

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 October 2023 @ 7:00pm.

Present: Councillors – Bruce, Inman, Jackson, and Walker.

Also in attendance – John Kelly (Clerk).

1. To elect a new Chairman and to receive the Chairman's declaration of acceptance of office.

Cllr Bruce nominated Cllr Inman as Chair. Cllr Walker seconded the nomination. Cllr Inman was elected Chair by the Council.

Resolved: *Agreed for Cllr Inman to be the new Chair. Cllr Inman signed his declaration of acceptance.*

2. Welcome:

The new Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. Apologies for Absence:

Cllrs Burnip, Craig, Elley, and Rippon offered their written apologies.

Resolved: *Apologies noted.*

4. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

No interests were declared.

5. Minutes of Council meeting – Ordinary Meeting 14 September 2023:

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 14 September 2023 were approved by the Council.

6. Parish Matters and on-going items:

a) County Councillors' Report

The Clerk read an update from the County Councillors, who were not present. Councillor Wilson advised the police and supported accommodation provider at Cedar Avenue cannot discuss incidents due to GDPR, but any issues are being dealt with. Cllr Inman asked why there were not more tenants utilizing the project. Cllr Walker advised the broken seat at the community centre field has been reported to DCC for repair. The overgrown bush at the children's centre at The Green has been reported. Councillor Waldock has asked DCC why the gate at the playground has not been fixed despite the part being received. Councillor Waldock has asked for a review of the bus stops across the area by DCC. The County Councillors will ask Kevan Jones MP if he can attend a future Council meeting to discuss the area. The Clerk advised the County Councillors provisionally agreed to pay for 50% of the bench installation at Cross Lane in the next financial year.

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

b) Highways, paths, and road signage

Speed wires have now been placed at Nettlesworth to monitor traffic speed throughout the week. Cllr Bruce believes there should have been two sets, at either end of the village, for better monitoring. The path leading to the allotment from Broadmires was not on the route of the original public right of way, so no maintenance could be offered from the PRoW team, but Councillor Waldock will ask the Clean and Green Team if they can assist with uncovering the gravel path. The road lines at Broadmires have now been repainted. Councillor Wilson has met DCC again at the A167 crossing. They have stated once more that the crossing requires no work, and the data does not show the crossing is unsafe. No money will be available from the Sniperley housing development to improve the crossing, as DCC advise the development is too far away and traffic will not be affected. Parish councillors asked that existing signage at the roundabout needs to be repaired. Cllr Jackson stated the trees need to be cut at the rear of Woodland Terrace as they are covering the light and creating issues for the bin lorries. Cllr Walker advised the edging needed maintenance between Woodland Terrace and Sacriston.

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

c) Primary School, Nettlesworth

The Clerk advised he provided advice to the Headteacher at the school regarding an application for Section 106 grant money and she has emailed the Planning Manager at Durham County Council to progress discussions.

Resolved: *To note update.*

d) Community Centre Report

The Lambton Estate has offered a 30-year lease to the community association, which is being considered.

Resolved: *To note update.*

e) Planning and Licence Applications

The following applications were discussed:

- None.

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

f) Allotments

Pest control is due to visit on 21st October. Rent letters have been sent and rent is due. To date, £656 has been collected online or by cash/ cheque, with three tenants to pay this week, and one vacant plot to be offered to the next person on the waiting list. The Allotment Committee has not yet met to agree suggested amendments to the Terms of Reference, to be approved by Council. The Committee will also suggest a maximum expenditure for the Committee to agree actions outside of Council meetings. No quotes had been received from contractors regarding the movement of the water tap or the resurfacing of the lane.

Resolved: *To note all updates.*

g) Newsletter

The Clerk advised there may not be content for the usual Christmas edition of the KPPC newsletter, but Cllr Inman commented an edition could be printed in the new year if there is content by then. The Clerk advised he may be able to bring a draft to the December meeting.

Resolved: *Potential future items passed to Clerk.*

h) Christmas trees 2023

The Council continued to discuss plans for Christmas 2023. The Clerk advised the minimal cost of net lights for hedges at the community centre, or trees at The Green, would cost approximately £30 per 2 square metres. The Council agreed to decide on lights, placement of trees, and any other actions at the next meeting.

Resolved: *Item deferred.*

i) Remembrance Day

Cllr Bruce proposed to purchase four wreaths from Shirley's Floral Art, Chester-le-Street, at a cost of £50 per wreath, one for each village in the parish area. Cllr Jackson seconded the motion, and the Council agreed to the purchase. The Clerk was asked to purchase poppies at a cost of £600 maximum (the Council approved a cost of £800 total at September's meeting). The four wreaths will be placed at the planters at Westhills Close, Nettlesworth, and Kimblesworth, with the wreath at Plawsworth attached to the wall where the noticeboard is situated.

Resolved: *Agreed to purchase four wreaths at a total cost of £200, with placement in each of the four villages, within the week of Remembrance Day.*

j) Ugly Lane football field (as a KPPC asset)

The Clerk gave an update on recent correspondence from Durham County Council (DCC). DCC has advised they believe they do not hold the land in trust for KPPC and it is a historical land registry error. They have asked that KPPC re-register the land again, and that any work to create a small car park at the edge of the field does not require DCC permission from their asset team. The Council agreed to register the land with the Land Registry, without trust.

Resolved: *To register the Ugly Lane playing field with Land Registry.*

k) Budget Monitoring 2023-24

The Clerk gave an update on the Council's finances, year-to-date. The Council agreed there were no current concerns or risk to the Council.

Resolved: *To note update.*

l) Noticeboards

The Council agreed to replace the Perspex on the noticeboards at Tanmeads and Westhills Close, due to poor condition, at a maximum cost of £100, as per Standing Orders. The Clerk provided a suggested quote of £90.

Resolved: *To replace the Perspex at a maximum cost of £100.*

m) Consultation on local woodland management

The Council did not have any comment to make on the recent thinning of woodland in the area.

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

n) Grants

There were no applications to consider.

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

o) Training

Why Your Council's Code of Conduct Matters, Wed 22nd November 6-8pm (via Teams), delivered by DCC (free session).

Resolved: *To note training.*

p) Correspondence

- None.

Resolved: *No correspondence to note.*

7. Financial Matters:

a) Payments

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

- (1) The sum of £153.44 be paid to J Kelly (Clerk service, 1st – 30th September), 14 hours.
- (2) The sum of £4.49 be paid to J Kelly (HP ink, August)
- (3) The sum of £133.10 be paid to G. O'Brien (admin, 1st – 30th September, 15.8 hours).
- (4) The sum of £100.00 be paid to PKCA (room hire, May to October).

b) Receipts

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

- PAYE (to HMRC) September hours, October submission (£71.63)
- Printer subscription with HP - see item 7(a)3 above (£4.49 August)

c) Bank statements and direct debits

Resolved:

Statements checked:

- August 2023 (no. 167)

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

- HMRC (June, £80.96) – statement 167
- HMRC (July, £94.40) – statement 167
- Anglian Water T/A Wave – next due September statement.

d) Amend banking mandate

This item was deferred until next meeting after advice by the Clerk.

8. Date of Next Meeting

9 November 2023 to commence at 7pm.

The meeting terminated at 20.49.

Chairman

Date