



# 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 19 members of the public

Speakers: Shaun Parsons, County Councillor  
John Birch, District Councillor  
Roger Pettit, Parish Councillor

1. **Apologies for absence:** **Action**  
Councillor G. Moreman, Lynn Saunders Village Agent; Councillor Sohrab Sorabjee, Cecil Cleverley
2. **Approval of minutes from Annual Parish Meeting** held on Friday 2 May 2008 were approved and signed. (proposed D. Ball seconded I. Yates)
3. **Matters arising from those minutes:**
  - a Church Road pavement: this has been raised with the Highways Dept but sadly there is insufficient funds for this type of work at present. KEPC to monitor. **GS and SL**
  - b Transferability of Cotswold town centre car park tickets: JB will investigate this again and report back to next parish council meeting in July. **JB**
  - c Speeding Windmill Road: a traffic survey was completed using a speed gun. As a result Glos Highways installed temporary automatic speed monitoring pipes in July08. They concluded that, although cars did exceed the speed level, it was not sufficiently extreme to require further action at this stage. **JB**
  - d Thameshead road/rail bridge: still concern over right of way under this narrow bridge. RP reported that this had been raised with Highways, but since there had been no deaths and very few accidents, it was not a priority for action. Residents suggested that simple signs were not expensive. RP agreed to take new proposals to Highways. **GS and SL**
  - e Extraordinary parish meeting in relation to CLEUD application by Kemble airfield: this was held in May 2008 and the results given to the CDC planning committee. The judicial review that subsequently arose from this has still to make judgement, which is expected to now report in June 2009.
  - f Footpath Clayfurlong Grove to Thames Bridge: RP reported that quotes were sought for this idea, but although KEPC was able to fund the permissive path between Ewen and Kemble this year, there was not enough available for this larger and more complex project. It will remain on the KEPC's list of desired projects until sufficient money is available (subject to the usual budget planning and scrutiny in relation to other project requests that are also put forward each year). **KEPC**

- g Cold calling area Church Road: no action due to the change of Community Police Support officer. This will be taken up by KEPC and neighbourhood watch team. Residents also pointed out that whilst the cold calling zone around Windmill and Clayfurlong Road was generally successful, some cold calling still took place. WC

## Reports

action

### 4.1. District Council: *District Councillor John Birch gave his report*

JB thanked all residents for their contribution to the success of the recycling scheme which was not only one of the best in the UK, but also in Europe. He reported that there would be some changes to the scheme due to the higher than expected cost of collecting the waste.

JB continues to chair the CDC planning committee and is also responsible for heritage, design and enforcement. He outlined the proposed scheme for Cirencester market square to complement the completion of the church south porch in 2011/2012.

The CDC continues to seek ways of cutting its cost base, and is hoping to work more closely with West Oxfordshire council to share heritage, building control and legal departments, as well as CEO. He warned that proposed cost cutting measures will be inevitably be unpopular and controversial, but that they would have to take place due to the current funding climate.

He reviewed the background and progress of the Kemble Airfield judicial review, and hoped that the final report from the High Court would take place on 22 June 2009.

Residents questions/comments:

*Concerns about the £30 charge for garden waste; segregated waste being placed in the same lorry (particularly paper and cardboard); plastic recycling.* JB replied that services was still being reviewed and that there would be changes to collection. Plastics doorstep collection is still too expensive. All plastic from the town-centre banks was genuinely recycled and not sent to landfill.

*Lack of good communication between Wiltshire and CDC over the airfield, and noise from car testing.* JB replied that communication did take place regularly and that they were consulting with each other over the noise complaints.

*Thames canal restoration project.* JB replied that although the CDC supported the restoration of the Thames and Cotswold canal in principle, there was no money available to support it financially.

### 4.2 County Council: *County Councillor Shaun Parsons gave his report*

GCC has the one of the lowest council tax rates in England. Although it has saved £40m this year and it needs to make further savings. SP said that it remained important to improve front line services especially for the elderly. There was a £130m backlog of road maintenance and improvements, which will take time to work through.

