

KEMERTON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of Kemerton Annual Parish Meeting held at the Victoria Hall on Tuesday 19th March, 2019 at 7.00PM

Parish Councillors present were Ms. Christina Kulukundis, Mr. Clive Carver, Mr. Adrian Darby (District & Parish) and Sir David Logan (Chairman for the meeting). Also present was Mr. John Harvey (Chairman of Village Hall Trustees) and 44 parishioners.

1. Apologies for Absence.

Apologies were received from Mrs J. Shields (Parish Clerk), Cllr. Mr. Robert Davies, Cllr. Mr. Savakis Papacostantinou and Cllr. Mr. Jeff van den Broek.

2. Minutes Of Annual Parish Meeting Held 20th March, 2018.

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Held 20th March, 2018 were duly approved and signed by Sir David Logan as a true record.

3. Report from West Mercia Police.

Annual Police Report 2018-19

The last 12 months has continued to be busy throughout our ever increasing local policing area.

This report is based using the recorded crime figures between 09/03/2018 and 09/03/2019. Overall the Parish had 23 recordable crimes (incidents where a specific offence has occurred) this was in comparison to 10 recordable crimes the previous year.

The breakdown of offences is as follows:

	2017/18	2018/19
Burglary Other	0	1
Burglary Residential	1	3
Theft of Vehicle	0	1
Theft from Vehicle	1	2
Criminal Damage	2	6
Motor vehicle interference	0	0
Theft other	0	1
Other Offences	6	9

(Includes mostly domestic related incidents or concerns for welfare)

Overall the figures show a slight increase in Residential burglaries which is something the neighbouring parishes have also experienced over the winter months.

Although criminal damage has risen quite a bit this year, please be assured that half of the incidents reported are in connection to one ongoing dispute.

On behalf of the team and myself I should like to offer my thanks to the Parish Council for all its help over the last 12 months. I would also like to say thank you to the Parish as a whole for its continued support of the local policing team and for the numerous calls we have received relating to suspicious activity, all we ask is that you continue to do this.

Pershore Rural North and South Local Policing Team Non-emergency phone number: 101

4. County Councillor's Report

While it is a fashionable idea to worry about the finance at the County; it will end up with a small over spend of less than 1%. And next year we will see our budget rise for the first time in 10 years. Whether it will rise fast enough to deal with the pressure and needs in the Social services budget remains to be seen. But even here at the end of the food chain we are starting to see scorching austerity start to fade a little and we return to just austerity.

Even with this a lot is going on. On a clear day from here you might be able to see that work on the new Worcestershire Parkway Railway Station is continuing apace with external steelworks and glazing substantially

completed on the station building. Currently work is concentrated on platform installation and paving the car park and the landscaping and planting around the site. The station is set for an opening at the end of this year. Worcestershire has been successful in its bid for Government funding to test and explore 5G connectivity. 5G is the next generation of mobile technology. When it becomes available in the UK, 5G is expected to have a profound impact on the way people live their lives. As many as 1.4 billion 5G connections are predicted by 2025, as well as a host of new technologies not yet imagined. The Worcestershire 5G consortium, led by the County Council and Worcestershire LEP launched the first-ever British 5G factory trials at the Worcester Bosch factory earlier this week.

Works are now underway on the final phase (4) of the Worcester Southern Link Road scheme. A security fence has been erected and vegetation is being removed on the southern side of Temeside Way between the Carrington Bridge and Powick Roundabout. The Ketch viewpoint is now temporarily closed.

The latest monitoring visit by Ofsted Inspectors has found that the Council has made progress in improving its services for children and young people who are at risk from sexual exploitation and those who go missing. The Council's more effective approach, said the report, and had reduced the numbers of children and young people going missing. WCC's Cabinet approved recommendations for the development of a Wholly Owned Council Company as the alternative delivery model to deliver Children's Social Care. The company name is 'Worcestershire Children First'.

