

KEMPSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Teresa Griffin, Winterwood, Whelford, Fairford, Glos. GL7 4EB

Tel: 01285 713691 Email: clerk@kempsfordparishcouncil.net

To all Parish Councillors

Members are reminded that the council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal opportunities (race, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, religion and any disability), Crime and Disorder, Health and Safety, and Human Rights.

Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting of Monday 16th June 2025

Present:

Mark Strange (Chair)

Stephen Andrews

Neil Green

Karen Saunders

John O'Connell

Debbie Watson

GC Cllr Dom Morris

Teresa Griffin (Clerk)

Emmie Hawkshaw

1. **Apologies:** Tristan Wilkinson, Christine Nugent and Helene Mansilla.
2. **Minutes:** Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 19th May 2025 were approved.
3. **Disclosure of member's interests:** None
4. **Dispensation requests:** None
5. **Matters Arising:** None
6. **Questions from members of the public:**
 - The Landlady from The George asked if it is possible for signage to be put up on the junction with Chapel Road and the High Street during RIAT to say 'business (pub) open as usual'? in previous years people have not been made aware that they could still access the road to the pub, which in turn has affected their trade. The signage apparently shows as 'road closed' between the T junction on the high street and the pub and last year the traffic controller advised a number of people (including pub staff) that they could not use that section of the road. **Action:** KS to contact RIAT Traffic Officer. The brown sign on the Chapel Road junction with the Whelford Road has also been damaged recently. **Action:** To be reported through 'Fix my Street'.
 - When will the sports field at Hazel View be opening? Mark Strange advised that we are hoping it will be soon. It has been agreed that it can be used for the school sports day and Village Fete regardless of whether the land transfer has taken place.
 - The Parish Council noticeboard was removed for repainting and will be put up on the side wall shortly.
7. **County Councillor's Report – Dom Morris reported –**
 - You will have caught up on all the news following the election. The Lib Dems are one short off overall control and the Conservatives are now the 4th party. The new administration has announced their top three priorities –
 1. Road signs
 2. Vulnerable Children
 3. Road safetyThe two road priorities are interesting as they are not proposing more resurfacing or fixing potholes and the budget for highways is down by £95 million.
 - The response from the Police following the recent rural crime spree was very disappointing.
 - Hopefully you are aware of the whole unitary issue and how the next couple of years will be spent shaping and selecting which of the three options there are.
 - Highways have provided an update on the latest works scheduling for the Hannington Road. Mark Strange advised that we have received this and there is also some concern over the collapsing road by Kempsford House and tying this work in to the Hannington Road schedule.
 - If you haven't had your six-monthly meeting with your local Highways Manager, I would suggest you get in touch to request one.
 - The Clerk advised that one of the Whelford ASW cameras was broken during the recent resurfacing works and reported to the Highways Manager. There has been a significant increase in speeding since the road has been resurfaced and the camera enforcement van is visiting more frequently.
8. **District Councillor's Report –** Not present. A report from Cllr Helene Mansilla was circulated by email earlier this month.

9. Kempsford Parish Council

1. Temporary road closure for Kempsford Fete on 27th September 2025 – no objection.
2. Updates from meetings attended and working groups –
 - RIAT Community Briefing – Issue about controls that have been put in place during previous shows in respect of road closures and no waiting etc. were raised. We were assured that they will be done as per previous years.
A change this year is that it will be one company responsible for traffic management and parking, whereas previously it has been done by two separate contractors.
 - Stephen Andrews attended a briefing on the reorganisation of the Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB) following a request by Government to save 50% of their revenue. This will mean redundancies and to look at consolidating with other ICB's.
New contracts for GP Surgeries were also raised, and the need to be able to distinguish between calls for an appointment on that day, or a routine appointment. Routine appointments will be contracted and people should be able to access the surgery during normal working hour to arrange an appointment, and not just at 8am for example.
 - Local Government Devolution Reorganisation – It was interesting, but apparent that nobody knows what will happen at this stage. The principal example given was Chippenham, which is significantly different to this rural area and small market towns.
 - New Burial Ground – Mark and Stephen met with the PCC to discuss the acquisition of land for a new burial ground. The current position is that there are 10 spaces available which equates to 3-4 years of use. The PCC will find out who the relevant person at the Diocese is and Stephen will contact CDC to find out which officer is responsible for burial grounds. One option to explore is the possibility of reopening the closed churchyard.
 - Lakes by Yoo meeting – a small working group met to discuss the Country Park in relation to the current planning application and what had been stated about it in past agreements and planning applications. The aim being to agree what we want delivered as part of the LBK planning application. A list of requirements such as signage, to include 'house rules' was discussed and Stephen is currently writing them up trying to balance the differing opinions. It was also made clear that we were unhappy with Clubhouse aspect and if they are going to proceed with it, it should not be presented as an entertainment venue primarily, but as an ancillary part of the hotel.
 - Local Plan meeting with District Councillor Tristan Wilkinson – The current position on future housing supply is believed to be around 1.9 years and the Government requirement for 5 years is around 1800 – 1900 homes. This increases the chance for new planning applications being taken to appeal if refused and the decision overturned if you do not have a 5 years supply.
Tristan summarised the outcome from today's meeting as –
 - ask for sight of the outcomes of the peer review process and in particular and references to the CDC planning processes
 - how many sites across CDC have existing planning permission and are they included in the numbers?
 - collect questions from the three councils to be submitted before the June 25th meeting so that we can try and get answers

