



Kemble & Ewen Parish Council

**Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on
Friday 18 July 2014 at 7.30pm in Kemble Village Hall**

Present: Parish Councillors – Roger Pettit (Chairman), David Ball, Michael Binks, George Collins, Lester Napper, Eric Silk, Gabi Somerville, Sohrab Sorabjee
Clerk: Nick Spindler
District Councillor: John Birch
One member of the public

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

The Chairman introduced the meeting to Duncan Cooper, the new playground orderly. There was a short discussion about cleaning the field, the dog mess (MB will contact the Dog Warden), access to water, and signage. He thanked Duncan for taking on the role and attending the meeting. ACTION: Clerk to obtain timesheets and arrange payment.

District Councillor John Birch gave a report:-

- a. After a couple of years of the CDC saving money by sharing workloads with other authorities in West Oxford, Cheltenham and the Forest of Dean, further opportunities are being explored in the 'back office' areas such as HR and Legal. Although there is potential to save £millions each Council has to be autonomous in certain respects. Sharing premises is also being considered. Some initiatives may start by the end of 2015, but this is new ground and CDC will be the first in the country to consider this.
- b. Re the station parking, First Great Western has taken the lead in progressing up to planning application stage. Their franchise is up next year, but this is positive progress, though customers need to use the facilities. RP added that his understanding was a lease would allow FGW to contribute towards monitoring parking around the village, as the same 'wardens' in the car park could check parked vehicles outside the car parks.
- c. Reserves are being spent defending two big planning appeals, and the concern is if these challenges are not mounted then developers will run roughshod in the absence of a fully approved Local Plan.

- 1. There were no apologies for absence as all members were present**
- 2. There were no declarations of interest**
- 3. The minutes of the meeting held on 30 May 2014 were approved**

4. Matters arising from previous meetings:

- a. Highways report – GS said she had met Richard Gray the Local Highways Manager, and Gill Portlock, now with supplier Amey, on 17 July. They had also seen several residents and RP on various recent visits. Residents included a person threatening Glos CC with legal action over neglect of A429 ash trees and boundary wall damage. This may result in action. A number of commitments have been given, including the line-making team emboldening various lines and H markings, adding lines by the beehive and correcting the West Lane handrail. A dropped kerb is needed at 41 Clayfurlong Grove and they will reinstate a drop-down driveway to the house near the bus stop in Windmill Road, number 20. Kerbing will be placed near the railway bridge on Station Road. [More details in an email from RG dated 21 July]. There was general frustration at the tardy rate of repairs and requests for contributions from the PC when residents have already paid through their taxes.
- b. Kemble Station parking update – RP referred to JB's earlier update and emails/letters between our MP and the Secretary of State, which he had circulated.
- c. Neighbourhood Watch/ 'Our Watch' report – LN reported there was a meeting on 2nd July with nothing of great note discussed. The Speed Watch certificates remained outstanding, and the following day he raised this with PCSO Owen, who will chase. Our crime levels had dropped from last year's peak, while Siddington's had increased. The stats were not always clear, as one event might be six crimes, for example the recent car 'keying' in Station Road. Reports of obstruction require that those making the complaint remain present when the Police attend to act as potential witnesses.
- d. Refresh of Parish Plan – ES said he was ready to approach interested parties once confirmation of those believed to be potentially interested was received. He has already spoken to some individuals. ACTION – Clerk to circulate names and contact details, with Councillors adding detail where known.
- e. Defibrillator training – ES reported the training had been completed. A further machine will be located temporarily at the Wild Duck in Ewen, until BT decommission their phone box in Ewen, which they had previously opposed. Funds will be required for the railway station location in due course as well as the secure boxes. Monies from the Waitrose collection have been banked. The station needs listed building consent and LN will accompany someone to survey the site. ES added that insurance is required and he will contact the PC's insurers, Came & Co, to ascertain the cover and premium. It was agreed that the committee should come forward with costs for insurance, maintenance and other overheads lest it appear that the PC was expected to cover all these costs, which was not part of the original request for support. On wider First Aid training, ES will enquire again if the Red Cross will provide, as otherwise we will revert to St Johns for those interested.
- f. Village Hall valuation – NS reported that the Village Hall chair had sought a figure from the Treasurer and this was expected any time soon. MB offered to remind them.

5. Planning items

- a. Update on any feedback received on Bovis Homes outline Top Farm proposals, and agree any future public communications. It was noted that a large Bovis sign has been erected on the A429, though it was unclear if negotiations had actually concluded between the parties. RP confirmed he had written to the Bovis representative after the last meeting and had heard no more. NS reported no feedback via the village website to the status summary posted there.
- b. Local Green Space designation – confirm submissions have been completed. It was noted that the deadline for submissions had been extended from today until Tuesday 22 July. The 3 sites selected are the Community Gardens, the 'triangle' or green at Windmill

Road and School Road, and the Windmill Park. LN acknowledged the expert assistance from two residents, and it was agreed RP will write a suitable covering letter. The green now belongs to the Bathurst Estate (BE) who is happy for locals to maintain it, but does not seem too keen to pass ownership to the Parish Council. RP will chase BE for a response.

