



Kemble and Ewen Parish Council: Minutes

Meeting of Kemble and Ewen parish council was held on: **Friday, 21 November 2008; 7.30pm**
at: Kemble Village Hall

Present: Councillor R Pettit, Chairman
Councillor D Ball, Vice-Chairman
Councillor G Collins
Councillor S Lawlor
Councillor G Somerville
Councillor S Turner
Councillor W Cole
John Birch, District Councillor
Ray Brassington, Specialist Environmental Health Officer, CDC

Apologies: Councillor G. Moreman

Guests and public: Andrew Lennard
Sheila Richens
Linda Tait
Peter Burns
Merv Turner, Fosse Consultants

In attendance: F Garnet-Lawson, clerk

Opportunity for the public to raise any matters: several local residents and guests were present.

Oa. Car testing:

Ray Brassington described the history of F1 testing at Kemble airfield and the legislation relating to it.

F1 car testing started at Kemble with McLaren and D. Coulthard. Since then the number of cars, teams and occasions has increased to the maximum permitted without separate panning permission. There are now 4-5 separate F1 teams using the facilities for 27028 days a year.

Testing of F1 cars is permitted for 28 days a year. Records are kept and verified by the Airfield, and by CDC Planning Enforcement. CDC is notified in advance of testing by Kemble Air Services (KES) and/or their agent Fosse Consultants. Both parties keep records of the date, frequency and duration (number of minutes) that F1 cars are using the track.

Noise legislation comes under The Environmental Protection Act 1990, Section 79. Governs noise from land only, (so air traffic is not included, although F1 is). The term statutory nuisance, is not defined in the legislation (but only by case laws), nor is there a specific noise level stated in the Act, however noise must 'substantial' interfere with the use/enjoyment of someone's property, including garden for it to be a statutory nuisance.

CDC considers all of the following aspects in deciding whether or not a statutory nuisance has occurred, to reach a balanced view:

- ?? time of day of the noise
- ?? the day of the week
- ?? frequency
- ?? type of noise (some are more irritating than others)
- ?? the location of the noise eg town vs countryside)

If there is a statutory nuisance (and it is the C DC who decides this) then the requires that a notice for abatement must be served. This can be appealed against within 21 days, but depending on the proceedings, the final sanction if required is court and a fine of c£20k. However, the CDC prefers to work with organisations to reduce noise impact rather than resorting to legal proceedings if possible first. CDC is currently liaising with the airfield and N. Wilts Council. Various options have been discussed with the airfield, eg flitting silencers to F1 cars, and CDC expects to receive a response from the airfield by 1/12/08.

RB/JB will inform KEPC of the response from Kemble Airfield.

In the discussion that followed:

- ?? More people express concern than actually complain - because they do not know how to complain officially, and/or because they are concerned that an official complaint may affect the potential value and saleability of their home.
- ?? F1 cars use the track Tues-Thurs only, for 180 minutes. This time is shared between the teams.
- ?? Although the quantity of formal complaints does not influence CDC's decision on whether a statutory nuisance has occurred, it is likely to influence courts and solicitors opinions if there was an appeal, and any potential planning application.
- ?? Mr Turner said that some testing can use silencers, whilst others cannot. He also said that there was no intention to increase the number of days testing. The testing done at Kemble was usually on the diagnostic and aerodynamic car systems.
- ?? The nature of the airfield means that physical noise baffling methods (eg mounds of earth) cannot be used to block the sound from the village.

If any residents would like to contact Ray Brassington direct, he is delighted to help and answer questions.

Ray Brassington; 01285--623000 ray.brassington@cotswold.gov.uk
Trinity Road, Cirencester G17 1PX

Ob Kemble Village Hall:

AL reported that the current refurbishment is complete, and the official opening will take place on 6 December - all warmly invited. Do not believe that there will be a cost over-run problem, and so there is no need for additional funding from KEPC.

The Village Hall Management Committee would like to receive more explicit guidance from the KEPC's on an overall vision for the role of the Hall within the community.

When the Playgroup moves to the school premises in 2 year's time, the Hall income will fall by half (from £4k to £2k pa.). The additional activities at the Hall, including fund raising and the rural cinema, have been instrumental in growing substantially revenues. Revenues currently match the cost of the Hall's operating costs. It is hoped that the new refurbishment project will further encourage Hall use, particularly at weekends.

