

Minutes



Kemble & Ewen Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council on **Friday 13 April 2012 at 7.30pm in Kemble Village Hall.**

Present: Parish Councillors – R Pettit (Chairman), D Ball, M Binks, G Collins,
L Napper, G Somerville, S Sorabjee

Clerk: N Spindler

District Councillor: J Birch

6 members of the public, plus 2 guests as detailed below

1. Network Rail – Presentation from Michelle Scogings, Senior Programme Development Manager (National Programmes), and Liam Bateman, Community Relations Manager

MS and LB introduced themselves and summarised the project aspiration of an hourly Cheltenham to Paddington service throughout the day. They plan to return quarterly to update residents, both users and neighbours of the line, on the plans. In brief, 12.5 miles of former double track between Kemble and Swindon will be reinstated, along with signalling improvement between Kemble and Standish. The provision is for 4 train paths an hour in each direction. Earthworks will start in late Summer 2012, with track works in March 2013. The line will be closed for 23 days in August 2013 – requiring alternative road transport, and liaison with Councils to ensure roads are not under repair - and for a further 9 days over Easter 2014 to re-signal Swindon.

Cllr Ball asked whom he should contact about the vegetation clearance as this activity had exposed poorly maintained fencing. LB said to come via him and to specify the location if possible.

The Chairman highlighted three issues: car parking, station lighting, and poor maintenance of station buildings. On car parking, nuisance parking has been a significant problem, First Great Western were looking to develop the site with 65 spaces, but due to gradient it might be suitable for only 45 or so. Funding had been allocated but if another site is chosen, the funding disappears. The poor planning has left residents scratching their heads. The lighting is an ancient vintage, switches on at 3pm, and goes off late if at all, which all seems very wasteful. The actual station and the tower are listed parts of our village infrastructure, but are being neglected – and the cost of maintenance must pale into insignificance alongside this track scheme. Water is soaking into walls from poor guttering, there is mismatched glass, and poorly prepared paintwork disfigures the building he added.

To hear any contributions from local residents before the meeting begins:-

A resident's property on Windmill Road near the station car park entrance is still having the verges churned up by vehicles, and would appreciate the Highways people installing curbs. The road from the Thames Head Inn junction (A433) to the station needs repairs between the railway bridge and the station turning. ACTION – GS to speak to Glos Highways.

The chair of the Village Hall was not aware of the detail about alternative VH locations that had been submitted to CDC as part of possible S106 benefits re Top Farm. RP said this was just one option of several that had been considered in the past.

District Councillor, John Birch, gave a report:-

Responding to the Top Farm appeal will require quite a bit of work before 14 May, including how best to respond, attending the hearing in person, and how residents can be heard. Expect it to be an 'informal hearing' lasting 3 or 4 days. Likely to involve cross-examination by barrister on both sides so Parish

Council will need to clear about position to take. Will send meeting dates to RP along with guidance on best way for residents to respond.

2. To receive any apologies for absence

Apologies received from Cllr Dyke.

3. To receive any declarations of interest

These were received from Cllrs Ball, Collins and Sorabjee re items 8, 6a, and re 6b for the Smerrill Barn application only.

4. To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 16 March 2012

These were approved and signed as a true record.

5. Matters arising from previous meetings:

- a. **Car Parking in Station Road & Windmill Road** – update on completion of painted 'hockey sticks' and dropped kerbs due in new financial year. GS said there is a new Highways rep, a Mr Scott Macaulay-Lowe. He is the replacement for Chris Franklin (CF) but is run ragged at the moment. Responsibilities have been amalgamated and one man now has to manage a huge area. The bad news is that Scott has no record from CF of all the pre-arranged works. The good news is that he is in private contact with CF and will 'try' to honour any agreements. However, it has been suggested that funds from the Parish's precept should be used to pay for repairs to potholes. RP suggested that Cllr Vernon Smith should be invited to the Annual General Meeting where this can be raised. ACTION – GS to invite Cllr Smith.
- b. **S106 (Station Road)** – update on alternatives to reinforced play wall and obtaining possible further grants. GS said it is the Landfill Communities Fund that we are seeking a grant from, where the operator contributes landfill tax to the community. £5000 from us would generate around £25,000, though conditions include long-term use of site, and evidence of need. [Clerk provided survey documents completed by youths to GS.] ACTION – Clerk to identify S106 terms; DB to review terms of lease.
- c. **Additional two dog bins** for Thames Path and Community Gardens area, installation update following delivery on 27 March. DB reported these had both been installed. MB provided the Clerk with contact details at CDC so the bins would be emptied. ACTION – Clerk.
- d. **Kemble Station**
 - update on garden improvement and car parking expansion – RP said that Prince Charles has said he cannot help, so matters will have to be pursued by other means.
 - update on contact with Conservation Officer – LN reported he had provided photos of the old and new signs but disappointingly the response was that they are not protected because they are not attached to the building. He also wrote to the Railway Trust about the water tower.
- e. **Ewen Electricity Sub Station** – SS reported that as soon as the electricity company has obtained the money to buy the relevant land, the long-awaited work would begin.
- f. Decision on images for framing as gift to previous Clerk – ACTION - Clerk will review votes cast and ask Mr Woolf to supply if possible.
- g. Replacement of gate spring at playing fields. DB has inspected and concern is not to trap fingers in gate, now fixed and closes naturally. Will monitor to ensure this remains to be the case.
- h. **War Memorial** registration and report on stonemason visit – GC will circulate report from two stonemasons. One, named Pettit (no relation to the Chair), said work costing £500-£600 is required, and the memorial should be insured for between £15,000 and £18,000. The other said no work was needed. ACTION – GC to distribute report; Clerk to update asset register insurance value.
- i. **Ewen bus shelter** – it was noted that the improvement works have been completed, and SS said KHMS's bill would be £340, up from £300, due to additional work required.
- j. Updates on which speakers are attending the AGM on 25 May – The clerk corrected his invitation to John Birch who will now attend the Annual Parish meeting on 11 May. MB has confirmed that Chris Connors, Headmaster of Kemble Primary School, will also give a report at the 11 May meeting. Councillor Vernon Smith will attend the AGM on 25 May.
- k. Update on quotes for Cemetery and West Hay Grove 'green' **grass treatment** – NS said he would chase for replies.

