

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 12 December 2024 @ 7:00pm.

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

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

1. Welcome:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Bruce and Cllr Jackson offered their written apologies.

Resolved: *Apologies noted.*

3. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

No interests were declared.

4. To receive and approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held 14 November 2024.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 14 November 2024 were approved by the Council, proposed by Cllr Walker, and seconded by Cllr Craig. Prior to this, an amendment was proposed by Cllr Inman that he had previously proposed a £25 donation to the PCSO's Christmas event (for selection boxes) without a seconder to the motion. Cllr Walker seconded this amendment to the minutes.

5. Parish Matters and on-going items:

a) County Councillors' Report

Councillor Waldock is supporting the lease discussions for the community centre. Councillor Waldock advised that DCC advised the 'missing' portable electronic speed limit sign for the ward may be elsewhere in the county but there is no confirmation on where yet. Councillor Wilson will follow up on this issue also. The litter pick pencilled in for Saturday 23 November at 10.30am, was cancelled due to bad weather. Another will be arranged early in 2025. The bushes at Woodland Crescent have finally been pruned. Cllrs Rippon and Walker noted that overnight parking, linked to a residential property being used as a business (repairing cars), has now improved, indicating DCC has taken informal action.

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

b) Highways, paths, and road signage

The Clerk advised councillors that Openreach will be placing two new telegraph poles at Boyntons, which they are legally allowed to do. Cllr Craig again reported the broken bollards (following a crash) at the A167 crossing. Cllr Jackson previously reported the missing PRow sign at Broadmires, but DCC has still not responded to Councillor Waldock's request to replace it. Also, there is still no approval (requested March 2024) from Highways at DCC to install stone village signs. Council have met to see if these signs can be located away from the highway. A complaint may need to be made regarding Highways (DCC) lack of engagement. Cllr Craig raised the issue of parking at the railway bridge in Plawsworth again and said someone will one day be hit by a car at the site. County Councillors will ask DCC to liaise with Network Rail regarding signage to warn drivers.

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

c) Primary School, Nettleworth

No update was available, but the Clerk advised he would circulate the school newsletter to all councillors.

Resolved: *To note update.*

d) Community Centre Report

Cllr Walker gave an update regarding a new lease. It is currently drafted at 50 years in length, at £10 per year, to be reviewed every five years. Some clauses in the lease continue to be discussed.

Resolved: *To note update.*

e) Planning and Licence Applications

The following applications were discussed:

- DM/24/03097/FPA, change of use from former newsagent to tattoo studio, Front Street, Sacriston.

Resolved: *No comment will be made.*

f) Allotments

Cllr Moon-Schott proposed to renew the pest control contract with Beamish Pest Control for 2024-2025, at a cost of £400. The motion was seconded by Cllr Rippon and the council agreed. The Clerk noted there was no update regarding the allotments this month.

Resolved: To renew the pest control contract for a further 12 months, from October 2024.

g) Newsletter

Subject to the chair proof-reading and formatting the Winter newsletter (circulated by the Clerk), Cllr Elley proposed the content be approved and the newsletter be sent to print. The motion was seconded by Cllr Craig, and the Council agreed.

Resolved: To delegate authority for final print to the Clerk, with the approved content and final amendments by the Chair.

h) Dog poo bin at The Green

Durham County Council (DCC) has advised they do not have the resources currently to collect from a new dog poo bin, even if the parish council paid for the bin. DCC advised residents can now use normal bins for dog poo bags. The Council commented this information should be made more widely available.

Resolved: To note update. The Clerk to share any posts regarding dog poo bins on Facebook.

i) Whistleblowing Policy

The policy was approved by the Council but with a name change to Confidential Reporting Policy, proposed by Cllr Craig and seconded by Cllr Elley.

Resolved: Confidential Reporting Policy approved.

j) Draft budget 2025-26

The Clerk gave an updated overview of a draft budget for 2025-26 based on the budget for this year and comments from Council made at November's meeting. The Clerk asked the Council to consider further items for discussion at January's meeting, when the budget for 2025-26 will be agreed along with the precept request for 2025-26.

Resolved: To note update.

k) County Councillor and AAP funding

The Clerk gave an update on the funding bids agreed by the County Councillors for 2025-26. This included a new bench at Cross Lane, Sacriston, a new bench at the Red Lion bank, advisory 20mph speed limit signage on the B6312, equipment for the community centre and improvements at The Elms, Kimblesworth.

