



# Kemble and Ewen Parish Council: Minutes

Meeting of Kemble and Ewen parish council was held on: **Friday 27 November 2009**  
at **7.30pm**

*in:* Kemble Village Hall

Present:	Councillor R Pettit Chairman Councillor D Ball, Vice-Chairman Councillor S Sorabjee Councillor G Somerville Councillor S Turner	Councillor W Cole Councillor S Lawlor Councillor G Collins
Apologies:	John Birch, District Councillor Councillor G. Moreman	
In attendance:	F Garnet-Lawson, clerk	

1. **Apologies for absence:** J Birch
2. **Declarations of interest on items on the agenda:** none
3. **Approval of minutes from previous meeting:** Minutes for October were approved
4. **Matters arising**
  - a. CLEUD report judgement - JB still waiting for transcript of judgement (see point 5e under planning). **RP**
  - b. Station car parking - still no response from Network Rail. Following JB's suggestion, RP to write to Geoffrey Clifton Brown. Discussions with Glos local police have also resulted in various recommendations (see item 9d below). **RP**
  - c. Ewen sub-station - RP to try to find out who William Fair's manager is, after enquiries are bounced back yet again, and it is re-confirmed that Mr Fair is still the person with responsibility for moving this forward. **RP**
  - d. Street Lights turn off - no further news.

Note: since the meeting on 27/11 GC subsequently contacted by GCC stating that the turn off will start wc 7 Dec and will take several weeks to complete.

- e. West Hay Green - council decided not to spend money on improving the grass in this one area of the village because it would not benefit a wide

enough proportion of the parish.

f. Meeting dates for 2010 - approved

## 5. PLANNING

a. Clayfurlong Barns enforcement proceedings: - David B to re-lend JB a copy of the original sale particulars.

**DB**

b. 09/03732/FUL: 7-8 Clayfurlong barns - no objection

c. Ewen Manor - report via email that JB has given delegated authority for the case officer to refuse the helicopter hanger. If permission is refused, the owner will probably appeal to the Secretary of State. The CDC has no power to control the helicopter flights themselves.

**JB**

d. SS and ST reported that the back road between Ewen - Cirencester is now very difficult to drive along due to the lorries involved in the construction of the underground car park. The verge has been destroyed in multiple places, and the drainage ditch compromised, as lorries create 'pull ins' to enable oncoming traffic to pass by. The mud is very dangerous. RP to write direct to JB requesting reassurance that action will be taken by Glos Highways (and ideally recharged to the owner of Ewen Manor)

**RP**

e. Kemble Airfield:

Email from JB reporting on a meeting held between CDC, Wilts unitary authority and airfield management regarding liaison and developments at the airport. This came as a surprise to KEPC, because CDC has known for some time that it and surrounding parish councils had been hoping to resurrect the airfield liaison committee, containing representatives from each of the parishes that has a boundary with the airfield in both Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. No local parishes were at the meeting reported by JB.

**JB**

In noting this initiative members were concerned that this clandestine approach suggested that CDC's future efforts in the management of developments and protection of resident's interests would be no more effective and transparent than had been achieved up to the present

JB stated the agreed minutes will be published on the CDC website - KEPC welcome this and looks forward to reading them.

JB asked for a summary of residents' concerns. The following were agreed as key but not necessarily exclusive points. In preparing this list however, the PC was not endorsing the meeting initiative, nor was it accepting the principle that such matters should be discussed with the airfield at meetings where the

PC was not represented, nor was it any expression of confidence in the CDC to pursue these issues to a satisfactory conclusion.

1. The number of occasions that non-flying activity is taking place, and that this exceeds the 28 days permitted by planning regulations. Also that this was not being independently monitored or reported accurately eg the days for an event on the airfield website differ from those on the event organisers' websites.
2. The noise and number of days of racing car, including F1 car testing. Despite repeated requests, there has been no clear indication of the number of days this is permitted and whether or not these are within, or additional to, the 28 days above.
3. Still no unambiguous clarification of whether the airfield is, or is not, being treated as a single unit for planning purposes, including the definition of the boundaries of the airfield for this purpose eg uncertainty about the 'far side' of the field.
4. Still no clear decision on the status of F-site, and the legitimacy in planning terms of the non-flying activities that are being operated here.
5. Alleged potential hotel planning application.
6. Requirements for a change in the complaints procedure to provide independent receipt and monitoring arrangements. **RP**
7. Still no justification of the CLEUD decision in the face of council's own experts' advice to the contrary, and still no transcript of the judgement itself.
8. The extension of the grass runway without planning consent. Increasing number and frequency of planes landing at the airfield after dark.
9. Residents still concerned about low flying over the village and the increasing volume of air traffic.