6. Planning matters

a. Top Farm proposal

Top Farm's proposed residential development and the appeal by Hunter Page on grounds of non-determination, had been covered by John Birch. RP will meet Deborah Smith, the CDC Planning Case Officer to clarify the next steps and the possible deadline to respond. Given the demand from residents for guidance on how to respond to this unexpected turn of events it was agreed to call and additional meeting on 23 April. ACTION – Clerk to book Village Hall and issue summons

b. Other planning items

12/01171/TCONR – reply for ratification – General Observation: The Parish Council believes the tree was planted in 1976, so it is 36 years old. We suggest a similar tree is planted in a more suitable position as a replacement. [Note: a TPO is not appropriate as does not meet criteria]

Date: 20 March 2012

Location: Kemble House, Church Road, Kemble, Cirencester, GL7 6FS,

Proposal: Young Atlas cedar - Fell

ACTION – ratified

11/03657/FUL – reply deadline 12 April

Ward: Thames Head

Date: 22 March 2012

Location: Smerrill Barn, Kemble Road, Cirencester, GL7 6BW

Proposal: Erection of two agricultural buildings and slurry storage

ACTION – none, as this is a modification to exiting plans, which have already been responded to.

12/01150/FUL – reply deadline 17 April

Date: 27 March 2012

Location: Jackaments Bottom Farm, Tetbury Road, Cirencester, GL7 6PJ,

Proposal: Change of use from workshop/storage/office to dwelling (revised scheme)

ACTION – Object to proposal with the comments “The Parish Council sees no merit in retaining this insubstantial structure for the purpose proposed.”

12/01286/FUL – reply deadline, 3 May

Date: 04 April 2012

Location: Partridge Court, Old Vicarage Lane, Kemble, Cirencester, GL7 6BB,

Proposal: Erection of single storey side extension

ACTION – Support the proposal.

The following DECISIONS were noted: -

PLANNING/LBC APPEAL DECISION

Our Ref: 11/03325/FUL & 11/03329/LBC

Ewen Manor, Main Street, Ewen, Kemble, GL7 6BX

Conversion of attic space over drawing room and dining room with installation of dormer window, windows and rooflights

Decision: Allowed in part/dismissed in part

Application: [12/00457/SCR](#)

This application type was for information purposes only and was not open to consultation.

Date decided: 22 March 2012

Decision: EIA not required

Location: Kemble Railway Station, Windmill Road, Kemble, GL7 6AW

Proposal: Reinstatement of a railway track between Swindon Yard Junction and Kemble

Application: [12/00274/FUL](#)

Date decided: 23 March 2012

Decision: Application Permit

Location: Brookside Cottage, Ewen, Kemble, Cirencester, GL7 6BU,

Proposal: New dormer windows to south elevation

c. Cotswold Airport, Kemble 12/00105/S73A

The liaison meeting on Tuesday 20 March with Wiltshire Council re Planning Application at Cotswold Airport, Kemble 12/00105/S73A, was deferred due to an unexpected legal development which needed clarification by Wiltshire Council. No new date has yet been confirmed.

7. Finalise Business Plan & Budget 2011-12

GC confirmed this almost finished and would be circulated shortly. He awaited confirmation of some 'powers' from the Clerk. ACTION – Clerk to contact GAPTC to clarify which powers applied to remaining items.

8. Decision on proposal from Kemble Farms Ltd to licence the site of the Parish Council Notice Board (in the cottage garden adjacent to village shop) for a nominal fee.

It was agreed that this should be signed whilst noting the inference that could be drawn from the request. ACTION – Clerk to issue original documents for signature.

9. Finance matters - All

- a. Receive finance summary and approve accounts for cheque payment. Proposed GC, seconded LB. Approved.
- b. To review and adopt Standing Orders. Adopted unchanged
- c. To review and adopt financial regulations. Carried forward to another meeting
- d. To review risk assessment and management. Carried forward to another meeting.
- e. To review asset list. Amend to reflect all three bus shelters, with £10k for the new Jubilee one. Insure for cost the new Parish Notice Board. ACTION – Clerk to update, and advise Insurers.

10. Any other business subject to the Chairman's approval

10.1 GS asked if the Community Gardens lease, recently signed, could be challenged over the use of the land in future, which CDC seem to have earmarked for affordable housing. RP suggested the contract be examined for conditions. NS suggested properties in Old Manor Gardens (OMG) might contain a condition. ACTION – Clerk to check OMG deeds.

10.2 MB will circulate the broadband report for Gloucestershire, which says Nearly half of households reported having download speeds below 2 Mbps (Megabits per second) – the minimum broadband speed the Government says should be available to every UK home or business.

10.3 LN briefly mention the Neighbourhood Watch had received crime stats showing reports were 36% down on the previous six months. Criminal damage to vehicles was the most frequent event.

10.4 RP asked if anyone had noted night flying at the airfield and could record any details. GS thought a Citation or Lear jet was landing around 10.30pm and believed no radar was in place so visual flight rules applied.

10.5 GS reported that South Cerney has appointed volunteers to deal with dog mess issues. Locally a Labrador appeared to be being permitted to soil the footpath (KFL track).