



Kemble and Ewen Parish Council

Annual Report 2011-12

You are warmly invited to the
Annual Parish Meeting

Friday 11 May 2012 at 7pm in
Kemble Village Hall

*This is a summary of the Parish Council's activities over the last year.
We aim to deliver a copy to every household in Kemble, Kemble Wick
and Ewen, and it is also available to view at www.kemble.co.uk.*

Agenda for Annual Parish Meeting: 11 May 2012, 7.00pm

- AGM for the Village Hall committee (until approx. 7.15pm)
- To receive apologies for absence
- To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Friday 6 May 2011*
- To report on any matters arising from the minutes
- Speakers:-
 - Chris Connors — Head Teacher, Kemble Primary School
 - John Birch – District Councillor, Thames Head Ward
 - Roger Pettit – Chairman, Kemble and Ewen Parish Council
- Finance - a summary of the past 12 months
- Any other business

** A copy of last year's minutes can be seen on our website: www.kemble.co.uk*

Chairman's Address

This report sets out the details of our activities and progress over the last year and I am firstly pleased to say that once again we have held our budget down at the previous year's level. The Top Farm development proposal remains dominant in the planning category and has proved highly contentious, provoking a substantial postbag and excellent attendance at the special public meetings held in 2011. The proposal has certainly created much activity and perhaps perversely performed a service in causing us to evaluate the many plus points of our village environment so easily taken for granted day to day; also drawing many residents together in a common cause. We shall discuss this and report the latest position at the Annual Meeting.

Despite this major distraction I can say that normal services have been maintained with continuing good progress on our project schedule. We shall also report on this at the meeting and you are warmly invited to take the opportunity to let us know your thoughts on all aspects of Council business - your chance to give a public airing to anything you may have on your mind.

I look forward to seeing you on 11th May.

Roger Pettit, Chairman, Kemble & Ewen Parish Council, April 2012

Summary of the year's activities 2011-2012

The parish councillors represent the electorate of Kemble and Ewen across a wide range 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, churchyard, highways, planning, etc.

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

Finance

The council's main source of income is the local council tax, known as 'the precept'. The Precept was £18,000 in the year ending 31 March 2012, and it will stay the same this coming year (2012-2013). This will be the sixth year in a row that the level of the precept has remained the same - so your council is always trying to achieve more with less. For a typical Band D property, this equates to £38.49, or less than 11p per day.

The budgets of the Cotswold District Council and Gloucestershire County Council will probably continue to be under pressure for the next few years. This will inevitably reduce some of the services they provide on our behalf to Kemble and Ewen – particularly services such as the mobile library, road repairs, verges, pavements, lighting and possibly the community police officers.

Planning

The Parish Council has again responded to numerous planning applications this year, (including tree orders; listed building consent and multiple applications for the same premises).

However the greatest amount of time has been spent on the significant application concerning Top Farm, Kemble. This has been changing throughout the year, and now proposes 50 new dwellings, half of which are to be designated "affordable". The Council is currently planning its input to the appeal process. There is also on-going contact with Wiltshire Council about the long-term non-flying activities at Kemble Airfield, now known as Cotswold Airport. This will also impact on our local environment and will require careful consideration.

Highways

A new flashing speed limit sign has been installed on the A429 near Clayfurlong Barns although there is still some worrying overtaking occasionally seen in the 40mph zone. We have had a presentation from the Speed Watch team and have joined the waiting list for training. Volunteers will be needed. We hope to be an early adopter and would expect the focus for attention to be the A429, especially near the pedestrian crossing, as well as the School area, and through Ewen.

Following limited success previously at controlling parking around the station, we have this year managed to introduce

white lines in Station Road and Windmill Road to highlight preferred parking places. Initial reports are encouraging, though there has also been some unwelcome 'displacement' into side roads. At the same time we are discussing increasing capacity at the Station car park with the railway authorities as part of the track-redoubling scheme.

Windmill Road

The new Jubilee bus shelter was erected earlier in 2012, and has attracted approval both locally and from a neighbouring parish. Following the introduction of the parking lay-by last year this is a second step in the Windmill Road improvement scheme. Further landscaping and other improvements are planned for the coming year in line with the original consultation with residents. There is still an issue with thoughtless parking and driving over the verge, which causes damage to the grass and pavement.

Cemetery

The search for additional cemetery space remains a long-term issue without an obvious solution.

Kemble Airfield / Cotswold Airport

The airport has applied to Wiltshire Council for a Voluntary undertaking to reduce some non-consented activities as a trade for securing consent for others. This application remains at an early stage and the Parish Council, along with neighbouring Councils, expects to be meeting with Wiltshire Council for

preliminary discussions shortly. As a result of a series of concerns expressed by residents (particularly about noise and aircraft over-flights), the parish council, (and several of the other parishes which border the airfield) has set up a quick reporting system for anyone who wishes to make a comment or complaint about Cotswold Airport. There are two ways you can **anonymously** pass on any concerns:

1. Calling the following number and leaving a message: **01285 649670**
2. Filling out the form on the Kemble web site www.kemble.co.uk under the Parish Council tab

If you don't want to leave an anonymous message, residents can of course continue to raise matters with any of the parish Councillors or the parish Clerk, by emailing:- kpccclerk@kemble.co.uk or by contacting the CDC team or Cotswold Airport itself

Kemble Community Gardens

The Parish Council has renewed the lease for two years, though the CDC has retained the right to use the land for its own purposes, to allow time for discussions about the possible purchase of the site to ensure long-term security for the successful Community Gardens project. Prospects of success with this are not especially good but every effort will be made.

