



# Kemble and Ewen Parish Council: Minutes

## Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Kemble Village Hall on Friday 2 May 2008

Present: Councillor R Pettit, Chairman  
Councillor D Ball, Vice-Chairman  
Councillor W Cole  
Councillor G Collins  
Councillor S Lawlor  
Councillor G Somerville  
Councillor S Turner

In attendance: F Garnet-Lawson, clerk, plus 15 members of the public

Speakers: Shaun Parsons, County Councillor  
John Birch, District Councillor  
Roger Pettit, Parish Councillor  
Marion Russell, Kemble School  
Andrea Shutt, Police Community Support Officer

1. **Apologies for absence** **Action**  
Councillor G. Moreman, Pat Ayres
  
2. **Approval of minutes from Annual Parish Meeting** held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2007 were approved and signed. (proposed D. Ball; seconded Marion Gilliland)
  
3. **Matters arising from those minutes**
  - a Thames Head Bridge - SP reported that this was not a priority in relation to the expenditure required for other highways matters, particularly because (fortunately) there were very few accidents associated with it.
  
  - b Poor standard of the Church Road pavement: RP will raise this again with the Highways department. **RP**
  
  - c Transferability of railway car park tickets: JB will investigate this again. **JB**

## 4. Reports

### 4.1. **County Council:** *County Councillor Shaun Parsons gave his report*

He outlined how the major issue of the last 12 months had been the severe flooding across the county in June and July 2007. This caused over £25m of damage to the road system alone. Even though the council has submitted claims for £10m to government, no money has yet been forthcoming. A further claim for £7m is being submitted because it takes time for some of the consequences of the flooding to be assessed. The EU has promised £110m grant to the UK, but it seems very unlikely that any of this money will be allocated to Gloucestershire. SP commented that this was, in his opinion, disgraceful.

Although central government will contribute towards paying for the actual damage caused by the floods, it will not pay for preventative measures. The County Council has already started to spend money on prevention but this is made difficult by the

enormous complexity of who is responsible for what eg ditches (landowners), rivers ( Environment Agency) and gullies (Council). Action groups have been set up to establish ownership across the county. An additional levy of 1.1% on the council tax has been approved to spend on flood prevention measures, including better drainage, to reduce the risk of flooding in areas most at risk.

He then went on to report on the Comprehensive Performance Assessment of the council, which has achieved a 'level 4 star' marking - which is the highest result possible, and demonstrates that the Council is well run and continues to provide value for money.

Moving on to waste: the County Council is responsible for waste disposal (whereas the District Council is responsible for waste collection). Landfill resources are running out and progressive government landfill tax has meant that the cost of this method of disposal is increasing by £8 per tonne pa. The Council is therefore encouraging recycling to reduce landfill and looking for alternatives to it - but these are very expensive. An alternative disposal system will be around £500m. Various options are being considered (which will not be located in this parish), but none has yet been decided on.

Highways: as a result of the floods, many of the improvement projects had to be postponed. A comprehensive assessment of all the priorities has now been prepared - and runs to around 50 pages! SP reported that he was concerned about the reported speeding along Windmill Road, and that more evidence was needed in the form of speed camera reports [*action parish council*] in order to justify expenditure on preventative measures. The County is also investigating a new system for filling in potholes, which should extend the life of the repair work.

*Sara Lawlor: asked about the junction of the A429/A433. SP reported that this junction may be improved depending on the potential development of land owned by the Royal Agricultural College. Unfortunately the government 'requires' a level of 3 deaths per year before a highways alteration becomes a priority.*

*Pat Owen: concerned about the position of the 40mph sign on the entrance to the village. SP reported that this was the position recommended after survey by the Highways authority.*

SP then mentioned that the Cotswold Water Park Master Plan had been approved today (2 May), which brings together an approach on how the Water Park will be managed over the next 30 years. This plan has no legal authority yet, but will form part of the overall Strategic Plan in due course. The plan tried to achieve a balance between many of the issues facing the Park, from gravel extraction, to wildlife to leisure use.

Councillor Lawlor and other members of the public expressed concern about the proposed new ski-tow at Keynes Country Park. SP responded that this would be additional to the existing ski-tow, and that he did not believe that it would have an adverse effect on wildlife. Discussion moved onto the proposed gravel extraction at Shorncote/Somerford Keynes and the associated 800 place car park. SP expressed a view that this would alleviate the parking along the roadsides in the summer.

4.2 **District Council:** *District Councillor John Birch gave his report*

He reported that, even 10 months after the summer floods, there were still 60 Cotswold families living upstairs, and a further 20 families in caravans. The District Council has been given £600k by government and is working closely with Parish Councils on flood resilience schemes. In particular, they are investigating the areas which suffered from severe flooding, and how it might be avoided in future. Twenty priority areas have been identified (none within this parish).

The merger of the management structures of the CDC and Tewkesbury has been cancelled, and so alternative ways of achieving the hoped-for £400k saving are being investigated. This money needs to be saved to cover rising costs elsewhere.

