



## KEMPLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Cllr Martin Brocklehurst  
Clerk: Daniel Hinde – Tel: 07910 842879  
Email: [clerk@kempleyparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@kempleyparishcouncil.org)  
Website: [www.kempleyparishcouncil.org](http://www.kempleyparishcouncil.org)

### Minutes of the Kempley Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**Present** – Cllr. M. Brocklehurst (Chairman), Cllrs. R. Howson, D Baker, D Wood, D Lewis, C Cllr G Moseley

**Attendees** – D Hinde (Clerk), 2 members of the public

#### 287 To receive apologies for absence and confirm the meeting is quorate

There were no apologies and the meeting was declared quorate

#### 288 To receive any declarations of interests and consider written requests for dispensations.

None

#### 289 To approve and sign the minutes of the Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025

COUNCIL APPROVED minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025

#### 290 Public Open Forum

This council is committed to community participation and warmly invites members of the public to contribute during this part of the meeting, to make representations, ask questions, and give evidence in respect of any item of business included on the agenda. A total time of 15 minutes is allocated with individual representations limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes - Standing Order 3(e)-(k). Alternatively, questions/comments can be sent to the Parish Clerk at [clerk@kempleyparishcouncil.org](mailto:clerk@kempleyparishcouncil.org) who will ensure these are considered at the meeting.

After the Public Open Forum, members of the public are asked to respect the fact that this is a meeting to conduct Council business, and interruptions are not permitted.

None

#### Reports

#### 291 To receive reports from District and/or County Councillors (if available)

Cllr Moseley spoke on numerous items including:

advised there was a deficit in the County Councils budget

Severn Trent setting up a new customer liaison where they are encouraging people to report leaks or any problems. Consultation papers will go out for this in February.

Gloucestershire classified on highways traffic light system as green which is the best

**292 To receive the Clerk's report**

Clerks report received as per **APPENDIX I**

**Items for Resolution and Decision**

**293 To Approve Budget 2026/27**

Council reviewed 2 versions of the budget one with the provision of a new Parish Christmas Tree and one without. Council voted in favour with a majority decision to approve the budget including the Christmas Tree.

**294 To set precept 2026/27**

**COUNCIL AGREED** to increase the precept from £7255 to £8284

**Items For Exchange of Views:**

**295 To receive an update on the new noticeboard**

Cllr Wood presented several options for the new noticeboard to the parish council.

Cllr Brocklehurst read out a variety of views submitted by residents for the presented designs.

Council had a preference towards the Chris Bligh design and the cost of this could be split between DYFRA, Friends of Kembley Church, Wincross (?) and the parish council so this keeps it non-partisan for the whole community.

A resident raised a suggestion of putting a scannable QR code on the bottom.

The location is yet to be decided however the Council ruled out the bus shelter.

Cllr Wood advised that the noticeboard will have:

Top - A triangular panel with the Kembley Daffodil logo and wording,

Main Panel - split in half vertically with the right hand side for village notices, Cllr Wood advised that it was yet to be agreed how the left hand panel would be used

Bottom – will have a simplified Daffodil Way Map with a “You are Here” dot.

Still to be agreed and confirmed at the next meeting:

How the left hand side of the main panel will be used?

Which materials will be used to construct the noticeboard to ensure it is weather resistant?

Council would like to register their thanks for everyone's contribution to the noticeboard so far

**296 To discuss the possibility of starting a community café**

Council deferred this item

**297 Kempley Community Invest to Save Development Fund.**

Cllr Brocklehurst read out the document in **APPENDIX II**

Councillors raised concerns as they have not had much success with fundraisers in the past and felt that there would need to be a set project to gain funding and not just a general fund.

Councillors felt that already established projects such as the Daffodil weekend already attract a lot of volunteers and council were unsure if people would be willing to attach themselves to another project.

Council agreed to informally discuss with residents to gain their views.