Resolved: To note update.

l) Publication Scheme

Cllr Elley proposed to approve the publication scheme for a further year, and this was seconded by Cllr Walker. The Council agreed to approve.

Resolved: Publication Scheme approved.

m) Code of Conduct

Cllr Walker proposed approving the Code of Conduct for a further year, and this was seconded by Cllr Elley. The Council agreed to approve. The Clerk was asked to check the NALC code used by the parish council still uses 'his' and 'her' throughout the document.

Resolved: Code of Conduct approved for KPPC based on the NALC template. Clerk to check wording of current NALC template and update if required.

**n) Village stone signs
Initialed by Chairman**

Cllr Inman discussed with the Council where stone signs could be placed that would not require a decision from Highways at DCC, as they have not engaged for nine months on site visits and have not given approval for the signs. The Clerk was asked to contact the team leader at Clean and Green regarding two locations in Kimblesworth, set back from the Highway, and discuss feasibility. The Clerk advised that the team leader may also be able to confirm the owner of land for two other locations at Plawsworth. The Clerk was asked to contact Assets at DCC regarding placement at the former nature reserve on the B6312 at Nettlesworth (near Woodland Terrace). One proposed location in Plawsworth is on private land. The Council agreed a decision will be made for this location only once the other locations have been explored. Actions were proposed by Cllr Craig and seconded by Cllr Rippon. The Council agreed the motions. Cllr Rippon proposed to pay an initial £500 to the stonemason for time spent so far in 2024 (drawings, visits etc), and this was seconded by Cllr Moon-Schott. The Council agreed the motion, but Cllr Elley abstained.

Resolved: *To note update; Clerk to contact relevant DCC teams for approval discussions.*

o) Grants

- Donation to Wag and Company North-East Friendship Dogs.
- Donation to St Cuthbert's Hospice for Christmas tree collection.

The Council deferred the donation to Wag and Company and asked the Clerk to ask if any residents in the parish area had benefitted from the charity. Cllr Moon-Schott proposed the donate £50 to St Cuthbert's hospice and this was seconded by Cllr Walker. The Council agreed to the motion. The Clerk was asked to arrange tree collection as part of a scheme run by St Cuthbert's Hospice.

Resolved: *To donate £50 to St Cuthbert's Hospice and to defer decision on donation to Wag and Company to next meeting.*

p) Training

- None

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

q) Correspondence

- Resident regarding new build phase proposed at Cross Lane.

The Clerk advised he had already acknowledged the correspondence and advised the resident no planning application is available for comment yet.

Resolved: *To note correspondence.*

[The Chair suspended Standing Orders at 20.59].

6. Financial Matters:

a) Payments

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

- (1) The sum of £180.71 be paid to J Kelly (Clerk service, 1st – 30th November, 14.5 hours).
- (2) The sum of £23.98 be paid to J Kelly (HP ink, October and November – 300 pages as catch up required from printer downtime). Plan to be reduced to 100

pages (£5.49) from December.

- (3) The sum of £15.00 be paid to J Kelly (printer paper and envelopes).
- (4) The sum of £136.99 be paid to J Kelly (Christmas trees x 3 and wreath).
- (5) The sum of £102.91 be paid to J Kelly (Christmas lights and battery box).
- (6) The sum of £80.55 be paid to J Kelly (batteries for lights).
- (7) The sum of £201.80 be paid to G. O'Brien (admin services, 1st – 30th November, 16 hours).
- (8) The sum of £500.00 be paid to Alan Richardson (stonemason, time spent).
- (9) The sum of £400.00 be paid to Beamish Pest Control (allotments, October 2024-September 2025).

b) Receipts

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

- PAYE (to HMRC) November hours, December submission (£45.80)
- HP ink, October (£11.99)
- HP ink, November (£11.99)
- Printer paper, Argos, 400 x 2 (£10.00)
- Envelopes, Sainsbury's (£5.00)
- Trees and wreath, Congburn Nursery (£136.99)
- Christmas lights and battery box, Festive Lights (£102.91)
- Batteries (AA and D), Sainsbury's (£42.50)
- Batteries (D), Asda Living (£38.05)

c) Bank statements and direct debits

Resolved:

Statements checked:-

- October 2024 (no. 181)

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

- HMRC (£41.80).
- Anglian Water T/A Wave, next due December statement.

7. Date of Next Meeting

9 January 2025 commencing at 7pm.

The meeting terminated at 21.04.

Chairman

Date

Initialled by Chairman_

2024-25 – December

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