He was disappointed that the new waste collection service has fallen behind schedule as a result of the contractor not appreciating the difficulties of distributing within a rural area. The recycling rate in those localities that have started the new scheme has increased from 40% to 60%.

He thanked everyone for their enthusiastic progress of the community garden and allotment scheme, and mentioned that it was acting as a beacon for other areas to follow similar ideas. He requested that the issue of insurance should not become a show-stopper. Councillor Cole then reported that appropriate insurance should be in place within a week or so. Councillor Lawlor added that they were keen to start the community composting scheme associated with the site.

4.3 **Parish Council:** *Chairman Roger Pettit gave his report*

RP first read out a statement from Pat Ayres regarding the dissolution of the Poole and Partridge charity, and that the remaining money in the fund (£966.30) was to be given to the Kemble Village Hall committee for benefit for the whole community. The charity was originally established in 1896, to enable coal to be given to those in need within the parish. Later the dividends from the fund were used to provide clothing etc. However, inflation has meant that the £50pa dividends generated by the fund were no longer significant, and it was decided to wind up the fund and allocate the money more appropriately within the community. Sheila Richens of the Village Hall committee reported that this money will be used to buy a new sound system for the hall, as requested by the Thursday group. RP thanked Pat for all her work with the charity.

RP welcomed and introduced the new councillors who have been appointed this year. He then described the achievements of the council over the last 12 months, including improvements to road safety through the successful Lorry Watch scheme, 20mph speed limit outside the school, and flashing signage at the entrance to the village. He mentioned that the parish council hopes to extend the footpaths, at the parish's expense, but that the precise details and timing will depend on the cost of the work.

The council will soon be seeking the view of Windmill Road residents in particular about the landscaping of the grass verge, including additional trees, to improve the appearance of the area and, hopefully, encourage motorists to slow down. RP reported that the council was investigating the introduction of 'village gates' at the

entrance to the village along the A429, to signify to drivers that they were entering a village and to reduce their speed. There had been much progress on the allotments area, and he thanked Travis Perkins, Kemble Farms and the CDC for their help. The new cold calling area was established and the neighbourhood watch scheme had been revitalised successfully.

RP regretted that there had been less progress on Youth Activities, and that this was chiefly due to a lack of volunteers willing to take on the role.

He thanked Brian Robins and June Telling for keeping the parish neat and tidy, to Pete Measures for maintaining the cemetery and cutting the grass, for Brian and Pat Ayres for all their many actions, and to Penny Wheeler for producing the parish newsletter.

RP announced that Kemble airfield has made an application regarding the continuing use of the airfield, and that he wanted to receive responses from local residents to take back to the CDC planning committee. A public meeting would be arranged as soon as possible for this purpose. *[action parish council]*

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*A resident asked about creating a footpath from Clayfurlong to the Thames bridge. PR said that he would add it to the list of actions to be considered this year. [action parish council]*

#### **4.4 Kemble School:** *Marion Russell gave her report*

Mr Parson retired as headmaster after 11 years and Mrs Pyman was appointed as new head teacher in September 2007. There were 18 children in reception this year, and there is now a total of 97 children on the roll - 5 more than last year. This means that the school now receives more classroom help. The school has been involved in many external activities, including cross country, athletics, football and plays. From September there will be more changes, as Mrs Miller becomes part-time and a newly qualified teacher will be appointed full-time, bring the staff levels to 4 full-time and one part-time teachers, plus the head teacher. MR thanked everyone for their help and support of the school and its activities.

*A member of the public asked what the capacity of the school was. MR responded that the capacity was 105 children, and that it was not true that it was difficult for parents to get their children into the school, because it was the school that made the final decisions, not the County. SP commented that if this every became an issue, to let him know.*

#### **5 Guest speaker** *Andrea Shutt, Police Community Support Officer gave her report*

No-calling areas has been established in Windmill Road/Abbot Way/Orchard Close and Biddulf cottages area following consultation with residents. This is to prevent distraction burglaries and to help the police find out what is occurring locally - if residents do not call them, the police will not know or be able to help.

This cold calling area can be extended on request, because it is based on what residents want rather than the number of incidents.

The neighbourhood watch scheme has been revitalised, and residents should contact their local co-ordinator if they wish to be involved. Pat Owen, June Telling and Pat Ayres are the local contacts.

AS reported that Mike Owen will now be taking over her duties in Kemble and

Ewen, and that he would continue to liaise with Penny Wheeler to place items into the parish magazine.

*SL asked about youth communication, and AS confirmed that they engaged with people of all ages within the village. A resident enquired about establishing a cold calling area in Church Road, and AS advised him to contact the community policing team. [action parish council]*

RP thanked her for coming, and for all her help within the village, and wished her success in her new role.

**6. Finance:**

The finance report was considered. RP stated that the precept for next year was to be reduced to £15k, from £18k, with a corresponding reduction in tax per household.

**7. Any Other Business:**

Marion Gilliland gave a vote of thanks to the Parish Council for its work over the past year.

Meeting adjourned at 10.00pm