



Kemble and Ewen Parish Council

Annual Report 2015-16

You are invited to the Annual Public
Parish Meeting

Friday 6 May 2016 at 7.30pm

in Kemble Village Hall

This report is a summary of the Parish Council's activities over the last year.
We aim to deliver a copy to households in Kemble, Kemble Wick and Ewen.

It is also available to view at www.kemble.co.uk

Agenda for Annual Parish Meeting: Friday 6 May 2016, 7.30pm

- To receive apologies for absence
- To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Friday 1 May 2015
- Matters arising and public Q&A
- Speakers to include: -
Tony Berry, District Councillor;
Shaun Parsons, County Councillor;
Paul Waldron, Neighbourhood Watch
- Address: Roger Pettit – Chairman, Kemble and Ewen Parish Council
- Finance - a brief summary of the past 12 months
- Any other business

Chairman's Address

It would seem reasonable to suppose that a modestly sized rural patch such as ours, with a population of less than one thousand, would be of gentle pace, quiet and with very little happening to disturb the peace. In fact, once again in the pages of our annual report it can be readily seen that this is far from the case. Planning applications abound, the airfield with both current activities and development prospects, the main line station, commuter parking, the state of the roads, together with a range of other issues conspire to keep us busy. We would not wish it any other way.

The point is that there is so much happening which affects and influences the nature and future of our chosen place of residence that you really cannot be short of a point of view on at least one of these items, if not several, and quite possibly on some which have not been mentioned. Our Annual Parish Meeting is the opportunity to hear the latest from our County and District Councillors, hold them to account should you feel so disposed.

Equally important is to grasp this opportunity to let us all know your thoughts, wishes and aspirations for our villages. Is there an idea or a proposal niggling away at the back of your mind which could benefit from an airing? It is the contributions from our residents that set the agenda for action so come along and let us know your wishes.

Alternatively, should you simply wish to listen to the reports and hear the views of others then you are equally welcome. I do hope you can join us and look forward to seeing you on 6 May.

Roger Pettit, Chairman, Kemble & Ewen Parish Council - April 2016

Summary of the year's activities to 31 March 2016

Our nine parish councillors represent the electorate of Kemble and Ewen across a variety of topics and issues. Discussions in council meetings are often lively and occasionally controversial. Each councillor has an area of 'special interest', such as local policing, the play area, the cemetery, financial matters, highways, planning, footpaths, and so on.

Residents are welcome to contact councillors about local issues – details of how to reach us are on the back page.

Planning

The Parish Council has again responded to numerous planning applications this year, (including extensions, tree orders; listed building consents and multiple applications for the same premises). The vast majority of these are supported, though account is taken of residents' views where possible, and some are objected to.

The development at the Top Farm site is progressing at a pace. The site was to be renamed as *Phillips Lea*, in reference to the Phillips family who once owned the farm. However, after consultation it has been agreed with CDC to keep the name as Top Farm. Houses on West Lane will be numbered or named as West Lane with the remaining houses to be numbered as Top Farm.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Council has agreed to progress with

the development of a Neighbourhood Plan for Kemble and Ewen. These plans define preferred development in not just housing, but other services and characteristics, such as recreation, transport and facilities. It is important to stress that this does not empower the PC or residents to prevent future development, but it does describe what is preferred in the way of styles and designs. And Kemble does most certainly have its own style, distinct from other Cotswold locations.

We are looking for volunteers to assist with this project. Please contact Eric Silk if you'd be interested in being part of a working group.

Highways and Parking

After many months of anticipation, in March, CDC Planning Committee gave the go ahead to the general principle of a new station car park. First Great Western need to finalise their financial approval process, the intention being to complete this early in the new financial year. If all goes well, then construction can start, with a planned completion of works by October this year.

With construction of the new car park a parking control scheme can be introduced for the village. A process of public consultation must be completed before a scheme can be finalised and introduced.

Potholes, and their inadequate repair, remain the source of many complaints. GCC have allocated Kemble an allowance for completion of road repairs in the village. A start was made in early April on the road in Ewen to Kemble.

Our focus in discussions with GCC, will continue to be the main road, the A429, but also Windmill Road towards the station and beyond, Church Road and for the road from Smerrill to be finished.

Cemetery

We remain aware that additional cemetery space remains a long-term issue without an obvious solution, and tentative enquiries of landowners continue to be made.

Kemble Airfield / Cotswold Airport

We are continuing to host quarterly meetings with the airport, CDC and neighbouring parishes. Commercial Estates Group (CEG), a development company, put forward a general proposal for development early last year. You may recall an open day for the public, held at the school. Here plans could be seen and any comments made. All the local parishes expressed unease about the scheme and agreement was reached to enable Parish Councils to review any future consultation documents in advance. There has been little heard from CEG since, but we expect further proposals.

Kemble Community Gardens

The lease on the site was due to expire in April this year. However, the Parish Council have managed to extend the lease on a year by year basis. This means that allotment holders can look forward to working their plots this year and hopefully into the future. We are pleased to see that the proposed Kemble

Settlement Plan has the site designated for mixed housing and local green space allocation. The Parish Council remains a strong supporter of the Gardens. We will endeavour to ensure that any development will be minimal and sits well in the site.

Policing and neighbourhood watch

The Neighbourhood Watch scheme maintained its good work in 2015, and we were pleased to see a further reduction in crime across the area. We continue to support NW initiatives when required, and urge residents to remain vigilant and to safeguard their property and possessions. The Police have been very supportive of the parish's drive to reduce opportunities for crime, and will always provide advice to individual households if required. They also provide a wide range of security equipment from their shop in Cirencester Police station, at cost prices.

