



Kemble & Ewen Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Friday 5 May 2017 at 7.30pm in Kemble Village Hall

Present:

Roger Pettit – Chairman of the Parish Council
Edward Alsop – Resident Agent for Bathurst Estates
Shaun Parsons – County Councillor, Gloucestershire County Council
Tony Berry – District Councillor
Liz Hall – Parish Clerk
30 members of public, plus all but one Parish Councillor

The Chairman welcomed everyone to this Annual Parish Meeting.

Roger opened the meeting with the sad news that Peter Burns had passed away the previous day. Peter had been a Parish Councillor for many years. Condolences were sent to his wife Jean and the family.

Guest Speaker Edward Alsop spoke at the start of the meeting as he had to leave early

Edward Alsop – Resident Agent for Bathurst Estates

On behalf of Bathurst Estates (BE), Edward thanked the Parish Council for their invitation. Apologies were sent from Lord Bathurst who would have attended in person if it wasn't for a prior engagement. Edward said he planned to use the meeting to explain how the farm works in Kemble and hoped the meeting would allow villagers to put a face and a name to the Estate. Three people look after activities in Kemble. Mike Patch, Farm Manager who is responsible to BE for farming activities on the ground, Tristen Chippendale of Bruton Knowles is responsible for property management and Edward Alsop, responsible for estate and forestry work in Kemble.

BE are keen to keep the Parish Council informed about their activities and are always happy to receive feedback. An informal relationship has been built up with Roger Pettit through regular meetings.

Farming activity is key in Kemble with the estate looking to produce a farming calendar to give an insight into the farming year and the various activities involved.

Since taking over, BE has made several major changes. To minimise the occurrence of TB, the farm has dispensed with livestock rearing and now buys TB free heifers. Two slurry pipes have been installed under the Tetbury Road to distribute slurry near to where required, resulting in many fewer tractor and tankers trudging around the village lanes. Residential properties that are not needed for farm activities have been sold and some historic farm buildings have been kept for restoration.

A question and answer session followed

- Carol Dougill (Headteacher) thanked BE for allowing the school to use the field for the bonfire at their Firework Night fundraiser and asked for their continued support. Edward confirmed they are pleased to maintain the traditions in the village.

- Village Shop, talks are ongoing to transfer ownership to the leaseholder.

- Future of Kemble Farms – BE are committed to farming but are aware that economics, Brexit and the availability of subsidies amongst other factors will influence the village farming activities.

Roger Pettit was pleased to report he has a good working relationship with Edward and thanked him for coming to the meeting.

- 1. The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 6 May 2016 were approved and signed as a true record.**
- 2. Report on any matters arising from the previous minutes**
 - an update given by the Chairman in his report.
- 3. Guest Speakers**

Tony Berry - District Councillor

Last year was a busy one for the Parish Council and Tony sees attending the PC meetings as a key activity, with planning applications a major element both here in the parish and at CDC. He sits on the Audit and Planning committees as well as being involved with the operation of the housing system, representing Kemble as needed.

Tony praised the PC for their work on the application for a new house at the end of Washpool Lane. It was noted that the use of a consultant to prepare written representations against the appeal, helped CDC with their decision and the appeal being dismissed by the inspectorate.

The new car park at the station has taken up a lot of time and has been a struggle to sort. However, he is hopeful of an outcome that will be supported in the village.

Following much discussion, CDC have been persuaded to support the redefinition of the conservation area. Together with the Landscape Appraisal, this can be used when looking at future development in the village.

The possibility of development of the airport has been 'put to bed' for at least 5 years but it is likely the potential developers will forward make plans after that.

Questions from the floor

Speeding - why not a 30mph zone?

Several official surveys have shown that it is more dangerous to apply a 30mph limit in an area which doesn't appear 'built up'.

Speed checks are to commence so that speeds can be monitored and information given to GCC and the police.

Chesterton Development and Traffic assessment

Shaun Parsons said that the Tetbury Road junction is not part of the plan, being too far from the development for purposes of S106 monies, and therefore there would be no money for works here. TB said this issue would need to be looked at under the planning proposals.

Flashing light on A429 near Top Farm junction

This was not always registered by drivers. It highlights school children at all hours and couldn't be always relevant to the traffic. Given the new road layout, could a sign be re-sited and made more appropriate?

Roger thanked TB for his help and contributions throughout the year.

Shaun Parsons - County Councillor

Shaun began by thanking those who voted for him in yesterday's County Council election, 'it's nice to be re-elected'. Having 31 seats, overall control is with the Conservatives and therefore he will be able to push ahead with highways improvements. Mending potholes doesn't work and he will look for money to be given for resurfacing.

