

Kimblesworth & Plawsworth P a r i s h C o u n c i l

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 14 November 2024 @ 7:00pm.

Present: Councillors – Bruce, Craig, Inman (Chair), Jackson, Toms, and Walker.

Also in attendance – John Kelly (Clerk), County Councillor Waldock, John Smith (Neighbourhood Warden, Durham County Council) and one member of the public (attending to be co-opted to the Parish Council).

Before the formal part of the meeting began, John Smith (DCC) fielded queries from councillors regarding the role a neighbourhood warden undertakes in the parish area.

1. Welcome:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Elley and Cllr Rippon offered their written apologies.

Resolved: *Apologies noted.*

3. New members – To consider applications received for co-option. Candidate(s) to sign the declaration of acceptance and take their place on the Council.

The Council discussed the request for co-option from Sunny Moon-Schott. The Council agreed to co-opt Sunny onto the Parish Council.

Resolved: *Sunny Moon-Schott was co-opted onto the Council and signed the declaration of acceptance.*

4. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

No interests were declared.

5. To receive and approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held 10 October 2024.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 10 October 2024 were approved by the Council, proposed by Cllr Walker, and seconded by Cllr Jackson.

6. Parish Matters and on-going items:

a) County Councillors' Report

Councillor Waldock advised Persimmon is asking for comments on their phase three build at Cross Lane. The deadline is 21 November. This is not planning consultation, and a planning application has not been made in full yet. Councillor Waldock advised a letter drop has taken place at Tanmeads regarding parking on the bend. DCC has not replied regarding the 'missing' portable electronic speed limit sign for the ward. A litter pick has been pencilled in for Saturday 23 November at 10.30am, starting at the community centre. Cllr Walker reported cars being left at the corner of Boyntons and the B6312 overnight, linked to a residential property being used as a business (repairing cars). This has previously been reported to the county councillors by Cllr Rippon. Cllr Craig and Cllr Bruce reported fly tipping at the layby near Plawsworth and asked the Clerk to report this through the Council portal. Cllr Craig reported the broken bollards (following a crash) at the A167 crossing again. Cllr Jackson reported the missing PRow sign at Broadmires again. There is still no approval (requested March 2024) from Highways at DCC to install stone village signs.

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

b) Highways, paths, and road signage

The overgrown hedges on the B6312 on Red Lion bank, narrowing the path and causing a hazard have still not been tended to. The Clerk advised work is due at Tanmeads and Hillmeads before the end of November to repair the carriageway. Councillor Waldock advised that DCC has quoted £15,000 to return the PRow at Broadmires to a gravel path.

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

c) Primary School, Nettleworth

Cllr Bruce read an update provided from the headteacher of the school. The school has achieved its Rights Respecting Gold School Award again.

Resolved: *To note update.*

[Cllr Walker left the meeting at 19.49].

d) Community Centre Report

Cllr Bruce gave an update regarding sessions currently held at the centre. Plawsworth and Kimblesworth Community Association has agreed for the parish council to plant a living Christmas Tree on the land at the centre in 2025.

Resolved: *To note update.*

e) Planning and Licence Applications

The following applications were discussed:

- DM/24/02632/FPA, 95 Manor Drive, Sacriston (single storey extension).

Resolved: *No comment will be made.*

f) Allotments

Cllr Jackson gave an update to the Council. He advised that the first person on the waiting list has now signed for plot 8. The following person on the waiting list has accepted plot 29. The Clerk will now offer the remaining plot (24a) to two people on the waiting list (in turn) who live in Sacriston. They are only being offered a tenancy as the waiting list has been exhausted. Cllr Jackson advised that the Allotment Committee recommend the Council to agree a final warning letter be sent to the tenant of plot 12, asking that the plot be cultivated before next inspection (Spring). Council agreed.

Resolved: *To note update. Clerk to send final warning to tenant of plot 12 for non-cultivation.*

g) Newsletter

Items suggested for the next newsletter include items regarding the primary school, and considerate parking at Tanmeads.

Resolved: *To note update.*

h) Dog poo bin at The Green

DCC has not replied to the Clerk as to why the bin placement was rejected. This item was deferred.

Resolved: *Item deferred.*

i) Whistleblowing Policy

This item was deferred.

Resolved: *Item deferred.*

j) Budget monitoring 2024-25 and draft budget 2025-26

The Clerk gave an update on quarter 2 finance for the Council. The Clerk gave an overview of a draft budget for 2025-26 based on the budget for this year and asked that the Council consider further items for discussion at December's meeting. The budget for 2025-26 will be agreed at January's meeting.

Resolved: *To note update.*

k) Planting in the area

The Clerk advised that Waldrige Parish Council had renewed the flowerbed on Red Lion Bank and will invoice KPPC with tree planting at the trough. The work is funded by an award already received from In Your Neighbourhood (DCC).

