



Kimbleworth and Plawsworth Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Kimbleworth and Plawsworth Parish Council held remotely via Skype, on Thursday, 08 October 2020 @ 7:00pm.

Present: Councillors – Cole, Craig, Hilland, Hodgson, Inman (in part), and Pierre.

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

1. Welcome:

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Written apologies were received from Cllr Rippon and Cllr Kendall. Verbal apologies were given on behalf of Cllr Jackson.

Resolved: *Written apologies for the above Parish Councillors were noted by the Council. Suitability of verbal apologies will be discussed at the next meeting.*

3. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

No interests declared.

4. Minutes of Council meeting – 10 September 2020:

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 10 September 2020 were approved as a true record by the Council.

5. Police Report:

No PCSOs were in attendance. PCSO Payne asked that the most recent PACT report for September be circulated with the agenda (acting as his update). All councillors advised they had read the PACT report.

6. **Parish Matters and on-going items:**

a) County Councillors Report

Councillor Wilson advised that the site visit with Durham County Council (DCC) regarding the A167 multi-use path (no street lighting available) will take place on 13th October. Councillor Craig will also attend. There has been no update from DCC regarding the Ugly Lane surface, so Cllr Wilson will chase this. A request has been made to DCC to prevent parking at the triangular piece of land at the north of Cedar Avenue and to add 'no parking' lines to the road. PCSO Payne has also been monitoring the area. A resident had enquired about the maintenance of the Red Lion roundabout and Cllr Wilson has advised the DCC Clean and Green Team have completed an initial tidy up but have more work scheduled in. Cllr Craig will provide Cllr Wilson with information he believes might support a case for a crossing at the A167 and might also provide further options for all parties to explore.

[Councillor Inman joined the meeting during the first report].

Councillor Liddle had sent the Clerk an update for the Council regarding the hot meals provision, as part of the Food for Thought project – these continue to be made between the community centre and The Fells, two days a week; and a consultation has begun on the amalgamation of Durham Community Business College and Fyndoune Community College into a Single Secondary School on the site of Durham Community Business College from 12 April 2021.

Resolved: *Councillor Wilson will update on all reported issues at the next meeting.*

[Councillor Wilson left the meeting.]

b) Community Centre Report

The Chairman of Plawsworth and Kimblesworth Community Association (PKCA) has sent the Clerk an update on the lease situation – the Lambton Estate has recognised the importance and urgency to engage on the lease situation with PKCA. A request (from the Parish Council) to site a Christmas Tree on community centre land (Nettlesworth) will be taken to their next committee meeting on 13th October.

Resolved: *To note update.*

c) Planning Applications

- none

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

d) Allotments

The Council received an update on new tenancies – plot 15 will be signed for this weekend (now that fly tipping has been removed), plot 13 has been allocated and plots 25 and 26 have been provisionally offered (awaiting dividing fence to be erected). All have been allocated in date order and two people on the waiting list did not respond. The dividing fence (plots 25/26) has not yet been placed – the Clerk will organise the placement of posts with Cllr Craig in the coming days (as agreed by the Council at the last meeting). An incoming tenant has offered to then place the fence. Pest control have visited the allotments for the last two weekends and will attend again for the next two weekends. Once this initial assessment and checks are complete, visits will change to four to six-weekly. The Clerk has purchased two padlocks – one to secure an open plot (and will be reused for future terminations), and one to secure access from an adjoining garden where a new plot (12a) has now been created.

Resolved: Posts to be placed between plot 25 and plot 26 and incoming tenant for 25 to erect fence.

e) Highways and road signage

Cllr Craig advised that the new entrance sign for Plawsworth, coming off the A167 had now been placed by DCC. The Parish Council had petitioned for this, with the assistance of County Councillor Wilson.

Resolved: To note update.

f) Spring/ water trough at the roadside, Nettlesworth entrance (west)

The Council discussed the potential story, design and dedication of the feature but remained undecided on its dedication.

Resolved: Item deferred to next agenda.

g) Christmas Tree 2020

The cost of lights was discussed by the Council. The Clerk provided example costs for solar lights (which can also be connected to mains) and advised PKCA may allow the centre to provide electric. Cllr Inman advised the Clerk that contact should be made through the PKCA Secretary – the Clerk will obtain their contact details.

