

# 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 in the Community Centre, Nettlesworth, DH2 3PN, on Thursday 09 September 2021 @ 7:00pm.

**Present:** Councillors – Craig, Inman, Jackson, Rippon and Walker.

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

During the public participation section prior to the formal meeting commencing, a request was made for a new salt bin to be placed near to the church. County Councillor Wilson advised he would request an assessment by Durham County Council and if rejected, a request can be made to KPPC. There may also be a possibility of moving an existing salt bin. A question was also asked whether KPPC installed the speed visor in Nettlesworth – the Clerk advised the Council did not install this.

### 1. Welcome:

The Vice-chair (acting as chair for the meeting) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Apologies for Absence:

Written apologies were received from Councillors Cole and Hodgson.

**Resolved:** *Apologies were noted for the above Parish Councillors.*

### 3. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

Councillor Walker declared an interest in the donation to PKCA, within item 6(g).

### 4. To review the COVID risk assessment for KPPC meetings in person

The Clerk presented suggested changes to the COVID risk assessment for meetings, in light of changing legislation and guidance from central government. This included the requirement to wear face masks during meetings. The Council agreed the changes without edit and the updated assessment has been circulated to councillors. The Vice-chair signed the new version for the Council'

### 5. Minutes of Council meeting – 08 July 2021:

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 08 July 2021 were approved as a true record by the Council.

**6. Police Report:**

Despite contact by the Clerk, no PACT report was sent by the PCSOs for the area and no further police updates were available. County Councillors Waldock and Wilson advised there has been a few changes recently, with a new PCSO (Dean Regan) coming into post and a PCSO returning from maternity (Sam Stephenson). County Councillor Waldock advised she will contact the PCSOs to ask that they engage with KPPC.

## **7. Parish Matters and on-going items:**

### **a) County Councillors' Report**

Councillor Wilson will chase DCC for reasons as to why red pillars have not been installed at the A167 crossing, as promised earlier this year. He will also chase the site visit with DCC to discuss a safer crossing. Councillor Wilson advised he was looking into options for tree cutting at East Avenue, Kimblesworth, where the land does not appear to have been registered. Councillor Waldock has arranged a site visit with DCC Clean and Green Team Leader and the Clerk at Westhills Close, Sacriston, following complaints regarding overgrown shrubbery. Councillors Wilson and Waldock advised they would enquire about the overgrown bushes at Oak Crescent, where there is a thin strip of DCC registered land.

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

### **b) Highways and road signage**

The Clerk advised that the street sign for Westhills Close, Sacriston has been replaced. Cllr Craig followed up last month's request with Councillors Waldock and Wilson as to why the railway bridge on Wheatleywell Lane was not resurfaced when the rest of the road was done.

**Resolved:** *Updates noted; County Councillors to provide update on road surfacing at Wheatleywell Lane bridge at next meeting.*

### **c) Spring/ water trough at the roadside, Nettlesworth entrance (west)**

There was no new update, so the Council agreed the Working Group should meet prior to the next Council meeting, to discuss designs and agree next steps with DCC.

**Resolved:** *Working Group to meet in September (Clerk to arrange meeting for Tue 21<sup>st</sup> and book room at the centre).*

### **d) Community Centre Report**

The lease extension discussions are ongoing, but DCC are said to be confident the lease will be extended in November.

**Resolved:** *To note update.*

### **e) Planning Applications**

- None.

**Resolved:** *Nothing to resolve.*

### **f) Allotments**

To date, £575 has been collected for rents covering 2021-22. Two plots are currently empty, which means a further £134 needs to be collected during September. The Clerk advised of various issues in July regarding a problematic tenant, with many complaints received by residents. The tenant has since terminated their agreement and the Clerk has cleared the plot ready for a new tenant. The Council thanks the Clerk for their efforts in dealing with the issues and asked that a new procedure be brought to a future meeting, covering resident contact out of hours.

The next pest control visit is due 1<sup>st</sup> October. The Council agreed to renew the contract with Beamish Pest Control for a further year following the collection of three quotes (Rentokil and DCC being the other two).