The Railway station

The footbridge has been closed for many months now whilst it undergoes restoration and repair to guttering, damaged stonework, rotten windows and woodwork. Network Rail who own the water tower, are looking to assess its condition and repaint when funds allow.

Community

St John's Ambulance has been booked to give First Aid training in the village on Saturday 25th June. There will be a drug awareness course starting in May. Look out for posters.

Following our next meeting, the Parish Council will be distributing the Kemble Community Grant.

We are pleased to help the village support HM The Queen's birthday celebrations with the purchase of mugs and coins for children in the parish.

Bike racks have been installed (without cost to the parish) at the shop and outside the Village Hall.

The playground has had some of its equipment updated.

Village Appearance

The village signs were cleaned last year and there was a litter 'pick up for the Queen'. New litter and dog poo bins will be installed this year to help keep litter to a minimum.

Grass cutting throughout the parish makes up around 17% of our costs but is essential to keep the village looking its best. This year we have planted over 20 trees on along the main road and plan to plant bulbs for a display next spring.

The old railway bridge on Station Road has been listed by Historic England.

People

Nikki Baber became a Councillor in May, to take us to our full complement of nine councillors. We warmly welcome her to the Council.

With Duncan Cooper leaving us early last year we were without a Playground Orderly, until recently when John Aylett was taken on.

Our Clerk Nick Spindler left us in August after three and a half years in the role. Liz Hall took over from September.

Tony Berry was elected as our District Councillor in May and regularly joins us in committee meetings and is invaluable as our man inside CDC.

Special thanks to...

Steve Marsh who runs the village website www.kemble.co.uk; the Parish News volunteer editors; Pat Ayres for her communications on many matters; Brian Ayres for maintaining the war graves; our various contractors and suppliers; the Village Hall committee and all those many others who volunteer to give their time free of charge to run and support community activities. And last, but by no means least, our parish councillors themselves

Financial Summary

The council's main source of income is the local council tax, known as the precept. The Precept was £20,000 for the year ending 31 March 2016 and was unchanged from last year. For a typical Band D property, this equated to £42.90 per year, or less than 12p per day.

Payments (for year ending 31 March 2016)

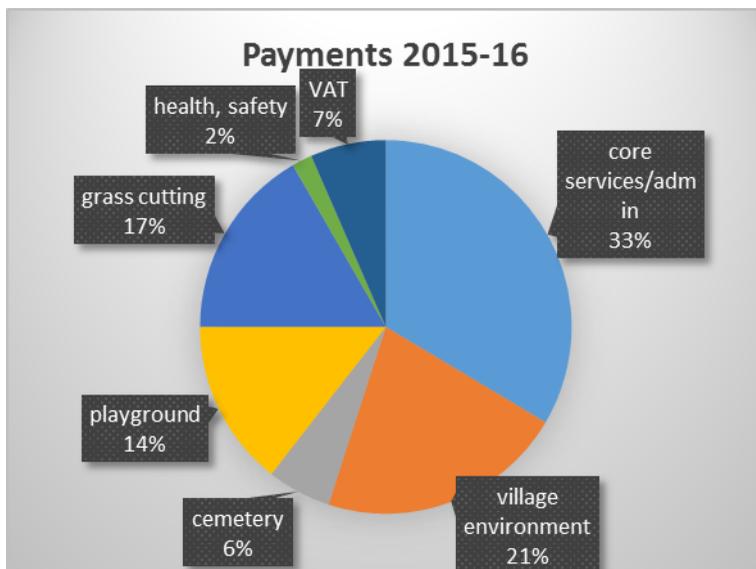
core services/admin	£8,644
village environment	£5,530
cemetery	£1,436
playground	£3,718
grass cutting	£4,295
health, safety	£452
VAT	£1,698

Payments £25,771

Receipts (for year ending 31 March 2016)

precept	£20,000
VAT refund	£2,906
agency and cemetery	£1,505
interest	£19
misc	£25

Receipts £24,454



Finance commentary:

About one third of each year's expenses are spent on 'Core services' such as insurance, wages and salaries, training, stationery & printing, playground inspections, professional accounting/audit fees, village hall hire, PAYE and subscriptions. The remainder is used within the village to provide the services and environment that make Kemble a village to enjoy living in. We ideally keep around 3 to 6 months' precept in reserve for contingencies.

Audit

The Parish Council pays for independent internal and external audits each year, to ensure it is following correct procedures for authorising payments, record keeping, and reporting its finances. A copy of the audited accounts will be available from the Parish Clerk following the completion of the external audit in July 2016. Any resident may look at the Parish Council's unaudited accounts throughout the year by asking the Clerk.

Kemble and Ewen Parish Councillors

Roger Pettit (Chairman)	01285 770133
David Ball (Vice Chairman)	07827 885882
Nicky Baber	07956 629147
Michael Binks	01285 770114
George Collins	01285 770698
Carol Dougill	01285 770909
Lester Napper	07977 910605
Eric Silk	01285 770979
Sohrab Sorabjee	01285 770515
Liz Hall (Parish Clerk)	01285 770510

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are usually held on Friday evenings, ten times a year, in Kemble Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. Dates are shown on the Parish noticeboard and on the village website. Agenda and Minutes are also displayed on village noticeboards and the website.

Any resident is welcome to come along to any of these meetings. There is time at the start of each meeting where you can raise issues, ask for advice, or ask questions.

How to contact us

Use the Contact section of the Village website www.kemble.co.uk

Email the Clerk: kpcclerk@kemble.co.uk

Come to a meeting

Phone a councillor (numbers above)

Write to us c/o Kemblewood House, Church Road, Kemble, GL7 6AA