**NOTES FROM THE KEMPLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Held on 16th May 2023 at 7:00pm in Kempley Village Hall

**Present:** Cllr Martin Brocklehurst (Chairman), Cllr Kim O’Rourke, Cllr Rob Howson, Cllr Denise Wood, Cllr Ricky Goodwin

**In attendance:** Matt Smith (Head of Public Procurement & Engagement, Full Fibre Ltd)

*(first part of meeting only)*

Tim Dain (Clerk to Kempley Parish Council)

7 parishioners

Apologies were received from Gloucestershire County Cllr Gill Moseley.

1. **Introduction and Welcome**

Cllr Brocklehurst welcomed everyone to the meeting, explaining its purpose was to identify the key issues affecting Kempley in order to inform the Parish Council’s priorities for the year ahead. Cllr Brocklehurst ended with a plea for more councillors.

The clerk provided a brief update on the recent Council election outcome; three councillors were elected (uncontested), two more have since been co-opted leaving two further vacancies. The clerk invited feedback on whether the Council’s website was easy to use and whether information provided through WhatsApp and Facebook was found useful.

1. **To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 6th June 2022**

Minutes were approved and can be found on the Parish Council website: https://kempleyparishcouncil.org/meetings

1. **Kempley Community Broadband Project**

Matt Smith introduced himself. Full Fibre Ltd has been awarded the contract to install the Ultrafast Broadband infrastructure for the Kempley Community Broadband Project.

* Surveys have now been completed to ‘prove’ the underground duct network. The laying of ground cables has commenced for the network build, which is scheduled to start in July 2023, possibly earlier.
* The network will be built sequentially from the newly upgraded ‘Back Hall’ cabinet in the park on Sussex Avenue in Ross-on-Wye. Properties nearest to Ross will therefore get connected first, spreading out from the direction of Upton Bishop into Kempley by Autumn 2023. It may take until Spring 2024 to complete the live service to the furthest reaches of the Kempley Project.
* Connectivity block terminals will become visible on the top of poles indicating properties are ready for service. Households can check on the Full Fibre website for confirmation.
* Broadband can then be ordered from any of the Internet Service Providers who offer a service through the Full Fibre network. This does not include BT or Virgin. It will be advisable to shop around for the best deal that provides the speeds and services that individuals require.
* 1000 megabyte per second (MBps) (upload and download speed) infrastructure will be available, but the system is designed to allow terabyte per second speeds (1 million MBps) Ethernet Connectivity.
* 186 properties wanted to be part of the project, the location of these were shown on a projected map. It is still possible to join the scheme but only if the cables are already passing to get to another property.
* Services will mainly be ‘pole-based’ connections.
* Properties will only be connected when a service is requested.
* In total, the project will require approximately 20km of cabling.
* Road closures during installation should be minimal and only when enforced by the County Council, however some traffic management may be in evidence.

***Question:*** does weather affect pole based services?

***Answer:*** copper cables can be affected by weather and flooding, however the fibre cables installed, being ‘glass’, should not be affected.

1. **Climate Change – what can Kempley Do?**

30% of total carbon emissions come from our personal activity. The May 2023 KPC Community Carbon Reduction Plan (update) was distributed (Appendix I).

The AURORA video was shown: https://youtu.be/zcoHcOCEEJI

There are three AURORA projects that go live this year:

* Investment opportunities in schemes to offset your personal carbon footprint.
* Smartphone ‘app’ to calculate your carbon footprint and see how you can save money.
* Crowdfunding of local community solar power installations.

AURORA’s first newsletter will be published in the next few weeks. More information can be found at:https://mailchi.mp/aurora-h2020/project-aurora-newsletter-summer-website

The Big Solar Co-operative offers community investment opportunities and deliver the AURORA community solar power installation pilot site in Lydney, more will follow. For more information go to: https://www.aurora-h2020.eu/fd-news/power-leisure-centre-and-school/

1. **Kempley Emergency Plan.**

Support was sought to update the Emergency Plan and promote its existence. The Parish Council will facilitate this, but volunteers are needed to implement the plan.

Recent flooding issues have arisen in three properties in Kempley which required an emergency response.

Information regarding flood protection was provided by Bob Earll:

* Useful information can be gained from the National Flood Forum: <https://nationalfloodforum.org.uk>;
* ‘Property level flooding’ is the key phrase when searching for protection measures for individual households;
* The National Flood Forum co-ordinate the Blue Pages website containing useful information: <https://bluepages.org.uk>; and
* Insurers may now pay for resilience measures after floods. For example, rather than ‘like for like’ replacement, they pay for replacing carpet with floor tiles and moving electric sockets above the flood level.

1. **Round Table Discussions**

Attendees split into two groups and were asked to identify the top issues that Kempley should focus on. (See Appendix II – Feedback sheet)

**Feedback from Group one:**

* Priority one: potholes, road re-surfacing, failing road haunches, damage from heavy vehicles.

*Use of the GCC website pothole reporting page was encouraged. KPC will lobby County Councillors and identify critical areas to GCC Highways.*

* Priority two: lack of recycling centre facilities.

*KPC has previously asked for access to Herefordshire facilities without success. The recent elections provide an opportunity to revisit this.*

* Priority three: a central ‘homepage’ with all the different Kempley related websites easily found in one place online.

*KPC has already resolved to progress this. Suggestions were sought on other ways of improving communication channels.*

* Priority four: improve attendance at village events and find new volunteers on the organising committees.

*Discussion on how communication can be improved and who should be targeted? e.g. families or adults only for the ‘pop-up pub’*

* Priority five: better parking for daffodil weekend.

*Suggestion for Daffodil Line bus to divert or run additional services.*

**Feedback from Group 2:**

* Priority one: potholes/roads.
* Priority two: update the Emergency Plan

*Need to improve communication channels i.e. how WhatsApp groups are used.*

* Priority three: lack of community transport/buses, changing age demographics will exacerbate this.

*It was confirmed that KPC asked for the Daffodil Line to route through the village but this was declined as it would make the end to end journey time more than one hour.*

* Priority four: defibrillator training

*This is widely supported and there was a request for basic first aid training.*

* Priority five: speeding vehicles in the village

*A request for voluntary speed limit ’20 is plenty’ signs. GCCllr Gill Moseley has been campaigning for statutory 20 mph limit in village centres but this has been resisted at GCC, in part due to the cost of changing all the signs.*

* Priority six: general state of road signage in the village.

*A request for ‘horses’ and ‘wild animals’ warning signs in Queen’s Wood.*

1. **Reports from County / District Councillors and Gloucester Constabulary**

No County or District Council reports had been received. The Police report was made available and the low levels of crime noted. Police staff covering Kempley are identified in this – see Appendix III.

1. **Reports from local community groups**

* Market To Your Door - see Appendix IV
* Baker Boys – see Appendix V
* Friends of Kempley Churches see - Appendix VI
* Kempley Walking Group – see Appendix VII
* DyFRA – see Appendix VIII

Pauline Frape proposed, as part of a rejuvenation of the Wild Daffodil Project, for more daffodils to be planted on the Village Green. A discussion followed with reference made to the public consultation carried out in 2020 which led to the current Village Green management plan. More details of this and the resolutions made at the time by the Parish Council can be found on the website: <https://kempleyparishcouncil.org/meetings>.

(See the Kempley Parish Council Biodiversity Strategy adopted July 2021, the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting held on 1st September 2020, items 61 and 64, also the meeting paper: Report - VG Maintenance).

Cllr Brocklehurst thanked attendees for their input, the topics raised will be reviewed at future Parish Council Meetings.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm

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Signed (Chairman) Date