

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 14 October 2021 @ 7:00pm.

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

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

During the public participation section prior to the formal meeting commencing, five residents attended the meeting to raise their proposed objections to the new planning application at Oak Crescent, Kimbleworth (land to rear of Wray's House). Their concerns included loss of public amenity view, parking, and road safety, effect on green belt land, and drainage and subsidence. The Vice-chair (action as chair of the meeting) advised the residents that the Parish Council would consider their concerns when the application is considered during the meeting but stated the County Council are responsible for decisions on planning applications – although the Parish Council may choose to offer comment.

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

Councillor Inman suggested Cllr Craig as the new Chairman. Cllr Hodgson said he would nominate Cllr Craig and Cllr Inman seconded the motion. No other nominations were received. The Council elected Councillor Craig as Chair of Kimbleworth and Plawsworth Parish Council for the remainder of 2021-22. Cllr Craig signed their acceptance of office.

As the vice-chair position was now vacant (following Cllr Craig's election as Chairman), Cllr Inman proposed that Cllr Hodgson be vice-chair and Cllr Walker seconded the motion. No other nominations were received. The Council elected Councillor Hodgson as Vice-chair of Kimbleworth and Plawsworth Parish Council for the remainder of 2021-22.

Resolved: *Cllr Craig was elected as Chair of KPPC, and Cllr Hodgson was elected as Vice-chair.*

2. Welcome:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3. Apologies for Absence:

There were no written apologies from Parish Councillors, but County Councillor Wilson asked KPPC to note his apologies.

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

4. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

Councillors Hodgson and Walker declared an interest in the grant application from Plawsworth and Kimblesworth Community Association, within item 7(m). Councillor Inman declared a personal interest in the planning application to be discussed at item 7(e) but requested a dispensation, in the interests of person's living in the council area (so he could relay their comments). The Clerk accepted the dispensation as per the Parish Council's Standing Orders.

5. Minutes of Council meeting – 09 September 2021:

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 09 September 2021 were approved as a true record by the Council.

6. Police Report:

Despite repeated contact by the Clerk, no PACT report was sent by the PCSOs for the area and no further police updates were available. County Councillor Waldock advised she had been told by the PCSOs that they would be engaging with KPPC, so was surprised by their lack of contact with KPPC. The Chair noted their disappointment with the lack of attendance at meetings by PCSOs.

7. Parish Matters and on-going items:

a) County Councillors' Report

Councillor Waldock gave an update on behalf of Councillor Wilson, who was not present at the meeting. Councillor Wilson continues to 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 continue to chase the site visit with DCC to discuss a safer crossing, and he is awaiting a response from DCC regarding re-siting of the salt bin in Kimblesworth. The Clerk noted that Councillor Wilson has recently been given permission from Assets at DCC to obtain three external quotes for the trough works. Councillor Waldock has visited the footpath to Westhills Close, Sacriston with DCC Clean and Green Team Leader and the Clerk, following complaints regarding overgrown shrubbery – DCC have provided quotes for works to consider later in the agenda. Councillor Waldock has arranged a litter picking event for Saturday 23 October, commencing at 10.30 at the community centre. The litter pick will concentrate on the wooded area at Broadmires. Cllr Inman asked for an update from Councillor Waldock on Karbon's response to parking discussions, primarily at The Crescent but also The Green. Permission to create parking will inform KPPC budget discussions for 2022-23. Councillor Waldock said she would follow up the query again.

Cllr Craig asked that the Clerk circulate, by email, a list of outstanding actions and discussion points to the County Councillors so they can update an/or pick up.

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

b) Highways, paths and road signage

Cllr Craig followed up previous requests with Councillors Waldock as to why the railway bridge on Wheatleywell Lane was not resurfaced when the rest of the road was done. The Clerk advised he had no response regarding the dropped kerb requirement next to Love Locks, Tanhills. Councillor Waldock said she will investigate both queries.

Resolved: *Updates noted; County Councillors to provide updates at next meeting.*

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

There was no new update as the Clerk was only advised in the last week that DCC have given permission for external quotes to be collected for the trough works. The Council agreed the Working Group should meet when quotes have been received – the Chair suggested a provisional (2nd November) for the Working Group to meet to discuss quotes. The Clerk will confirm the meeting by email if it is to go ahead.

Resolved: *Working Group to meet when quotes received.*

d) Community Centre Report

The lease extension discussions are ongoing, but DCC are said to be confident the lease will be extended in November. A five-year rent review may be included.

Resolved: *To note update.*

e) Planning Applications

The Council discussed the following application:

- DM/21/02698/OUT – Outline application for erection of one dwelling at land South of Wray's House Tanhills, Nettlesworth.

The Council agreed they would support the residents who attended the start of the meeting in objection of the application. The Council agreed to offer comment on the application based on negative impact to green belt, public amenity view, traffic issues, drainage, and subsidence.

Resolved: Clerk to submit comment on behalf of the Council, expressing concern on the negative impacts listed.

f) Allotments

To date, £671 has been collected for rents covering 2021-22. Two tenants have yet to pay, and two plots currently remain empty. The Clerk advised this year's pest control charge is only £400 - not the £560 previously advised, as that included extra visits at the start of the contract in the previous year. The next pest control visit is due 12th November. The Clerk advised the Council that annual rent currently covers the lease of land, water charges and pest control. Any unexpected expenditure is not covered by the annual rent.