It was remarked that these points are well known to the CDC as they have been raised at parish council meetings and directly with CDC many times over the past few years. There is a general atmosphere of disillusionment as complaints have not been acted upon, which makes the practice of complaining seem futile.

Following email exchanges between JB and RP, RP has written to the CEO of the CDC expressing the disquiet of the Kemble and Ewen community. [letter circulated separately].

## 6. FINANCE

- a. The Schedule of accounts for payment was approved unanimously.
- b. Precept - council unanimously approved that the precept for 2010-2011 remains at the same level as in 2009-2010 ie a total of £18,000. **clerk**
- c. Staff pension- council unanimously agreed not to pay a pension to employees, due to the high cost of the contribution required by the council ie local taxpayers, and because it would set a long-term precedent for any future staff.
- d. Grass cutting contract - DB to check records to find out when this is due for re-tender. **DB**

## 9. REPORTS

- a. Neighbourhood Watch/policing: meeting to be held on 17 December **WC**
- b. Allotments: GS spoke at recent Community Land Trust conference . Local police are running an event aimed at the allotment site as part of initiative to deter anti-social behaviour. KEPC agreed to support this by payment of £50.00 towards food/refreshments.
- c. Kemble Village Hall - problems with the background heating system. Investigating possibilities of renewal energy sources and associated grants, together with secondary double glazing. Playgroup may move into Kemble Primary school premises sooner than anticipated, depending on funds available.
- d. Highways/traffic: **SL**
  - The recent incident of a car ignoring the red lights at the pedestrian crossing and only just missing two children has exposed the frequency that this happens. Unfortunately residents have not recorded in writing the number of times this occurs but anecdotal evidence implies that it is not uncommon for vehicles travelling from the Malmesbury direction to ignore the lights. GS and SL have discussed this with both the police and highways departments. Recommendations for improvements as follows were under consideration:
    - A VAS and conventional signs are put up to warn drivers of the lights ahead
    - The focal point of the lights is checked (WC)
    - The new village gates are intended to alert drivers that they are entering a village

- TAG group has also had discussions with the police and highways about the problem of car parking by rail users along Station Road. The following observations/suggestions were made:
  - A residents' parking scheme would take considerable time to implement and Highways is against it this because they can/will not send out traffic wardens from Cirencester.
  - The same problem occurs with yellow lines, but the local police say that they can issue tickets for infringement of this method if residents ring up and report illegal parking (ie do not have to rely on visiting traffic wardens).
  - TAG will consult residents on the idea of a raised platform/speed humps
  - Glos police recommended a short term tactic of residents placing stickers and letters on offending vehicles, and will support use of police logo and supply suitable wording. TAG to investigate cost and KEPC will support reasonable expenditure. KEPC stressed that no guerrilla action would be encouraged or condoned. The issue of the number of station parking spaces remains, but many drivers do not check the car park before using the roadside.

e. Airfield Liaison - see above

**SS**

f. Youth Club: some storage space has been freed up. Xmas party idea if enough volunteers to help and interest.

**ST/G  
M**

g. Playing field and play area: window not present; do not want to renew dog bin here as no dogs should be walked here and the presence of a bin was seen as condoning the practice.

**10.** Kemble burial ground - all space in the cemetery is likely to be used up within the next 6-8 years (or sooner). GC outlined the options available ie:

a) close the burial ground. All future internments would have to be in the municipal cemetery in Cirencester.

b) re-use the existing graves for new burials.

c) seek additional land for new cemetery. This would have to be bought by the parish council on behalf of residents.

**GC**

It was agreed to investigate the availability and cost of alternative sites as a first preference.

War Memorial: Pat Ayres reported that the metal plaques are becoming worn. Council to make visual inspection of plaques. Agreed in principle that memorial should be treated like a grave stone. Concern expressed that

cleaning the metal plaques could cause worse harm in the long term.

- 11.** Windmill Rd: landscaping options discussed. Agreed not to create residents' parking bays. Options for planting, seats and bus shelter considered. Design to be drafted and consultation with residents undertaken. Aim is to improve the overall appearance of the total length of the road. **GS/S  
L**
- 12.** AOB -
- Mill Farm Ewen - need to alert planning enforcement about the methods used by Byre Farm developer eg hosepipe to water hydrant on other side of the road. **clerk**

Meeting adjourned at 11.15 pm. **The next meeting will be on Friday January 8th at 7.30pm**