

# 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 08 July 2021 @ 7:00pm.

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

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

### 1. Welcome:

The Vice-Chairman (acting as Chair of the meeting) welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Apologies for Absence:

Written apologies were received from Councillor Cole and Councillor Inman.

**Resolved:** *Apologies were noted for the above Parish Councillors.*

### 3. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

No interests declared.

### 4. Minutes of Council meeting – 10 June 2021:

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 10 June 2021 were approved as a true record by the Council.

### 5. Police Report:

PCSO Lumsden, currently covering the parish area until a new PCSO starts in September, sent a PACT report yesterday for the three villages of Kimbleworth, Plawsworth and Nettlesworth. This will be circulated with the minutes. No further police updates were available.

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

### **a) County Councillors' Report**

The Clerk read out a recommended new procedure for KPPC members to pass requests and/or queries to County Councillors. The Clerk advised this would protect the integrity of the Council and give transparency to this section of the meeting, where potential conflicts can arise due to personal interests in matters discussed. The Council agreed the procedure.

Councillor Wilson advised the assessment by DCC of the kerbs around Cedar Avenue had now been carried out and the outcome was positive – work will be carried out soon for dropped kerbs (across Tanmeads entrance and Oak Crescent) for the benefit of wheelchair users. DCC are investigating a potential planning application breach at Cross Lane due to the mud/dust and general state of the road. Councillor Wilson will pass comments to DCC regarding the overgrown grass around the cemetery area in Kimblesworth, and the weeds causing paths to uplift in the same area. Councillor Waldock advised that Karbon are aware of issues regarding parking in Nettlesworth and that they are carrying out a survey of garages (end date not confirmed), which may tie in with a larger plan for parking in the area.

**Resolved:** *Procedure for passing issues to County Councillors agreed by KPPC and will be published on the KPPC website. Councillors Waldock and Wilson to update on all queries at the next meeting.*

### **b) Community Centre Report**

The café is to reopen soon. The lease extension discussions are ongoing but DCC are said to be confident the lease will be extended in November.

**Resolved:** *To note updates.*

### **c) Planning Applications**

- DM/21/02155/FPA – Red Lion Hotel, Plawsworth (new stepped access, fencing, decking and shed)

**Resolved:** *No comment to be made.*

### **d) Allotments**

Pest control will attend the allotments on 10<sup>th</sup> July as per the agreed schedule. A resident has complained about late night noise from one plot. KPPC action is noted in the correspondence section of the minutes.

**Resolved:** *To note updates.*

### **e) Highways and road signage**

DCC have provided a quote to fix the wooden carving and bench in place at the corner of Cedar Avenue and the B6312. The quote from DCC was agreed by the Council. The Clerk advised the Council that recent patching work has taken place at Wheatleywell Lane and will imminently take place at Darley Court, Plawsworth. The Clerk reported the street sign for Westhills Close and DCC have advised there is a delay, but it will be replaced by October. Cllr Craig asked if Councillors Waldock and Wilson could enquire why the railway bridge on Wheatleywell Lane was not resurfaced.

**Resolved:** *Quote from DCC agreed, Clerk to contact DCC to schedule work and then liaise with sculptor.*

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

Councillor Wilson has provided design sketches to DCC Clean and Green team so quotes can be obtained, which can be brought to September meeting. Further quotes can be collected by the Clerk once he has access to the designs.

**Resolved:** Quote to be agreed at September meeting.

**g) Broadband**

The Clerk advised the Council that Rymote are no longer planning to work in the parish area on a new broadband network. This is because central government have recently removed the village in the parish area from the list entitled to vouchers and this has now made the cost not viable. The villages have not been removed because the speeds are deemed ok – instead, the villages have been removed because Openreach have committed to installing broadband in the next five years, and this means the area has been removed from central governments voucher list (as they no longer meet the criteria). The area must now either (i) await new initiatives from government or a change in existing criteria for vouchers, or (ii) await the work to be carried out by Openreach on their scheduled programme.