**298 Strategic Discussions with Cllr Joe Harris - Gloucestershire County Council Cabinet Member for Highways - 16th December 2025**

Cllr Brocklehurst read out the document in **APPENDIX III**

Council would like to thank Cllr Harris for their time and hardwork on this matter

**299 To discuss who will be chairman moving forward**

Council felt further discussion was needed and therefore this item will be deferred to the next meeting

**Financial Matters:**

**Payments & Receipts**

**300 Cllrs to approve the payment list of online payments made since the last meeting See appendix 1 and view all invoices:**

**COUNCIL APPROVED** payment list as per **APPENDIX IV**

**301 Cllrs to approve the following financial reports dated 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025:**

- **Bank Statement**
- **Bank reconciliation**
- **Budget monitoring report**
- **Reserves Statement**

**COUNCIL APPROVED** bank statement and bank reconciliation to £6406.46 as per **APPENDIX V**

**COUNCIL APPROVED** budget monitoring report as per **APPENDIX VI**

**COUNCIL APPROVED** reserves statement as per **APPENDIX VII**

**302 To note income received as follows:**

21.11.25	HMRC	VAT refund	£242.53
----------	------	------------	---------

Council noted that £242.53 had been received from HMRC for a VAT refund.

**Items For Consideration**

**General**

- 303 To receive items for the March 2026 meeting agenda.**

Noticeboard

Objectives of the Parish Council over next 12 months

Update on the new sign for St, Marys

To no

te Chairmans resignation and elect a new chairman.

Annual Parish Meeting

- 304 Date and time of next meeting:**

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**Meeting Close 21:00**

## APPENDIX I

### Actions tracker:

<p>AGAR Assertion 10</p> <p>I have received notification that there will be an additional Assertion on this years AGAR. Assertion 10 will be Digital and Data Compliance and authorities should begin preparing now to ensure compliance. The new assertion strengthens expectations around how councils manage digital systems and data protection. We have been advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All authorities should use a generic email address hosted on a council-owned domain (e.g. <a href="mailto:clerk@abcp Parish.gov.uk">clerk@abcp Parish.gov.uk</a>). Most councillors are currently using their personal addresses. Could this be changed to use the council email address?</li></ul> <p>It is also recommended that councils take out a .gov.uk domain for email addresses and website? Is this something you would be interested in? If so I can bring quotes along to the next council meeting? I can help set this up.</p> <p>I have also attended the GAPT C training on this.</p> <p>I have been advised that it heavily focuses on Data Protection.</p> <p>Councillors and Clerk should be careful on what documents are saved to personal devices as it could be a data protection breach.</p> <p>Councillors and Clerk need to attend Data Protection training.</p>	Jan-26	
Defib – The Circuit need the defib checked every 90 days. I know the Dr previously advised he would check every 6 months. Are you happy for me to ask him if he could check every 90 days?	Jan-26	
<p><b>AGAR Assertion 10</b></p> <p>I have received notification that there will be an additional Assertion on this years AGAR. Assertion 10 will be Digital and Data Compliance and authorities should begin preparing now to ensure compliance. The new assertion strengthens expectations around how councils manage digital systems and data protection. We have been advised that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All authorities should use a generic email address hosted on a council-owned domain (e.g. <a href="mailto:clerk@abcp Parish.gov.uk">clerk@abcp Parish.gov.uk</a>). Most</li></ul>	Nov-25	To be added to the January clerks report as there was no time to discuss properly.

councillors are currently using their personal addresses. Could this be changed to use the council email address?  It is also recommended that councils take out a .gov.uk domain for email addresses and website? Is this something you would be interested in? If so I can bring quotes along to the next council meeting? I can help set this up.		
<b>VAT</b> – VAT refund has now been received £242.53	Jan-26	
<b>Defib Cabinet Village Hall:</b>  Does this still need replacing? If so who will organise its return and place the order?  I have contacted the Village Hall for a contribution but have received no response.	Nov-25	This was reviewed in the meeting and is now working
<b>Bleed Kits</b>  To purchase a Bleed Kit. There are different options available	Nov-25	Three quotes provided. Cllr Howson to speak to the Dr as council believed this was overpriced.
<b>Internal Audit Actions</b>  The Council should consider a business debit card with a spending limit rather than use of a personal card. (currently financial regs state clerk can use personal card up to £100)	Sept-25	On tonights agenda for discussion
Financial Regs & Standing Orders to be checked against latest 2025 version. Even if the Council's expenditure is usually below the limits of procurement rules it helps to keep these in the regulations. The Council has recently authorised 2 councillors to make online payments so an amendment should be made in the Financial Regs to this effect.	Sept-25	This was completed at the May meeting
Bank Reconciliations It would be good to note the bank balance in the minutes as a record of what has been agreed	Sept-25	Started doing this from the July 2025 minutes
VAT - RFO to ensure return sent for 24-25.	Sept-25	Sent awaiting refund of £242.53
Direct debits - Standing Orders are evident and should be Reviewed	Sept-25	reviewed may meeting minute ref 204
Adopt an internal control policy	Sept-25	Internal Control Policy adopted May Meeting min 180
Insurance - Council could consider whether all cover is relevant	Sept-25	Reviewed by Rob
Asset Checks to be reviewed	Sept-25	On tonights agenda

