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| **Logo, company name  Description automatically generated** | **KEMPLEY PARISH COUNCIL****Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting**Held on Monday 18th November 2024 at 7.30pm in Kempley Village Hall |

**Present:**

**Councillors:** Martin Brocklehurst (Chair), Robert Howson, Denise Wood,

 **Officers:** Clare Muir (Clerk)

**In attendance:** 5 members of the public were in attendance

83 Apologies were received from David Lewis and Kim Reynolds. Kim Reynolds has resigned as a Councillor to Kempley Parish Council (18th November 2024). Current Parish Councillors are now:

* Martin Brocklehurst (Chair);
* Robert Howson (Vice Chair);
* Ricky Goodwin;
* David Lewis; and
* Denise Wood.

 The Council has 2 outstanding vacancies waiting to be filled.

84 There were no declarations of interests.

85 The minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 9th September 2024 were approved.

86 Public Open Forum:

Farmers in Kempley have donated money to pay for the defibrillator batteries. Council expressed thanks to all the farmers for their contributions.

 **Action**: Write a formal letter of thanks to each farmer.

One Parishioner expressed concerns over the increase of overnight campervans in the Forestry area and the impact on the environment.

**Action**: Cllr Brocklehurst will write a letter to the Forestry Commission expressing the concerns and to ask again about the need for a key to the gates being made available in case of any emergencies.

A Parishioner questioned the Parish Councils responses to Planning Applications. Discussions took place and the Chair explained the process.

**Reports**

1. There were no District or County Councillors present to give a report.
2. The Clerk presented her report and confirmed the action items that had been completed and the following actions that need to be added .

**Actions**: Cllr Reynolds will be the contact number for the Defibrillator stickers for people to ring if the Defibs have been used.

**Action**: Cllr Brocklehurst will follow up a letter to Highways with respect to maintenance of road signs and keeping them clear of overgrowth. Council expressed thanks to Gary Dawson for recently clearing all the signs.

**Action:** Clerk to Explore options to change the Parish Council bank accounts following the increase in bank charges by Lloyds .

1. Cllr Howson reported on the village First Aid Training Course that took place in October. He was disappointed that only 20 people turned up. Another course will be held the same time next year. Two main points to take away from the course are the need for Bleed kits (£85 each) in each Defib box and Child Pads (£150) in the Village Hall box. Council expressed thanks to Cllr Howson and Dr Sam Jones for organising the training.
2. Welcome Pack – to be added to the next meeting agenda.
3. Cllr Howson reported on the progress of the Emergency Plan Review. He needs volunteers to help take this forward. Sam Jones, Denise Baker, Charlotte Jones and Katie Osmond have all volunteered.
4. Cllr Brocklehurst reported on the recent meeting with National Grid. Key points from the meeting were:
* Details were outlined on the Network delivering power to Kempley from the Grid Supply Point (GSP) at Bishops Wood Hartlebury, Stourport-on-Severn DY13 9SE;
* A copy of the Bishops Wood GSP Network – Network Development Report – West Midlands (May 2024) was provided to the Parish Council. The report outlines the network constraints over a 10 year period;
* A short slide presentation has been shared with the Council and will be posted on the village WHATS App Climate Change Support Group.
* National Grid confirmed their maintenance procedures for the local supply network which included regular inspection of the timber supply poles, and thermal imaging of overhead lines;
* National Grid confirmed that the recent incident at Wantridge had not “failed safe” and agreed to provide details on the issue and what measures were now in place to prevent a recurrence.
* Contact detail were provided for inclusion in the local village emergency plan. All residents were encouraged to use the **EMERGENCY NUMBER 105** in the event of a power failure as this assists the National Grid to understand the extent of the affected area;
* National Grid outlined their Priority Service Register and urged all vulnerable persons in the Parish of Kempley to apply**. (**[**https://www.nationalgrid.co.uk/customers-and-community/priority-services/benefits-of-being-on-our-register**](https://www.nationalgrid.co.uk/customers-and-community/priority-services/benefits-of-being-on-our-register)**)**

By registering on the Priority Services Register, parishioners will get extra support during a power cut if you need it. The Priority Services Register is suitable for elderly, very ill or disabled people, or those who rely on power for medical equipment;

* National Grid have plans in place to deal with expected increases in demand for electricity as a result of decarbonisation. Demand is expected to double over a 10 year period. At the same time local generation is expected to rapidly grow.
* National Grid plan to issue a consultation document in November 2024 entitled  **“Working Group Report / Consultation on Methodologies November 2024 re Connections Reform”.**  This will outline possible changes to the methods used to obtain grid connections for solar energy. Also see Ofgem Connections end-to-end review – consultation 8th November 2024 (<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2024-11/Connections_End_to_End_Review_consultation.pdf>);
* Improvements are under consideration for the Dymock Sub Station, from whence the power is supplied to Kempley. The substation has a potential backfeed capacity constraint. Backfeed capacity on the grid is the limit on the amount of excess power that can be fed back into the electrical grid by a Distributed Energy Resource (DER), such as solar panels or a wind turbine. This constraint may limit DER grid applications from Kempley;
* Currently homeowners are restricted to just under 4KW energy for backfeed into the local grid. As decarbonisation gathers pace and DER production grows local parishioners can contact Richard Oliver Planner Network Services West Midlands on 01432 349155 or E Mail - roliver@nationalgrid.co.uk if they face grid connection issues. He will be able to review what flexibility remains to accommodate demands for backfeed into the grid.
* National Grid in partnership with the Forest of Dean District Council (Simon Richards) are prepared to discuss the idea of a community event at Kempley to cover;

“Your Energy Grid, the Energy Transition”

Thanks are due to Emily Taylor – Regional Decarbonisation Manager, Distribution System Operator and Ricard Oliver Planner Network Services West Midlands for meeting and discussing the grid infrastructure in Kempley.