A phased shadow period will commence on 1 April enabling the Company Board to begin working as a team, and with representatives from the Council, to help prepare for Worcestershire Children First to go live on 1 October 2019.

Adult Social Care turned 70 in 2018 and we were happy to celebrate this milestone.

We shared videos, stories and interesting facts about the history of social care and how adult social care is improving vulnerable adults' lives.

A 70th birthday card signed by members from across the Council was handed over to the Health Secretary in December. I as, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, and Richard Keble, the Assistant Director of Adult Services travelled down to London to personally hand the card over to Matt Hancock MP at the Department of Health and Social Care offices. The aim of the trip was to highlight that more needs to be done by Central Government to better fund adult social care in Worcestershire and across the country.

At the time of writing we are hoping that we have avoided any significant snow events in the county this winter. We are also seeing much higher than expected temperatures for this time of year. Our gritting teams remain on alert however ready to act as necessary if required.

This year has seen significant investment in two schemes designed to alleviate flooding and keep key roads open. New Road, Worcester was raised last year and will allow the road to be operated two-way if necessary, keeping a key east-west route across the city open at times of significant flooding of the River Severn.

Similarly, works are set to be completed this spring at Upton-upon-Severn, where the A4104 which links the town with the strategic A38 is being raised and straightened to ensure business continuity and avoid lengthy diversions when the river is in flood.

Just to end on a local note, we did carry out a small length of footway improvement in the centre of the village and put a new culvert in at the Bredon / Kemerton border. I am still working on the idea of upgrading the Eckington Bridge, and I am sure in time this will happen, but no news as yet, and we do have some maintenance work planned for the Crashmore Lane in April. I remain very worried by the idea of a Garden Town being created on the Army Camp at Ashchurch and the impact this would have on the Bredon Hill villages; mainly of course with traffic impact being the worst feature. Our schools remain in good heart, but Steve Charlton is retiring at the end of term; after a long time as Head of the Middle School. He has been a good head and kept standards up.

As all ways, please call or email if you have something to take up with me, Adrian Hardman.

5. District Councillor's Report to Kemerton Annual Parish Meeting.

Last April I suffered an attack of temporal arteritis which has left me blind in one eye and under treatment with steroids to safeguard the other eye. I am happy to say that this has been successful and I am now able to function normally, but it did result in my missing the meetings of council and the planning committee last April. At the Annual Wychavon Council meeting I was re-elected to the planning committee and the Joint Advisory Panel overseeing the revision of the South Worcestershire Development Plan. I also continued to act as the council's heritage champion, concerned with both the built and the natural environment. Since May I have attended nearly every planning meeting and have tried to comment on all cases where there are heritage issues involved.

As always most of my time has been spent in dealing with planning issues.

You may remember the long-drawn out process which led to the production of the South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) in 2016, which was meant to determine the pattern of development of Malvern Hills, Worcester City and Wychavon over the period to 2030. This set out proposals to deliver 28,400 new homes and 300 hectares of employment land by 2030.

However, the Government now requires all planning authorities to review their local plans every five years to ensure they are keeping up with the latest housing requirements. Failure to do so could mean councils losing control over where development takes place. We now have to carry out a revision of the SWDP and project it forward to cover the period to 2041. In the extra time a further 14,000 new homes and additional employment land will be required. As a first stage of this process a consultation on Issues and Options was held last autumn. There were two other surveys as preliminaries to this Revision, one into Village Facilities and Rural Transport and the other into Open Space and Development Boundary methodology. I advised the Parish Council on all of these responses. Landowners have also been advised to submit proposed sites to the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA), but these sites have not yet been assessed by officers.

The other major planning issue which threatens Kemerton is the large scale development of Tewkesbury both at Ashchurch and Mitton, which as well as severely impacting on the views from Bredon Hill would generate a lot of additional traffic through the centre of the village as motorists attempt to avoid the congestion on the A46.