Clerk to source childrens pads for the village hall defibrillator	13.01.25	Awaiting Proforma. Delay in Defib information as Ricky was on holiday. Check new pads not pediatric?  Old Forge and Kempley green defibs are the same units £66 for dual use pads (Check if not already installed) Village Hall £85 St. Johns Ambulance.
Cllr Wood to contact DYFRA, Village Hall Committee, PCC, Friends of Kempley Churches about adding more information to tourists on the noticeboards	13.01.25	Cllr Wood to update as per agenda item.
Chairman to contact planning officer for planning application P1131/24/FUL Old Baptist Chapel, Kempley to confirm status	13.01.25	Ongoing. Check with Martin when hes back from Brussels
<b>Outstanding action from previous meetings</b>	<b>Date Set</b>	<b>Status</b>
Clerk to investigate trauma kits	13.01.25	Kits are widely available are reasonably priced (less than £100). It is suggested they are stored in their own cabinets which are quite expensive (£500-£600)  Waiting for Build Back Better Grant to be available again
Clerk to locate defibrillator paperwork to check frequency of checks	13.01.25	Paperwork unavailable, new checklist circulated. Checks to be done monthly as per Community Heartbeat trust guidelines
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.	18.11.24	ongoing
Cllr Brocklehurst to follow up a letter to Highways regarding who is responsible for keeping the village signs clear of overgrowth.	18.11.24	Ongoing.

Cllr Brocklehurst to establish the owner of the land of the damaged fences at Fishpool.	18.11.24	Ongoing. C.Cllr Moseley has offered to help locate the owner.
Parishioner Gary Dawson agreed to make enquiries re speed cameras	18.11.24	Ongoing.
Clerk to post message on Whatsapp a few days prior to the event re dogs at Xmas Tree Event.	18.11.24	Repeat for 2025 event.
Website appearance on Google and changing domain and emails from .org to .gov.uk – Contact Jon Osmond	16.07.24	Ongoing, liaise with Jon Osmond as to what can be done.
Cllr Howson to organise the replacement of the village signs.	20.05.24	ongoing
Cllr Goodwin to put up No Overnight Camping or Camper Vans sign in Village Hall layby	20.05.24	Confirm if signage in place.
Chair/clerk to produce a template and populate it for the verges included in the 2008 Licence to Cultivate.	10/07/23	Ongoing.
Clerk to get quotes for trauma kits and storage cabinets	19.05.25	Kits are widely available are reasonably priced (less than £100). It is suggested they are stored in their own cabinets which are quite expensive (£500-£600) Previously agreed to wait for Build Back Better Grant to be available again

## Additional Information

- I would like to attend a Clerks the knowledge course run through GAPT to top up my training. It is 2 parts £45 per session so this would be a total cost of £30 to Kempley as I will ask all my councils to pay 1/3
- NALC are strongly recommending that councils move to a .gov domain. Would you like me to get some quotes to set up emails and website with .gov domain for the November meeting? I can sort this as I have done for my other councils. The Ionos contract ends in March 2026 so there would be some time for transfer of data.

## **APPENDIX II**

## **Kempley Parish Council - Discussions Document January 2026**

### **Kempley Community Develop Fund**

Kempley Parish Council receives a precept payment of circa £8 – 9K. We have few opportunities to increase this amount as we receive no other payments, unless we can secure local grants from the District or County Council and or other bodies. We can also apply for discretionary spending via our Local Cllrs. As a consequence as a Parish Council we are severely constrained on what we can spend to benefit our community.

To increase our ability as a Parish Council to improve life for our community it is proposed to set up a Community Capital Development Fund and to ask for donations from our community and businesses that work in and around Kempley. Such a fund would be used for agreed programmes of work that would both benefit our community and develop a new income streams to be managed by the Parish Council for re-investment in our community. The fund would be ring fenced and invested to gain maximum interest until it was used for schemes agreed within our community.

The type of scheme that could be developed and would be beneficial to our community could include:

- Development of a solar or wind community energy scheme able through a Power Purchase Agreement to sell power locally;
- Development of a community cider orchard able to sell the apple crop and or produce Kempley cider for sale.
- Development of a community café in the woods (Queens Wood)

A Community Capital Development scheme could also be used to leverage additional grants and Government Funds as they become available.

