



Kemble & Ewen Parish Council

Minutes of the **Annual Parish Meeting** held on **Friday 4 May 2018** at 7.30pm in Kemble Village Hall

Attendance

Councillors: Roger Pettit (Chairman), David Ball (Vice Chairman), Eric Silk, Lester Napper, Carol Dougill, Michael Binks, Nicky Baber & Sohrab Sorabjee

District Councillor: Tony Berry

Gloucester County Councillor: Shaun Parsons (Chairman of Council)

Gloucestershire Constabulary: PC Leah Davies & PCSO Adrien Kapronczai

40 residents

1. Chairman's Welcome – Roger Pettit began by mentioning the sad loss of:

- Bob Waglan – a long term resident of Ewen. Past chairman of the council who put his professional surveying skills to good use in the parish with projects such as the Village Hall. He was a long term member of the Neighbourhood Watch and with his wife Terry, who was a teacher at our school, was a regular host of the Safari Suppers that raised money for the Village Hall.
- Christian Brann – a long term resident of Kemble since the early 1960's. Local entrepreneur and publisher he had a close interest in the parish. In 1992 he compiled and edited a book about Kemble, Ewen and Poole Keynes and instigated the handbook given to new residents of the parish.

Roger offered condolences to the families of both.

2. Apologies for absence – Alan McQuillan; George Collins; Martin and Mrs Kingston.

3. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 5 May 2017 - we didn't have them and couldn't find on the website so will have to confirm at next KEPC meeting.

4. Guest Speakers:

- a. **PC Leah Davis and PCSO Adrien Kapronczai** – introduced themselves to the meeting. They have only recently taken up their roles. LD went through the report of the past years crime statistics which have increased from 25 to 38. These will be put on the parish website. Both Leah and Adrien have visited Kemble School to talk to the children about internet safety. We were recommended to sign in to Community Alerts, report anything suspicious to 101 or in an emergency 999 and number plates of any vehicle you are concerned about. Adrien mentioned a car safety and security project in Ewen and is considering a similar project in Kemble as well one on house security.

In response to questions:

- i. Most burglaries are by people from outside our area.
- ii. Cotswold Twitter and Community Alert

(www.yourcommunityalerts.co.uk) provide the most up to date information on crime including successful prosecutions.

iii. Support Neighbourhood Watch. The police have good links to our NHW through the coordinator Paul Waldron.

b. **Carol Dougill – Headteacher, Kemble & Siddington Primary Schools.**

Gave a power point presentation on the philosophy of the school. An emphasis on enrichment, community involvement and play are very important and help in instilling excellent learning behaviour which in turn has led to excellent academic results. Mrs Dougill thanked residents for their support of the school. Questions from the meeting resulted in us learning that laptops were an integral part of teaching and learning and that Kemble and Siddington Schools are part of a multi academy trust with Dear Park Secondary School and Chesterton Primary School.

RP thanked Mrs Dougill for the work being done in the school.

c. **Shaun Parsons – Chairman of Council, Gloucestershire County Council.**

Shaun provided us with a review of the previous year. He has been chair of the council for the past year. Council tax has risen by 4.6%. 2.2% has gone to Adult Social Services. There are now 700 children in care with in Gloucestershire which is a 1/3 increase on last year. Roads – the bad winter has resulted in 2.5 times more gritting than usual. It has also resulted in increased pot holes. Mending pot holes is only a short term option. GCC aim to get much larger full sections of road repaired which also last longer. Repairs can only take place when the temperature is above 5 Celsius and when the surface is dry. The county will put an extra £100 million into roads but lack of money is still the main problem. There is an 80 year backlog on road repair and upkeep. The contract with Amey has not been successful and some of the highways work is now back in house. The A419 bottleneck at Nettleton Bottom could be resolved. Highways England have been given £1 million to help start the scheme which should be complete in 2015. Money has been spent on electric vehicle recharging points, hospitals in Gloucester and Cheltenham and Fastershire.

Questions which followed were concerned with either roads or the parking in the village. Someone said they were happy to pay more tax if that meant the bill for new tires was lessened. SP said that not everyone would necessarily agree. Another questioner asked if the GCC used recycled plastic in repairs as this has been proved to be hard wearing. SP didn't know.

