

Kimblesworth and Plawsworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Kimblesworth and Plawsworth Parish Council held in the Community Centre, Nettlesworth, DH2 3PN, on Thursday 12th June 2025 @ 7:00pm.

Present: Councillors – Bruce, Jackson, Moon-Schott, Rippon and Walker.

Also in attendance – John Kelly (Clerk), Daniel Inman (Clerk in training), three members of the public, Sarah Grey, Ann Pattinson and Ryan McGuire, and county councillors James Pickard and Tim Robson.

Before the formal part of the meeting took place, the community centre worker for Plawsworth and Kimblesworth Community Association (Sarah Grey) gave an update on her new role and answered questions from the Council.

1. Welcome:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence:

There were no apologies for absence.

Resolved: *No apologies to note.*

3. New members – To consider applications received for co-option. Candidate(s) to sign the declaration of acceptance and take their place on the Council.

Following discussion, members agreed the co-option to the Council of Ann Pattinson and Ryan McGuire.

4. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

No member declared a pecuniary interest in relation to items to be discussed.

5. To receive and approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council and the Ordinary Meeting of the Council both held 15 May 2025.

The minutes were approved by the Council.

6. Parish Matters and on-going items:

a) County Councillors' Report

The following matters were raised with the county councillors: i) speeding through Nettlesworth, ii) disappearance of speed monitor. Iii) withdrawal of budget for school crossing patrol at Nettlesworth by Durham County Council, iv) parking issues in The Crescent, Nettlesworth, v) fly-tipping in the old drift mine, Woodland Terrace allotments, at the edge of Kimblesworth Cricket Club, and Mill Lane,

County Councillors agreed that iii) was unacceptable and discussed the systems in place regarding the placing of pedestrian crossings. They also discussed the pros and cons of public space protection orders (PSPOs), noting that such orders can have a negative impact on the reputation of a community and property prices. Two planning applications that may be submitted were also discussed: one at Cross Lane / B6312 Sacriston, the other to the immediate east of Kimblesworth.

Resolved: *County Cllr. Robson to report back on any planning application made at Cross Lane.*

b) Highways, paths, and road signage

It was reported that a telegraph pole at Darley Court was to be re-installed as part of broadband/internet improvements. Cllr Bruce reported the poor standard of re-surfacing of the pavements in Hillmeads and Tanmeads and that bush cuttings to the rear of The Crescent and Hillmeads had not been picked up.

Resolved: *To note updates. Cllr Bruce to forward email to County Cllr. Pickard regarding removal of bushes.*

c) Primary School, Nettlesworth

Cllr Bruce read an update regarding the school.

Resolved: *To note update.*

d) Community Centre Report

Cllr Bruce read an update regarding the community centre, including that a grant for improvements to the toilets was to be applied for. Also, the Community Association was seeking new members and trustees.

Resolved: *To note update.*

e) Planning and Licence Applications

The following applications were discussed:

- None.

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

f) Allotments

Cllr Jackson advised he will call a committee meeting to complete inspections on Saturday, 14th June. It was also reported that the new tenant of allotment 29 had requested removal of the drum of waste oil in the corner of the plot. The Clerk reported the situation reported by the tenant regarding the trees on allotment 8.

Resolved: To note update. County Cllr Pickard to continue inquiries begun by ex-County Cllr Waldock regarding tree pruning and to contact Member Services at DCC regarding the removal of the waste oil. The Council agreed the necessity of obtaining full information regarding the tree situation before taking further action.

g) Newsletter

Cllr Rippon submitted a piece about the Council to the Clerk in training. The Clerk reminded the Council there was content for approximately three pages of a newsletter and the Council may wish to go to print later in the Summer (a draft has not yet commenced).

Resolved: To note update. Clerk in training to scan Cllr. Rippon's piece for circulation to members.

h) Project updates

The Clerk read an update from the administrative assistant regarding ongoing and proposed projects. DCC has still not given approval for the stone village signs in writing. Neither Framwellgate Moor Parish Council, nor New College Durham was able to produce placeholders for memorial items. Reason given for lack of progress with the car park at Plawsworth Station was that Sn 106 application was not submitted because a quote was needed from Clean and Green for fencing, seating, gates, bin etc and the written quote is still to be provided.

Resolved: To note update.

i) IT Policy

The proposed IT policy was considered.

Resolved: To adopt the proposed IT policy.

j) Memorial Bench

The Clerk advised that, as the Council had gifted the bench to the Community Association, it would be wiser to open discussions with the Association once the ground lease for the Association had been granted with a view to moving the bench to a more public location, while providing any funding such a move would entail. In the meantime, the Administrative Assistant would be instructed to investigate the cost of installing the bench in a new location.

Resolved: To note update.

k) Grants

- None

Resolved: Nothing to resolve.

l) Training and Events

The Chairman expressed that he wished to attend the course, "Chairing Meetings Effectively".

Resolved: That the Council funds the Chairman's attendance on "Chairing Meetings Effectively".

m) Correspondence

- Further complaint from allotment holder regarding bees.
- Co-option query from resident.
- Community centre enquiry (from resident) regarding dog training classes.

Resolved: To note correspondence.

7. Financial Matters

a) Payments

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

- (1) The sum of £199.48 be paid to J Kelly (Clerk services, 1st – 31st May, 16 hours including two hours annual leave).
- (2) The sum of £6.49 be paid to J Kelly (HP ink, May).
- (3) The sum of £19.99 be paid to J Kelly (Norton software subscription).
- (4) The sum of £205.60 be paid to G O'Brien (Admin services, 1st – 31st May, 16 hours).
- (5) The sum of £295.00 be paid to New College Durham (plane silhouettes).
- (6) The sum of £150.00 be paid to G Fletcher (internal audit).
- (7) The sum of £1,450.00 be paid to Walldridge Parish Council (planter and flowerbed renewal, summer and winter).

b) Receipts

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

- PAYE (to HMRC) May hours, June submission (£49.80).
- HP ink, May (£6.49)

c) Bank statements and direct debits

Resolved:

Statements checked: -

- April 2025 (no. 187)

Direct debits, standing orders, and regular payments checked by the Chair and signed:-

- HMRC, April payment (£49.20)

8. Date of Next Meeting

10th July 2025, Ordinary Meeting of the Council at 7pm.

The meeting terminated at 20.27.

Chairman

Date