



Kemble and Ewen Parish Council: Minutes

Meeting of Kemble and Ewen parish council was held on: **Friday, 17 October 2008; 7.30pm**
at: Kemble Village Hall

Present: Councillor R Pettit, Chairman Apologies: Councillor G. Moreman
 Councillor D Ball, Vice-Chairman
 Councillor G Collins
 Councillor S Lawlor
 Councillor G Somerville
 Councillor S Turner
 Councillor W Cole
 John Birch, District Councillor

In attendance: F Garnet-Lawson, clerk

Opportunity for the public to raise any matters: no local residents were present. Alex Love, reporter from Wilts and Glos Standard was present.

0. Co-option of new councillor:

Sohrab Sorabjee was unanimously co-opted as a member of the council. The number of councillors is now fully subscribed.

Proposed: DB Seconded GC.

1. Apologies for absence: Glen Moreman (who sent a report, attached to the agenda)

2. Declarations of interest:

none

3. Approval of minutes from previous meeting:

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2008 were approved by the council and signed by RP with no alterations.

4. Matters arising (particularly those requiring input from District Councillor J Birch who left after this agenda item).

a) **Recycling bins:** It was noted that:

?? The Tavern will not accept the bins on their car park

?? The Kemble Community gardens allotments site is not suitable because of access.

?? Gloucestershire Highways has been asked if the lay-by at the junction of Washpool Land and Ewen Road might be a possible site.

The far side (ie the Tavern side) of the station itself, particularly the area by the disused platform, was suggested a another alternative. JB to approach Great Western Railways.

JB

b) **Kemble Airfield:**

?? JB reported that the CLEUD was now with the High Court in London, and may be heard in late November/early December to decide whether or not there will be a judicial review of the decision.

?? The councillors decided to write to the Wiltshire District Council to ask for an

update of proceedings, and to find out if KEPC (Kemble and Ewen parish Council) is able to make a submission as an interested party **RP**

?? The councillors agreed to approach NALC to find out the parish council's legal position in this matter. **WC**

c) Car testing at Kemble Airfield:

JB reported that there have not been 'sufficient' complaints about noise levels to raise concern. Rp questioned the premise that there had to be a certain level of complaints before it was considered that the law was not upheld. Parishioners should be entitled to a quality of life, without having to then issue formal complaints to uphold it. JB asked to clarify this point. **JB**

JB also to check whether the 14 days permitted without planning permission for car testing also including the time/days used for setting up display stands, tents etc. Also asked to clarify if these 14 days are included in the 28 days permitted for non-flying activities, and again if ancillary activities such as erecting and dismantling stands etc were including within this time limit. **JB**

ST suggested an item be paced in the Parish news to gauge residents' reactions to the car testing. **FGL**

d) HGV depot at Kemble airfield:

The council asked JB why the operation of an HGV depot at F-site, without planning permission for a change of use, had still not been pursued by the CDC planning authority, despite being raised by KEPC on several occasions over the past few years. JB to investigate. **JB**

e) Clayfurlong barns: the planning enforcement officer states that the fences do require planning permission. The clerk was instructed to check that residents have been explicitly told that converting the agricultural-status land to gardens also requires permission. **FGL**

5. FINANCE

?? The invoices/cheques were passed for payment, with an amendment to the cheque for June Telling.

?? Employment: the national minimum wage increased on 1 Oct 2008. The NALC pay awards have not been agreed yet.

?? The variances of actual expenditure to budget at this stage of the financial year was described and explained by GC to the council:

- i. Insurance costs on budget: these have increased generally over last year, also the cemetery wall and the new play equipment were added to this year's list of items
- ii. KEPC did not enter the Bledisloe competition this year (under budget)
- iii. Village Gateways under budget: only preliminary investigative work been done at this stage, to determine the realistic costs of the proposals
- iv. Playing field under budget: Less work than anticipated has been required, so far, on the
- v. Station access under budget: The council decided to undertake the footpath to Ewen instead of the pedestrian access to the station (because the estimate for the Station path was significantly higher than anticipated). The Ewen footpath expenditure has been recorded under Village Environment

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- vi. The other Village Environment project, (landscaping at Windmill Road) has not been started, pending overall funding
 - vii. Grants over budget: this money was spent on the new Kemble At Play equipment, which was commissioned last year but paid for in this year, using funds earmarked for the purpose.
 - viii. Thames awareness: project completed slightly under budget
 - ix. Cemetery: under budget as still investigating the costs of headstone testing.
 - x. Village Hall over budget: the costs of the hall refurbishment were received after the budget was set last year. KEPC subsequently received a detailed breakdown of costs and agreed to finance £20k of the refurbishment costs met from reserves set aside in anticipation of the works; the remaining money has been donated by the village hall committee.
 - xi. Agency services: are the cost of the external auditor fees
 - xii. Publicity under budget: the May Public leaflet was printed in black and white rather than colour
 - xiii. Wages, grass cutting, training, allotments and memberships remain on budget
- ?? The external auditors have approved the accounts, and the audit is now closed.
- ?? Items for the budget planning process were discussed, for formal discussion at the November meeting. All the headings for this year, and projects not completed this year (notably Station access; Windmill Rd landscaping; Village Gates) are to be retained for discussion at the **November 2008 meeting**. The following items are likely to be reduced next year's budget:
- i. Bledisloe Cup
 - ii. Thames awareness
 - iii. Village Hall
- ?? The following additional items were asked to be included to the budget discussion in November:
- i. Footpath/cycleway to Tetbury (£1-2k)
 - ii. Parish web site improvement
 - iii. Pavilion for playing field
 - iv. Village notice boards repair/replacement
 - v. Tree pruning A429
 - vi. Kemble Wick phone box electricity cost (£20pa) and upkeep
- ?? All councillors must give GC any further ideas and costs by Friday 14 November, for inclusion in the next meeting on 21 November.
- ?? The council was reminded that the total cost of the desired budget items is approximately £40k (based on 2008-09 budget figures), whereas the precept for this

**all
councillors**

**all
councillors**

FGL

year was £15k. The KEPC reserves are insufficient to meet the difference. The councillors expressed a desire not to increase the precept at this time.

