

Minutes

Kemble & Ewen Parish Council



Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on **Friday 16 March 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

3 members of the public

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

A resident reported that some underage drinking had been observed on the playing fields, but had not been reported to the Police. The resident emailed the Police on 15 March.

District Councillor, John Birch, gave a report:-

Station Parking – JB and the Chairman had recently met an architect at the proposed site for the car parking extension and concluded that the site was far too uneven for the purpose, and incredibly had not been properly assessed before attempting to progress the plans. If the site is moved the Government monies set aside are forfeited, and can take 5 to 7 years to be granted again. A process for engaging the PC has been agreed and though technically planning permission may be unnecessary, it will be requested as the process ensures interested parties learn what is happening. A tree preservation order (TPO) will be placed on the trees in the vicinity.

Cotswold Airport – as per item 6c, there is a meeting due next week to discuss the issues surrounding the airport's voluntary undertaking to manage down some activities.

Roadside Litter – JB was aware of a resident's letter in the Standard newspaper highlighting the 6 bags of litter he had collected on the A429. He explained that because of the dangers volunteers should not pick on main roads. Recently a student who stole a car was made to do 4 days litter picking, and wider publicity of this would be helpful. Cllr Ball stated that crashed cars, particularly on the A429, typically resulted in broken parts and Police warning tapes remaining uncollected in ditches, fences and elsewhere, that consequently fell to landowners to deal with – he felt this needed attention. It was agreed that Cllr. Somerville should approach her neighbour, John Dennis, about potentially organising a litter-picking event, which would be equipped with picking devices, jackets, bags and gloves by CDC. ACTION GS

1. Community Speed Watch - presentation from Andy Fogden, Neighbourhood Watch Officer, Cotswolds Local Policing Area, and agree next steps for the Parish

AF gave a summary of the background to community speed watch activity, which is somewhat belatedly coming to Gloucestershire, and due to be launched in north Cotswolds by mid-April. Each community has to organise its own speed watch, so ours would be for Kemble & Ewen villages. There is sometimes reluctance due to monitoring neighbours. A team comprises three residents, one uses a device like a radar gun, but uncalibrated, a second takes details of registration numbers, and a third acts as look out for safety reasons. There is an escalation process for those identified exceeding 20, 30 or 40mph limits on more than one occasion. Training sessions can be arranged once 6 volunteers are found.

It can be particularly helpful if those who have speed concerns take part as often residents misjudge speeds whereas using the equipment can allay fears as well as identify those who are travelling way beyond speed limits. It was clarified that the Parish Council would in effect 'sponsor' the volunteers who would not necessarily be from Neighbourhood Watch. The Chairman thanked Mr Fogden for his helpful session, and it was agreed to progress the Council's

interest in participating.

At approx. 8.25pm AF and one member of the public left the meeting.

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 item 6a, and re 6b for the slurry lagoon application only.

4. To approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 10 February 2012

These were approved and signed as a true record.

