

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, 14 January 2021 @ 7:00pm.

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

Also in attendance – John Kelly (Parish Clerk) and County Councillor Wilson.

1. Welcome:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence:

No apologies.

Resolved: *No apologies to note.*

3. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

No interests declared.

4. Minutes of Council meeting – 10 December 2020:

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 10 December 2020 were approved as a true record by the Council, subject to one adjustment – to note that the previously discussed flowerbed is not at Hillmeads but (instead) both Hillmeads and Tanmeads.

5. Police Report:

No PCSOs were in attendance. PCSO Payne asked that the most recent PACT report for December 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 the County Council Highways team had rejected bollards for the triangular piece of land at the end of Cedar Avenue (B6312). He will discuss with Clean and Green options for planters and/or benches to stop parking at this land. He will follow up the request to place the wooden carving and bench here (with DCC Assets). Cllr Cole asked if the County Council could patch the entrance to Cedar Avenue as the road is in disrepair and cars are skidding in bad weather. Red crossing markers (like those recently installed at Chester Moor) will be placed at the Red Lion crossing (A167) in early-Summer when other Durham County Council work takes place. Cllr Inman and Cllr Craig both stated the Parish Council will not stop petitioning for a safer crossing for the area. Speed bumps will be installed at Cross Lane, rather than 'chicanes' as the undulating road will not allow the latter. Councillor Wilson will discuss with Clean and Green the surface water issue at the allotments (water running down from the fields) which turns to ice in cold water, to see what (if anything) they can suggest – potentially with this road leading to a public right of way and the path around Council land, action could be taken. The road is not owned by KPPC but the landowner who leases the allotments. The village entrance sign for Kimblesworth was discussed, regarding its location, but it was felt there was nowhere else it could be placed (than its current position).

Councillor Liddle had sent the Clerk an update for the Council. Food for Thought has partnered with Glenroyd House and PACT House. Most referrals are received from the Salvation Army. To avoid food going to waste, it is now displayed outside Sacriston Youth Project on Tuesdays and Thursdays and anybody requiring food can take some. At Christmas, £1,000 worth of gifts were given to families in need. The youth project ran a Christmas appeal and used the donations to purchase 115 gift vouchers which were distributed to their young members. The Salvation Army were on stand-by between Christmas and New year to distribute emergency food packages. PACT House offered to provide a free Christmas lunch, delivered on Christmas Day. Referrals to Food for Thought by emailing foodbank@sacristonyouthproject.co.uk

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

b) Community Centre Report

Cllr Walker advised that free hot meal provision continues from the centre, for vulnerable residents. Cllr Cole thanked Plawsworth and Kimblesworth Community Association for allowing the Christmas tree to be placed on their land and thanked Changing Lives for their assistance in installation.

Resolved: *To note update.*

c) Planning Applications

None.

Resolved: *No planning applications to discuss.*

d) Allotments

The Clerk advised pest control had visited on 9th January to renew bait, as contracted. The allotment rent (payable to landowner) has been requested and will be noted in finance section of February's agenda. The Clerk advised the Parish Council that the UK currently has restrictions on the holding of birds due to Avian Flu. These restrictions began in December 2020 and a notice has been given to all allotment holders with geese, chickens/hens, cockerels, and ducks. One allotment holder has not kept their birds in, or fenced their plot, and has been made aware it is illegal to allow the birds to roam (potentially encountering wild birds).

This will be checked again at the next inspection (not yet scheduled). Rainwater from the farmer's fields is running downhill adjacent to plot 21, and down the lane between plots 11 and 12 – when cold, it is freezing and causing a risk for cars and walkers. The Council discussed this hazard but stated they are not liable for surface water and as they are not the landowner (for the field or the allotment land), cannot make alterations to prevent this. There are concerns over liability. Councillor Wilson will make enquiries with the County Council, to see if they can assist.

Resolved: *To note updates.*

e) Highways and road signage

The Clerk advised that DCC had rejected a planter for any area in Plawsworth (requested by Councillor Wilson), as there is no (non-highways) land owned by DCC in the village. As previously agreed, plants will just be placed under the village sign going forward. A meeting will take place (arranged by Councillor Liddle) with various teams (leisure, Clean and Green, highways) from Durham County Council regarding the parking and surface at Ugly Lane, along with the potential for a fence perimeter around the football pitch, for which an application for section 106 money could be made.

Resolved: *To note updates.*

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

The Council discussed the potential feature again. The Clerk noted he met Northumbrian Water on site before Christmas. They advised that the cost would be a minimum of £5,000 without daily checks for the water. It was suggested the Council could box the water off so regular checks were not required. Northumbrian Water are not responsible for sourcing the water. Councillor Wilson will follow up a request to check with DCC where the water had been stopped/diverted when the pipe water stopped running. Cllr Inman suggested a standpipe with pumped water could be utilized as a cheaper alternative. The Council asked the working group to meet again, prior to February's meeting, as they were unable to meet over the Christmas period.

Resolved: *The working group will meet prior to February'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 February 2021.*

g) Planting in the parish

The Council discussed the potential planting area at Hillmeads and Tanmeads. It was agreed the matter will be passed to Clean and Green at DCC (via Councillor Wilson) for their recommendation (to grass over or to plant flowers).