For the roads in Kemble, a program of work has been set out. Roads to be resurfaced include, Windmill Road to A433, Smerrill road to be completed to A433. The junction of A429 and A433 will continue to be a priority for improvement.

Roger thanked Shaun for his support.

4. Chairman's address

I plan to keep this short because I am sure you won't wish to be here any longer than necessary, also Liz Hall has already produced a written report which every household should have received and, in the end it is more important to provide an opportunity this evening for us to listen to you rather than you listen to me.

Planning applications continue to consume a growing proportion of the Council's time. Last year over 80 were considered. The number increases each year and already the signs are that the new year will achieve a new record. Finalisation of the CDC's Local Plan is becoming imminent and it would seem likely that, for us, this will include 23 dwellings at West Lane and Clayfurlong in addition to a partial development of 12 properties on the Community Gardens site at Station Road. Relevant to this over recent months we have been pleased to support a couple of initiatives by Martin Kingston, the production of both an updated Conservation area statement and a Landscape Appraisal. Both help to identify important aspects of our village and its surroundings and will provide valuable tools to assist with the protection of important features. Consultation on the Landscape Appraisal is scheduled for next week, on Monday morning and on Thursday evening in the village hall if you would like to come along.

Linked with the Local Plan is our own production of a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish. This will identify our wishes for the future of our Parish and provides guidance and a sense of direction for future Parish Council action. Preparation of the Plan is a democratic process involving resident volunteers. Pleased to say that the process is under way, we have some volunteers on board and please let us know should you be able to join the team.

The Chesterton Development proposals are coming up for consideration shortly and, although not directly on our patch, will have an enormous impact. I think I could sum up the Parish Council's view that this not a welcome prospect but is the lesser of two evils compared with the plans for a new small town on the airport. Nothing to report on this latter item recently but it remains hovering in the background as a longer term scheme likely to follow on from Chesterton at the next Local Plan review. The new station car park looks to be just about completed, an unusual early arrival from Great Western Railway. Consultation is now underway on the associated village parking scheme. I hope you will feel able to lend this your full support since I cannot think of a single issue which has generated more complaints over many many years than nuisance commuter parking.

The Council has carried out quite a lot of tree work over the last 18 months or so. This includes replacement of many of the trees on the main road and planting of new trees on the road to Ewen, near to the entrance of Washpool Lane. We attach a high value to the contribution that trees make to our environment and I would like to stress that tree trimming and removal of trees is carried out only when strictly necessary. Our overall objective is to protect what we have and add further plantings in appropriate locations as part of our village appearance initiative.

Following on from a very unfortunate accident involving one of our young residents on the main road it is good to report that several volunteers have stepped forward to join the Speedwatch initiative and regular speed monitoring should commence soon. In addition we are in contact with a specialist consultancy about whether we could introduce some landscaping features along the sides of the main road to improve drivers' awareness that they are passing through a residential area.

Many of the new houses at Top Farm are now completed and occupied and we are pleased to welcome the new residents to our village.

Finally to thanks and acknowledgements. Thanks To Martin Leay for preparing our case for a successful submission to the Planning Inspectorate on a recent significant planning appeal. Thanks to all those who run our many excellent clubs and associations, to Pat Ayres for her weekly reports in the Standard and for organising special events to celebrate anything and everything that needs celebration – I think upcoming next year is the end of WW1 centenary and Pat is fully on the case – thanks also to Brian Ayres for tending the war graves, to the various editors of the Parish Magazine, to Steve Marsh who runs the village website, to Tom Barrow, Sue Hill and all the litter pickers, to all those who give their time to take a special interest in the appearance of our villages such as Graeme and Mary Reay and Sharon Pauley for looking after the green on West lane, our Parish Clerk, Liz Hall and of course, to fellow councillors for their time, given freely, and hard work over the year.

5.Residents' comments and questions

New Station Car Park - there was lengthy discussion regarding the car park. The recent consultation by GCC was seen to be very poor with little understanding shown of the requirements of the village. Villagers are unhappy about having to pay for parking permits to allow them to park outside their homes or in the specified parking bays. The amount of parking bays suggested is seen to be too few and very limiting to village life.

Village Appearance – Windmill Road/A429. The bench could do with being re-varnished and the vegetation cut back in the area.

7. AOB

a) Pat Ayres thanked Roger and the PC for all their hard work

b) Kemble Community Gardens - Nicky Baber asked if anyone would be able to 'host' those coming from France in September, as part of the twinning programme with village of Montfort en Chalosse. Volunteers are also needed to help with the 10th Anniversary celebrations for KCGs

c) Speed Monitoring Team – volunteers are needed to help monitor speed of traffic through the village. Training will be given. The project is supported by the PC, contact Liz Hall, Parish Clerk for more information at kpccclerk@kemble.co.uk

The meeting closed at 9.30pm .