



Kemble & Ewen Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council on Friday 20 September 2013 at 7.30pm in Kemble Village Hall.

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

Clerk: N Spindler

District Cllr: J Birch

Five members of the public

Apologies: Cllrs S Sorabjee and A Dyke

To hear any contributions from local residents before the meeting begins.

i) Lynn Saunders gave the Council 15 minutes on her role as Village and Community Agent, where she covers 13 villages and Cirencester, and is asked to make home visits on a confidential basis to determine an individual's needs. For example, the Cirencester Good Neighbour scheme visits older folk who cannot readily get out and can feel isolated. This scheme is set to expand within the Cotswolds. She left us up to date brochures and cards for use as required. RP thanked her for attending and acknowledged she is in contact with the right people locally.

ii) Anne Wilton spoke enthusiastically about her plans to raise funds to install a defibrillator in Kemble - perhaps at the station, and if two were possible at the Village Hall or School too. They cost c. £1900 each. RP acknowledged it would be churlish not to support anything that might save lives, though there were some reservations about maintenance, security and replacement costs. It was suggested that renting such a device might be a better option. AW will press ahead with an article in the Parish Magazine and update the PC again in due course.

iii) Katie O'Neill and her neighbour Mandy spoke about their views on the Bradley Cottage planning proposal and their contact with the owner. There was a discussion about access and appropriate development of the site. RP explained the PC's role is to reflect residents' views, and neighbours also have the right to respond on their own behalf. The PC would decide its response later in the meeting and they are welcome to stay.

iv) Andrew Lennard, Chairman of the Village Hall, highlighted that the roof on the VH has about 5 to 10 years life remaining according to a recent report and hence he is considering how to build up suitable funding. He said the car park had been significantly improved, and they are planning a new noticeboard large enough for 6 x A4 pages.

RP asked District Councillor John Birch for his report:-

The Boundary Commission's report is likely to report a reduction in wards from 44 to 35 or 36. The report will come to Parishes with boundary maps in time for 2015 elections. His guess is that Thames Head ward as we know it will disappear.

Re 21 Windmill Road, the DC's enforcement team is aware of the issue of vehicle access from house to road.

JB has chased the District Council officer (Joe Plews) looking at the Kemble Community Gardens land that the PC has sought to buy or get some certainty over for the future. He explained that there is now pressure to increase the 5-year housing supply by 20% and the CDC is losing appeals left, right and centre. Inevitably the housing strategy will include Station Road so he has asked to see the draft plan.

RP said he thought that Community Gardens members should feel reasonably secure for the next 12 to 18 months, by which time the strategy would become clear. DB asked how far away the CDC was from an agreed plan, to which JB thought 2015 backdated to 2011. He added that the CDC had sent a long letter to Mr Eric Pickles (Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government) because the infrastructure for water and drainage cannot cope with development on the scale envisaged, and Thames Water has no answer.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Amy Dyke and Sohrab Sorabjee

2. There were no declarations of interest

3. The minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2013 were approved

4. Matters arising from previous meetings:

- a. Highways report – GS said there was no progress to report although several items had been reported and acknowledged, such as the railing in West Lane, the unprotected culvert and the potholes on the side roads – which were not deemed a priority. LN mentioned the lack of a No Cycling sign on the path into Abbots Way from the Community Gardens side. ACTION: RP to ask County Councillor Shaun Parsons why progress seems so slow.
- b. Kemble Station - Update on Network Rail meeting and car park extension – RP and LN went to the opening of the station garden by HRH Prince of Wales on 25 July. They talked to First Great Western about the car park extension without much joy. Although the MD, Mark Hopwood, had said he would look into it personally, nothing appeared to have happened since. DB said he had met Sarah McManus and plans were being expedited to obtain additional land (from Kemble Farms Ltd) suitable for use as parking.
- c. Neighbourhood Watch/ 'Our Watch' report – LN reported on the last meeting and it was noted that Peter Burns is stepping down as Chairman
- d. Speedwatch update – NS had written to Andy Fogden asking for an update on the training. He was told this had been delayed due to the illness of a PSCO trainer, but dates were expected in October.
- e. Update on young persons' skate park idea – AD – carried forward in AD's absence.
- f. Update on Community Emergency Plan – ES said a plan had been issued and he had acquired a 'battle box' that resembles a recycling box. The Village Hall is the designated 'place of safety', with The Tavern in case the VH is unavailable. The 3 volunteers are Eric, Pat Ayres and Peter Burns. We are not an emergency service – if the Police are first we would be about 8th. There are not enough volunteers for Ewen or Kemblewick to publish the plan, and it is to be hoped that it will never be needed. He is addressing the WI next month. RP said it was a very good piece of work.
- g. Update on Kemble Community Gardens discussions with CDC – RP said this had been discussed earlier under Cllr Birch's report and noted the land had been sold to