Resolved: To note updates.

g) Code of Conduct (Durham County Council)

The Council discussed the new code presented by DCC for parish councils, which would replace the current code adopted by KPPC, which was provided by the National Association for local Councils (NALC). The Council agreed they will continue to adhere to the NALC Code of Conduct, which is now approved for a further 12 months (to be reviewed in October 2022).

Resolved: KPPC did not agree the DCC Code of Conduct. KPPC reviewed and agreed (to continue) to adhere to the NALC Code of Conduct.

h) Planting at Westhills Close

The Clerk provided an update on their visit to the entrance to Westhills Close, with DCC and County Councillor Waldock. The Clerk also presented quotes from DCC on work that can be carried out at the path, including the removal of shrubs and creation of flowerbeds (£884) and the removal of shrubbery, and landscaping (extending the grassed area), £661. Maintenance of flowerbeds is a further £800 per annum. The Council agreed to simply ask that DCC cut back the existing shrubbery as part of their existing remit (at no cost) to keep the pathway clear. The Council rejected all quotes for flowerbeds and landscaping.

Resolved: Clerk and Councillor Waldock to contact DCC to request that bushes should be cut back as a DCC function.

i) Ugly Lane improvements

The Council discussed a range of initiatives for the playing field at Ugly Lane, including potential long-term projects – BMX track, fitness equipment, a park, changing facilities, toilet facilities, and flowerbeds. The Council agreed they will consider all improvements in line with budget and the covenant for the land. The Council also agreed to consider quotes for the creation of a flowerbed running along the perimeter nearest Ugly Lane, following the Council's unsuccessful bulb competition entry with the Area Action Partnerships. Cllr Craig asked if the County Councillors would consider contributing a small budget application from their

annual councillor budget. Councillor Waldock said this can be considered and she would discuss with Councillor Wilson.

Resolved: Clerk to investigate options and costs for improvements to the playing field area and bring a report to the Council in 2022. Costs to be considered for a flowerbed at Ugly Lane.

j) Donation of chocolate selection boxes for the Christmas Fayre

The Council discussed the request for one hundred selection boxes from a resident of Nettlesworth, to be given to children at the upcoming Christmas Fayre. It was felt that greater detail regarding the event, and how it would lead to a charitable donation, was required. The event detail was not currently in a format that KPPC could endorse. Unfortunately, as the event was to be held before the next KPPC meeting, the item could not be deferred.

Resolved: The Council rejected the proposal, and the Clerk to contact the resident asking that contact be made with KPPC earlier next year.

k) Christmas trees for 2021

The Clerk advised the Council that they budgeted for three trees (approximately £90), and two sets of lights (one set retained from 2020) in the budget set in January 2021. Subject to landowner and DCC permission, three trees can be sited in December this year, but two additional sets of lights and two tree stands will need to be purchased. The Council agreed for their purchase, subject to permissions for siting be granted prior.

Resolved: To purchase a tree for each village, and two sets of lights (and battery packs) – at a cost of £116 for each set - subject to permission being granted from landowners, and from DCC streetlighting/highways.

l) Remembrance Day

The Council discussed what activity could be arranged for 2021, in time for 11th November. Councillor Walker advised she could arrange to attach plastic poppies to lampposts if the Clerk could obtain permission from DCC. The Council agreed this action.

Resolved: Clerk to request permission from DCC to place poppies on lampposts for one week.

m) Grant applications

The Council discussed the application from PKCA for £491 to replace the defibrillator (sited at the community centre) adult pads, buy a spare pair of adult pads and a spare pair of children's pads. The PKCA grant was approved. The Council discussed the application from the Sacriston Youth Project, to continue with the provision of a range of youth classes, from baby to teens, for a further six months. The Council wanted to know how many young people from the council area attended but it was not available at the time. The Council also wanted to know if applications for grants had been made to surrounding parish councils. The Council deferred the item and asked the Clerk to ask for a representative of SYP to attend the next meeting to answer questions and/or provide the additional information requested.

Resolved: PKCA grant approved; SYP grant deferred, pending further information requested.

[The Chair suspended standing orders 20.59, to complete the business of the meeting.]

n) Training

- None

Resolved: No training to note.

o) Correspondence

- Resident request for donation of selection boxes for Christmas Fayre
- Resident enquiring about A167 crossing and park upgrade at Nettlesworth
- Resident request for additional dropped kerb on B6312 at Tanhills
- Resident (further correspondence) regarding the X20 service
- Nettlesworth School contact regarding fly-tipping and ASB at woods near to Broadmires, Nettlesworth.

Resolved: All correspondence noted.

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 £263.42 be paid to J Kelly (Clerk service, 1st – 30th September, 28 hours)
- (2) The sum of £3.49 be paid to J Kelly (HP ink, September)
- (3) The sum of £400.00 was paid to Beamish Pest Control (pest control services, Oct 2021-Sept 2022)

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 (£65.86)
- Printer subscription with HP - see item 8(a)2 above (£3.49 September)

c) Bank statements and direct debits

Resolved:

Statements checked:

- August 2021

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

- HMRC – August statement (July submission, £87.00)
- Anglian Water trading as Wave (quarterly) – next due September statement.

d) Amend banking mandate

Recommended to complete the application form for Co-op bank to reflect the current makeup of the Council (the removal of departing Councillor Alison Cole).

Resolved: Cllrs Craig and Walker signed the form, completed by the Clerk, to be sent to the Co-op bank.

9. Date of Next Meeting

11 November 2021 to commence at 7.00pm.

The meeting terminated at 21.05.

Chairman

Date