



## **Kemble & Ewen Parish Council**

### **Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held on Friday 10 January 2014 at 7.30pm in Kemble Village Hall.**

**Present:**

Parish Councillors: Roger Pettit (Chair), David Ball (Vice Chair), Michael Binks, George Collins, Lester Napper, Eric Silk, Gabi Somerville, Sohrab Sorabjee.

District Councillor: John Birch

Helen Richards of the GRCC

Mr John Hadfield, parishioner

Apologies: Nick Spindler, Parish Clerk

Absent: Cllr. Amy Duke

To hear any contributions from local residents and guest speakers before the meeting begins:-

Helen Richards from GRCC spoke about the pros and cons of either, a 'Review and Refresh' of the 2006 parish plan, or carrying out a Neighbourhood Development Plan. Helen is the South Cotswolds Advisor and had been liaising with ES over a possible Design Statement for the village which has now been abandoned in favour of the above two options.

- i. 'Review and Refresh' the 2006 parish plan. The process takes 6 months. It would involve a steering group which would ask the parishioners the following questions; 'What has changed?' 'What do they like and what do they dislike about the villages?' The group would meet with community bodies such as the WI and the primary school. There would be public consultation which would include a public meeting and a short questionnaire. HR would provide help with construction of the questionnaire and interpreting the data. Issues such as ideas about potential development sites can be brought into the review. Cost would be about £500 but there would be no financial help from GRCC or elsewhere. It would help with S106 money.
- ii. New Neighbourhood Development Plan. You cannot say no to any development. The main aim of the plan is to identify sites where development can take place in small numbers such as 10. The plan can also insist it wants affordable housing. The process takes 18 months to two years to complete and involves lots of public consultation. However funding up to £7000 is available through grants and this can be used for paying consultants. The first stage is to identify the area of the plan. Would it be the parish, or recognising the different natures of the two settlements would Kemble and Ewen have separate plans.

A discussion ensued in which support was given for the first option.

Mr John Hadfield spoke concerning potholes in the layby, which was originally a section of the A429, in front of 178 and 179 West Lane. GS told Mr Hadfield that the main problem was the Glos Highways lack of funds. It still belongs to Highways so they are responsible for it. Matched funding was a way forward.

District Cllr Birch had three points to bring to the council's attention:

- a) Smerrill Barn Flooding; Cllr Birch has organised a meeting on Monday which will include the chair of GCC and the Highways manager to try to organise the replacement of the drain under the road which runs parallel to the embankment of the disused Thames and Severn Canal.
- b) Refusal of planning permission for Laburnum Cottage, Ewen: this was done for two reasons;
  - i. Under the new National Planning Framework the cottage has been classified, along with many other period buildings, as Undesignated Heritage Assets, which places them one below Listed. So a complete demolition goes against this.
  - ii. Within the local policy any new build should be of similar size and scale. The new build planned would have been considerably bigger.
- c) Kemble Community Gardens: it was emphasised that the new lease must be negotiated and signed before the lease runs out. RP told JB that the new lease was very different to the old one and that he had asked for changes. JB said that he would look into this. Some discussion as to when the lease actually runs out, Jan or Feb.

**1. Apologies for absence.** The Parish Clerk sent apologies as he has flu symptoms. Cllr Dyke did not attend. It was noted that AD and family seem to have left the village and moved to Swindon. ACTION – RP to ask NS about AD's status as councillor.

**2. Declarations of interest were received from DB on item 4b.**

**3. The minutes of the meeting held on 29th November 2013 were approved.**

**4. Matters arising from previous meetings:**

- a. Highways report – GS reported that once again she has reported the VAS (Vehicle Activated Speeding Sign) at the southern entrance to the village on the A429. She continues to lobby Highways and had expected to hear something today but hadn't. ACTION; If nothing happens by the end of next week RP will raise with County Cllr Parsons. The hand rail has been reported and Highways have 'moved it up the list'. Highways aware of accumulation of silt at the bottom of the hill on the road leading out of Kemble towards Parkers Bridge. It was noted that the recent heavy rain had rearranged the silt. The Kemble roads were swept before Christmas. ACTION; Gabi to talk to Jill Portlock about potholes.
- b. Kemble Station – DB Reported that discussions with FGW concerning the new car park for the station are progressing towards an early solution. LN had nothing to report on the redoubling. There had been no disturbances because of engineering work. He noted that there was still a lot to be done and that the original deadline of completing the work by Christmas had not taken place. He had emailed FGW updates about the defibrillator project for the village but had heard nothing. LN will email again about this and also email to organise a meeting with NR and FGW about the car park and a footpath into the car park from the playing field.

