

Minutes



Kemble & Ewen Parish Council

Minutes of an **additional meeting** of the Parish Council on **Tuesday 19 June 2012 at 7.30pm in Kemble School Hall.**

Present: Parish Councillors – R Pettit (Chairman), M Binks, A Dyke, L Napper, G Somerville, S Sorabjee

Clerk: N Spindler

2 members of the public

1. Apologies were received from Cllrs Ball and Collins.

2. To receive any declarations of interest.

Cllr Sorabjee stated his personal interest was because his wife is an employee of Kemble Farms Ltd. The Clerk confirmed this did not prevent him participating and voting in the meeting.

3. To discuss and agree the commissioning of a specialist report for use at the public enquiry to hear Kemble Farm Ltd's appeal to the Planning Inspectorate (re the proposed development of up to 50 dwellings on land at Top Farm, Kemble) comprising either:-

a. A written report at a cost of c £2000

OR

b. A report and appearance as expert witness at the enquiry, at a cost of c £4000

This is expenditure that was unforeseen at the time of budget preparation.

The chairman recapped the background to the process to date and reported that the QC who has offered to act for the PC on a pro bono basis had recommended a specialists report. The QC has worked with the woman concerned before, and her firm quote for option b is £3000 plus VAT, plus travel expenses from Cheltenham for the enquiry. After considering the contingency provision in the PC's business plan of £4000 and some debate about the merits or otherwise of those with a particular interest contributing it was agreed unanimously to select option b, and to fund this from the PC's budget. This should not mean there is any need to sacrifice other planned items of expenditure.

4. To note any information about possible contributions towards the cost of the report described above, in particular from any residents with personal interests in the outcome

The chairman and two Cllrs had attended an impromptu meeting at the Village Hall on Saturday 16 June with approx. 25 villagers, following which the chairman had received pledges from twenty residents totalling around £2000 should this be needed.

5. Any other urgent business subject to the Chairman's approval

There was no other business, and the meeting closed at approx. 8.15pm.