



Kemble & Ewen Parish Council

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Friday 28 November 2014 at 7.30pm in Kemble Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors – Roger Pettit (Chairman), David Ball, Michael Binks, George Collins, Lester Napper, Eric Silk, Sohrab Sorabjee.

Clerk - Nick Spindler

District Councillor - John Birch

No members of the public attended. There were no contributions from local residents.

District Councillor Birch gave a report:-

- a. Re Top Farm, he is asking for it to be referred to the Planning Committee so as to allow the Parish Council, and members of public, to speak for 3 minutes. It will possibly fall on the March committee. He stressed the principle had been sanctioned with no serious deviation from plan, but there was a question of where Top Farm activity might be relocated. DB suggested he thought it unlikely investment would be made in farm buildings, even at the present Smerrill site. Only the design, landscaping and appearance can be influenced now, JB added, and members could visit CDC to see full-sized drawings if they wished to.
 - b. Re the flooding at Smerrill, he has visited the site with Bathurst estate Manager and the Highways manager, and they decided to replace the pipe under the road as the outlet and inlet sizes did not correspond. The estate will 'do their bit' to re-profile the stream, and the Council will 'jet it out'.
 - c. The verge by Jarvis Cottage on the A433 will be reinstated to stop turning, but without preventing the resident parking. This should make drivers avoid it and so prevent reoccurrence of recent accidents.
 - d. The draft Local Plan will be good reading over Christmas! Consultation is likely to run for around 6 weeks to mid-Feb.
 - e. The proposals to merge four Councils have received a further boost with an additional £2.9 million on top of the £90k already provided by Government.
1. **There were no apologies for absence.** It was noted that Cllr. Gabi Somerville had resigned on 23 November. It was agreed to thank her collectively, as her contribution had been much appreciated, and the meeting wished her well.
 2. **There were no declarations of interest**
 3. **The minutes of the meeting held on 17 October 2014 were approved.**
 4. **Matters arising from previous meetings:**
 - a. Highways report, inc. A429 tree removal and possible replacements – NS had contacted Highways for an update but none had been received prior to the meeting. The trees had been removed by GCC on 19 November but the result was felt to be scrappy and in need of further tidying. It was decided to leave at least a season or

- two, or even a full year, before deciding whether to replant manicured trees, though some interim work may be needed. Potential improvements might feed into the Top Farm development if there is an opportunity. The West Lane handrail had not been rectified. Potholes are still a cause of dissatisfaction, and the report of a regular cyclist whose wheel was damaged was noted; he has been chasing GCC regularly for improvements. Carry forward decision on who will take on Highways liaison from GS.
- b. Kemble Station parking update – RP mentioned the recent report in the Standard. Three cars have recently been ticketed by the PCSO. First Great Western and the Bathurst Estate are thought to still be in discussion, and RP will remind the FGW MD of his commitment to expedite the car park improvements. MB will put RP's page on this on the village website.
 - c. Neighbourhood Watch/ 'Our Watch' report – SS reported that 15 attended the recent Police meeting, including those from South Cerney, Siddington, Rodmarton, and Somerford Keynes. County Cllr Parsons was also in attendance. The police explained that their 'solving rates' could be misleading as these include historic crimes, not just current ones. Members noted with concern a repeat break-in attempt to a shed in Ewen, and a bullet fired through a living room window along Station Road possibly by a gang from Cheltenham. Other 'missiles' have caused damage to property. It was agreed that NHW needs more information from Police rather than relying so much on anecdote.
 - d. Update on Speedwatch certificates – NS had previously circulated an email confirming the Certificates are no longer issued, and the team can proceed as long as they complete the Police risk assessment form and advise the Community Police Officers as instructed.
 - e. Update on repeat of First Aid training from St Johns – NS has made contact with George Tarte, the South West training coordinator. He suggests the Essential First Aid all ages (certificated) which takes 3 hours and costs £25 + VAT per person. NS to contact Anne Wilton as she may have some names as she organized the defibrillators. Training likely to take place in Village Hall in Q1 2015.
 - f. Updating of members' contact details for public notices and website – NS will arrange this, and members will consider co-option to fill the two Councillor vacancies.

5. Planning items

a. Update on Bovis Homes/Top Farm proposals, following approval of Masterplan.

With the detailed plans received since the agenda was published and now in the public domain, concern was expressed about the method of construction, as if deep foundations are not dug the resultant height is an issue. This is believed to have affected Old Manor Gardens. NS will write to the Case Officer to see if an extension can be granted as the deadline is 18 December, an inconvenient time to arrange any public meeting.

b. Neighbourhood Planning update – ES reported on two meetings he and RP had had. Joseph Walker, from CDC, was helpful and supportive, and not many parishes are doing Plans so he isn't overly stretched. ES is getting a definitive map of the Parish. He confirmed there are no brownfield sites in the Parish. JW will attend a PC meeting if required. We would need to take the lead from the Local Plan, and he can assist with funding of up to £7k, with funds available at various stages. GC added he came away from his meeting thinking we ought to do a NP, and it is feasible. RP said it remains a vast task that requires an independent committee, mainly of non-Councillors. We can define the area, which might include the airfield, for example, though Crudwell PC and Wilts DC may have similar views and boundary disputes might not help.

c. Other planning applications

[14/04396/TCONR](#)

Date: 13 October 2014

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

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

[14/04432/TCONR](#)

Date: 13 October 2014

Location: Ewen Manor, Main Street, Ewen, GL7 6BX

Proposal: Crown reduction of oak and horse chestnut trees on one side to allow the development of planted young trees

[14/04453/TCONR](#)

Date: 13 October 2014

Location: Pigeon House, Church Road, Kemble, Cirencester, GL7 6AE

Proposal: T1 - Weeping Pear - take out, T2 - Maple - take out

[14/03666/FUL](#)

Date: 05 November 2014

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

Proposal: Insertion of 3 rooflights in east facing elevation and 3 rooflights in west facing elevation (Retrospective)

DECISION: 'No comment', as no response received from neighbours.