- c. Neighbourhood Watch/ 'Our Watch' report – LN reported on the NHW meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> January. The poster competition was completed before Christmas and prizes awarded. It is intended to have them printed and placed on noticeboards in the school catchment area. The NHW group produced season-applicable crime prevention leaflets which were given to each house in the villages before Christmas. In discussion the recently increased number of watchword messages was commented on. The NHW group asked if the PC would ask Highways to put white lines along the Kemble and Tarlton road where it is joined by the road into the main station car park. On a Thursday before Christmas cars were parked there, some overnight, when the car park was full. The lack of street lighting meant that the vehicles were almost impossible to see that night. See item 4 f.
- d. Police crime statistics – we reviewed the Police Report for Kemble area produced by PC Weedon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January. There has been an increase in crime from 19 in 2012 to 62 in 2013. There was much disquiet about this considerable increase and some discussion. Ask PC Weedon for a breakdown of these figures including by month so that we can see what and when, and if there is an increase /decrease. LN recommended councillors to look at and explore fully the website at <http://www.police.uk/gloucestershire/FA8/> which includes a map which shows the location of reported crimes for Nov 2013, the type of crime and the progress of the investigation. ACTION; NS to ask PC Weedon to come to the next council meeting.
- e. Update - panels for Jubilee bus shelter – LN reported that panels were put in before Christmas and that he had given the bill from Mr Fursland to NS that evening. Work was so good that nobody had noticed.
- f. Windmill Road landscaping – proposals in two parts from GS.
  - i. Windmill Road planting. Much of what was planned e.g. bus shelter and layby, has been completed. What remains is the planting. Gabi produced costings and a map of the proposed planting. The original plan also included planters. The figure for this came to £1,500. There was some discussion about proposals. ACTION; GS to send out her plan and costs for comments.
  - ii. Curbing planned for Windmill and Station Roads to help prevent parking; Highways are happy to put in kerb stones but the KEPC needs to find half the cost, match funding. Price was considered very reasonable at £30 per linear metre. One area would be by Pheasants Hill at the entrance to the main station car park, and the other would be at the end of Station Road by the railway bridge. ACTION; GS to review calculations and send out maps for comment.

**5. Planning items – no comments. See Cllr Birch's remarks above.**

**6. Finance matters - ALL**

- a. Receive and approve items for cheque payment – LN proposed and GC seconded; approved.
- b. Decide on precept for 2014-15. GC suggested that we develop plans from the ideas of the last meeting. Also we are experiencing more and more match funding requirements to achieve things. New precept proposed at £20,000. SS proposed and GS seconded. Precept passed unanimously.

**7. Any other business:**

1. Grass cutting – RP; suggestion that we should share contracts with Coates Parish and provide a joint tender. It was agreed that we would want the same schedules and good quality. Ask NS to get together with the clerk in Coates.
2. Parish Notebook article – RP; RP asked for feedback on his draft article for the Parish News. Consensus was that it was too long and should be split into two articles.
3. Village orderly and Village gates – GS, ES; GS noted that the gates needed cleaning. ES pointed out that a new village orderly is required. Ask NS to advertise. Perhaps add the cleaning of the gates to the list.
4. Dishwasher has been put in Village Hall - MB
5. Broadband update – MB; cabinets have been installed but there have been issues. It will be brought on in stages and be finished by March 2014. More info on Kemble website and Fastshire website.
6. Website – MB; has arranged meeting with Steve Marsh and will report back at the February KEPC meeting.
7. Internal Auditor – GC; meeting agreed that GC should appoint.
8. Parking outside Bradley Lodge – RP; has NS sent letter to Bradley Lodge?

Meeting finished at 10.30  
Minutes taken by Lester Napper