

Kimbleworth and Plawsworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Kimbleworth and Plawsworth Parish Council held in the Community Centre, Nettlesworth, DH2 3PN, on Thursday 10 April 2025 @ 7:00pm.

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

Also in attendance – John Kelly (Clerk, Gemma O'Brien (Administrative Assistant), and County Councillor Waldock.

1. Welcome:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Written apologies were offered by Cllr Jackson.

Resolved: *Apologies noted.*

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 13 March 2025.

The minutes were approved by the Council, with motion proposed by Cllr Craig and seconded by Cllr Walker.

5. Parish Matters and on-going items:

a) County Councillors' Report

County Councillor Waldock advised the fence at Darley Court, Plawsworth was fixed. Councillor Waldock is aware of queries regarding Persimmon surveyors accessing land adjacent to Cross Lane, and enforcement at Planning, DCC, are aware. There may be no issue with this accessing of land. Fly tipping at DCC land next to the allotments has been reported. The two new seats have been installed at Cross Lane, and Red Lion bank. Cllr Bruce reported the broken drain and overgrown bushes at Hillmeads again. Cllr Bruce reported a fire at the woodland behind Hillmeads and asked for the warden (DCC) to be informed. Cllr Craig asked Councillor Waldock to enquire about a wall or building being erected at the rear of the paddock when exiting Plawsworth.

Resolved: *Councillor Waldock to update on queries at next meeting, if re-elected.*

b) Highways, paths, and road signage

Councillor Waldock informed the Council that the 20mph advisory limit signage at the B6312 is imminent. Further issues regarding parking at The Green during school times have been raised with Councillor Waldock who will contact the school. Councillor Waldock has contacted Housing Officer at Karbon (Jennifer Carson) regarding permission to install parking at The Crescent. Cllr Rippon requested improved road markings for right of way at Cedar Avenue turning circle. Cllr Craig requested white wooden fencing ('gates') at the east entry to Plawsworth, to denote change in speed limit. This would be similar to those at the new estate near to the Arnison Centre, Pity Me. Cllr Craig also reported the Wheatleywell Lane sign as damaged.

Resolved: *Councillor Waldock to update on queries at next meeting, if re-elected.*

c) Primary School, Nettlesworth

The school advised they had tidied woodland near the allotments following a fire. This has been reported to the warden (DCC) who also advised the school to contact PCSOs.

Resolved: *To note update.*

d) Community Centre Report

Cllr Bruce read an update for the centre, including the structure of the community association. Floor joists need to be replaced at the building.

Resolved: *To note update.*

e) Planning and Licence Applications

The following applications were discussed:

- DM/25/00763/FPA (first floor balcony, rear of 3 Darley Court, Plawsworth).

Resolved: *To make no comment.*

f) Allotments

The Clerk advised birds must be kept indoors or 'boxed' in with nets, due to the avian flue. All tenants with birds have been notified to register their contact details with DEFRA. The Council discussed a waste bin of used oil reported by the new tenant of plot 29. The Council asked for quotes to be collected from contractors for the removal of oil. Tree pruning was discussed again but deferred whilst Councillor Waldock awaits response from the Street Lighting Manager at DCC, who may action the work at a cost. The Council agreed there are still several factors to agree on prior to any potential works being undertaken by the Council, including land ownership, surveyance, and the responsibility for tree cutting around electric lines.

Resolved: *To note update, and quotes to be collected for the removal of oil.*

g) Newsletter

No further items were provided for the newsletter. The Clerk advised there was content for approximately three pages of a newsletter and the Council may wish to go to print later in the Summer (a draft has not yet commenced).

Resolved: *To note update.*

h) Project updates

The administrative assistant gave an update regarding ongoing and proposed projects. The Council still await quote from Clean and Green Team (DCC) for work at the car park at Plawsworth, to enable s106 application submission.

Resolved: *To note update.*

i) Village stone signs

The village stone signs proposal remains on hold, still awaiting approval from DCC's Clean and Green Team.

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve. Item continues to be deferred.*

j) VE and V-J Day 80th anniversary

The Council previously agreed costs for spitfires created by New College Durham (£295) and £45 for the creation of black wooden crosses (manufactured by Cllr Craig at cost of materials only). The Council agreed to an additional cost of £240 to purchase poppies, nets, and flags for a display to be created by the admin assistant and Cllr Bruce and Cllr Walker; proposed by Cllr Bruce and seconded by Cllr Walker. The main display will be laid at The Green, Nettlesworth, with soldiers and spitfires to be displayed at Edmondsley Lane, Nettlesworth, Kimblesworth, Plawsworth, and Plawsworth Gate (the same agreement as Remembrance Day); proposed by Cllr Elley and seconded by Cllr Bruce.

Resolved: *Agreed additional cost of £240 for purchase of items for VE Day celebrations, and location of item placement agreed to replicated Remembrance Day locations.*

k) Planters and flowerbeds

The Council agreed to accept quote from Waldrige Parish Council for 12 months' maintenance of planters (£900 for two renewals across the six planters, including weekly watering), proposed by Cllr Rippon and seconded by Cllr Elley. The quote for the Red Lion bank flowerbed (£550 for two renewals, including watering), was agreed by Council, proposed by Cllr Craig, and seconded by Cllr Walker. The cost of any new bed installation will be £850 (not currently required).

Resolved: *Accepted quote from Waldrige Parish Council; the admin assistant will notify them to proceed.*

l) Schedule of meetings 2025-26

The Council agreed to the suggested schedule of meetings for 2025-26, with the May meeting being the third Thursday of the month (due to it being an election year) but all others being the second Thursday of the month. Motion proposed by Cllr Rippon and seconded by Cllr Walker.

Resolved: *Schedule of meetings agreed.*

m) Pit Banner

Cllrs Bruce, Inman, and Walker agreed to be on a new working group for a possible new banner in 2026. The administrative assistant will administer the meetings.

Resolved: *Working Group membership agreed as Cllr Bruce, Cllr Inman, Cllr Walker, and the Administrative Assistant.*

n) Grants

- None.

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

o) Training and events

- None.

Resolved: Nothing to resolve.

p) Correspondence

- Further discussion between County Councillor Wilson and resident at The Crescent regarding parking.
- Thank you from Sacriston Patients' Group (regarding drop-in surgery).

Resolved: To note correspondence.

6. Financial Matters:

a) Payments

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

- (1) The sum of £174.52 be paid to J Kelly (Clerk service, 1st – 31st March, 14 hours)
- (2) The sum of £5.49 be paid to J Kelly (HP ink, March).
- (3) The sum of £201.80 be paid to G O'Brien (admin services, 1st – 31st March, 16 hours).
- (4) The sum of £252.00 be paid to Mazars (external review for year ending 31st March 2024).
- (5) The sum of £362.70 be paid to CDALC (annual membership).

b) Receipts

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

- PAYE (to HMRC) March hours, April submission (£44.20)
- HP ink, March (£5.49)
- Mazars, external review (£252.00)

c) Bank statements and direct debits

Resolved:

Statements checked:-

- February 2025 (no. 185)

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

- HMRC, December payment (£45.80)
- HMRC, January payment (£43.60)
- HMRC, February payment (£59.80)
- Anglian Water T/A Wave, quarterly payment, next due on March statement.
- Information Commissioners' Office (£47.00)

7. Date of Next Meeting

15 May 2025 Annual Meeting of the Council commencing at 6.25pm, followed by the Ordinary Meeting of the Council at 7pm.

The meeting terminated at 20.10.

Chairman

Date