

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 10 October 2024 @ 7:00pm.

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

Also in attendance – John Kelly (Clerk), County Councillor Wilson, and one member of the public.

1. Welcome:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Elley offered their written apologies.

Resolved: *Apologies noted.*

3. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

Councillor Bruce and Councillor Walker declared an interest in item 5(p) regarding grants.

4. To receive and approve the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held 12 September 2024.

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 12 September 2024 were approved by the Council, proposed by Cllr Jackson, and seconded by Cllr Rippon.

5. Parish Matters and on-going items:

a) County Councillors' Report

Cllr Inman asked Councillor Wilson where the electric mobile speed sign had gone. This same question was put to Councillor Waldock at the previous meeting. There is still no approval (requested March 2024) from Highways at DCC to install stone village signs. Cllr Walker asked when the steps for the slide at the park be installed (so small children can use it). Councillor Wilson stated DCC has rejected this installation. Cllr Jackson reported a missing PRoW sign at Broadmires. Cllr Bruce reported overgrown bushes at the rear of Hillmeads.

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

b) Highways, paths, and road signage

A response has still not been received regarding the overdue repainting of the crash barrier (first requested in 2023) on the bend at B6312. Durham County Council has stated it will not be repainted due to lack of budget. Councillor Waldock awaits a response from DCC regarding a date for work to reintroduce a gravel path from Broadmires to the allotments and if the parish council can obtain a quote to contribute to extend the path. The abandoned car just off the B6312 at Tan Hills is being removed this week, following a DCC warden investigation. The overgrown hedges on the B6312 on Red Lion bank, narrowing the path and causing a hazard have not been tended to. The Clerk advised that lights would be in place on Mill Lane, Plawsworth between 14th and 16th October 2024, due to work by Northumbrian Water. Hillmeads and Tanmeads, Nettlesworth is due to be resurfaced late October. The A167 between Plawsworth and Chester-le-Street will go down to one lane on 15h October so that DCC can clear vegetation safely.

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

c) Primary School, Nettlesworth

No update available.

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

d) Community Centre Report

A job has been advertised for a community centre co-ordinator.

Resolved: *To note update.*

e) Planning and Licence Applications

The following applications were discussed:

- None.

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

f) Allotments

Cllr Donna Bruce was nominated by Cllr Rippon to the Allotment Committee, and this was seconded by Cllr Jackson. Council agreed to the nomination. Cllr Jackson proposed to reduce the quorum for the allotment committee in the Council's Standing orders to two members (to ensure business can be transacted at meetings). This was seconded by Cllr Rippon. Council agreed to the motion by a vote of four to two. Cllr Bruce proposed to amend the allotment policy to state future joint tenancies can only be held by partners living at the same property. This was seconded by Cllr Jackson and Council agreed the motion. Cllr Bruce proposed to split plot 24 creating a new plot 24a at the front, and a new plot 24b at the rear. Access to the rear plot will be from plot 23 (a family member). Cllr Walker seconded the motion and Council agreed. The rent will be half £10 each plus pest control contribution. Cllr Bruce proposed a management transfer of the tenant at plot 13 to plot 29 (in turn, releasing their plot to the waiting list). This was seconded by Cllr Jackson and Council agreed the motion. The Clerk was asked to show the tenant at plot 13, the vacant plot 29.

Resolved: *To add Cllr Bruce to the allotment committee; to reduce quorum for committee meetings to two members; to amend policy as stated, to split 24 into two new plots; to*

agree a committee tenant transfer; and to note other updates.

g) Newsletter

Items suggested for the next newsletter included promotion of flowerbeds and future installations, and a discussion regarding considerate parking.

Resolved: *To note update.*

h) Additional flowerbeds in the parish area

The item was deferred until January, when the budget for 2025-26 will be agreed.

Resolved: *Item deferred.*

i) Dog poo bin at The Green

The Clerk advised DCC rejected the installation even though it was to be funded by the parish council. The reason given was that there are enough bins in the area already. Cllr Bruce proposed that the Clerk ask DCC again for installation at the parish council's cost. Cllr Walker seconded the motion and Council agreed.

Resolved: *Clerk to contact DCC again to discuss installation.*

j) DCC consultation on their budget for 2025-26

The parish council discussed the consultation but offered no comments.

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

k) Additional benches across the parish area

The parish council discussed where further benches may be required within the parish. Cllr Rippon proposed a bench be placed on Red Lion bank. This was seconded by Cllr Rippon and Council agreed. The Clerk was asked to contact DCC to approve and install.

Resolved: *Agreed to fund a bench up to a cost of £1,000 at Red Lion bank (based on previous quote for Cross Lane bench).*

l) Ramp at the trough bench

The Council discussed the feasibility of installing a ramp at the bench, and the cost involved. The estimated cost was £2,250. The Council agreed a ramp will not be installed.

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

m) VONNE membership

Cllr Rippon proposed the council subscribe to a silver membership at a cost of £250.00 per year. This was seconded by Cllr Bruce and Council agreed the motion.

Resolved: *Clerk to apply for silver membership (250.00 for 12 months).*

n) Speed limits and crossing

The Chair presented a draft letter to Luke Akehurst MP (member for the electoral ward) requesting assistance with a 20mph speed limit at the B6312 and a safer crossing at the

A167. Cllr Inman proposed the letter be sent, and this was seconded by Cllr Rippon. Council agreed to the motion.

Resolved: Clerk to send letter to MP.

o) Whistleblowing Policy

This item was deferred.

Resolved: Item deferred.

p) Grants

- Plawsworth and Kimblesworth Community Association (PKCA), £5,550 for fairground rides at the Summer event in 2025.

Cllr Jackson proposed to award £5,000 and this was seconded by Cllr Rippon. Council agreed to the award.

Resolved: Grant awarded in part (£5,000) to PKCA.

[The Chair suspended Standing Orders at 20.59].

q) Training

- None.

Resolved: Nothing to resolve.

r) Correspondence

- None.

Resolved: Nothing to resolve.

6. Financial Matters:

a) Payments

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

(1) The sum of £167.44 be paid to J Kelly (Clerk service, 1st – 30th September, 14 hours).

(2) The sum of £192.16 be paid to G. O'Brien (admin services, 1st – 30th September, 16 hours).

(3) The sum of £150.00 be paid to JR Electrical Services (defib heater installation).

(4) The sum of £1,500.00 to London Hearts (two defibrillators at half cost).

b) Receipts

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

- PAYE (to HMRC) September hours, October submission (£41.80)

c) Bank statements and direct debits

Resolved:

Statements checked:-

- August 2024 (no. 179)

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

- HMRC, £82.26 (June submission) – no. 179

- HMRC, £81.80 (July submission) – no. 179

- HMRC, £84.60 (August submission) – no. 179

- HMRC, £91.40 (September submission) – no. 179

- Anglian Water T/A Wave – next due September statement.

7. Date of Next Meeting

14 November 2024 to commence at 7pm.

The meeting terminated at 21.03.

Chairman

Date