Resolved: *To note update.*

l) Funding for new projects

The Clerk advised that an application for county councillor funding (administered by Area Action Partnerships) will not be made for parking at Ugly Lane as the land registration is not confirmed yet. The Council discussed other projects that may require funding. The Council agreed for the Clerk to apply to fund a new zebra crossing near the school. The Clerk noted the short period for submission and that an assessment and cost will be required from Highways (DCC). Highways has not responded to a separate request for stone village sign approval since March 2024. The Council agreed for a second application to be made if an

assessment and approval is not provided by Highways by 25 November. The second application will be for electronic advisory 20mph signage near to the school, on the B6312. This two-step application process was proposed by Cllr Craig and seconded by Cllr Sunny Moon-Schott. Council agreed but Cllr Jackson asked for it to be minuted he did not agree with the first application, as it would waste resource (Clerk's time).

Resolved: Clerk to agree applications, as stated, with Area Action Partnerships, for approval by the county councillors for the ward.

m) Christmas 2024

The Clerk advised three net lights were damaged at the centre in 2024. Cllr Moon-Schott proposed to replace the lights. Cllr Bruce seconded the motion. Council agreed. Cllr Inman proposed for the purchase of three trees, to be placed at Nettlesworth Community Centre, Plawsworth (private land next to the PRow) and Kimblesworth (DCC land, approval given). Cllr Jackson seconded the motion. Council agreed. Cllr Craig proposed for a Christmas wreath to be purchased and placed on the noticeboard at Westhills Close, Sacriston. Cllr Bruce seconded the motion. Council agreed.

Resolved: Clerk to purchase and decorate, with lights, three Christmas trees in the parish area, in locations agreed. Additional lights to be placed as required.

n) Pay Award 2024-25

The Clerk gave an update on the National Pay Award and the increase due to the Clerk and the Admin Assistant for 2024-25, in line with existing pay scales.

Resolved: To note update.

o) Parish noticeboards

The Clerk read a suggestion from a councillor to give access to the noticeboards to the Church, the local shop, and/ or the community association. It was also suggested trusted members of the public could also be given access. Cllr Bruce proposed access be kept at KPPC only. Cllr Craig seconded the motion. Council agreed.

Resolved: To keep access to noticeboards to KPPC only.

[The Chair suspended Standing Orders at 20.59].

p) Grants

- Donation to Chester-le-Street Police (Christmas selection boxes for area event).

Cllr Jackson proposed to donate £50.00. Cllr Inman amended the motion to £25, with no seconder. There was no seconder to the original motion. No further amendments or motions were raised. Cllr Craig noted it is likely a donation would have been agreed if the event were held in the parish area.

Resolved: Nothing to resolve.

q) Training

- VONNE Conference, Thursday 28 November, 9am – 1pm (Newcastle), one free place and £10 per head thereafter.

Cllr Bruce advised she may attend the event, utilising the free place. Council agreed she may take the place, if she is available.

Resolved: *To note update.*

r) Correspondence

- Completion of ILCA training (Chair of KPPC).

The Chair noted the council funded training was now complete and it has increased knowledge, and awareness of the Clerk's role.

Resolved: *To note correspondence.*

[Cllr Jackson left the meeting at 21.06].

7. Financial Matters:

a) Payments

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

- (1) The sum of £221.96 be paid to J Kelly (Clerk service, 1st – 31st October, 14 hours plus 94.25 hrs x £0.63 for monies owed since 1 April 2024).
- (2) The sum of £79.98 be paid to J Kelly (Microsoft package, 16-month subscription).
- (3) The sum of £55.00 be paid to J Kelly (plants).
- (4) The sum of £9.98 be paid to J Kelly (cable ties for poppies).
- (5) The sum of £270.92 be paid to G. O'Brien (admin services, 1st – 31st October, 17.4 hours plus 107.2 hrs x £0.64 for monies owed since 1 April 2024).
- (6) The sum of £50.00 be paid to Ash Signs (interpretation panel design).
- (7) The sum of £1,291.49 be paid to Greenbarnes (trough interpretation lectern).
- (8) The sum of £400.00 to JR Electrical NE Ltd (two defibrillators installed).
- (9) The sum of £250.00 to VONNE (annual subscription).
- (10) The sum of £715.00 to DR Groundworks (trough additional step).

b) Receipts

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

- PAYE (to HMRC) October hours, November submission (£73.30)
- Microsoft package (£79.98)
- Plants, Pity Me Nursery (£55.00)
- Cable ties for poppies, Amazon (£9.98)

c) Bank statements and direct debits

Resolved:

Statements checked:-

- September 2024 (no. 180)

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

- HMRC, no payments (next will appear on October statement).
- Anglian Water T/A Wave (£35.03), quarterly payment (no. 180)

8. Date of Next Meeting

12 December 2024 commencing at 7pm.

The meeting terminated at 21.12.

Chairman

Date