**Resolved:** *Contract with Beamish Pest Control renewed for another year. To note other updates.*

#### **g) Budget discussions and donation**

The Council further discussed future spend prior to budget setting in January 2022 for the financial year 2022-23. The Clerk urged the Council of their responsibility regarding excess reserves leading into 2022-23. A donation of £491 was discussed to Plawsworth and Kimblesworth Community Association (PKCA), to cover the cost of recently replaced defibrillator pads and parts at the community centre. The Council agreed they would prefer a grant application to be submitted in October.

**Resolved:** *Updates noted; Clerk to request grant application from PKCA in October.*

[Cllr Rippon left the meeting].

#### **h) Code of Conduct (Durham County Council)**

The Council discussed the new code presented by DCC for parish councils. This would replace the current code adopted by KPPC, which was provided by the National Association for local Councils (NALC).

**Resolved:** *Item deferred.*

#### **i) Section 106 application – fencing at the football field**

The Clerk advised KPPC that an application for section 106 money (from the Cross Lane development) had been successful and the cost for fencing around the marked football pitch part of the field would be covered by the money. The amount granted is £18,500.

**Resolved:** *To note update and Clerk to liaise with DCC Clean and Green regarding installation, and Clerk to renew quotes.*

#### **j) Plants – application to DCC**

The Council agreed for the Clerk to submit a nomination to win free plant bulbs from the AAP, at the site of Ugly Lane and the community centre.

**Resolved:** *Clerk to submit the nomination and then post the competition to Facebook.*

#### **k) Plawsworth Plan**

Cllr Craig presented the 'Plawsworth Conservation Area Appraisal and Conservation Area Management Plan' created for Chester-le-Street District Council in 2007, including the aims and recommendations within the document. He asked that the County Councillors read the plan and consider what is still relevant and can be progressed. Cllr Craig advised he would continue to raise awareness of the plan in future meetings.

**Resolved:** *To note contents of the plan and consider how some elements can be included in future DCC and KPPC plans.*

## **l) Grant applications**

- None

**Resolved:** *Nothing to resolve.*

## **m) Training**

- None

**Resolved:** *No training to note.*

## **n) Correspondence**

- DCC regarding opportunity for community woodlands
- Multiple resident complaints regarding fires and behaviour of tenant at allotments
- Resident (further correspondence) requesting comment be made to Go North-East regarding X20 evening service.
- Resident query regarding safer A167 crossing.

**Resolved:** *The Clerk was instructed to contact DCC and discuss options for tree planting lining the football field boundary; the allotment issues have now come to a conclusion with the termination of the plot in question; the Clerk was instructed to advise the resident that no further comment would be made on the X20 service that has not already been given and it was reiterated that KPPC do not plan or run the bus service; KPPC noted comments regarding A167 crossing and agreed (as previously stated) that a safer crossing is required and that DCC should look towards improvements.*

## **8. 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 £348.10 be paid to J Kelly (Clerk service, 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> July, 37 hours inclusive of nine hours annual leave)
- (2) The sum of £263.42 be paid to J Kelly (Clerk service, 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> August, 28 hours inclusive of the last six hours annual leave for previous 12 months)
- (3) The sum of £3.49 be paid to J Kelly (HP ink, August)
- (4) The sum of £22.41 be paid to J Kelly (correx sheet for Plawsworth noticeboard)
- (5) The sum of £95.00 was paid to SLCC (annual subscription)

### **b) Receipts**

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

- PAYE (to HMRC) July hours, August submission (£87.00)
- PAYE (to HMRC) August hours, September submission (£65.86)
- Printer subscription with HP - see item 8(a)3. above (£3.49 August)
- Correx sheet – see item 8(a)4. above (£22.41)

### **c) Bank statements and direct debits**

**Resolved:**

Statements checked:

- June 2021
- July 2021

Direct debits (and standing orders) checked by the Chair and to be signed at next meeting held in person:

- HMRC – June statement (May submission, £70.60)
- HMRC – July statement (June submission, £57.58)
- Anglian Water trading as Wave (quarterly) – June statement. (£47.84)

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

14 October 2021 to commence at 7.00pm.

*The meeting terminated at 20.42.*

**Chairman**

**Date**