To be successful such a scheme would need the agreement of our community and would require a consultation process before decisions were taken on the first investment programme to be put in place. It would also require volunteers from within our community to make such schemes work.

**Legal Powers** – See annex 1 for an overview of the legal powers that enable such a Capital Development Programme to be developed.

**Next Steps** – A full proposal would be put to a future Parish Council meeting if Cllrs are supportive of these ideas.

**Martin Brocklehurst - Chair Kempley Parish Council January 2026**

---

## Annex 1 – Legal Powers

UK parish councils can set up a community capital development scheme, utilizing various powers and funding mechanisms to acquire land, provide facilities, and invest in community assets.

Parish councils have specific statutory powers that enable them to undertake community development:

- **General Power of Competence (GPC):** Eligible parish councils (those that meet specific criteria regarding a qualified clerk and the proportion of elected members) have the power to do anything an individual can do, provided it is not prohibited by other legislation. This broad power provides significant flexibility for innovative community projects and capital schemes.
- **Specific Statutory Powers:** Various acts grant specific powers, including the ability to:
  - Acquire, provide, and maintain community buildings and facilities, such as recreation grounds, parks, and village halls.
  - Acquire land by agreement or compulsory purchase for community benefit.
  - Incur expenditure for purposes in the interest or benefit of the area or its inhabitants, under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 (subject to an annual limit per elector if the GPC is not used for this purpose).

## Funding Mechanisms

Parish councils can leverage several funding sources for capital development:

- **Precept:** The main source of funding is the annual precept, an additional council tax levied on local taxpayers.
- **Grants:** Councils can apply for various government and external grants, such as the [Community Ownership Fund](#), which specifically supports projects to take ownership of assets at risk of loss in the community.
- **Borrowing:** Parish councils can borrow money for capital projects, but they must first obtain borrowing approval from the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and follow the Prudential Code for capital finance.

- **Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL):** Parish councils are eligible to receive a proportion (15% to 25% with a neighbourhood plan) of the CIL collected from planning permissions in their area, which can be used to fund infrastructure projects.
- **Community Asset Transfer (CAT):** Councils can work with principal authorities to take ownership of public assets (land or buildings) at a low or peppercorn rent, often on the condition the asset is retained for community use.
- **Community Shares/Local Impact Investing:** Councils can facilitate or invest in community businesses that use mechanisms like community shares to raise capital from local residents, although the council's direct investment must align with prudent financial management and deliver social/environmental benefits alongside any financial return.

In essence, a parish council can establish such a scheme by utilizing its legal powers and strategically combining available funding streams. They can also act as facilitators, bringing together different local partners and community groups to deliver projects.

---

## **APPENDIX III**

### **BRIEFING NOTES**

#### **Meeting with Cllr Joe Harris Gloucestershire County Council**

#### **Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Communication**

**16th December 2025**

#### **Strategic approach to Highway Maintenance and Management in a Small Rural Parish Council**

**SUMMARY** – Our community is deeply frustrated by the deteriorating nature of our highways network and the inability to develop a strategic long term relationship with the Highways Department. We are a progressive community that had built innovative relationships with individual parts of the County Council that have delivered substantial results. We would like to replicate that approach with County Highways, but so far we have been unable to do so, and frequently find ourselves unable to secure any partnership approach.

Outlined below are examples of what we as a community have been able to achieve and outline thoughts on how we would like to improve our relationship with County Highways.

#### **Background**

##### **Kempley Parish:**

- 680 hectare made up of hamlets of Fishpool, Kempley and Kempley Green;
- 125 homes;
- 280 people;
- Over 40 businesses in the local area; and
- 3 major dairy herds including one of the most modern in the Country that has featured in the NFU Journal.

##### **Examples of Kempley Parish Innovative Partnerships**

- **Fastershire (Combined scheme Gloucestershire and Herefordshire) / Kempley Community Broadband Scheme** – Attracted over £1million in investment, changed Government policy, and created one of the fastest broadband services in the country for a remote rural area covering every household in Kempley Parish, and parts of Dymock, Much Marcle, Yatton and Upton Bishop ;
- **County Highways Footpaths Team / Kempley Parish Council** – Upgraded the community footpath network, opening up formerly closed footpaths ,and making them easier for our community to use. Building on the work of the Windcross Footpaths Group to open up one of the densest networks for public footpaths in the country. Switching out stiles to kissing gates on strategic footpath routes.

- **Kempley Daffodil Weekend** – part of joint efforts to promote the Golden Triangle with Dymock and Oxenhall. A nationally significant tourist event frequently reported in the National Press and quoted in the Independent as one of the top 10 walks of spring. Thousands of people visit every year and substantial sums of money are made to support maintenance of St Edwards Church and the village hall. Without it our Arts and Craft Grade 2 listed building could not survive, as the congregation is tiny – less than 20. Funding was received from the County Council Bring Back Better Fund to support this event and deliver new designs for village road signs in line with village branding (this took 2 years to negotiate with County Highways who blocked progress, despite national legislation that allowed for such a change). The Daffodil weekend and Covid signalled growing use of our area for recreational activity, a trend still growing with the Newent Cycle Route and more people using Dymock Woods.
- **Community tourist bus service/ Buses4Us** – the last two years have seen the implementation of a free bus service from Newent to Kempley during the daffodil tourist season with support from Gloucestershire County Council. This has undoubtedly reduced traffic movements at that time of year and is something we would like to promote and develop further. Next year it will run at a 30 min service interval. We would like to see it extended for the whole of the Daffodil Season and over selected weekends during the summer.
- **Kempley Community Led Plan 2017** – Developed by the village to take a strategic approach to our future. (A copy is available). As part of our strategic plan we now have common branding for the village, road signs, community signs, notice boards etc. All designed to enhance the image of the village and support the Daffodil Weekend.
- **County Highways verge maintenance agreement** – designed to take over the management of sections of road verge to allow wild daffodil planting and a richer biodiversity.
- **Emergency Response Plan** – Designed to map out how we deal with major flooding, fire, pandemic and other events. This plan, (now in need of updating) served Kempley during the Covid Pandemic and was highlighted as County best practice by the GAPTC. It led to community WHATS APP groups both for social interaction and Emergency Response. Both have flourished since and led to better re-use of unwanted items.

#### **County Highways – A retrospective look**

In our relationships with the county council, we have been able to set up a number of innovative partnerships, but only where we've been able to deal with council offices who are prepared to innovate and try out new approaches.

Unfortunately, we have not yet been able to build those relationships with County Highways.

We would therefore like to identify links with County Highways, prepared to work with us on the ideas outlined below. This will require new thinking and new approaches. Discussions with our Area Highways Manager have so far been disappointing. We have received a typical Engineers Response that blocks innovative progress at a time of budget cuts, that has led to a deterioration of our Highway Network. We have experienced opposition to innovative change and a reluctance to “think outside of the box” and find new solutions to our Highway issues.

### **Developing Infrastructure Partnerships – Our Vision**

We depend on infrastructure to flourish as a community and we need that infrastructure to be in a good state of repair and to be ready to deal with the challenges of climate change and changing agricultural practises.

As a consequence we are looking for or have developed strategic partnerships with a range of infrastructure providers to cover;

- **Telecommunications** – We have secured and delivered a strategic approach and our telecommunications infrastructure is now fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century;
- **Power supply** - we are working with National Grid with an aim to ensure our current infrastructure can deal with the energy transition and underpin the vitality of our community;
- **Water and sewage supply** – we aim to work with Severn Trent Water to ensure our water supply infrastructure is fit for purpose, delivering a reliable clean water supply and treating sewage and effluent to ensure it does not pollute Kempley Brook.
- **Highways** – we would like to develop a strategic approach to address the spiral of decline and the quality of our highway network caused by insufficient maintenance and new traffic patterns linked to changes and modernisation of farming activities.

### **Highways**

Since 2021 we have been seeking innovative solutions to the maintenance problems experienced with our highway network. Kempley Parish only has C class roads which will always be of low priority to the highways authority. To our community, they are the life blood to our effective operation.

Because we are a small parish our view is that innovative projects can be implemented in partnership with the Kempley Parish Council to test new ideas on highway maintenance. This was first undertaken in 2014 when an experimental thin asphalt surface was installed on the communities roads. This was something we welcomed as it was designed to secure a 7- 10 year life extension of our highway surfacing.

In 2021 we identified to the area manager that the innovative thin asphalt surfacing that had been installed in Kempley in 2014 was coming to the end of its expected life. The surfacing had been installed as an experimental action by the highways department to extend the life of the local roads. It had been an amazing success and for seven years we had not had serious problems with our road surfaces.

We expected the county highways to be fully aware of the experimental nature of the surfacing and to have monitored its effectiveness. We were dismayed to find that there was no follow through or understanding of what had been achieved. This was disappointing because the new contractor Ringway is a subsidiary of a French company VINCI SA, experts in the deployment of thin asphalt surfacing.

We were told that the asphalt surfacing is not appropriate for rural class roads. This is clearly not the case as evidenced by work undertaken by Tarmac and others in the field. In 2021 we pointed out the areas where the thin asphalt surfacing was failing, allowing water to penetrate into the sub-base of the highway. We requested that potholes be repaired and the surface once again be sealed with a thin asphalt finish as a cost-effective way of extending the life of the rural road network for another 7 years.

This was rejected at the time and since then we have seen a spiral of decline in the road network with an increasing number of surface failures in areas of higher activity.

The road surface is also affected by changes in agricultural practices associated with our three major dairy herds as they have moved to automated milking systems and to keeping herds largely indoors. This new way of working has seen an increase in heavy vehicles supplying the farms with animal feed, animal bedding and the removal of animal slurry. Many of the vehicles are now as wide if not wider than the highway network causing a failure of the haunches of the road surface. This has resulted in at least two incidents when heavy goods vehicles have slid off the highway due to road surface failure (see photographs below).

In addition to these problems we have experienced changes in the nature of weather patterns resulting in an increase in high intensity storms that have highlighted critical drainage problem areas on the highway network. So severe has this problem been that **for six months a section of our C class Road linking Much Marcle and Kempley was underwater making the road impassable (see photographs)**. Highways would do nothing till the flooding abated even though the local farmer offered to pump the road dry.

A second flooding area affecting a residential property and regular flooding occurred. It took two years to resolve the situation with remedial works that have now been implemented. In that time the road surface has deteriorated and will now eventually require retarmac.

We also suffer from the fact that we are on the county boundary, with access routes into the village from Herefordshire as well as Gloucestershire. This matters, because in our emergency plan we are clear that we need high priority routes into the community during major storm events which include flooding and snow as well as the risk of major fires. The community operates an emergency WhatsApp group to advise parishioners on routes to use during major emergency events. We would like to work with the County Councils of Herefordshire in Gloucestershire to ensure that our critical C class roads that provide access during such event events are maintained to a higher standard than the rest of the C class network. One of these routes crosses the county boundary and links the community to the M50.

## **A Strategic Partnership**

As times have changed in the management of the highway network, local knowledge, associated with the old system where local gangs had responsibility for sections of the highway have long since gone. That local knowledge is still held, however by the people who use the network, the citizens of our communities. I would like to see that knowledge built into a strategic partnership to support County Highways to deliver a quality service. Partnership working means being open to new ideas, being flexible about how the local highways budget allocated to Kembley is spent, and it means listening to local views and ideas, rather than rejecting all new thinking and seeking to maintain the status quo. It also means joint programmes with contributions from local budgets and the use of local resources to support County Highways.

Local people know where the network fails, they know where the poor drainage areas are, and they know where the haunches of the road are failing due to changing traffic patterns. We also have details on where road signage needs to be replaced. They also know when communication is ineffective and when contractors perform poorly. With the right structures in place, they are the County Highways eyes and ears on the ground.

With limited budgets for rural Road maintenance, I would like to see a strategic partnership in place where we develop a 5 year plan for the local highway network in which we not only identify critical maintenance requirements, but cost improvements for our community highway network with County Highways. Such a strategic plan would be published and shared with our community and would outline all routine maintenance priorities and possible future capital improvement. Such a plan would be able to take advantage of any grants or County underspends as they arise and would address the following issues:

- Climate adaptation measures to identify priority emergency response routes into the community in partnership with Herefordshire County Council, where scarce resources are used to improve the quality of maintenance of these routes and where possible higher road surface standards are maintained;
- Recognition that certain routes are now being used for recreational purposes where higher maintenance standards would make sense. This would include the Newent cycle route and roads that are the prime access to woodlands and daffodil sites during the spring tourist season.
- The effective use of scarce resources to agree :
  - the use and application of innovative road surface techniques such as thin asphalt surfacing to waterproof the highway network and extend its working life following pothole repairs;
  - priority areas for drainage improvements that in effect take account of the need for climate change adaptation;
  - areas where passing bays can be installed to facilitate the growing scale of vehicle movements associated with intensive farming activity;

- where sections of the road requiring upgrade of the haunches of the highway that will reinforce weaknesses that are currently appearing as a result of the increase in tonnage and size of agricultural movements;
- priority for the replacement of worn out road signage;
- Maintenance of Highway verges fences and other road furniture on highways land. This would include a clearer understanding of the boundaries of land ownership that fall to the County Highways Department.
- Support for joint community and highways initiatives with our farming community to reduce the impact of traffic movements on rural life, through better communication and planning of major agricultural traffic movements;
- Opportunities for the citizens of the parish to improve communications with the Highways Department when works are being undertaken so that each party understands the issues that the other is trying to address. This could include for instance an open evening when community members could meet members of the Highways Team and their subcontractors.

