group should be looking to gather quotes on a range of items eg bench, sitting area, refurbishment of the trough, planting etc. It was now agreed the group should meet again before January's Ordinary Council Meeting to shortlist suggestions for what the area should look like (eg a replica of what used to be there, or a newly designed feature). The Clerk advised there is potential for the project to stall if the Council cannot agree on what is required from the feature. Cllr Jackson said there are other issues that may require looking into before deciding on design eg planning permission, Assets (DCC) permission, Highways evaluation etc. The Clerk advised that County Councillor Wilson had already begun making enquiries with the various sections at the County Council and they were aware of the early proposals. Cllr Kendall suggested a risk assessment be discussed by the working group, covering some of these concerns. The Council agreed. The Clerk advised he is attending the site soon to meet Northumbrian Water regarding the water source. The query had initially been passed to Anglian Water, provider for the area. Cllr Cole noted that residents have advised it was Durham County Council that switched the water off many years ago.

Resolved: The working group will meet prior to January's Council meeting (the Clerk will arrange with the working group), to move the project forward – this will be done by detailing ideas of what the feature should look like. The Council can then agree the scale of the feature and request quotes based on a general design. The working group will also carry out a risk and mitigations assessment, listing all actions and timescales. An update will be provided to the Council in January 2021.

h) Planters

The Clerk informed the Council that Durham County Council (DCC) Highways had declined the positioning of a planter under the new village sign. This is due to the risk of a car hitting the object, with the area being on a bend. Highways have asked the Assets team to inform the Clerk if there was any land at Plawsworth that a planter could be placed. Cllr Craig suggested raising a flowerbed under the signage, as DCC have said this is permissible. The Council discussed the potential planting area at Hillmeads and Tanmeads. The Clerk advised that DCC are issuing £150 grants for tree planting (first come, first served). Only two residents had responded to the letter that was posted to all houses within eyesight of the planting area. Cllr Inman suggested low level shrubs may be an option here. Cllr Craig suggested further canvassing should take place before moving forward with a decision on the area. Cllr Cole volunteered to door knock nearby residents in the new year and Cllr Craig said he would assist.

Resolved: The Council agreed to plant underneath the village sign at Plawsworth, possibly raising the flowerbed and await response from Durham County Council regarding an area that a planter could be placed. Cllr Cole and Craig will canvass opinion at Hillmeads and Tanmeads regarding the abandoned planting area (where a tree once stood) before the Council agrees further action.

i) Salt bins

The Council discussed the request from a resident to purchase a salt bin for Hillmeads (near the steps to The Crescent). DCC had assessed the area but it failed to meet their criteria for a salt bin. However, the Clerk met DCC on site this week and it passed a lower-level criterion used for parishes – this meant the Parish Council could purchase a bin if they agree. The Council unanimously agreed to the purchase.

Resolved: The Council agreed to purchase a salt bin at a cost of £191.37 and one refill per year for £96, to be placed at Hillmeads. The Clerk will contact DCC to arrange installation.

j) Wooden carving and bench

The Council discussed the design for the carving at Nettlesworth. A design was offered from the sculptor incorporating the history of farming and mining and includes an image of a horse. The Council approved the design. Siting of the carving was discussed, and quotes will be required for fixture and fitting. The Council asked that the Clerk liaise with County Councillor Wilson and DCC to further progress and the Council can agree at January's meeting any costs to be incurred. The Clerk advised a donation of £50.05 is required for the sculptor to cover material costs (approved at November's meeting).

Resolved: The Council approved the design from the sculptor – the Clerk will contact to notify. Clerk to agree siting, preferably at the corner of Cedar Avenue, with DCC via County Councillor Wilson.

k) KPPC Newsletter

The Winter newsletter was well received by the Council and it was approved to go to print.

Resolved: The Clerk will send to print and arrange distribution to the councillors/volunteers next week to deliver in the community. The Clerk will deliver to Boyntons, Conyers and Plawsworth Gate, as he did last time.

l) Broadband

The Council discussed the canvassing of residents at Plawsworth, who may be eligible for government's rural voucher scheme to improve broadband speeds. The Clerk advised a leaflet drop will be made with the Winter newsletter, asking residents to contact the Clerk. The Clerk asked for agreement to gather an initial quote from Openreach. The Council can then consider any deficit between the voucher scheme and the actual total cost.

Resolved: *Leaflets to be dropped with the newsletter next week. The Council agreed for the Clerk to obtain a quote from Openreach for improved broadband in the village.*

[Cllr Inman left the meeting.]

m) Donation to Foodbank

Cllr Kendall suggested a donation of £100 to County Durham Foodbank this Christmas. The Council unanimously agreed. Cllr Cole asked that a donation to a local foodbank be considered at the next meeting.

Resolved: *Clerk to make donation of £100 on behalf of the Parish Council, to County Durham Foodbank.*

n) Ordinary Meetings in person

The Council had agreed in September 2020 to review arrangements in December 2020. Due to recent changes by law regarding the Coronavirus, and the increasing cases, the Council unanimously agreed to continue virtual meetings. This will be reviewed again in April 2021, when the meeting dates for 2021-22 are agreed.

Resolved: *Meetings to continue virtually. Council to review arrangements in April 2021.*

o) Grant applications

- None

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

p) Training

- None

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

q) Correspondence

- Resident contact regarding planning application for the Premier shop
- Resident contact requesting a salt bin at Hillmeads
- Durham Constabulary information regarding new custody suite for County Durham

Resolved: *Correspondence noted: planning application as per public participation section of the meeting and item 6(c); salt bin request as per item 6(i); and update from Durham Police for proposals to start a new build at DurhamGate, Spennymoor for a new centralized custody suite for the Durham area.*

7. Financial Matters:

a) Payments

Resolved: *The following payments were agreed (and invoices will be signed by the Chair at the next meeting held in person):*

- (1) The sum of £258.26 be paid to J Kelly (Clerk service, 1st – 30th November, 28 hours including two hours from training budget for Clerk)
- (2) The sum of £3.49 be paid to J Kelly (HP ink, November)
- (3) The sum of £12.00 be paid to Ash Signs (sign(s) for salt bin)
- (4) The sum of £24.97 be paid to J Kelly (tree lights battery pack)

b) Receipts

Resolved: *The following receipts were noted and will be signed by the Chair at the next meeting in person:*

- PAYE (to HMRC) November hours, December submission (£64.58)
- Printer subscription with HP - see item 7(a)2. above (£3.49)
- Battery pack (for Christmas tree) – see item 7(a)4. above (£24.97)

c) Bank statements and direct debits

Resolved:

Statements checked:

- October 2020 – received and will be signed at the next meeting held in person.

Direct debits (and standing orders) checked by the Chair and to be signed at next meeting held in person:

- HMRC (October payment) – checked on October statement (paid 1st November)
- Anglian Water trading as Wave (quarterly) – next due December statement

The Chair noted that any underpayments of PAYE to HRMC, resulting from the monthly set amount for the bank standing order (£65), will be cleared at year-end.

8. Date of Next Meeting

14 January 2021 to commence at 7.00pm.

The meeting terminated at 8.30pm.

Chairman

Date