?? The councillors approved the purchase of a replacement swing for the playground, at a cost of approx £120

6. Highways and road safety:

The Highways report was received. Key points for note/action are:

- a) Highways still do not wish to take action regarding traffic on West Road. SL to continue to pursue **with a view to re- designation "for access only"**. SL
- b) despite letters being sent to householders, hedges along roads and footpaths have not been cut. A more encouraging letter to be written quoting the legal power to recharge the householder for hedge cutting if required. FGL
- c) Access to new footpath on Ewen Road - the council voted not to make, and pay for, an additional opening in the wall as it would not be to the general benefit of all householders. (Vote = 1 for; 7 against). However the Highways dept say they will provide a gate/style at the entrance to the path. FGL
- d) Council agreed to ask Chris Franklin, Glos Highways, to remove, totally, the traffic calming measures on Station Road that were installed without prior consultation with the KEPC, contrary to earlier agreement to do so. A request will be made for a refund of the money spent.
- e) the request for mobile speed enforcement has been refused (not enough accidents to justify)
- f) landscaping plan for Windmill Rd given to SL.
- g) Glos Highways have a template for village gates, at a cost of approx £5k per pair. TO be brought forward to the budget discussion at the November meeting.
- h) All the remaining car stickers were given out at the Village fete last July.
- i) The pedestrian barrier on the A429 pavement has been replaced.

7. Kemble Village Hall:

The council congratulated and thanked the Village Hall committee for their excellent and high quality work on the hall.

The works are due to finish at the end of November, with an opening event on 6 December. The Hall has run several successful fund raising events over the last few months, and looks forward to extending these using the new facilities.

The council unanimously approved the potential application for a personal alcohol licence, to avoid the need of applying for separate licences for each event. Councillor ST has agreed to undertake the necessary training to gain the licence. ST

GS to talk to the VH committee about grants available for photo-voltaic cells GS

8. Settlement profile:

The council approved this with minor changes. The clerk is to amend and send.

Clerk to find out why Ewen was not included in the original document, and to find out if a further profile is therefore required. FGL

9. Allotments contract:

Clerk to inform CDC that the chicken run is not permanent, and the shed is 10x8 ft

10. Future meeting dates 2009

Agreed to avoid the mid-May bank holiday and move the meeting one week forward to 15th May. Agreed to consider additional ways of increasing resident participation at the May public meeting, perhaps by including refreshments, although the Friday evening time and venue to remain the same.

11. Planning:

- a) The tavern toilet extension was approved
- b) the new applications for Ewen Manor (feeder pillar and substation), School Road and West Lane will be circulated for comment.
- c) THE council approved the adoption of the Kemble Wick phone box, without the phone, at the cost of £1 plus the cost of electricity and maintenance.

FGL

12. Neighbourhood watch/police

WC reported encouraging progress toward re-invigorating the scheme. However, noted that the Community Policing involvement was significantly lower now that Andrea Shutt had changed area of responsibility.

WC

13. Allotments

Draft contract for lease of land by Kemble parish on behalf of the Community Gardens has been received. Awaiting comment by the Federation of City Gardens. No major issues, although need right of access.

WC

14. AOB

a) **trees** alongside the A429 are the parish's responsibility. Bring forward to next year's budget discussions

GS

b) **'Balance of Power' meeting** - WC reported on this meeting and will monitor developments. Parishes want more influence rather than more power, and to establish policies and procedures to liaise effectively with other agencies to make things happen through them.

c) **Fuel clubs** - KEPC does not want to become a fuel factor or directly involved in buying or storing fuel, but is interested to investigate the potential for oil, and potentially coal and LPG clubs.

FGL

d) **Village agents** - clerk to find out if KEPC has one, and how they can help residents to access grants for heating insulation, boilers etc

FGL

e) **Ewen sub-station** - RP and DB reported that there was no further progress even though site is agreed, permission from landowners and access agreed, and contractor/distributor (repeatedly) informed. RP to chase.

RP

f) **Jackaments Bottom** - DB reported that no permissive footpath had been authorised by Kemble Farms across the old railway line at Jackaments Bottom

GM/DB

g) Tetbury Town council wishes to create a footpath to Kemble, using the old railway line route, and then to Ewen wharf to connect with the Canal. Bring forward to the November budget

meeting.

h) GM appointed as KEPC representative for the Thames and Severn Canal Trust. Although the entire project to re-open the canal will take 30+ years, a first stage is to gain permissive rights to open up the whole length of the towpath to walkers, including the section through Kemble.

Meeting adjourned at 11.10pm.

The next meeting will be on Friday 21 November at 7.30pm

DRAFT