

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 9 January 2025 @ 7:00pm.

Present: Councillors – Bruce, Elley, Inman (Chair), Jackson, Moon-Schott, and Walker.

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

1. Welcome:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Craig and Cllr Rippon offered their written apologies.

Resolved: *Apologies noted.*

3. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

Cllr Jackson declared an interest in item 5(l) – the grant for Mona Lisa Arts.

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

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 12 December 2024 were approved by the Council, proposed by Cllr Elley, and seconded by Cllr Walker.

5. Parish Matters and on-going items:

a) County Councillors' Report

Councillor Wilson read an update from Councillor Waldock. The update advised that the bus shelters in disrepair had been reported. A litter pick has been arranged for Saturday 18 January at 10.30am, meeting at the community centre. Councillor Waldock will be meeting with neighbourhood wardens for a walkaround soon. Cllr Bruce advised that she will be pruning the bush at the public right of way between Hillmeads and The Crescent and will leave the cuttings for DCC to collect. Cllr Bruce also reported a broken sewage drain at the bend of Hillmeads (near the garages), which has required a fix for some time. Councillor Wilson will report both issues to the relevant teams at DCC.

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

b) Highways, paths, and road signage

The Clerk advised councillors that Openreach will be placing two new telegraph poles at Hillmeads, Tanmeads and Hawthorn Close, which they are legally allowed to do. The update from Councillor Waldock advised she had reported (to Network Rail) the use of fencing at Plawsworth railway bridge was causing a danger due to the narrow road and parking. Councillor Wilson confirmed that DCC were using the 'missing' portable electronic speed limit sign for the ward solely at Cross Lane, Sacriston. He will check on the terms for this use. Councillor Wilson led a discussion on speed initiatives at Front Street, Framwellgate Moor and how funding could be accessed for similar at Nettlesworth. The Clerk reminded the council that County Councillors are to fund new 20mph signage at Front Street, Nettlesworth and are awaiting resolution to the education element of road safety from Durham County Council. Cllr Jackson previously reported (in 2024) the missing PRow sign at Broadmires, but DCC has still not responded to Councillor Waldock's request to replace it. Also, there is still no approval (requested March 2024) from Highways at DCC to install stone village signs. The parish council met before Christmas to see if these signs can be located away from the highway and await DCC response from Clean and Green. The surface of Ugly Lane was discussed again, and the Clerk reminded the parish council that the road was not registered, nor is it adopted highway, and advised it is maintained only as a path for walkers, at DCC cost. Cllr Bruce reported a broken 'Plawsworth' sign at Cocken Lane, leading to Plawsworth Gate, which is leaning at a 45-degree angle. Councillor Wilson will report this.

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

c) Primary School, Nettlesworth

No update was available.

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

d) Community Centre Report

No update was available.

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

e) Planning and Licence Applications

The following applications were discussed:

- None.

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

f) Allotments

The Clerk advised pest control was next due on 1 February 2025. There was no further update regarding the allotments this month.

Resolved: *To note update.*

g) Newsletter

It was suggested phase 2 of the Cross Lane development by Persimmon could be discussed in the next newsletter if a planning application is made.

Resolved: *To note update.*

h) Action Plan 2025-26

The Council updated the annual action plan, with amendments proposed by Cllr Bruce and seconded by Cllr Elley. The action plan was agreed for 2025-26.

Resolved: *Action Plan for 2025-26 agreed.*

i) Budget and Precept 2025-26

The Council discussed an option to keep the precept total request the same as 2024-25 (which would reduce the council tax per resident slightly) or an option to keep the amount per resident the same, which would increase the total precept due to the increased size of the parish. The voting was tied, so the Chair made a casting vote, and the council agreed to request a total of £24,352.35, following the proposal by Cllr Moon-Schott which was seconded by Cllr Inman. The agreed precept amount means all residents will pay the same council tax to the parish council for the third year running, following a reduction in 2022-23.

Resolved: *To request £24,352.35 from Durham County Council for the precept for 2025-26.*

j) Village stone signs

Item deferred, awaiting a response from Durham County Council on locations for the signage.

Resolved: *Item deferred.*

k) Salt bin at The Crescent

Cllr Walker proposed a request be made to Durham County Council for a salt bin at the request. Cllr Moon-Schott seconded the motion and Council agreed.

Resolved: *Clerk to request a salt bin assessment for The Crescent.*

l) Grants

- Donation to Wag and Company North-East Friendship Dogs.
- Grant to Mona Lisa Arts (£1600.00) for art classes held at the community centre.

The Council did not agree to a donation to Wag and Company North-East Friendship Dogs. Cllr Elley proposed a partial grant award of £640.00 to Mona Lisa Arts and this was seconded by Cllr Moon-Schott. Cllr Inman abstained. Council agreed to the award.

Resolved: *To part award £640.00 to Mona Lisa Arts for an application made for costs covering 12 months at the community centre. The part award does not preclude the applicant from making another application in 2025.*

[The Chair suspended Standing Orders at 20.59].

m) Training

- Elections, Tuesday 18 February 6pm-8pm at County Hall, Durham (£20 per head).

No nominations or requests for training were received.

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

n) Correspondence

- Fly tipping at the allotments reported by tenant.
- The Circuit with defibrillator alert (at The Red Lion).

The Clerk advised he had removed the small amount of fly-tipping and checked the defibrillator was in working order at The Red Lion and found it to be working.

Resolved: *To note correspondence.*

6. Financial Matters:

a) Payments

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

- (1) The sum of £174.50 be paid to J Kelly (Clerk service, 1st – 31st December, 14 hours including three hours annual leave).
- (2) The sum of £5.49 be paid to J Kelly (HP ink, December).
- (3) The sum of £4.79 be paid to J Kelly (12 x AA batteries for Christmas lights).
- (4) The sum of £184.69 be paid to G. O'Brien (admin services, 1st – 31st December, 14.6 hours including 7.6 hours annual leave).
- (5) The sum of £190.00 be paid to Ash Signs (Winter newsletter print).
- (6) The sum of £180.00 be paid to W Reed (allotments annual rent).

b) Receipts

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

- PAYE (to HMRC) December hours, January submission (£43.62)
- HP ink, December (£5.49)
- Batteries (AA), Home Bargains (£4.79)

c) Bank statements and direct debits

Resolved:

Statements checked:-

- November 2024 (no. 182)

Direct debits, standing orders and regular payments checked by the Chair and signed:-

- HMRC, November payment to show on December statement.

- Anglian Water T/A Wave, next due December statement.

7. Date of Next Meeting

13 February 2025 commencing at 7pm.

The meeting terminated at 21.08.

Chairman

Date