[14/04651/FUL](#)

Date: 19 November 2014

Location: 27 Clayfurlong Grove, Kemble, GL7 6AP

Proposal: Erection of single storey front porch and two-storey side extension

DECISION: Support.

[14/03671/FUL](#)

Date: 20 November 2014

Location: Morning Dew, Kemble Road, Cirencester, GL7 6BW

Proposal: Replacement dwelling (version 3)

DECISION: Support (as previous)

Planning Decisions for information:

Application: [14/03562/COMPLY](#)

Ward: Thames Head

Date decided: 13 October 2014

Decision: Application Permit

Location: Land At Top Farm, West Lane, Kemble, Cirencester, Gloucestershire, GL7 6AD,

Proposal: Residential development comprising up to 50 dwellings - compliance with condition 5 (masterplan)

Application: [14/04135/TCONR](#)

Date decided: 23 October 2014

Decision: No objection (County)

Location: Ewen Manor, Main Street, Ewen, Kemble, GL7 6BX

Proposal: Prune yew trees, holly and sycamore as detailed in the submitted schedule

Application: [14/04396/TCONR](#)

Date decided: 23 October 2014

Decision: No objection (County)

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

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

Application: [14/04432/TCONR](#)

Date decided: 23 October 2014

Decision: No objection (County)

Location: Ewen Manor, Main Street, Ewen, Kemble, GL7 6BX

Proposal: Crown reduction of Oak and Horse Chestnut trees on one side to allow the development of planted young trees

Application: [14/04453/TCONR](#)

Date decided: 29 October 2014

Decision: No objection (County)

Location: Pigeon House, Church Road, Kemble, Cirencester, GL7 6AE

Proposal: T1 - Weeping Pear - take out, T2 - Maple - take out

Application: [14/03739/FUL](#)

Date decided: 31 October 2014

Decision: Application Permit

Location: 164 West Lane, Kemble, Cirencester, GL7 6AD

Proposal: Link and convert outbuildings to habitable accommodation ancillary to the existing property

Application: [14/04221/FUL](#)

Date decided: 18 November 2014

Decision: Application Refused

Location: Pear Tree Cottage, 169 Ewen Road, Kemble, GL7 6BT

Proposal: Proposed oak framed detached garage with room/storage area above

6. Finance matters

- a. Update on Santander issues over changing address – NS gave an update on the problems that arose when Santander claimed the existing signatories could not instruct the change of address as only the previous clerk was a signatory, unable to explain how the cheques had been paid for many years on signatories their records failed to reveal.
- b. Receive and approve items for payment by cheque per schedule - approved
- c. (Carried forward) To review and consider for adoption new financial regulations, including setting suitable monetary limits. Carried forward pending GAPTC guidance and training.
- d. Update on grass cutting contract and tendering process – DB has resurveyed with RP and added in areas like the West Lane green. Cutting runs from gate to gate on the main road. Agreed NS to contact previously interested parties and advertise in the Wilts & Glos Standard with replies by 31 January. DB will complete maps and provide to NS for copying
- e. To debate and agree items and initiatives for inclusion in the 2015-2016 business plan, and for Precept setting - NS outlined the guidance CDC had provided on the forthcoming precept, which balances a slightly reduced grant with a few more taxpayers with minimal overall impact. RP said the Keep Fit has had its best attendance of 12, which at £4 per person would cover its costs. He is optimistic about getting a £500 grant from GCC. An initiative he would like to see in 2015/16 is for Kemble & Ewen to be “a great place to live”, on similar lines to workplaces who strive to be a great place to work. The PC could make it our business to get residents thoughts on what is good and what could be better. Others thought that stronger ties with the school would be useful as it is such a focal point. The playground could be overhauled, perhaps with a trampoline, and the football pitch remarked and cut better. The Clerk suggested the Council should provide a laptop computer for the Clerk’s work rather than relying on a personal machine, as this would be better for security and enable holiday cover. MB will look at options, including ‘cloud’ storage. MB wondered whether a ‘dark skies’ policy would be desirable. Agreed all to consider again in New Year

7. Any other business subject to the Chairman’s approval

- a. MB reported that there is a new Village Hall noticeboard with 3 lockable panes. A new front door is promised soon.
- b. SS reported that the Ewen defibrillator was almost used recently when a beater collapsed, but the paramedics arrived so it wasn’t needed.
- c. SS was concerned at the ugly railings erected on the parapet of the main road railway bridge, which if anything might encourage misuse, aside from disfiguring it. Suggested LN should write to Michelle Scoggings to enquire, and RP will speak to the Conservation Officer about protecting the bridge in Station Road.
- d. The Tavern pub will house another defibrillator, as the railway was taking too long to decide. Mr Arkell has approved and the new landlord is supportive. FGW will accept appropriate signage at the station.

The meeting closed at 10.50pm.