



Kemble and Ewen Parish Council

Annual Report 2012-13

You are warmly invited to the Annual
Parish Meeting

Friday 3 May 2013 at 7.30pm 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: 3 May 2013, 7.30pm

- AGM for the Village Hall committee
- To receive apologies for absence
- To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Friday 11 May 2012
- To report on any matters arising from the minutes
- Speakers to include:-
 - Andrew McIntyre – Chair of Kemble Primary School Governors
 - Shaun Parsons – County Councillor
 - 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

Chairman's Address

It's been a busy year. The council's workload over the last year has been exceptional with additional workload driven by representing residents' best interests on planning applications both for the development of Top Farm and the regularisation of various activities at the airport, restoration of the dual rail line to Swindon, increasing car parking capacity at the station, managing commuter car parking in the village, encouraging improvements to the station buildings and garden, not to mention flooding problems following the wet weather.

Details of all this are included on the following pages. Along with the normal routine, most of this work has been handled directly by our Councillors although some specialist help was necessary on the planning matters.

The Annual Parish Meeting is your opportunity to review events and more importantly, to let us know your wishes for the future and give a public airing to anything you may have on your mind.

I do hope you can join us and I look forward to seeing you on 3 May.

Roger Pettit, