

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 13 February 2025 @ 7:00pm.

Present: Councillors – Bruce, Craig, Elley, Inman (Chair), Jackson, Moon-Schott, Rippon, and Walker.

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

1. Welcome:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence:

No absentees offered their written apologies.

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

3. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

No member declared a pecuniary interest.

4. To receive and approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held 9 January 2025.

Cllr Jackson suggested that the minuted resolution to the grant award to Mona Lisa Arts In January be amended. The resolution stated the award was for a period of 12 months, as this is timeframe provided by the applicant when making the request. However, Cllr Jackson advised that the part award from council would only cover a few months of room hire for the art sessions. The Chair proposed an amendment to state a further application could be made within the next 12 months. Subject to this amendment, seconded by Cllr Walker, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 9 January 2025. The minutes were approved by the Council, proposed by Cllr Bruce and seconded by Cllr Jackson.

5. Parish Matters and on-going items:

a) County Councillors' Report

County Councillor funding was approved for benches at Cross Lane and Red Lion bank, and these should be fitted soon by DCC. Supplementary funding has been provided to the community centre for the Summer fair. Cllr Jackson reported the streetlights are off at the rear of Woodland Terrace. He reported this to DCC, but they have not been fixed. Cllr Walker requested steps at the new slide at Nettlesworth park. The Clerk noted Councillor Wilson had previously stated this was declined by DCC, but Councillor Waldock will ask again. Fly tipping at the rear of Woodland terrace was reported. The Clerk noted this was private land and Councillor Waldock will contact the neighbourhood warden. Cllr Bruce raised pruning of bushes again, near to number 44 Hillmeads. Cllr Craig reported further flyposting at the Plawsworth bus stop. The Clerk said he will report this.

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

b) Highways, paths, and road signage

Councillor Waldock advised that Network Rail have not responded regarding a request to improve safety at the railway bridge. However, the Clerk noted that the temporary fencing has been replaced with permanent fittings. The 20mph signage at the B6312 has also been approved and awaiting an installation date from DCC. The Clerk advised councillors that Openreach will be placing two new telegraph poles at Sycamore Road, and Elm Crescent, Kimblesworth, which they are legally allowed to do. Cllr Elley reported continued issues with ASB and dirt bikes around the villages.

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

c) Primary School, Nettlesworth

Cllr Bruce read an update from the school. The Clerk advised he will circulate the school newsletter to the Council.

Resolved: *To note update.*

d) Community Centre Report

Cllr Bruce read an update from the community association. The ceiling is soon to be fixed, some walls have been repointed, and guttering has been cleared. It was noted that electric bills are significantly reduced compared to 12 months ago. Funding for furniture and equipment has been obtained through County Councillor and AAP funding process. A part-time Community Development Worker is now in place. Durham County Council will withdraw from the lease arrangements in May but will continue with the upkeep of land and park. The constitution may be revised, and a meeting of members will take place to agree that trustees can extend their stay with PKCA, where currently the constitution would expect them to stand down.

Resolved: *To note update.*

e) Planning and Licence Applications

The following applications were discussed:

- DM/24/03032/FPA, Land to the West of Fulforth Way (development of 78 residential dwellings with new access, landscaping, and infrastructure).

The Council agreed to provide comment, not objecting, but raising concern about pressures

placed on schools, dentists/ GPs, highways, and parking, following a proposal by Cllr Craig, which was seconded by Cllr Rippon.

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

f) Allotments

The Clerk advised tenancies at plots 12 and 14 had been terminated so had been signed to new tenants, in order of the waiting list. There is nobody on the waiting list for the half plot at newly created plot 24a, so the Clerk suggested the Allotment Committee Chair may wish to call a meeting to agree the existing tenant of 24 (full plot) retain the whole tenancy and pay annual rent for 2024-25. The Committee Chair commented that the fence of plot 19 had fallen. The Clerk advised he had contacted the tenant to fix this but if this was not corrected then the Allotment Committee could send a first warning letter, to be agreed when they meet.

Resolved: *To note update.*

g) Newsletter

It was suggested that the new County Councillors be introduced to residents, after the May elections.

Resolved: *To note update.*

h) Project updates

The Clerk read an update from the Administrative Assistant regarding various ongoing projects. DCC visited the Plawsworth railway car park to agree clearance of fly tipping and discuss the section 106 application for new gates, and fencing. DCC will install the agreed benches at Red Lion bank and Cross Lane imminently. Walldridge Parish Council has agreed to provide quotes for regular maintenance of flower beds and planters and will also provide costs for new initiatives too. They will provide quotes asap. New College will provide templates for iron spitfires, to be used in VE Day commemorations at cost price only. Assets at DCC have been contacted for further engagement on the former nature reserve land at Woodland Terrace, Nettleworth. The new owner of the Red Lion has been contacted to confirm the defibrillator is an asset of the Council. No response has been received yet. Cllr Elley advised she had been in touch with Durham County Council regarding obtaining and placement of bat boxes.