Waste disposal - GCC still considering options for alternatives to landfill. Any incineration plant (if this went ahead) would require a 30yr contract which could be problematical for the council. A decision about which option to pursue will take place over the 'next few years'. Fly tipping is a growing problem due to the high cost of commercial waste disposal.

<b>Reports</b>	<b>action</b>
SP promised to take a particular look at the community policing and recognised that the current service has been poor and that there is an issue here.	<b>SP</b>
The Station Rd traffic calming measure audit is about to take place although it will not solve the commuter parking problems on Station Road and other side streets. SP will take this up with the station operator.	<b>SP</b>
Keynes Country Park lease and operation is under investigation by the Audit Commission (who should report later in May09). A smaller scale planning application for extraction and car parking was resubmitted by Cullimore in March. The next planning committee meeting is in August 09. Shorncliffe parish is applying for a statutory rights to public access footpaths, rather than the current permissive paths, and this is being progressed by GCC.	
Looking forward, SP also mentioned £60m of savings targeted this year, and that these cuts will be unpopular. The principle of 'the user pays' will become more prominent whoever is elected in June.	
Residents questions/comments:	
Several questions were raised about the conduct of Watermark and the Water Park Committee. Hopefully these will be answered more fully when the audit commission report is published.	<b>SP</b>
Community policing - SP stated that the police are obliged to hold quarterly public meetings (as which they present the local crime figures) but noted that these need to be better organised and publicised.	
<b>4.3 Parish Council:</b> <i>Chairman Roger Pettit gave his report</i>	
RP described the actions of the KEPC over the last year, in particular the financial support for the Village Hall, airfield planning, road safety, Community Gardens and footpaths. He congratulated the Village Hall Management Committee on their excellent work with the village hall refurbishment.	
Looking forward, RP described how the parish council is working to reinstate the Kemble airfield liaison committee in partnership with other parish councils in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire, and expressed his delight that Doug Turner was leading the initiative to obtain greater activities for young people (particularly those aged 11+). He also described how the council and Peter Burns were engaged in re-activating the neighbourhood watch scheme and improving police liaison.	
He thanked Brian Robins and June Telling for keeping the parish neat and tidy, Pete Measures for maintaining the cemetery; Brian and Pat Ayres for all their many actions; Steve Marsh for maintaining the web site and Penny Wheeler for her hard work producing the parish newsletter	
<b>4.4 Kemble School:</b> RP read out a report from Andrew McIntyre, school governor.	
The school is thriving and the September 09 intake was over subscribed. He described the many learning, sports and extracurricular activities that take place, and the schools involvement in the community.	
<b>5 Finance:</b> GC gave the financial report and outlined the rules governing (re)payment of VAT as it	

**Reports**

**action**

affected the Village Hall refurbishment costs.

6. **Street lighting:** George Collins described the proposal from CDC to turn of certain street lights between midnight and 5am. Residents approved the motion to take this forward subject to the constraints stated. **GC**

7. **Traffic 'rat-runs'** - residents expressed some concern about cars using West Lane, School Road and Ewen road as a quick short cut to Cirencester. The main worries were about school children crossing the roads at the beehive and the West Land junction. However due to the complexity of the impact of any proposals, this will be taken for wad by the traffic sub-committee. **KEPC**

Additional volunteers for this committee were sought.

**Kemble Community Gardens** - Sara Lawlor describe and showed pictures of the progress of the scheme over the last year, and described plans for the future.

7. **Any Other Business:**

*Fuel Club:* Marion Gilliland and Peter Carling reported on the progress in setting up an oil fuel club. There are about 30 residents interested so far and PC will now approach oil companies for quotes.

*Neighbourhood Watch scheme* - WC asked residents to give himself and Peter Burns as much feedback as they can about actives they spot, including cold calling.

Meeting closed at 9.45pm