KEMPLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the ordinary Parish Council Meeting**

Held on Monday 20th September 2021 at 7:30pm in Kempley Village Hall

**Present:**

Councillors: Martin Brocklehurst (Chairman), Stafford Cruse, Tom Jackson, Kim O’Rourke, Edward Lewis, Robert Howson

Officers: Arin Spencer (Parish Clerk)

In attendance: GCC Cllr Gill Moseley

1. Apologies were received from Cllr Goodwin due to work commitments.
2. Cllr Brocklehurst declared a financial interest in the Aurora Project mentioned in the Climate Emergency Report (item 51). No dispensation was required as there were no decisions to be made in respect of this item.
3. Minutes

**Resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 27th July 2021. **Record of voting:** Proposed Cllr Jackson, seconded Cllr Cruse, all in favour.

1. Reports from District and/or County Councillors

Members received a verbal report from Gloucestershire County Councillor Gill Moseley including an update on the 20mph motion originally put forward by Dymock Parish Council. The proposal, with some added recommendations, would be going before cabinet and was expected to come back to the Environment Scrutiny Committee in December.

1. Public Participation – there were no members of the public present at the meeting.
2. Casual Vacancies

Three candidates had come forward to fill the three casual vacancies on the council.

**Resolved** to co-opt Kim O’Rourke, Edward Lewis and Robert Howson.

**Record of voting:** Proposed Cllr Cruse, seconded Cllr Jackson, all in favour.

1. Planning
	1. There were no new planning applications to discuss.
	2. There were no planning decisions to be noted.
2. Cross Parishes Communication Group

Council had received a formal invitation to join a recently formed Cross Parish Communication Group consisting of 13 parishes meeting monthly by Zoom to discuss development, housing and infrastructure across the parishes represented and provide feedback from the discussions to the Forest of Dean District Council.

Members were asked to consider joining the Cross Parishes Communication Group and nominate a representative to attend the monthly Zoom meetings.

There were no volunteers or nominations and it was agreed that members could inform the Clerk if they wished to attend.

1. Climate Emergency

The updated Climate Change Programme of Work report prepared by Cllr Brocklehurst was received and noted. Cllr Brocklehurst presented the key aspects of the report to council.

**Action:** Cllr Brocklehurst to send a response to the Forest of Dean District Council Climate Change Strategy consultation on behalf of Council.

1. Public Rights of Way (PROW)

Members received a verbal progress report on footpath improvements in the parish from Cllr Brocklehurst.

Footpath GKE35 from Wantridge to the Daffodil Way had not been open along its statutory right of way for over 40 years. It was agreed by the landowner and county footpaths officer to install a new kissing gate through the hedge to the left of the Wantridge houses. Public Rights of Way (PROW) would also build and install a new 7m bridge over the brook thereby reinstating the statutory right of way.

Two kissing gates would be replacing existing stiles on the Daffodil Way where it passes through Lower House Farm. The landowner had confirmed that around 200 people per day walk the route when the daffodils are in bloom. The cost of the kissing gates would be shared equally by Kempley Parish Council and Gloucestershire County Council PROW. Some aspects of the installation of the kissing gates would be managed by the landowner, an excellent example of multiple stakeholders working together to mutual benefit.

Footpath GKE38 that runs down the Redlands driveway and through Felania has been blocked for more than 20 years and is the last blocked footpath in the village. The landowner in Dymock has agreed to a diversion connecting GDY57 and GDY55 which would allow GKE38 to be extinguished and would connect the existing footpath back into the restricted byway that comes out at the top of the village. Council will be consulted when the diversion officer applies for a formal diversion order.

There are two other footpaths where changes are taking place, both on Saycells Farm.

Currently walkers follow a concessionary route around the woodland instead of the original route (GKE20) through the forest. The landowner plans to reopen the original route.

The second footpath cuts around Saycells farm. The landowner plans to reinstate the old route (GKE2) through the orchard and install some new gates.

The proposed footpath changes at Kempley Court Farm have been held up by an objection to the changes that affect the Daffodil Way. Members agreed that the PROW officer should be pressed to finalise this before the Daffodil Weekend.

**Highways**

1. Highways progress update (Cllr Brocklehurst)

A meeting was held with Local Area Highways Manager, Andrew Middlecote (AM) on 17 September.

The following points/issues were highlighted during the meeting:

* AM was pressed to seal the patching work done outside Queens Wood and to reapply the micro-asphalt surface dressing to the road outside Lower House Farm and the hill up to Fishpool where the surface is failing.
* AM was asked for data on how successful the experimental micro-asphalt surface dressing through Kempley, which was applied 8 years ago, has been. He agreed to look into this.
* AM was advised that residents can’t report defects that don’t meet the pothole criteria. Allowing defects that don’t meet the criteria to be reported would provide better data on the overall condition of the highway network. AM agreed to discuss this with his colleagues.
* Willingness to test experimental road surfacing in Kempley was expressed.
* Speeding and dog fouling signs were discussed. AM agreed to revert with details of what signage is available and the cost thereof.
* AM confirmed that the road verge agreement with Kempley Parish Council is still valid. **Action:** Cllr Cruse to consult DyFRA on whether Council is still meeting its obligations in terms of this agreement.
* AM was asked to put pressure on Herefordshire Council to improve the road to Much Marcle as well as the road from Fishpool to the M50 which is a critical access route for the village in bad weather.
1. Highways – other

Cllr Lewis noted that there are no signs around the parish warning of the possibility of deer in the road. **Action:** Clerk to raise with Andrew Middlecote and copy Forestry England and other neighbouring parishes.