RP also reported that Richard Mead, a Kemble resident, recently joined the committee of the Tetbury District of the Campaign to Protect Rural England. He has been asked to monitor planning applications and other activities of interest to CPRE in the parishes of Kemble & Ewen, Coates and Sapperton.

c. Other applications

14/02406/FUL

Date: 17 June 2014 (deadline extended)

Location: 182 Windmill Road, Kemble, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6AL

Proposal: Erection of first floor extension

DECISION - Support

14/02433/FUL

Date: 17 June 2014

Location: 6 Windmill Road, Kemble, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6AL

Proposal: Erection of single storey rear extension and outbuilding in rear garden

DECISION - Support

14/02519/FUL

Date: 03 July 2014

Location: Land South Of Washpool House, Washpool Lane, Kemble, Gloucestershire

Proposal: Conversion of agricultural barn to single residential dwelling

DECISION – Object for these reasons:-

1. the increased footprint proposed
2. the inappropriate location
3. the 'building' is not worthy of retention
4. it is in a Special Landscape area

Decisions for information:

Application: [14/02397/DD](#)

Date decided: 02 June 2014

Decision: No objection (County)

Location: Brook House, Main Street, Ewen, Kemble, Cirencester, GL7 6BU

Proposal: T.1 - Conifer - fell to ground level

Application: [14/02132/COMPLY](#)

Date decided: 06 June 2014

Decision: Application Permit

Location: Laburnum Cottage, Main Street, Ewen, Kemble, Cirencester, GL7 6BT

Proposal: Erection of rear extensions, detached garage and new access - compliance with conditions 5 (woodwork), 7 (details) & 8 (landscape)

6. Finance matters - All

- a. Receive and approve items for cheque payment – approved and cheques signed.
- b. To review and consider for adoption new financial regulations, including setting suitable monetary limits. Agreed to consider new recommendations offline and bring to a future meeting to discuss adoption, in view of length and detail involved.

7. To fix the dates and times of ordinary meetings of the Council and Committees for the ensuing year

Agreed to adopt the Clerk's provisional schedule with meetings every 6 weeks, but avoiding Easter, and bearing in mind dates for the 2015 election details of which are not yet known.

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

- a. RP reported that Martin Kingston is having more work done regarding the Conservation Area and hasn't had much interest from CDC so wanted our support, and we will organise a consultation at the appropriate time. Agreed consultation appropriate.
- b. SS reported that a resident from an adjoining Parish had brought up an issue in person to Cotswold Airport, which became acrimonious. As a result she is banned from the site, and the Airport management are no longer interested in liaison meetings. We will make contact and hope these might be resumed.
- c. After comments from residents about footpaths becoming overgrown, it was agreed to get Keith Harrison to clear the path at Ewen. RP will ask Graeme Reay as he used to trim grass near benches and tidy the gateways. Consideration about employing an 'odd job handyman'. ACTION: Clerk to enquire of other Councils and rates of pay.
- d. NS has had request from GRCC to provide letter of support to Thursday Club to enable them to submit grant request. Agreed to support. ACTION: Clerk to write.
- e. RP reported 'keep fit' has been running 9 weeks. The Village Hall has waived its fee and the PC has paid for the first two months. £87 has been collected from attendees. There are 4 weeks to go of the trial. Agreed extend for another three months before deciding whether to continue.
- f. RP said the owner of Laburnum Cottage, Ewen had planned to get his contractor to install a footpath before realising approval was required. After a lengthy debate about potential cost of extending footpath (up to £30k) and the commitment from Parish Council of approaching a year's precept, it was agreed that in principle the PC is interested but wary over expenditure –v- benefit. ACTION: RP to enquire further as to possible costs and timescales, and choice of contractors.
- g. ES reported that the unveiling of the School bench commemoration WW1 went well.
- h. DB announced that Christian Connors, Head of Kemble School is leaving, which the meeting saw as bad news as he has done such a great job.
- i. SS mentioned the growth of brambles on the Kemble to Ewen path. ACTION: NS will contact the long distance path people.
- j. DB has repaired the ramp at the playing field having found the missing part. The ramps aren't being trimmed and he will consider the spec when retendering the grass contract. The path is overgrown and it was agreed to add this to the Ewen footpath for Keith Harrison to deal with.

The meeting ended at 10.50pm