**Items For Resolution & Decision:**

1. Council resolved to approve to underwrite the Village Christmas Tree Event by £150 to provide refreshments and ask for donations on the night. The tree has been donated and the lights are ok for this year.
2. Council resolved to approve in principle the setting up of a Community Development Fund. Discussions took place and it was felt that having a specific project to raise money for was better than just asking people to donate to a general fund. **Action**: Cllrs Denise Wood agreed to lead a small group of volunteers to plan an event to bring people together to share ideas on village priorities for such a fund. The event will involve all village groups and will be planned for spring 2025.
3. Council resolved in principle to support the Village Hall Committee to source funding to secure a small storage container for the Village Hall.

**Items For Exchange of Views:**

1. Recruitment of new Clerk. Interviews for a new Clerk will take place week beginning of 25 November. Council thanked Clare Muir, the current Clerk for her 12 months in the role.
2. Repairs to roadside fences in Fishpool. Highways will not do anything about this issue.

**Action**: Cllr Brocklehurst will try to establish the ownership of the land and secure funds from the County Council to reinstate timber knee-rail fencing and to maintain the land alongside the brook.

1. Lighting in the layby by the village hall. Council decided not to pursue this item at this time.
2. Speed cameras. Council agreed to pursue this in the Spring. Cameras can be borrowed from Dymock or the Speed Awareness Team.

**Action**: Parishioner Gary Dawson volunteered to lead this project..

1. Use of noticeboards for maps of Daffodil Way. To be added to the next meeting agenda.
2. The Grant Awarding Policy was reviewed and updated. The main amendment is to 2.12 – to add a sign off procedure for urgent items by Chair and Vice Chair.
3. The use of the Village Green for private functions and Health & Safety. This item was discussed and it was confirmed that anyone can use the Green for personal use, but there should be no unauthorised organised events held there. The issue of dogs at Parish Council events was discussed and Council agreed that a notice should go out prior to the event to ask people not to bring dogs, or if they are to bring them, please make sure they are on a lead.

**Action:** Clerk to post message on WhatsApp a few days prior to the Christmas lights event.

1. To consider budget figures for 2025-2026. Discussion on the draft budget took place and it was agreed to reduce the reserves for the Defribrillators and Chairs Allowance to reduce the budget to 8.4% increase.

**Action**: Clerk to produce an updated budget for consideration at the January meeting.

**Financial Matters:**

**Payments & Receipts**

1. **Council resolved** to approve the following online payments and cheques made since the last meeting **See appendix 1** and viewed all invoices:
2. **Council resolved** to approve the following financial reports dated 31st October 2024:
* Bank Statement
* Bank reconciliation
* Budget monitoring report
* Reserves statement
1. No income to report

**Items For Consideration**

**Planning**

1. To respond to new planning applications:

**P1292/23/FUL** Old Hill Orchard, Kempley Road, Dymock. GL18 2BA – **Refused,** Cllrs discussed whether further action is needed to press the Forest of Dean to enforce the planning decision.

**Action:** Cllr Brocklehurst will draft a letter to the Chief Planning Officer to request a meeting to discuss the Parish Council concerns about effective enforcement of planning decisions.

108 **P1131/24/FUL** The Old Baptist Chapel , Kempley, Dymock, GL18 2BN. Conversion of existing Baptist chapel into single bedroom dwelling. **Cllr’s will not object to this planning application, but expressed the following views:**

* strong support for this application in that it brings a redundant building back into productive use;
* strong support for the design which maintains the integrity of this historic building;
* recognition that the parking and highway access arrangements are not ideal but that the applicant maintains a fair argument that its former use generated far more traffic and parking issues than the current proposal.  That overall the repair and productive use of this building override these highway concerns;
* recognition that the current proposal does not meet the "private outside amenity space required under The Council's Residential Design Guide” but that the benefit to the community of bringing this building back into productive use should in this case override this concern.
1. To note planning decisions:

**P0415/24/FUL** Farmyard and Barns, Brick House Farm, Fishpool, Kempley. Conversion of Dutch Barn into 3 x self-catering tourist accommodation and conversion of milking parlour to 1 x independent dwelling house. Demolition of 1 x barn, removal of lean-to structures to extant Dutch Barn, partial demolition of workshop, removal of existing impermeable concrete groundworks for permeable solution and softer landscaping. Erection of a new 6 bay timber garage. **Pending Consideration**

110 **P0094/24/FUL** The Laurels Kempley Green Kempley. Erection of detached bungalow with associated parking, landscaping and works (revised scheme) **Granted Permission**

**General**

1. To receive items for the January 2025 meeting agenda.
* Welcome Pack
* Use of noticeboards for maps of Daffodil Way

112. Date and time of next meeting: **Monday 13 January 2025 at 7.30pm**

 **Kempley Village Hall**

With no further business the meeting closed at 9.35pm

Signed (Chairman) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_