Resolved: *The Council will await recommendation from DCC before acting in the Springtime.*

h) Broadband

The Clerk gave an update on canvassing for interest in fibre broadband, in Plawsworth. To receive a quote from Openreach, a minimum of ten addresses are required. Only seven residents and businesses have confirmed interest so far. Cllr Craig advised he will get more to contact the Clerk and Cllr Hodgson said he will ask businesses (leaflet to be sent to him by the Clerk).

Resolved: *Leaflets to be dropped by Cllr Hodgson to businesses. Cllr Craig to generate further resident interest.*

i) Youth survey and activities

Engagement with young people, particularly when COVID-restrictions are lifted, was discussed. Cllr Inman proposed gathering views of young people in the community to see what they would like to see or do in the area, and if the Council can assist with any item. A survey was suggested and a notice in the next newsletter. Cllr Rippon suggested offering a shortlist of options for young people to choose what action they would like to progress. Cllr Craig and Cllr Hodgson said it would be useful to know the area's demographic before surveying and Cllr Jackson said the County Council may hold this information. Cllr Cole suggested a survey could be given to Sacriston Youth Project and the primary school's parents, to be answered by young people but responded to by the parents.

Resolved: *The Clerk will contact Sacriston Youth Project and the primary school for their thoughts, prior to the next newsletter being published. The content of any survey or news item will be agreed when the next newsletter is approved. The Clerk will attempt to obtain information on the area demographic. It was agreed unanimously that the Parish Council is committed to understanding the views of the young people in the area and canvassing of opinion will occur (although the detail of this is to be agreed once further information is obtained).*

j) Budget and Precept 2021-22

The budget proposed and amended (in draft form) over the previous three months, was discussed and approved. The precept request of £19,839.17 was agreed by Council. This is the same amount as the previous two years. A small grant (LCTRS) from the County Council, of £464 will also be received by the Parish Council. The increase to council tax made by the Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner (PCVC) was also discussed. Consultation information had only recently been circulated and the consultation period is short so the Council agreed that any comments should be made individually by Councillors, rather than the Parish Council as one body.

Resolved: *The budget for 2021-22 was approved. The precept for 2021-22 of £19,839.17 was agreed. It was also resolved the Parish Council will not make a consultation response to the PCVC council tax increase.*

[Cllr Inman left the meeting.]

k) KPPC logo

The Council liked all the logos created by the children at the primary school and thanked the school for their engagement. Cllr Cole suggested a one-off working group meeting, to decide on three logos to return to February's meeting. Cllr Hodgson, and Cllr Rippon volunteered to join the Clerk in a working group during January.

Resolved: *Cllr Hodgson, Cllr Rippon and the Clerk to form a working group in January, and pick their favourite three logos, for the Council to agree on just one in February.*

l) Chester-le-Street and District AAP Meeting

The Chair asked for a volunteer to attend the next Area Action Partnership meeting. Cllr Hodgson said he would attend the online meeting.

Resolved: *Clerk to forward meeting details to Cllr Hodgson.*

m) Donation to local foodbank

Following last month's donation to the County Durham Foodbank, Cllr Cole proposed a £100 donation to the local foodbank ran by Food for Thought.

Resolved: *The Council agreed to donate £100 to Food for Thought (foodbank element).*

n) Grant applications

- None

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

o) Training

Cllr Craig advised he may be able to attend the Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Design Training Course and would check if he was free. The Clerk asked to attend the Town and Parish Council Elections Training, and the Council approved the request (£10 fee).

Resolved: *Cllr Craig to inform the Clerk, if able to attend the first training. Council approved £10 cost for Clerk to attend the latter training.*

p) Correspondence

- Thanks, received from Durham Cathedral for the previous donation.
- Thanks, received from St Philip and St James Church, Kimblesworth for the previous grant.
- Resident contact regarding the X20 bus route through Kimblesworth.

Resolved: *Correspondence noted: thanks received, as stated, for the respective donations. A resident of Kimblesworth has stated they and other residents are unhappy that the X20 bus route now runs on late evenings and on a Sunday, with issues being speed of buses, driver attitude, noise, and lack of use (travellers). The Council believe the positive of having additional services for the village on evenings and Sundays (particularly for keyworkers and vulnerable) requires their support and agreed that no further comment will be made to Go North East (to reduce services). The Clerk is to contact the resident to advise that any complaints must be made to the bus company or police (respectively), as the Parish Council (although offering previous support for the additional timetable, do not run the service).*

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 £267.57 be paid to J Kelly (Clerk service, 1st – 31st December, 29 hours)
- (2) The sum of £3.49 be paid to J Kelly (HP ink, December)
- (3) The sum of £20.00 was paid to J Kelly (tree stand – missed from December agenda)
- (4) The sum of £190.00 was paid to Ash Signs (newsletter and salt bin signage)
- (5) The sum of 574.72 was paid to Durham County Council (two salt bins and two refills)
- (6) The sum of £100.00 was paid to Durham Cathedral (donation)

- (7) The sum of £100.00 was paid to County Durham Foodbank (donation)
(8) The sum of £35.00 be paid to the Information Commissioners Office (data protection)

b) Receipts

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

- PAYE (to HMRC) December hours, December submission (£66.80)
- Printer subscription with HP - see item 7(a)2. above (£3.49)
- Christmas tree stand – see item 7(a)3. above (£20.00)

c) Bank statements and direct debits

Resolved:

Statements checked:

- November 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 (December payment) – checked on November statement (paid 1st December)
- 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

11 February 2021 to commence at 7.00pm.

The meeting terminated at 8.57pm.

Chairman

Date