

# 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 April 2023 @ 7:00pm.

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

**Also in attendance** – County Councillor Waldock, and two members of the public.

In the absence of the Proper Officer (Clerk), Cllr Inman volunteered to clerk the meeting by taking minutes of the key decisions.

Before the start of the formal meeting, a representative from Because We Care North-East discussed their grant application, to be considered at item 5(l) of the agenda, and fielded questions from Councillors.

### 1. Welcome:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Apologies for Absence:

There were no apologies required.

**Resolved:** *No apologies to note.*

### 3. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

Cllr Burnip declared an interest regarding item 5(l) and Cllr Inman regarding item 5(i).

### 4. Minutes of Council meeting – Ordinary Meeting 9 March 2023:

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 9 March 2023 were approved by the Council.

## **5. Parish Matters and on-going items:**

### **a) County Councillors' Report**

Councillor Waldock reported that three trees had been planted along the A167 as per the Parish Council's instructions, but that a fourth tree had not been planted. The fifth tree had not been ordered. She also raised the matter of rubbish removal near the allotments at Woodland Terrace. Cllr Jackson raised a concern about the lack of progress with rubbish removal. Councillor Waldock reported that for Durham County Council to proceed with works to provide car parking spaces along Ugly Lane, a variation was required to change the intended use of the land and believed this to cost approximately £255. Cllr. Inman advised that a decision would have to be deferred to a meeting where the proper notice for a motion and accompanying information had been given to members. The Clerk had not yet received any detail on the variation or cost from DCC, so this decision will take place at a later date. Councillor Waldock reported that The Elms in Kimblesworth was to potentially become a children's home, referring to a press release dated 27th March and that an embargo had existed to prevent the earlier release. Concerns were raised by several councillors regarding the apparent lack of consultation over the decision. The Chair highlighted the large amount of accommodation in the parish for transient residents and the problems with the local community this had caused. This would increase with the presence of a children's home in addition to the three other local institutions and short-term lets. Councillor Waldock stated that she would request a public meeting with the parties concerned. Cllr Rippon raised a concern about a large van parking in the entrance to Tanmeads and concerns were also raised regarding car fires in the area.

**Resolved:** Clerk to contact County Councillors with list of updated queries. Councillors Waldock and Wilson to update on all queries at the next meeting.

### **b) Highways, paths, and road signage**

Cllr Craig has reported the A167 and Darley Court as being in disrepair to County Councillor Wilson who has logged this with Durham County Council. Cllr. Waldock reported that Councillor Wilson has requested a speed-watch for B6312 at Nettlesworth and mentioned raising the possibility of a 20mph limit near Nettlesworth Primary School.

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

### **c) Spring/ water trough at the roadside, Nettlesworth entrance (west)**

It was reported that work had begun on the trough. Ideas to unveil the refurbished trough when it is completed, were discussed, including a well-dressing. Members were encouraged to give further ideas for the launch to the Clerk for a future meeting agenda.

**Resolved:** To note update.

**d) Community Centre Report**

Cllr Jackson reported that the Community Association was looking urgently to procure funding for re-wiring at the Centre. A separate matter involved an electrical fire by the road outside the Centre. 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:

- None.

Cllrs Burnip and Rippon reported that they had attended the visit to the new development by Riversdale Homes, at Eureka Mews, for people with autism. Both were impressed with the quality of the accommodation.

**Resolved:** *Nothing to resolve.*

**f) Allotments**

Cllr Jackson reported that cultivation had not begun on some of the allotments and a letter was to be circulated to allotment holders reminding them of the requirement to cultivate during the growing season. Pest control are due to attend on 15 April.

**Resolved:** *To note update.*

**g) Newsletter**

Previous items offered by Councillors for the following edition of the newsletter in 2023, were discussed. It was suggested to include an item relating to the possibility of erecting an outdoor war memorial in the parish.

**Resolved:** *Potential future items passed to Clerk.*

**h) Schedule of meetings 2023-34**

The schedule of ordinary meetings for 2023-24 was agreed unanimously.

**Resolved:** *Schedule agreed.*

**i) Administrative Support Assistant**

[Having declared an interest in the matter under item 3, Cllr Inman left the meeting.]

The Council agreed for the HR Panel to interview both applicants for the post. The Council agreed to delegate power to recruit the successful candidate, to the HR Panel (made up of the Chair, Vice-Chair, and the Clerk).

**Resolved:** *The Council agreed the HR Panel will interview and recruit to the post and provide an update at the next meeting.*

[Cllr Inman re-joined the meeting.]

**j) Section 106 money**

Cllr Bruce reported that she was in discussion regarding obtaining a quote for works in the Community Centre field. Cllr Bruce will request the Clerk place a decision on a future agenda when all details are available.

**Resolved:** *Nothing to resolve.*

**k) Charitable organisations**

It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda for subsequent meetings, until such time as further proposals are available.

**Resolved:** *Nothing to resolve.*

**l) Grants**

*[Having declared an interest in the matter under item 3, Cllr Burnip left the meeting.]*

Because We Care North-East requested £1,692 towards annual storage and donations. With the meeting in general agreement, a vote was taken on a proposal to award 100% of the grant or 50%. The result was as follows: three councillors in favour of 100% and four in favour of 50%. Therefore, it was agreed to pay £846 towards the purpose of the grant.

**Resolved:** *The Council agreed to award £846 to Because We Care North-East*

[Cllr Burnip re-joined the meeting.]

**m) Training**

Councillor Jackson reported he had attended a Zoom meeting of the Area Action Partnership regarding consultation on re-aligning budgets. Parish councils represented were unhappy with changes that would affect the autonomy of county councillors over their budgets. Cllr Jackson drew the Council's attention to the DCC community engagement consultation available on its website.

**Resolved:** *To note update.*

**n) Correspondence**

- Further fly-tipping at woodland next to allotments.
- Excessive litter and waste at Westhill Close.
- Grant enquiry from Cestrian Flower Club.
- Enquiry on becoming a councillor.

**Resolved:** *Correspondence noted.*

## **6. Financial Matters:**

### **a) Payments**

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

- (1) The sum of £258.24 be paid to J Kelly (Clerk service, 1st – 31<sup>st</sup> March), 24 hours.
- (2) The sum of £4.49 be paid to J Kelly (HP ink, March)

### **b) Receipts**

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

- PAYE (to HMRC) March hours, April submission (£64.56)
- Printer subscription with HP - see item 6(a)2 above (£4.49 March)

### **c) Bank statements and direct debits**

**Resolved:**

*Statements checked:*

- February 2023 (no.161)

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

- HMRC – March payment to show next statement.
- ICO – annual payment (£35.00)

## **7. Date of Next Meeting**

11 May 2023 to commence at 6.40pm (Annual Meeting of the Council).

Note: The Annual Parish Meeting (of Electors) commences at 6.30pm.

The meeting terminated at 20.30.

**Chairman**

**Date**