Resolved: *To note update.*

i) Village stone signs

The village stone signs proposal has been well received by the Clean and Green Team at DCC, but they will confirm exact locations shortly. The Clerk advised there was no location confirmed yet for the sign leaving Plawsworth to the east. Cllr Bruce proposed to proceed with the four signs awaiting DCC approval, and this was seconded by Cllr Rippon. The Council agreed.

Resolved: *To proceed with work of four signs if location agreed with DCC; with permissions for the fifth sign at Plawsworth to be sought at a later date, with the Council accepting the stonemason may not be able to carry out work on the sign at a later point.*

j) Salt bin at The Crescent

Item deferred, awaiting a response from Durham County Council on assessment.

Resolved: *Item deferred.*

k) Risk register

The Council's risk register was reviewed and approved without amendment for a further 12 months, proposed by Cllr Bruce and seconded by Cllr Rippon.

Resolved: *Risk register approved.*

l) Parking at The Crescent

The Chair suggested he send a letter to Paul Fiddaman, Chief Executive at Karbon Homes, to request engagement regarding new parking at The Crescent. This was proposed by Cllr Bruce, seconded by Cllr Jackson, and agreed by the Council.

Resolved: *Chair to send a letter to Paul Fiddaman, Karbon Homes, to highlight parking issues at The Crescent and suggest Karbon Homes land be used to create parking.*

m) Perspex replacement for noticeboards

The Clerk advised the Perspex is in poor condition at Nettlesworth and Edmondsley Lane. Cllr Bruce proposed purchasing new Perspex at a maximum cost of £120, seconded by Cllr Jackson and the Council agreed. Cllr Elley asked the Clerk about the condition of noticeboard frame and structures at Plawsworth, and the Clerk said this may need to be considered but a future meeting. The Clerk also advised the Nettlesworth noticeboard will need to be concreted at the base at some point, as it is unsteady.

Resolved: *Clerk to purchase new Perspex.*

n) Grants

- None.

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

o) Training and events

- None.

The Clerk gave a summary of actions following the Administrative Assistant's annual appraisal in November 2024. The HR Panel and Admin Assistant discussed and created actions for the year ahead.

Resolved: *To note update.*

[Cllr Craig left the meeting].

p) Correspondence

- Resident regarding parking at The Crescent.
- Sacriston Surgery Patient's Group regarding a drop-in session on 11 March 2025 (9.30-12.00).
- Tree location and potential pruning at the rear of Woodland Terrace, Nettlesworth (behind the garages at the allotments).

Cllr Jackson advised the large trees on the boundary of the allotments could cause considerable damage to his home, garage, and car, and those of neighbours, if they fell. He has sent a letter to the county council and the parish council advising the trees also create issues with Sky signal and his solar panels. Cllr Jackson suggested the parish council take responsibility for pruning the trees. The Clerk advised the Council to confirm land ownership before pruning trees as they would be liable for damage if they pruned trees not on their land. Councillor Waldock advised she will chase DCC, as they may have an agreement in place with Northern Power to prune trees that interfere with power lines. There are power

lines running through the trees in question. Cllr Bruce proposed to gather three quotes for pruning and surveyance to establish whether the trees lie within or outside of leased allotment land. The motion was seconded by Cllr Moon-Schott and the Council agreed. The Chair noted consent will be required from the landowner of the allotments.

Resolved: *To instruct the administrative assistant to gather quotes for tree pruning and surveyance. Council to note all correspondence.*

6. Financial Matters:

a) Payments

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

- (1) The sum of £236.82 be paid to J Kelly (Clerk service, 1st – 31st January, 19 hours including one hour's annual leave).
- (2) The sum of £5.49 be paid to J Kelly (HP ink, January).
- (3) The sum of £50.00 was paid to J Kelly (St Cuthbert's donation for Christmas tree collection in January).
- (4) The sum of £201.80 be paid to G. O'Brien (admin services, 1st – 31st January, 16 hours including 0.8 hours annual leave).
- (5) The sum of £250.00 be paid to Waldrige Parish Council (Winter flower bed at Red Lion bank).
- (6) The sum of £52.00 be paid to Information Commissioners' Office (annual data protection fee).

b) Receipts

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

- PAYE (to HMRC) January hours, February submission (£59.80)
- HP ink, January (£5.49)

c) Bank statements and direct debits

Resolved:

Statements checked:-

- December 2024 (no. 183)

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

- HMRC, November payment, £72.54 (no. 183)
- Anglian Water T/A Wave, quarterly payment, £72.72 (no. 183)

7. Date of Next Meeting

13 March 2025 commencing at 7pm.

The meeting terminated at 20.59.

	Chairman	Date
Initialled by Chairman_		2024-25 – February