1. Village signs at parish boundary

The design of village signs for all entry points to the parish was discussed with Andrew Middlecote. Draft designs based on the Village Hall branding were proposed but do not meet the Highways criteria for such signage. AM agreed to revert with details of the minimum criteria and design specifications.

**Broadband / Gigaclear**

1. Cllr Brocklehurst updated members on the current status of the Gigaclear rollout for the parish.

Gigaclear have a new community officer, Josh Verity, who has taken over from Ben Stone. A community meeting is proposed for the end of the year. Gigaclear has issued letters regarding wayleaves to bring fibreoptic cables in. They are also talking to existing facilities providers to see if they can move to aerial fibre as well as buried cables to speed up installation. It is hoped that a Gigaclear representative will attend Council’s November meeting and will hold a community meeting before the end of the year.

If OpenReach is included there are three alternative broadband suppliers. EE Airband is available from the mast at Much Marcle but you need to be at the right location in the village or put an aerial up. Starlink is another option that has been very successful. This means residents will have a selection of options to choose from.

Once Gigaclear brings fibreoptic in a number of service providers will offer service to the area giving residents even more choice.

**Correspondence/Consultations**

1. Members were asked to discuss responding to the following consultations / correspondence received (Attachment 1):
	1. Forest of Dean Climate Strategy Consultation

**Action:** Cllr Brocklehurst to draft and submit response on behalf of Council.

* 1. Email: Forest of Dean District Council – Local Plan Engagement Forums

**Action:** Members were asked to let the Clerk know if they wished to participate.

* 1. Upton Bishop Neighbourhood Development Plan Consultation

**Action:** Members were asked to review the NDP and let the Clerk know if they wish to comment.

**Grant Funding**

1. Build Back Better Market Towns Fund (Gloucestershire County Council)

Following discussion of this item, it was unanimously

**Resolved:** to submit the proposed funding bid for the Daffodil Weekend.

**Events**

1. Queens Platinum Jubilee

Members agreed that an event celebrating the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee should be put on in partnership with Friends of Kempley Churches and the Village Hall Trust. A road closure notice would likely be required.

**Action:** Clerk to look into notice period required for a road closure application.

1. Tree offer for Queen’s Platinum Jubilee 2022

**Resolved** to accept the offer from The Honourable Company of Gloucestershire of tweo English Oak trees for planting in celebration of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

**Action:** Clerk to approach St Mary’s and St Edwards through Friends of Kempley Churches about planting trees in the churchyards.

1. Christmas Tree Switch-On Event

Members agreed Cllr Goodwin should lead on all aspects relating to the sourcing and installation of a Christmas tree on the green, coordinating arrangements for a switch-on event with the Clerk and volunteers.

**Financial Matters**

1. Received and approved the following financial reports as at 31/08/2021:
* Bank Statement
* Bank Reconciliation
* Receipts and Payments Summary including budget monitoring.
1. **Resolved** to approve the following list of online payments:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| DATE | PAYMENT TYPE | DESCRIPTION | POWER | AMOUNT |
| 12/08/2021 | Direct Debit | Website/IT – Website Hosting | LGA 1972 s.142 | £ 7.20 |
| 26/08/2021 | Standing Order | Staff Salaries – Clerk’s Salary | LGA 1972 s.112 | £ 207.40 |
| 12/09/2021 | Direct Debit | Website/IT – Website Hosting | LGA 1972 s.142 | £ 7.20 |
| 26/09/2021 | Standing Order | Staff Salaries – Clerk’s Salary | LGA 1972 s.112 | £ 207.40 |

**General**

1. Items for the November meeting agenda / councillor submissions.

Members were asked to submit any agenda items to the Clerk seven (7) clear days prior to the next meeting.

The Clerk was asked to circulate the list of member areas of responsibility to all members.

1. **Resolved** that the next meeting will take place on Monday Monday 15th November 2021 at 7.30pm in Kempley Village Hall.

With no further business the meeting was closed at 9.04pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date

**Attachment 1**

**Correspondence**

17.1 Forest of Dean Climate Strategy Consultation

 Dear District, Town and Parish Councillors,

I am writing to draw your attention to the council’s current consultation on our draft [Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan 2022-25](https://www.fdean.gov.uk/about-the-council/having-your-say/consultations/)

This Climate Emergency Strategy sets out the context, rationale and direction needed to achieve carbon neutrality across the Council's own operations and assets and support tackling the climate emergency across the district as a whole. It sets out the high-level principles that will underpin the development and execution of climate action by the Council.