So far as Ashchurch is concerned I and two other members of Kemerton P.C. attended a workshop on a proposed Ashchurch masterplan held at Tewkesbury Borough Offices in November. This plan was a supporting paper to the Gloucester, Cheltenham, Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy (JCS) and I urged the Parish Council to respond to the consultation on the next phase of the JCS in January.

The first phase of this JCS recommended that Wychavon should provide additional housing at Mitton to meet Tewkesbury's needs, under the 'Duty to co-operate' imposed on a neighbouring council by government legislation. In accordance with this a planning application for 500 houses at Bredon's Hardwick has been submitted to Wychavon. Bredon Parish Council believes that this application is contrary to its neighbourhood plan unless it is allocated in the revised SWDP. However it is being held up at present by Highways England until the road situation is sorted out, so this matter has not been tested.

I was also involved in the appeal by Allens Caravans against refusal of the siting of 81 static holiday caravans at Great Comberton Golf Club because of the effect of this development on the view from the summit of Bredon Hill which lies in my ward. Unfortunately Wychavon lost this appeal.

So far as individual planning applications in the parish are concerned, I do not comment on them as a parish councillor but take note of the P.C.'s views when deciding whether to ask for them to go to full committee.

My focus on what I have been doing myself, chiefly in planning, has led me to overlook some important developments in Wychavon as a whole.

There was a change of leader and executive board in November. Cllr Bradley Thomas took over from Cllr Linda Robinson who had held the post since May 2015. The new team brought forward the budget for the 2019/2020 year and so set the pattern of activity for the new council which is to be elected in May. There were two principle elements. Firstly a freeze on the Wychavon element of council tax and secondly eleven new promises of extra activity/expenditure. This will result in a deficit if all the forecasts prove accurate, but the deficit may not materialise as the council's financial performance is usually better than budget. Since this sometimes results from a delay or failure to replace vacant posts, and hence a worsening of service, it is not necessarily a good thing. As heritage champion I have been agitating for more posts in the heritage team and I am glad to say that I have succeeded in getting a new dedicated officer to make good the backlog in conservation area appraisals, from which I am happy to say Kemerton is benefitting. I supported the new promises, in particular one relating to improving social mobility through spending money on free school meal children and their families. As you might expect, I was also in favour of support for the Worcestershire Pollinator Strategy.

Lastly I should say that I am proposing to stand again as your district councillor. I had hoped that the major planning issues which have so exercised me during the past eight years would have been settled for the next ten years or so. However the government keeps changing the goalposts. It has revised the National Planning Policy Framework twice in the last year, and has now insisted that the South Worcestershire Development Plan be revised. At the same time the plans for Tewkesbury have not been finalised and two of the parishes in my ward are engaged in neighbourhood plans. I therefore feel that the planning expertise, which I have built up over the last twenty one years, is still needed, and that I can continue to make a contribution to safeguarding a very special piece of Worcestershire.

6. **Parish Council Report.**

- Financial regulations, standing order, risk assessment and codes of conduct were reviewed and updated when necessary.
- Due to Changes in GDPR, the clerk has removed all personal information from its records; i.e. completed correspondence, emails and details of previous councillors. The clerk attended a GDPR training course. Relevant documents have now been placed on the website.
- The Conservation area was reviewed and sent to Wychavon. We await news but have been told they are working on it.
- Mark Farey continued as Lengthsman and submitted a report.
- Mr. A Jones and his team continued with the grass cutting contract.
- Received notice of the closure of St Nicholas churchyard.
- Solar light has been placed in the old phone box.
- A new dog bin has been purchased for Hill Lane.
- Work at the Squitter Brook carried out by Peter Doble to alleviate excess water and mud, paid for by Parish Council.
- The footway works in High Street Kemerton has at long last been carried out.
- The children crossing sign, before the bend on the Overbury end of the village, is in position and hopefully effective.
- After a very lengthy and stressful process the PC moved its banking from Santander to Lloyd's.
- The black and white sign has been repaired.
- Closure of shop and post office was discussed. New tenants introduced themselves and will begin trading in April 2019 as an antique shop.
- The council agreed to increase the precept to £8,108.00 this will incur a 3.36% increase on a tax band D household.
- New homes bonus – only one application received. This was from the Victoria Hall Trustees to contribute to the cost of the New Entrance to the Hall. It was successful.
- Damage to the ditch and remedial works by the cattle grid in Hill Road had been reported to highways and has now been repaired.
- Grass cutting contract: The council received many complaints regarding the grass during 2018, this was exacerbated by the growing conditions early in the season, the late starting of the contract, bags of dog mess left on the grass verges and parked vehicle on areas to be cut. The council and the contractors

