

Minutes



Kemble & Ewen Parish Council

Minutes of an additional meeting of the Parish Council held on
Wednesday **5 September 2012** at 7.45pm in Kemble Village Hall.

Present: Parish Councillors – R Pettit (Chairman), D Ball, A Dyke, L Napper, G Somerville, S Sorabjee
Clerk: N Spindler
One member of the public

The Chairman invited the resident to talk about his recent experience of the airport. As a resident, he was very concerned by the noise from the activities over the Bank Holiday weekend of 26 and 27 August, which was the 'Best of British' show. The noise from the Tornados had been excessive, he felt, and neighbour's dog and child had both been distressed by the noise. He was also concerned about the risk of a catastrophic accident over the village and wondered what rules governed such displays. Though generally supportive of the airport, and the Red Arrows display team, this was too much. There were 'mock up' explosions too as part of a demonstration by the RAF with other armed forces. As a consequence this resident went out on the Monday to avoid a repeat experience.

SS explained that there is a 500 feet rule for flights over person, structure, building, etc., except when landing. Displays have to be authorised by the CAA, and this includes which approach is used to the runway. CAA officials attend shows too, to check the rules are being followed. The explosions were part of the display in this case. ACTION: Clerk to write to CAA about these concerns.

- 1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs M Binks and G Collins.**
- 2. There were no declarations of interest.**
- 3. Planning matters**

Cotswold Airport, Kemble

The main purpose of this meeting was to discuss and agree the Council's approach to taking joint action with neighbouring parishes on matters currently before Wiltshire Council, including an application for CLEUD for General Aviation and a Draft Undertaking on non-flying activities. RP said that he and SS had met representatives from Ashley & Culkerton and Rodmarton parishes recently. Legal advice already received and paid for by a local landowner, indicates that the applications currently before Wiltshire Council are a golden opportunity to challenge the status quo and introduce reasonable controls, along with constraints such as times, days, areas, and type of activity. There were in effect two parallel applications before Wiltshire: one for general aviation and a second for other activities which sought to trade off reductions in F1 testing against a whole range of other things. Though a licence from CDC already covered some of this, the request before Wiltshire is an opportunity. It is believed that both Councils are cautious over too much expenditure, as challenges can

be costly.

The Parishes' view was that we cannot afford to rely on the planning authorities. All the Parishes wish to see a flourishing airport business and there are longstanding arrangements for shows enjoyed by many. However, we cannot rely on the airport to be neighbourly so we could seek to introduce limits as part of this application. A complication is the runway being in two counties, and there is uncertainty over whether CDC's grant automatically applies to Wiltshire (otherwise why are they applying, perhaps the airport was advised to?).

The question is therefore whether this Parish Council should proceed jointly with the other two parishes, and perhaps Coates too, to cover legal fees in some proportion to be determined, but likely to result in Kemble and Ewen shouldering the largest share.

The Solicitor was recommended by a QC already known to us, and he has offered to continue to provide *pro bono* oversight of her work. The Solicitor has already met Wiltshire Council funded by the interested resident. There was some debate over whether the PC was representing a majority view, not just those of residents who speak out

A proposal was made by LN and seconded by GS, which was agreed unanimously: that the Parishes should use the services of this specialist Solicitor, Tracey Merrett of Merrett & Co., and we will fund her activities jointly in a proportionate share to a maximum of £5,000. If more is needed she will need permission. Our agreement may encourage other Parishes to get on board.

ACTION: RP will update the other parishes of this commitment, as some are seeking their Council's agreement soon.

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

- a. RP reported that he and LN had met Dawn Adams, the garden designer, regarding the Kemble Station garden work being considered by First Great Western (FGW). Apparently FGW will fund around £15,000 for this work, a figure that surprised some Councillors. Prince Charles has agreed to open the gardens. RP believes if the PC supports it financially it will encourage this to happen. Some Cllrs suggested CCTV, improved security and other measures would be essential, as currently FGW cannot even provide a working ticket machine, after one was vandalised. One option was to seek to raise funds to buy five benches at c. £300 each. Some felt that even £1000 was still 5% of the annual precept, and this was something benefitting the many outsiders who use the railway, not just residents. Agreed all to look at budget, with GC's help, to see what commitments could be given up, to enable this to happen particularly bearing in mind the commitment above.
- b. The abandoned house at 20 Windmill Road was briefly discussed. The owner's cousin lives in South Cerney but has little or no contact with owner, despite previously being asked to maintain it. A local Solicitor had some contact but no longer gets replies to emails. Is there any possibility that the CDC can take any action, perhaps if Council Tax is unpaid? ACTION: Clerk to enquire of CDC.