The County Highways Department has a poor reputation in Kempley. This is something we would like to change. Developing a strategic, transparent highways plan for the village would do much to change that and facilitate a community partnership to improve highways standards where we work together for the common good. Such a plan could be a blueprint for other small rural parishes that are often overlooked and given low priority by County Highways.

Martin Brocklehurst 15 December 2025

**APPENDIX 1**

**FAILING ROAD HAUNCHES LEADING TO TRAFFIC INCIDENTS**

**PHOTOGRAPH 1&2 – WASTE VEHICLE SLIDES OF THE ROAD**

**PHOTOGRAPH 3 – POOR ROAD REPAIR DAYS AFTER BEING UNDERTAKEN**

**PHOTOGRAPHS 4-6 INADEQUATE ROAD DRAINAGE. ROAD BLOCKED FOR 3-4 MONTHS**

**PHOTOGRAPHS 7-8 A SUCCESSFUL DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT**

**PHOTOGROPH 9 – POOR ROAD SIGNAGE**

**PHOTOGRAPH 10– NEW SIGNAGE KEMPLEY VILLAGE**



PHOTO 1 NR MATTHEWS FARM



PHOTO 2 NR MATTHEWS FARM



PHOTO 3 NR MATTHEWS FARM



PHOTO 4 COURT FARM



PHOTO 5 COURT FARM



PHOTO 6 – COURT FARM



PHOTO 7 - CAMOMILE COTTAGE KEMPLEY ROAD



PHOTO 8 - CAMOMILE COTTAGE KEMPLEY ROAD

#### COMMUNITY ROAD SIGN SURVEYS – SUPPLIED BUT NO ACTION TAKEN

##### COMMUNITY SURVEY OF SIGNAGE

Northern end of the parish near the turning towards Kempley from B4024.

Outside Watkins F I & Sons farm, by Wind Turbine.›

S bend sign illegible and damaged during hedge cutting.

870mm Triangle

What3Words:  
EVERY/SLUNG/NODS



PHOTO 9 - SIGNAGE

COMMENTS  
PLEASE TAKE TIME TO CHECK THE DRAWING  
AND ADVISE OF ANY CHANGES REQUIRED  
PRIOR TO APPROVAL.

PLEASE CONFIRM ALL DETAIL SHOWN IS CORRECT  
PLEASE ADVISE ON FONT REQUIRED



1) 1220 x 610 mm  
area: 0.744 sq.m

2) 1220 x 610 mm  
area: 0.744 sq.m

**FACING**

Background:  
BLUE/WHITE  
Border size (mm):  
varies  
Border colour:  
BLACK/WHITE

**TEXT**

Style:  
N/A-Calibri

Colour:  
BLACK  
Lowercase(xheight (mm)):  
100/50  
Capital height (mm):  
70/140

**DIMENSION**

Width (mm): 1220

Height (mm): 610

Area (sq.m): 0.744

Tolerance:+ 5mm

1

Drawn by: BH

Date: 09/09/2022

Approved for manufacture

Company.....

Sign.....

MR 0

Medium channel section (suitable for at least 1 post(s));  
2 channels needed.

**PHOTO 10 - NEW VILLAGE SIGNS – PAID FOR, ORDERED BY AND INSTALLED BY OUR COMMUNITY.**

**IT TOOK TWO YEARS TO GET HIGHWAYS APPROVAL DESPITE NATIONAL LEGISLATION BEING IN PLACE  
TO ALLOW SUCH CHANGES,**

## APPENDIX IV

### Payment List 12.01.26 Payments Made Since 01.11.25

HMRC	£68.80
Clerks Salary	£310.45
Clerks Expenses	£32.79
Clerks Mileage	£46.08
Bank Charge	£4.25
Ionos	£8.40
Clerk Salary	£310.45
HMRC	£68.80
Bank Charge	£4.25
Ionos	£8.40
<b>Total</b>	<b>862.67</b>