are doing all they can to resolve these issues, however it would help if 'dog bags' were placed in bins and vehicles where not parked on grass verges.

- The council had submitted an objection to: 18/00771/OUT Land East of Bredon Road off Tewkesbury Road Bredon Hardwick.
- The council has responded to the following legislation:
 - Open Space Assessment (including Community Buildings) - Town/Parish Council Survey and to the Development Boundary Review - Proposed Methodology Consultation. - Council to respond.
 - South Worcestershire Development Plan Review - Village Facilities and Rural Transport Survey – Response sent.
 - South Worcestershire Development Plan Review – Issues and Options Paper Public Consultation.
 - Tewkesbury, Glos, Chelt Joint core strategy.
- Cllrs Van de Broek, Darby and Davies attended the Workshop - Concept Masterplan for Ashchurch in Nov 2018.
- Cllr Carver had attended the area CALC meetings during the year.
- In November 2018 Cllr Kulukundis resigned as chairman. The post of Chairman is being rotated through the Council.
- Election 2019: Posters have gone up for the information of the community.

7. Report from the Chairman of trustees of the Victoria Hall, Kemerton Members of the Village Hall Committee

John Harvey (Chairman), Christina Kulukundis (Secretary), Deb Mann (Treasurer) Adrian William, Di Atwell, Emma Bulley, Faye O'Connell, Phil Yerburch, Rachel Hill, Saskia Bos and Nicola Wilson.

Since my last report Nicola Wilson has joined the committee, I am sure that having a member of the Workman family on side can only be for the good.

Our financial position is strong with £22,629.42 on deposit in various accounts.

MAINTENANCE: The Committee have appointed a regular handyman, Mr. Lee Martin of Kemerton, and although hampered by initial ill health, we now feel sure that the village will see incremental improvement in the Hall's appearance and an improvement in the garden from now on.

We have had an electrical survey of the Hall and have undertaken work to conform to the necessary safety regulations. We have also serviced the fire alarm and fire extinguishers.

HALL REFURBISHMENT: Since September 2018 the committee have been working hard on grant applications to fund the vast majority of the refurbishment and improvement of the Hall. The largest of these grants applied for are.

- Community Legacy Grant from Wychavon for £125,000
- Reaching Communities Grant from the National lottery for £100,000

In both instances, we were encouraged to apply after our initial proposal met with support. We will hear whether we have been successful in the coming month and will let the community know the outcome shortly. We have heard from Wychavon. Quote "Our Localism and Community Funding Panel has completed its assessment of all the applications and the Panel's report and recommendations to our Executive Board have now been published. The Executive Board will meet next Wednesday, 20th March to consider the Panel's recommendations and to make funding decisions about each of the applications. We will notify you by email of the outcome of your application on March 21st."

We believe that the Panel has recommended that we are awarded the funds. If we are given one of these grants, it may well encourage the other to be awarded to us. We have our fingers crossed.