The following 3 priorities were agreed: -

1. The need for CDC to have a renewed local plan
2. Hold a meeting with planning officers and CDC exec to discuss improvements to the scheme of delegation
3. Engage with CDC to improve the enforcement process

A CDC Online Briefing on the 5-year land supply has been scheduled for the 25th June 2025 and Tristan has requested any questions ahead of the meeting.

- Kempsford Village Hall – Karen Saunders had circulated notes from the Committee Meeting of 10th June 2025. They have since asked for permission to use the sports pitch for the Village Fete, which has been agreed.

They are having a social evening on the 26th July and have asked if the Parish Council would like to attend/ or put something together which outlines what we do and get involved in. It was agreed that the community should be encouraged to talk about and ask questions about the Parish.

- Autospeedwatch and Community Speed Watch- As mentioned in Item 7 above, there has been a significant increase in the volume and speed through Whelford. The Community Speed Watch group is considering doing sessions. The yearly data renewal for one of the cameras is due for renewal and it was agreed to continue as the data gathered is essential for trying to obtain additional traffic calming measures in the future.

3. Residents reports to Councillors - None

10. **Planning, Policies & Licensing:** None

11. **Finance**

1. The following bills paid between meetings were approved: -

002510	Busy Fingers Printing Ltd (June newsletter)	£94.50
002511	M Dyball t/a Willow Gardening (May grass)	£604.80 inc. VAT
002512	Autospeedwatch (1yr data Whelford NEB camera)	£214.80 inc. VAT
002513	T Griffin (wages & use of home)	£684.80
002514	HMRC (PAYE – Emp’er NI)	£37.47

The following bills were approved to be paid: -

002508	Police & Crime Commissioner (ASW ltrs 1/1 – 31/3)	£124.60
002509	Zurich Municipal (Insurance)	£360.66
	Lloyds Bank (monthly service fee & charges)	£6.29

Receipts since last meeting

Bank Interest	£56.78
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2. Finance Reports – The monthly Finance Report consisting of bills to be paid, receipts received, bank reconciliation and income/expenditure vs budget was received and agreed.

3. Banking Arrangements – The Clerk has looked in to setting up a Public Deposit Fund with CCLA and a minimum investment of £25,000 is required. It was agreed to defer this pending the forecast continuing in breach of the FSCS limit. The total funds currently exceed the limit by approximately £500.

12. Clerks Report – The noticeboards around the parish are all approaching the end of their useful life and it was agreed to look at costs of replacements and consider the locations. This will be done for the next meeting.

13. Correspondence - Noted and all correspondence received via email has been circulated. Magazines and literature distributed.

14. To note date of next meeting – 21st July 2025 at 7.00pm at Kempsford Village Hall

15. Neil Green announced his resignation as Parish Councillor due to a change in employment and circumstances. He was thanked for his service, congratulated on the new job and wished well for the future. Clerk to notify CDC tomorrow.

Copies:- Mrs Nugent, Mr Green, Mrs Saunders, Mr Strange, Mr O’Connell, Mr Andrews, Mrs Watson CD.Cllrs, C.Cllrs.
Meeting ended at 9.15pm

Appendix A

Kempsford Parish Council - Attendance Report	12 months to:	Jun-25
Name	Attendance	Attendance Percentage
Dom Morris (GCC)	4/12	33%
Helene Mansilla (CDC)	0/12	0%
Tristan Wilkinson (CDC) - elected Dec 23	6/12	50%
Mark Strange (KPC - Chair)	11/12	92%
John O'Connell (KPC - Vice Chair)	12/12	100%
Christine Nugent (KPC)	9/12	75%
Karen Saunders (KPC)	11/12	92%
Neil Green (KPC)	12/12	100%
Stephen Andrews (KPC)	12/12	100%
Debbie Watson (KPC) - Co-opted Nov 23	12/12	100%