

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

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 9 May 2024 @ 7:00pm.

Present: Councillors – Bruce, Burnip, Elley, Inman (Chair), and Walker.

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

1. Welcome:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Cllrs Craig, Jackson, and Rippon offered their written apologies.

Resolved: *Apologies noted.*

3. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

No interests were declared.

4. Parish Matters and on-going items:

a) **County Councillors' Report**

Councillor Wilson confirmed there are no Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the parish area. Durham County Council and the police do not lead on these schemes and must be resident led by volunteers. Further work is required at Nettlesworth play area to improve the ground surface but the gate opening outwards is deliberate so dogs cannot enter the area. Councillor Waldock will carry out a litter pick with any volunteers available on Sat 18 May at Cross Lane, Sacriston including the Womble Park to the sewage works (10.30-12).

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

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

The paths on the Red Lion bank have been cleaned but the paths entering Woodland Terrace have not been cleaned yet. No response has been received regarding the overdue repainting of the crash barrier (first requested in 2023) on the bend at B6312. Councillor Wilson will chase this again. The last possible route to tree pruning on unregistered private

land at the rear of Woodland Terrace is if the bin crews confirm it is causing an obstruction – Councillor Wilson will investigate this avenue. DCC has confirmed some follow-up work is required at Boyntons and Conyers due to the previous resurfacing issues. Councillor Waldock will request a quote from DCC to complete a full gravel path from Broadmires to the allotments (they have confirmed they will provide a half path to the point where maps show the PRow ends). It was reported that the drain has dropped into the highway at Woodland Terrace eastbound. An email regarding local heritage walks through the villages will be sent to the clerk.

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

c) Primary School, Nettlesworth

There was no update provided regarding the school.

Resolved: *To note update.*

d) Community Centre Report

Cllr Bruce gave an update from the community association. Donations are being accepted for the raffle at the Fun Day on 2 June 2024.

Resolved: *To note update.*

e) Planning and Licence Applications

The following applications were discussed:

- DM/24/01053/VOC: Variation of condition 2 (Approved Plans) of approval DM/23/01528/FPA to reduce scope of scheme at the former Kimblesworth nursing home).

Resolved: *No comment to be offered.*

f) Allotments

One quote has been received from contractors (Gordon's Groundworks) regarding the resurfacing of the lane at a cost of £1,980 including VAT. Cllr Bruce proposed to agree the quote, and this was seconded by Cllr Elley. Council agreed the quote. Pest control is attending on 11 May. Inspections will take place in June.

Resolved: *To note update.*

g) Newsletter

No items were offered for the next newsletter.

Resolved: *To note update.*

h) D-Day 80

Cllr Bruce suggested the soldiers be placed at the village sign at Plawsworth, the noticeboard at Edmondsley Lane, the planter at Kimblesworth and the grassed mound at The Green, Nettlesworth and this was seconded by Cllr Walker. Cllr Bruce suggested they be placed between Monday 3 and Monday 10 June, and this was seconded by Cllr Elley. Cllr Elley proposed the floral display design with poppies for the Red Lion bank and Cllr Burnip seconded the motion. The Council agreed to all three motions.

Resolved: *To place the respective soldiers as agreed, and to action 'display 2' for the flowerbed at the Red Lion bank.*

i) Defibrillators

The Clerk advised the government scheme for co-funding defibrillators ended the same week in April when the Council agreed to purchase two for Kimblesworth and Plawsworth. This means the cost will now be full price. The Council asked the Clerk to seek approval from the Red Lion pub and the church at Kimblesworth to install defibrillators on the external wall, and to research other funding schemes to reduce Council costs. The Council can then consider costs again at June's meeting.

Resolved: *To note update.*

j) Trough interpretation panel

The Council discussed the wording for the panel put forward by Cllr Inman. Cllr Inman proposed to agree the wording, which was seconded by Cllr Bruce and Council agreed. Cllr Elley proposed to request Waldrige Parish Council gardening team to plant flowers at the trough up to a cost of £500 (grant awarded by DCC Your Neighbourhoods). Cllr Bruce seconded the motion and Council agreed.

Resolved: *Panel wording agreed. Clerk to request Ash Signs to format, so the panel can be purchased (as previously agreed). Waldrige Parish Council to plant at the trough and seating area (cost already agreed).*

k) Annual internal audit report 2023-24

The Council received the annual internal audit report. No recommendations were made, and the Council received full assurance.

Resolved: *Report received and noted.*

l) AGAR 2023-24

The Council agreed the accounts ending 31 March 2024 (proposed by Cllr Elley, seconded by Cllr Bruce), approved the Annual Governance Statement (proposed by Cllr Burnip, seconded by Cllr Walker), approved the accounting statement for 2023-24 (proposed by Cllr Inman, seconded by Cllr Elley), and noted the commencement date of 3 June 2024 for the exercise of public rights, set by the Responsible Finance Officer. The certificate of exemption will not be sent to the external auditors because income and expenditure exceeded £25,000. Instead, the AGAR will be considered in full by external auditors.

Resolved: *The Council agreed accounts and statement for 2023-24, the Governance Statement, the dates for the exercise of public rights and for the Clerk to send the AGAR to the external auditors. The Clerk will upload these documents to the website prior to 3 June 2024, with other associated documents.*

m) Public Participation Policy

The Council considered a new public participation policy for KPPC. Cllr Elley proposed to agree, Cllr Bruce seconded, and Council agreed.

Resolved: *Public Participation Policy agreed.*

n) Village signage (additional stone carving)

This item was deferred whilst awaiting further information on the location of the previously agreed signage from DCC.

Resolved: *Item deferred.*

o) Grants

- None.

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

p) Training

- None.

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

q) Correspondence

- Department of Health and Social Care (end to scheme for defibrillator grants).
- Kimblesworth allotment (privately owned) query from DCC Nuisance Team.
- Further resident contact (Westhills Close, Sacriston) regarding recent litter picking.

Resolved: *Correspondence noted.*

5. Financial Matters:

a) Payments

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

- (1) The sum of £251.16 be paid to J Kelly (Clerk service, 1st – 30th April, 21 hours including additional day's work for year-end accounts/AGAR).
- (2) The sum of £159.50 be paid to J Kelly (plants).
- (3) The sum of £92.89 be paid to J Kelly (litter picking equipment).
- (4) No agreement required for £85.00 to J Kelly (VONNE membership, as the organization has invoiced KPPC).
- (5) The sum of £147.00 be paid to G. O'Brien (admin services, 1st – 30th April, 15.3 hours).
- (6) The sum of £190.00 to Ash Signs (newsletter print).
- (7) The sum of £140.00 to PKCA (room hire November to April).

b) Receipts

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

- PAYE (to HMRC) April hours, May submission (£112.10)
- Plants, Congburn Nursery (£101.00)
- Plants and soil, Congburn Nursery (£58.50)
- Litter pickers, rings, and bags (£92.89)

c) Bank statements and direct debits

Resolved:

Statements checked:-

- March 2024 (no. 174)

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

- HMRC – Balance payment, March submission (£80.40)

- Anglian Water T/A Wave, quarterly payment (£35.15)

6. Date of Next Meeting

13 June 2024 to commence at 7pm.

The meeting terminated at 20.32.

Chairman

Date