In addition we are applying for £1,000 from the Wychavon New Homes Bonus Scheme and £3,000 from Sport England for indoor sports equipment. The Committee is, of course, also looking at other major grants in case either of the large ones does not come through. Once the project is almost funded, the tender process

complete and a builder appointed, a start date will be determined. We will see where we stand financially at that point and if necessary approach sympathetic donors in our community to help with the purchase of kitchen appliances, theatre curtains and other necessary items. Our planning permission expires in October 2019, so with luck and under the guidance of professionals, we hope to begin work in September 2019.

BUSINESS PLAN: This is available to view on the Hall website, along with floor plans for the refurbished hall and artist's impressions of what the Hall will be like.

WEBSITE: A fresh new website is planned for the Hall and will take shape over the next 3 months.

VILLAGE FETE: This is in the process of being organised and we hope that it will take place throughout the Village on August 24th.

John Harvey, Chairman.

8. Questions from the Floor.

The availability of a Smart Water program was raised. Can Kemerton have it? Answer: Bredon Parish had a giveaway recently which some took advantage of, and another chance to get it from Bredon will come around in April. Parishioners can check www.bredonpc.org.uk for the next date. In the meantime Kemerton will look into having a Smart Water initiative of its own.

What is happening with Mitten Bank development? Answer from A. Darby: Highways England is holding up the process because of concerns about road access and traffic increase. We don't know when they will be able to allow the development to go for a planning decision.

Kemerton's main road is a rat-run for cars trying to avoid A46 congestion. Can we have traffic calming measures? Answer: We need to try to halt large unsustainable developments like Mitten Bank if possible, AND we need to address rat-run traffic at the same time. It seems time to have a thorough talk with Highways England about the traffic in Kemerton and the PC will put this work on their agenda. Double yellow lines on the corner opposite the War Memorial were asked for by a resident. Traffic calming measures were deemed worthwhile by some and not worthwhile by others. The idea of a 20mph zone in the middle of Kemerton was suggested. The Speed Gun initiative, now lapsed, was not deemed an effective tool due to the copious warnings which had to be given to motorists when it was in use. The idea of Kinsham Lane being brought into the 30mph zone was raised. Cllr Darby said that this had initially been requested but turned down by Highways. It could be asked to look at it again during any consultation.

The parking at the Catholic Church was criticised as attendee's park on the main road and block the footpath. John Harvey agreed to speak to the vicar about it.

The presence of a man noting vehicle activity from the Dept of the Environment was commented upon. The PC had no information about this survey and to what end it was being conducted. We said we would look into it.

The lay-by on Hill Road was described as over-used and it was noted that elderly residents struggle to get to their houses when many walkers are parked there. It is used as an overflow carpark for residents of Hill Road. This may cause problems with access for emergency services and we will keep an eye on it. Can Highways comment on this?

Mrs Jeanette Way commented that the sidewalks of the village are still inadequate on the High Street and despite highways promising to address the situation, nothing has been done. She asks that we pursue it.

Kemerton Stores: The new tenants at Kemerton Stores spoke to the assembled. They are called Jean Baynham and Jo Gordon. They intend to open the shop under the name The Old Post Office and they work for Lee Martin the licensee at the Crown Inn, Kemerton. They intend to start trading as an antiques, furniture and vintage shop from mid-April 2019. They intend to open Tues – Friday 10am-2pm, and Sat 10am – 4pm. They may serve Tea and cakes, supported by the kitchen at the pub. The ladies said that there is room for a Community Shop to

be opened in space at the back of the premises and asked for volunteers to email jean_baynham@hotmail.co.uk if you are interested in working there. Jean is happy to co-ordinate a schedule for workers. They intend to ask locals what they would like to be stocked there. The Community Shop will follow the opening of the antiques shop. They asked if there would be opposition to a couple of tables on the pavement for customers having coffee etc. No answer was given but the idea to wait and see how it all goes was mooted. The fact that there is a house called The Old Post Office in Kemerton was raised and the new tenants said they would contact the residents and ask their opinion on the name. The council were asked the best way for residents to report problems around the village and the Wychavon hub was given as the best place for drains problems etc. at the following address: <https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/report-it>