Resolved: The Council agreed to purchase 40 metres of outdoor solar lights at a cost of £95.99, a small transformer at £9.99 (should mains power be used) and an extension cable at £3.99.

h) Public Rights of Way (PRoW)

The Council discussed again the track south of Kimblesworth, running to Kimblesworth Grange. A land registry search was completed online to check who the owner of this area of land is. An easement of prescription could be applied for by someone who has walked the track for 40 years continuously at a small cost (estimated £40). This easement would be entered onto the title deeds of the applicant and prevent a landowner from restricting movement of the applicant through tracks on their land. This does not create a right of way for other residents. Alternatively, a process exists where residents can gather evidence of using the path as though it was a public right of way (even though it has not been registered in that time) for 20 years continuously. This evidence can be submitted to the County Council who assess whether to apply to the Secretary of State for a path to be made a Public Right of Way. This decision can take 12 months. The Parish Council does not have any powers regarding PRoW, although they can make minor amendments to registered routes, for example, planting flowers, making repairs to stile and signage (but only in conjunction with the County Council).

Resolved: The Council unanimously agreed to convey options available to residents so they can pursue the best course of action they see fit. Residents may also wish to discuss the matter with Citizens Advice. All information received from DCC's PRoW team will be passed to the residents raising the initial query with Cllr Kendall. Cllr Inman expressed his desire to assist, as a resident, with any future evidence required about the use of the path by the public over the last 40 years.

i) Grant Applications

No applications to discuss.

Resolved: Nothing to resolve.

j) Training

- Wednesday 14th October 7-8pm, Overview of Planning White Paper (DCC via Zoom)
- Finance for Councillors, range of dates/times TBC (CDALC by Zoom, £30 per delegate)

Resolved: Training updates noted. Cllr Craig advised he may be able to attend finance training on an evening in November – he will confirm with the Clerk. Cllr Cole advised she could attend a finance training on an evening in October. The Council agreed the cost of these two registrations.

k) Correspondence

- Litter on land behind Eureka Mews – response from Northern Gas
- Resident query regarding siting of salt bin and plants at Plawsworth, and maintenance of Red Lion roundabout.
- Resident requesting further action and gathering of support for A167 crossing

Resolved: Correspondence noted:- Northern Gas have responded to advise they will clear all rubbish and make good the ground, and erect an anti-climb fence on three sides (date to be confirmed); queries regarding salt bin and maintenance of the Red Lion roundabout were passed to County Councillor Wilson for discussion with DCC (planters continue to be discussed regularly by the Parish Council); and resident support for a safer A167 crossing was also passed to County Councillor Wilson for DCC consideration.

The Clerk advised councillors that the correspondence section on the agenda is to be noted only unless otherwise stated. If a decision is not required, Councillors do not need to state a pecuniary interest. This is the same for all updates to be noted, including updates for the community centre and allotments.

7. 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 £239.82 was paid to J Kelly (Clerk service, 1st – 30th September, 26 hours)
- (2) The sum of £8.99 be paid to J Kelly (HP ink, September)
- (3) The sum of £16.00 be paid to J Kelly (DCC waste collection)
- (4) The sum of £350.00 be paid to SLCC (CILCA qualification)

b) Receipts

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

- PAYE (to HMRC) September hours, October submission (£59.96)
- Printer subscription with HP - see item 7(a)2. above (£8.99) nb. one off increase due to allotment agreements and letters)
- DCC waste collection – see item 7(a)3. above (£16.00)

c) Bank statements and direct debits

Resolved:

Statements checked:

- August 2020 – received and will be signed at the next meeting held in person.

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

- HMRC (September payment) – checked on August statement (paid 1st September)
- Anglian Water trading as Wave (quarterly) – next due on September statement

The Chair noted that any underpayments of PAYE to HRMC, resulting from the monthly set amount for the bank standing order (£65), will be cleared at year-end.

8. Date of Next Meeting

12 November 2020 to commence at 7.00pm.

The meeting terminated at 8.10pm.

Chairman

Date