Policing and neighbourhood watch

The neighbourhood watch scheme is particularly important at the moment. Rising oil prices and uncertain incomes are likely to have triggered burglaries in Cirencester and nearby villages over recent months. The Parish Council continues to strongly support the scheme and is pleased that to note a good activity level and healthy volunteer membership.

Youth Club

The Youth Club has had another successful year and as a result needs more adult helpers. The Parish Council continues to support the work of the Youth Club team, and wishes them success over the coming year.

Ewen electricity sub station

With the long awaited work imminent in recent weeks, a technical problem over land ownership has delayed matters once again, though we are hopeful it will be concluded this year.

Village Assets

In addition to the new Jubilee bus shelter in Windmill Road, the Ewen bus shelter has been refurbished recently with a new hardstanding, guttering and other general maintenance work to greatly improve convenience and appearance. Also this year the Cemetery Lych Gate, a treasured feature of Kemble, has been completely refurbished and restored to its full glory.

Community Fund

This year the fund awarded grants as follows:-

Kemble Garden Club £200; Kemble & Ewen Junior Choir £100, Kemble Spring Music Festival £150; Kemble & Ewen WI £200; Little Fishes £100; and for Royal Wedding celebrations £250.

People

We have a vacancy for a 9th Councillor.

We had a change of Parish Clerk this year, as Fiona Garnett-Lawson stepped down in September 2011. Nick Spindler joined the Council in November 2011.

Other

Two additional new dog-refuse bins have been installed, one on the Thames Path in Ewen, the other near the Community Gardens entrance in Kemble. A new Parish Council notice board, locally constructed, has been installed adjacent to the village shop and Post Office.

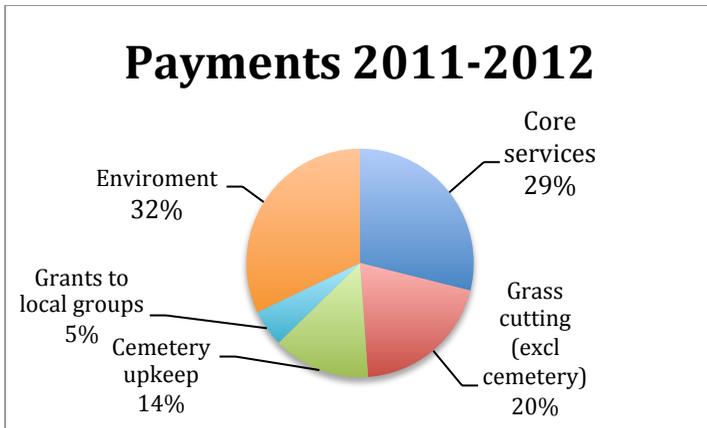
Special thanks to:

Steve Marsh who runs the village website www.kemble.co.uk; the Parish News editors and Pat Ayres for communications; the Village Hall committee and all those many others who selflessly volunteer to give their time free of charge to run community groups in Kemble and Ewen, including the parish councillors.

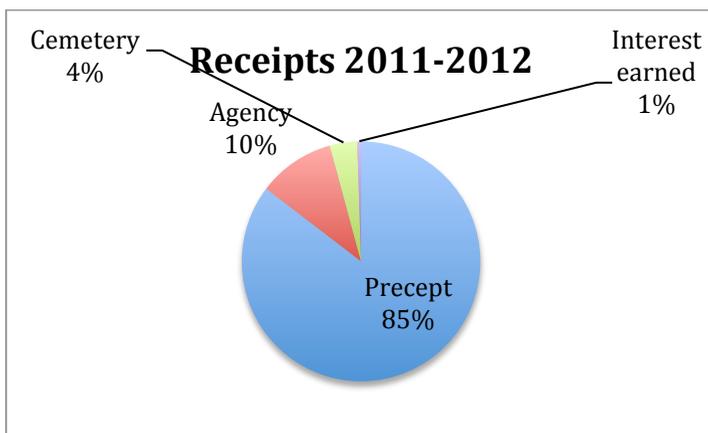
Financial Summary

Any resident may look at the Parish Council's unaudited accounts by asking the Clerk. A copy of the audited accounts will be available from the Parish Clerk following the completion of the external audit in July 2012.

Payments (year ending 31 March 2012)	£
Core services	5537
Grass cutting (excl. cemetery)	3875
Cemetery upkeep	2650
Grants to local groups	1000
Environment	6150
Miscellaneous	0
Section 137	0
TOTAL	19,212



Receipts (year ending 31 March 2012)	£
Precept	18000
Agency	2194
Cemetery	785
Interest earned	108
TOTAL	21,087



Finance commentary:

We have to keep £4,000 in hand for ‘contingencies’.

The main item of expenditure under ‘environment’ was the Jubilee bus shelter at c. £4,500. ‘Agency’ receipts included £1350 from Ecovision.

‘Core services’ includes: insurance, wages, training, stationery, inspections, professional accounting/audit fees, village hall rent, and subscriptions. Due to the timing of the last meeting of the business year, there was c £3,300 of un-presented cheques for expenditure incurred late in the 2011-12 period.

Kemble and Ewen Parish Councillors

Roger Pettit: Chairman	01285 770133
David Ball: Vice Chairman	07973 500854
Michael Binks	01285 770495
George Collins	01285 770698
Amy Dyke	07870 395845
Lester Napper	07977 910605
Gabi Somerville	07900 907685
Sohrab Sorabjee	01285 770515
Nick Spindler: Parish Clerk	01285 771332

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are usually held on Friday evenings, roughly every 6 weeks, in Kemble Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

The dates for the rest of 2012 are:

- 25 May 2012 (Parish Council AGM)
- June – no meeting
- 6 July 2012
- 14 September 2012
- 12 October 2012
- 30 November 2012
- December – no meeting

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

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

Write to us c/o 18 Old Manor Gardens, Kemble, GL7 6FF