The Action Plan identifies the key actions the Council plans to take between now and 2025 in order to achieve the above mentioned goals. It also provides an update on the actions the Council has taken so far, following the Council’s Climate Emergency Rapid Action Plan (RAP) published in January 2020.

The Action Plan is not intended to be an exhaustive list of every action the Council will take in order to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030, neither is it meant to be an overly technical document and is written for reference by multiple stakeholders within the Council and across the wider district. Detailed technical and specialist projects will derive from this plan and be developed and implemented as standalone pieces of work.

We are now seeking input from the district's communities (residents, businesses and visitors), with the hope that this call will enable the strategy and action plan to be developed further, taking into consideration the diverse range of perspectives and local knowledge found within the district.

This is an emergency and therefore we do need to continue to move at pace and would like to have a final version of the strategy and action plan this autumn. The consultation will close at 5pm on 7th September 2021.

The [Draft Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan](https://www.fdean.gov.uk/media/5tmjlifd/foddc-climate-emergency-strategy-and-action-plan-2022-25-draft.pdf) can be access via website where there is also an online [feedback form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfRJy4BxQ9rhIAFp6uZG8WNfm7rJFb5lsOQZ_rX59qKoWmmcw/viewform?usp=sf_link).

Yours faithfully…..

Cllr Chris McFarling

FoDDC Cabinet member for Climate Emergency

17.2 Email: Forest of Dean District Council – Local Plan Engagement Forums

 *Received 26 August 2021*

I have recently taken over both the planning portfolio and the task of producing the Councils next Local Plan. One of the first steps has been to work on our web pages to make it easier for people to be involved and find their way to information and updates.

The Council really wants the plan to be developed with the future prosperity and sustainable growth of the Forest in mind, being forward looking and addressing the challenges in front of us. Above all, we want it to be developed alongside our communities and in so doing developing a robust and deliverable plan that can be seen as such in the eyes of any inspector.

To support this work I want to set up 2 forums;

·         Community engagement forum, where groups, individuals and Town and Parish Councils can be represented to play a key role in informing and advising the District Council as we continue to develop the new Local Plan for the district, and

·         Development sector forum, including those key local developers, could really assist the council in assessing possible development locations, their viability and deliverability. Local knowledge can be critical.

I believe both groups will have ideas and suggestions that we can use to strengthen our plan. And I want it to be just that "OUR Plan". These forums are way of me, as portfolio holder, getting informal views from around our district. They will not replace formal consultations, which we will continue to do as required.

I am potentially looking at remote meetings commencing in September. If you are interested in participating in a forum, I am asking people to register on our local plan forum database at this time.

[Register for the Engagement Forums](https://fdean-consult.objective.co.uk/kse/event/36446)

This is separate to the Local Plan consultation database, which the Local Plan Section will continue to use to inform you of formal consultations and updates on the Local Plan.

I look forward to working with you in the continued development of our new local plan.

13.3 Upton Bishop Neighbourhood Development Plan

A public consultation on the draft Upton Bishop Neighbourhood Development Plan held in accordance with Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 will start at 9.00 a.m. on Monday, 20 September 2021 for a period of six weeks and one day ending at 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 2 November 2021.

**Where you can inspect the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan**

The draft Neighbourhood Development Plan may be inspected:

* On the Parish Council website at [https://uptonbishop.org/neighbourhood-development-plan/](https://uptonbishop.org/neighbourhood-development-plan/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank).
* At the Crow Hill telephone box and the Church of St. John the Baptist.
* At Ross-on-Wye Library, Cantilupe Road, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire HR9 7AN.
* On request from the Clerk to Upton Bishop Parish Council, by email to clerk@uptonbishoppc.org.

**How to make comments on the draft Neighbourhood Development Plan**

Comments must be made in writing and include the name and address of the person making the comments.  Please make comments as specific as possible, quoting the relevant policy or paragraph number(s).  All comments will be publicly available (personal information will not be published).

A comments form can be downloaded and printed from the website, requested from the Parish Clerk, or collected from any of the above locations where the Plan can be inspected.

Send us your comments:

* by email to the Clerk at clerk@uptonbishoppc.org.
* by post to the Clerk to Upton Bishop Parish Council, Sheepcote, Upton Bishop HR9 7TT.
* by hand to the collection point in the Crow Hill telephone box.
* at the drop-in session at the Millennium Hall on Tuesday 21 September 2021 between 6.30 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.

**All comments must be received by 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday 2 November 2021.**These will be considered by the Parish Council and will help shape the final Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Thank you for your interest in the Plan,

Yours faithfully,

Councillor K. Cornwall, Chair, Upton Bishop Parish Council

Any queries, please ring via Clerk 07772389234

Regards

Alison Feist (Parish Clerk, Upton Bishop Parish Council)