### Receipts Since 19.05.25

VAT Refund	242.53
<b>Toal</b>	<b>242.53</b>

### Payments to Authorise

Clerk Mileage (51.6 miles * 0.45)	23.22
Clerk Salary	310.45
HMRC	68.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>402.47</b>

## APPENDIX V

9 January 2026 (2025-2026)

### Kempley Parish Council

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Name and Role (Clerk/RFO etc)*

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Name and Role (RFO/Chair of Finance etc)*

<b>Bank Reconciliation at 31/12/2025</b>			
	Cash in Hand 01/04/2025		4,734.58
	<b>ADD</b> Receipts 01/04/2025 - 31/12/2025		7,497.53
	<b>SUBTRACT</b> Payments 01/04/2025 - 31/12/2025		12,232.11
<b>A</b>	<b>Cash in Hand 31/12/2025</b> (per Cash Book)		5,825.65
			<b>6,406.46</b>
	Cash in hand per Bank Statements		
	Petty Cash 31/03/2022	0.00	
	Lloyds Bank 02989009 31/12/2025	6,406.46	
	Less unpresented payments		<b>6,406.46</b>
	Plus unpresented receipts		6,406.46
<b>B</b>	<b>Adjusted Bank Balance</b>		<b>6,406.46</b>
	<b>A = B Checks out OK</b>		

## APPENDIX VI

### Kempley Parish Council

9 January 2026 (2025-2026)

### Monthly breakdown of Receipts and Payments

All Cost Centres and Codes (Between 01/04/2025 and 31/03/2026)

	Budget	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	Variance
<b>PAYMENTS</b>															
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>															
Staff Salaries	3,385.00	273.85	273.85		273.85	547.50	337.65	284.61	310.45	284.45				2,586.21	798.79
HMRC NI / PAYE		68.40	68.40		137.36	68.40	70.60	68.64	68.80	68.80				619.40	-619.40
Staff WFH Allowance	312.00	26.00	26.00		26.00	52.00	26.00	26.00						182.00	130.00
Staff Mileage	173.00		46.44			69.66			46.08					162.18	10.82
Insurance	349.00				241.00									241.00	108.00
Professional Fees	189.00							210.00						210.00	-21.00
Membership Fees / Sub	439.00		98.64		216.00									314.64	124.36
Venue Hire	180.00														180.00
Website / IT	162.00	7.00	7.00		29.00	7.00		14.00		14.00				78.00	84.00
Postage/Printing	108.00														108.00
Publicity/Promotion															
Grants / Donations Paid	50.00														50.00
Administration - Other	60.00	39.16			339.00		23.22		32.79	26.00				460.17	-400.17
Bank Charge		4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25	4.25				38.25	-38.25
Maintenance							695.00							695.00	-695.00
Defib Supplies							150.00							150.00	-150.00
<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>															
Chairman's Allowance	50.00														50.00
Training - Staff	50.00														50.00
Training - Councillors															
Election Costs	100.00														100.00
Village Green	660.00														660.00
Christmas Tree	250.00														250.00
Defibrillators	445.00														445.00
Public Rights of Way															
Maintenance / Repairs															
GCC Market Towns Gra															
Local Council Awards S															

Created by  Scribe

Page No. 1

## APPENDIX VII

9 January 2026 (2025-2026)

**Kempley Parish Council**  
**Reserves Balance**  
**2025-2026**

---

<u>Reserve</u>	<u>OpeningBalance</u>	<u>Transfers</u>	<u>Spend</u>	<u>Receipts</u>	<u>CurrentBalance</u>
<b>Earmarked</b>					
Training - Staff	470.00				470.00
Training - Councillors	459.50				459.50
Election	288.36				288.36
Local Council Awards Scheme	115.11				115.11
Defibrillators	104.51				104.51
Village Green	1,028.00				1,028.00
Asset Maintenance	732.83				732.83
GCC Market Towns Grant	-154.70				-154.70
Chairman's allowance	106.00				106.00
Christmas Tree	390.43				390.43
Public Rights of Way					0.00
IT hardware	200.00				200.00
GCC grant for new noticeboard	258.00				258.00
<b>Total Earmarked</b>	<b>3,998.04</b>				<b>3,998.04</b>
 <b>TOTAL RESERVE</b>	 <b>3,998.04</b>				 <b>3,998.04</b>
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>					2,408.42
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>					6,406.46