5. Matters arising from previous meetings:

- a. **Bus shelter in Windmill Road** - installation update – GS reported the shelter was now in place, tiled and in use. She suggested it could be called the Jubilee bus shelter, which was agreed. Some shrubbery would complete the landscaping, and it was agreed this should come from next year's Village Environment budget. ACTION – NS to add to shelter asset register and insurance schedule.
- b. **Car Parking in Station Road & Windmill Road** – installation of four posts and provision of painted 'hockey sticks' – GS reported that Chris Franklin is due to leave the County Council at the end of March and our Area Highways Representative will be Gill Portlock, who GS has met. The outstanding dropped kerbs and the work by the electricity sub-station in Station Road will likely be done after 5 April (new business year), and meanwhile bollards are in place. Two bollards have been removed from the space opposite the entrance to West Hay Grove; this is no longer a designated parking space and requires repainting to make this clear. It was agreed after a brief discussion that parking is more regularised in Station Road & Windmill Road, though still abused occasionally, but complaints from neighbouring streets are increasing.
- c. **S106 (Station Road)** – update on alternatives to reinforced play wall and obtaining possible further grants – DB advised that there was no objection in principle from Kemble Farms to a 10 year lease on the whole field to facilitate obtaining a grant from the recycling centre owners. Agreed Parish Council will in principle fund legal costs if the Farm's solicitor can draw up a suitable agreement. ACTION – DB to progress with Kemble Farms Ltd
- d. **Additional dog bins for Thames Path area** – progress on order – NS reported order placed and MB has kindly agreed to take delivery next week and provide plan or photos of location for siting. DB will kindly organise installation.
- e. **Kemble Station**
 - Update on garden improvement and car parking expansion – RP reported that the lady who has initiated the garden improvement idea has gone to Australia and no reply from Prince Charles is evident yet. He will chase this up. ACTION RP. He added that JB had covered the parking matter already in his report.
 - Update on contact with Conservation Officer – LN reported the station is leased by First Great Western and owned by Network Rail – who will be invited to attend a future meeting. The tower is listed, but there is probably nothing we can do about cameras or the new station signs, though dated photos will be sent to CDC. It is possible that the colour scheme extant in 1986 will be 'listed'.
- f. **Ewen Electricity Sub Station update** – SS reported that Mark Isles, the project manager, had been about to begin work when he realised they had 'forgotten' to buy the land, so work could not proceed – to everyone's frustration. It is being refereed to the electricity company's Solicitors.
- g. **Decision required on image(s) for framing as gift to previous Clerk** – ACTION NS to circulate images for a decision by email.
- h. **Replacement of gate spring at playing fields** – ACTION DB will arrange suitable repairs though identical spring unlikely to be available.
- i. **War Memorial registration update** – GC sent pictures as part of registration process and was advised that maintenance was necessary, so will arrange for a stonemason to assess and also ask for rebuilding cost for insurance purposes at Clerk's request. ACTION GC.
- j. **Ewen bus shelter** - review estimates and decide on expenditure for improvements –

Agreed to proceed with KHMS' estimate to complete all necessary works per item 10.6 at last meeting.

- k. **Neighbourhood Watch warning re stone throwing incidents** - SS advised he had heard of no repeat incidents. DB mentioned a related occurrence of beer cans found in playing field and it was suggested that Sarah Bradley, Police Constable, should be asked to include this area and the Community Gardens in the 'rounds'.
- l. **Consider and agree which speakers to invite to the AGM** – ACTION, Cllr Binks to invite Chris Connors, headmaster of Kemble Primary School; Clerk to invite John Birch. No need to invite Shaun Parsons, County Councillor, this year. Also noted that the Annual Report should be on doormats by the end of April – ACTION, Clerk to write document.

6. Planning matters

a. Top Farm proposal

Top Farm proposed residential development – revisions and update on any decision from CDC, plus decide Parish Council's response on 'affordable homes' for reply to Hunter Page. RP outlines the recent changes including 7 ordinary dwellings in place of the extra care units. The extra affordable housing seems beyond any estimated needs based on surveyed demand. ACTION – RP to respond Hunter Page, and update the Council's reply to CDC.

b. Other planning items – All

[12/00587/FUL](#)

Date: 21 February 2012

Location: The Walled Garden, Main Street, Ewen, Kemble, CIRENCESTER, Gloucestershire, GL7 6BU

Proposal: Erection of single storey side extension & detached garage

Decision: no objection

[12/00807/FUL](#)

Date: 07 March 2012

Location: North West Of Kemble Village, Land Parcel Off, Windmill Road, Kemble

Proposal: Proposal for a clay-lined slurry lagoon to provide 6,000m² capacity for the on-site storage of slurry on the farm

Considerable debate about unintended consequences of smells reaching residential areas, balanced with the proposal minimising any movement of slurry by tankers on local roads, and not altering the smell that arises when spreading (which will be no different). Decision: to seek reassurances over possible adverse impact on residential areas of the parish.

[12/00901/FUL](#) and [12/00902/LBC](#)

Date: 09 March 2012

Location: The Byre, Mill Farm, Main Street, Ewen, Kemble, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6BT,

Proposal: Proposed Extension

Decided to object, with the following comments:-

The proposed addition will significantly alter the original scale of this Grade II property, and be very visible from the main approach road from Kemble to Ewen, forming something akin to a gatehouse on entering Ewen, and not in keeping with nearby properties. The proposal is a two-storey design, adjoining the converted single storey barn, thereby dominating the original structure. There remains consent for a large garage, so far undeveloped, and if this is completed the overall scale will be vastly in excess of the original footprint.