- the Rural District Council many years ago so there was no doubting its ownership.
- h. Review insurance and asset register matching – ES had noted the PC had agreed a long-term deal to get best value until 2015 and recommended renewal. He mentioned that the Village Hall valuation in the PC's asset register at £200k was perhaps a little light and suggested to AL (who was still present) that the VH committee should consider this, as rebuilding costs would be high.
 - i. Update on playing field lease renewal – DB reported this had been renewed for a 10-year term from July 2013. He passed the completed document to the Clerk for safekeeping.
 - j. Update on A429 Ash tree proposals – GS had received quotes ranging from £5160 to £1900 for the work, however the residents had so far offered only £500. GS reminded members that the bus shelter was not used by many residents but the PC paid for all of that. GC said in this case the PC was taking on something that was not its responsibility in order to get it done. It was agreed that residents would need to raise roughly double their current total to contribute half of the total cost (assuming the cheapest quote was chosen).
 - k. Update on next year's meeting dates – NS agreed to look at moving July's date later and trying to avoid too early after New Year for the first meeting.
 - l. Update on panels for Jubilee bus shelter – LN reported that a potential supplier had suggested triangular shaped plastic pieces inside the apex should do the job and could be fitted with beading to maintain a good appearance. Agreed he should get a quote.
 - m. Update on Chairman's meeting with Inspector Clifford – RP said this was due to take place on 12 October.

5. Planning items

a. **21 Windmill Road, Kemble** – occupant's plan for garage and access across verge. After some discussion it was agreed the Clerk should write to the occupier to confirm that the PC owns the land and there would be no consent given to cross it by vehicle to access the driveway. It was also in conflict with the hard-standing parking bay.

b. [13/03599/FUL](#)

Date: 29 August 2013

Location: Bradley Cottage, Windmill Road, Kemble, GL7 6AL

Proposal: Erection of a dwelling with carport to rear. Widening existing access.

Meeting objected to the application by 4 votes to 1, with one abstention. "An inappropriate over-development of the site in the context of Windmill Road generally" was the agreed response.

c. [13/03815/TPO](#)

Date: 04 September 2013

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

Proposal: Cut back overhanging growth from 6 Lime Trees to the inside of the boundary of Bourne House

Meeting agreed to support

d. [13/03668/TCONR](#)

Ward: Thames Head

Date: 03 September 2013

Location: Old Quarry House, 168 Ewen Road, Kemble, GL7 6BT

Proposal: T.1 - Spruce - fell; T.2 - Spruce - fell

Meeting no need to comment – response not yet published

N.B. Due to the number of applications processed since the 5 July meeting, applications were only shown above where decisions were not recorded in the Planning Decisions Appendix forming part of the Agenda.

6. Finance matters - ALL

- a. Receive and approve items for cheque payment – approved.
- b. To review insurance renewal proposals and any changes to cover (also see item 4h) – agreed to renew. ACTION: Clerk to raise cheque.
- c. Consider and agree action/expenditure on A429 ash tree removal (also see 4j). As agreed above, residents must raise £1000, and the PC will pay the balance of the lowest quote. The Highways Authority had agreed to carry out any necessary road safety measures at their own expense. The PC must see evidence of Public Liability insurance before proceeding, in particular because of the proximity to homes and the main road.

7. Village Design Statement – report from Cllr Silk

ES summarised his investigations into options. The benefit of such a statement is it doesn't require approval or scrutiny though it needs to dovetail with the CDC 2015 plan and villagers should be consulted. We can list buildings, photographs and archaeological sites. It will reflect the Cotswold District design code and incorporate some local history (which LN agreed to assist with). Agreed to proceed and to incorporate locations that could be built on.

8. To consider resident's approach about a defibrillator provision in the Parish

Agreed to support a committee if one was formed to manage fundraising and installation. Would need to consider maintenance and not rule out leasing rather than outright purchase.

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

- a. DB reported that a further Thames Management meeting In South Cerney involving multiple interests was due in October with the local MP and various officials due to attend.
- b. Pat Owen is winding down the Gardening Club and is willing to donate a shrub to the station garden (being maintained by the Royal Agricultural University) from their closing funds.
- c. ES had heard that broadband improvements might have been delayed until 2014, which he felt was not good for employment and local businesses. MB said he would make enquiries.
- d. The footpath to Ewen was impassable due to collapsed walls. DB said this would be attended to in due course. MB said the footpath past the Walled Garden was again overgrown and the owners should be asked to cut it back. ACTION – Clerk.