**Resolved:** Clerk to contact all residents in Plawsworth that had expressed an interest in the voucher scheme, following the flyer drop off in December/January (to inform the area is no longer eligible for voucher scheme and no action to improve internet speeds is currently possible).

**h) Budget (quarter one update)**

The Clerk gave an update on KPPC finance for quarter 1, including project updates and the requirement to ensure the budget for 2021-22 is spent during the financial year. The Council will carefully consider future actions and spend prior to budget setting in January 2022 for the financial year 2022-23. The Clerk urged the Council of their responsibility regarding excess reserves leading into 2022-23.

**Resolved:** Updates noted, and risks considered regarding non-ringfenced reserves for 2022-23 (to be agreed with budget in January 2022). All councillors to consider for September meeting what the Council's priority spend should be, in line with the previous increase to precept and ringfenced budget.

**i) Planters**

The Council considered multiple quotes to install a planter at Westhills Close, Sacriston. Quote agreed to install planter.

**Resolved:** The Council agreed to purchase planter and install. Clerk to liaise with DCC and County Councillor Waldock regarding the siting of planter.

**j) KPPC Newsletter**

The Clerk advised that some content was still required to present a final newsletter to the Council. The Council delegated final approval on remaining content to the Clerk, to send to print and publish for circulation in September.

**Resolved:** Newsletter approved subject to final content additions – Clerk given delegated authority to approve final amendments.

#### **k) Nomination of trustee to Plawsworth and Kimblesworth Community Association (PKCA)**

Councillor Hodgson was unanimously voted to be a trustee of PKCA. The Clerk will notify PKCA.

**Resolved:** *Councillor Hodgson will be the KPPC nominated trustee, for Plawsworth and Kimblesworth Community Association, as per their constitution. Clerk to notify PKCA.*

#### **l) Code of Conduct (Durham County Council)**

The Council discussed the new code presented by DCC for parish councils. This would replace the current code adopted by KPPC, which was provided by the National Association for local Councils (NALC). The Council did not want to approve the new code for KPPC if DCC county councillors were not subject to the same code yet – Councillor Waldock was unable to confirm. The Clerk was asked to verify this detail.

**Resolved:** *Item deferred. Clerk to check whether DCC councillors are subject to the new code.*

#### **m) Grant applications**

- None

**Resolved:** *Nothing to resolve.*

#### **n) Training**

- None

**Resolved:** *No training to note.*

#### **o) Correspondence**

- Complaint regarding reported planning application infringement by KPPC
- Complaint regarding anti-social behaviour/noise at allotments
- Complaint regarding abandoned car (Westhills Close, Sacriston)

**Resolved:** *Acknowledging how confusion can arise when queries are passed between parish councillors and county councillors in section 6(a) of each meeting (County Councillor's Report) KPPC have agreed a new procedure at the July meeting; the Clerk will write to the allotment tenant where the alleged evening noise has been heard, reminding the tenant of the clauses in the allotment for plot use; the abandoned car has now been removed and action noted by the Council.*

### **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 £230.52 be paid to J Kelly (Clerk service, 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June, 24.5 hours)
- (2) The sum of £3.49 be paid to J Kelly (HP ink, July)
- (3) The sum of £113.00 was paid to J Kelly (plants)
- (4) The sum of £15.00 be paid to J Kelly (water spray, 5 litre)
- (5) The sum of £259.66 was paid to CDALC (annual subscription, approved at Annual Meeting of the Council)

## **b) Receipts**

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

- PAYE (to HMRC) June hours, July submission (£57.60)
- Printer subscription with HP - see item 7(a)2. above (£3.49 July)
- Plants and soil– see item 7(a)3. above (£113.00)
- Water sprayer (Streetwize, Argos) – see item 7(a)4. above (£15.00)

## **c) Bank statements and direct debits**

**Resolved:**

Statements checked:

- May 2021

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

- HMRC – May statement (April submission, £94.00)
- Anglian Water trading as Wave (quarterly) – next due on June statement.

## **8. Date of Next Meeting**

09 September 2021 to commence at 7.00pm.

*The meeting terminated at 20.53.*

**Chairman**

**Date**