Future issues for the Hall include:

- ?? Resealing the wooden floor and kitchen floor (£1400 + vat approx)
- ?? Addressing the humidity problems (installing a de-humidifier, and double glazing)
- ?? 30-50 more comfortable chairs (approx £2000 + vat)

In the discussion that followed:

RP explained that the income of the KEPC was limited, and came from taxation on all residents - not all of whom used the Village Hall. In the current economic climate it was important to achieve a balance between enthusiasm and aspiration, and financial constraints.

There is no automatic annual grant of money from the KEPC to the Village Hall, and if there were, these funds are not earmarked for the exclusive use of the Hall. The Parish council must take into accounts the wishes of all the residents of both Kemble and Ewen, and balance changing priorities as circumstances alter during the years (as happened in the Hall's favour this financial year).

The public section of the meeting closed at 9.30pm

1. **Apologies for absence:** Glen Moreman

2. **Declarations of interest:** SL, GS, WC: allotments

3. **Approval of minutes from previous meeting:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2008 were unanimously approved by the council and signed by RP with no alterations.

Proposed: GS; seconded: DB

4. **Matters arising**

a) **Recycling bins:**

?? Gloucestershire Highways visited the junction of Washpool Land and Ewen Road and approved it as a possible site. However, concerns expressed by councillors about the visibility and impact on local residents. It was noted that no complaints or comments have been received about the loss of the recycling bins. JB is to ask, again, Great Western Railways about potentially using the Tavern side of their site for bins. A plastics recycling facility is the chief priority.

JB

b) **Kemble Airfield CLEUD:**

?? Judicial review will be in 2009. JB will inform KEPC of the date when it is agreed.

JB

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

c) **HGV depot at Kemble airfield:** JB to pursue.

JB

d) **Electricity sub-station at Ewen.** JB to find out if the proposed one at Ewen Manor is in addition to, or separate from, the one behind the Timbrells, Ewen.

JB

e) **Airfield visit:**

Agreed that would like to see a renewal of the formal liaison committee in association with other local parish councils. A visit would then be part of an official meeting with management of the airfield, eg David Young. All meetings would have an agreed agenda, be minuted and in the public domain.

FGL to
draft
letter

f) Congratulations to Councillor Sally Turner, who is now a qualified **personal licence** holder.

g) **Trees A429** - deferred until 2009

5. **The council passed the resolution to adopt the New model Freedom of Information Act.**

Prop: GS; seconded DB

6. **Planning:**

Following discussions it was agreed that:

?? The applications for the Tavern, Spice Cottage and 131 Church Road have been passed.

?? No objections to Brook House (trees and roof lights); or Stoneleigh.

?? Want to find out more about the initial movement of 4500 Honda vehicles through the village to the airfield.

FGL

?? Want to make it clear that the PC suggests that the current main entrance for Ewen Manor is used as access for the substation.

In future, planning decisions will be co-ordinated by the current planning sub-committee (RP, DB, GC). Comments and suggestions by the other councillors should be fed through this sub-committee for decision making. Major items will be discussed in full council.

7. Highways and road safety: no report this month

a) Flooding at Ewen bend to be reported - may need gulley clearance.

SL

b) GS to chase flashing speed sign - broken again

GS

8. Allotments contract: Form and letter to be sent to CDC. Report to be sent to PCs by email (SL).

FGL

9. Neighbourhood watch/police:

Police liaison meeting on 8 December. Disappointing progress with Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

10. Finance:

The current level of finances was noted and discussed. Invoices were approved for payment, however the Avon Construction Services invoice will be paid once the VH cheques have been received and cleared in 10 days time.

11. Spending priorities and 2009-2010 precept

GC described the list of expenditure items which had been proposed for next year, together with the ongoing commitments and legal obligations on the council regarding insurance, reserves etc.

The legal procedures for the proper reclaim of VAT by a parish council were described and explained, including how it had affected reserves this year, and how it might affect grants to local bodies next year.

Many alternative options were debated at length, and a range of spending scenarios (and their consequences) were evaluated. The affect of the current economic situation on local residents, and local organisations, was also considered.

After much discussion it was agreed that the precept for 2009-2010 would be £18,000. This is the fourth year that the precept has remained at this level (with a discount in 2008-09). Vote: 5 for, 3 against.

Detailed expenditure, by category, will be discussed in January 2009.

12. AOB

a) **Plastics** - burning plastics is illegal and should be reported to the CDC environmental nuisance department.

b) **Fuel clubs** - clerk to see if there is interest in this idea amongst residents.

FGL

Meeting adjourned at 11.45 pm.

The next meeting will be on Friday 9 January 2009 at 7.30pm