There was a long and quite heated discussion about the delays to the implementation of the parking scheme. There has been a breakdown in communications between the GCC and GWR. We also learned that the scheme would include 2 – 3 hours in the middle of the day when there would be parking restrictions. It was explained that the process involved in the use of yellow lines would be a long and expensive affair and include a traffic regulation order. This would be similar to the setting up of a parking scheme. There was criticism that the construction of the car park had taken place before moneys for the scheme had been handed over, also, that the scheme would cost ordinary villagers a lot of money for a problem not of their making. RP stated that there would be no costs for residents and that the scheme would be underwritten by GWR.

d. Tony Berry – Councillor Kemble Ward, Cotswold District Council.

- The past year has been dominated by the CDC Local Plan. Since September of 2017 the Plan has been with a government planning inspector who visited the KCG as part of the process of review. It looks like it will be accepted in the form it is. We must have a local plan. Not having one means that developers are able to push for more developments than people would want. TB explained the Chesterton Development situation in detail. Only outline permission has been given. It will be 2/3 years before the first house built. The 106 money is being negotiated at the moment. There are two issues, size and infrastructure especially roads. Disappointed that a roundabout at the junction of the A429 and A433 was not included in the Chesterton development.
- Formation of Publica – a separate company that now manages the services for the CDC, West Oxfordshire, Forest of Dean and Cheltenham Borough. It has resulted in greater efficiency and savings. CDC is the most cost effective council in the UK. Very good recycling – 60% of all collected.
- Light Railway initiative between Kemble Station and Cirencester using large sections of the old railway line. Money is being raised for a feasibility study. As part of the Chesterton development a bus service will run from Chesterton to Kemble. This could be taken up by a light railway. In 2023 the station car parks in Kemble will be full.
- Broadband – TB with Michael Binks has been negotiated with the church to have a repeater on the tower to produce high speed broadband in Kemble. There will be information on this at the KEPC stall at the village fete.
- Neighbourhood Plan – TB emphasised the importance of Kemble having a plan. The CDC has to take notice of what it says when it comes to planning.
- Cirencester Cinema – in response to a question, permission has been agreed but things have gone quiet.
- Cirencester Market Place – in response to a question, a review is taking place. Our MP has got planners to sit down with GCC and town council to look at traffic flows.

5. To receive Chairman's Report: Roger Pettit – Chairman Kemble & Ewen Parish Council.

- CDC Local Plan – 3 different development proposals for Kemble are included making 32 houses in all. Kemble Community Gardens will have 8 positioned to minimise the effect on the greenspace area. The ownership of the greenspace will then be transferred to the KEPC. In the negotiations over the KCG the KEPC has been ably supported by Luke Sherlock, Nicky Baber and Sara Lawlor.
- Kemble Airfield – development plans for 2000 houses on the site have gone quiet but they haven't gone away. The KEPC is observing the situation and there will be a meeting with the airfield management soon.
- Road Maintenance – the KEPC has close links with Richard Gray the local Glos Highways manager and has had reasonable success.
- Road Safety – Speedwatch has been re energised and is up and running with signs at the entrance to both settlements. Many thanks to Alistair Wilkinson and Tony Berry.

- Appearance of the settlements – we have a new contractor for the grass cutting. Carol Dougill has started a programme of bulb planting. Thanks to Tom Barrow and his tidy up team continuing to clear the settlements of litter. Tree maintenance – further trimming and planting is taking place along the main road and next to the Clayfurlong bus shelter which has also been renovated.
- New Clerk – the KEPC was sorry to lose Liz Hall and we thank her for her work. We welcome Sarah Broadley as our new clerk. It is good to see newcomers from Top Farm becoming involved in village life. Thanks to Steve Marsh for running the website, to the editors of the Parish News, to Pat Ayres for News Hound and her work on committees and events, to Brian Ayres thanks for tending the war graves, the Village Hall Committee and colleagues on the KEPC.

6. Any other business:

- Andrew Lennard – drew our attention to the fact that Kam and Nutan (sp ?) Chudasama now own the village shop and PO. It is good for the village as the shop has security and can go forward.
- Nicky Baber – asked members of the meeting to volunteer to help with the Neighbourhood Plan. We need village involvement with the process at whatever level you are happy to help. Please contact the Clerk or Eric Silk.
- Marion Gilliland – proposed thanks to the KEPC for or their hard work over the year.

Meeting closed at 9.45.

Minutes taken by L Napper