DECISIONS FOR INFORMATION:-

The following were noted by the Council

Application: [11/05529/FUL](#)

Date decided: 13 February 2012

Decision: Application Permit

Location: The Brook House Brookside, Ewen, Kemble, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6BU,

Proposal: Change of use of agricultural land to equestrian use and formation of manege

Application: [12/00338/TCNR](#)

This application type was for information purposes only and was not open to consultation. No initial alert would have been sent

Date decided: 22 February 2012

Decision: No objection (County)

Location: 3 Orchard Close, Kemble, Cirencester, GL7 6AR

Proposal: (1) Ash Leaved Maple - Reduce height from approximately 6m to approximately 4m. Spread to be reduced from approximately 6m to 4m., (2) Goat Willow - Re-pollard at approximately 6 feet, (3) Silver Weeping Pear - Reduce the height and spread by up to 1m to leave in a more pendular fashion

Application: [12/00425/FUL](#)

Date decided: 02 March 2012

Decision: Application Permit

Location: Forge House, Limes Road, Kemble, Cirencester, GL7 6FS,

Proposal: Conversion of North East wing from offices and upper floor flat to a 4 bedroomed dwelling

c. Cotswold Airport, Kemble 12/00105/S73A

Discuss and agree approach for Liaison meeting on Tuesday 20th March with Wiltshire Council re Planning Application at Cotswold Airport, Kemble 12/00105/S73A.

It was agreed that Cllr Napper and the Chair should attend this forthcoming meeting.

7. Update on Business Plan & Budget 2011-12

GC advised that the business plan nears completion and will be circulated to councillors before the next meeting.

8. Discuss and decide on need for grass treatment (for moss etc.) for two possible sites:-

- Cemetery
- West Hay Grove 'green'

ACTION: Clerk to seek quotes from existing contractors for weed and moss treatment (bearing in mind safety, potential damage to headstones etc., and insurance liability) and then circulate responses and costs.

9. Finance matters

a. Receive finance summary and approve accounts for cheque payment.
Proposed MB, seconded LN, and approved. Also agreement to pay £160.00 to KHMS for additional works required at site of new bus shelter, once invoice received.

b. Report from Clerk on NatWest fixed-term deposit scheme – limited offer in March at 1.8% p.a. gross for a '6 month 10 day fund'.

It was decided to postpone investment of fixed-term funds as the year-end was approaching and several large commitments are imminent for payment.

c. Decide on applications received for distribution of grant monies.

It was decided to approve grants as follows:

Kemble Garden Club	£200.00
Kemble & Ewen Junior Choir	£100.00
Kemble Spring Music Festival	£150.00
Kemble & Ewen WI	£200.00
Little Fishes	£100.00

d. Update from Clerk on internal audit arrangements

The Clerk reported several approaches from suitable independent auditors and it was agreed to use Peter Newman again. **ACTION** – NS to engage auditor.

e. Consideration of costings for Jubilee activities

It was agreed to provide a maximum of £850 contribution towards the activities being organised by Pat Ayres, with an expectation that this will cover the purchase of mugs by the organisers for all children resident in the Parish, and engaging a band to play at the event planned for 3 June. ACTION – Clerk to advise Mrs Ayres of sum approved.

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

- a. DB reported that a blackthorn hedge in the playing fields was encroaching and may need cutting down as it is trapping litter. However, it makes an effective boundary and removal is a big task requiring grubbing out, and then potential replacement with pig wire, at an indicative cost of £2,000. ACTION – site visit required to consider options.
- b. DB reported that Kemble Farms Ltd was considering asking to licence for a nominal fee the site of the new Parish Notice Board, as this is located on one of their cottage gardens and might one day need to be moved. In an extended discussion it was noted that permission had been sought and granted in advance of installation, and that the previous board had been in place for decades with apparently no hindrance or concerns. No decision could be taken without advance notice, so an item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting, with correspondence circulated in advance.
- c. MB reported that the broadband survey has been completed. ACTION – MB will circulate the report.
- d. MB asked about the possibility of a Village Hall being built at another site in connection with the Top Farm development. RP replied that this was included in the S106 submission made in December 2011.
- e. LN reported that the Kemble Community Gardens had held a successful annual meeting, and had plans for competitions and other activities in the coming year.
- f. GC reported that there is increasing evidence that cemetery rules are not being adhered to with vases and pots being let into the ground, and miscellaneous edgings, pebbles, windmills and suchlike appearing. Clearly this requires sensitivity, but equally consistent standards are necessary. Agreed an action plan is needed to address this. ACTION – NS and GC to liaise and report back in due course.

The meeting closed at midnight.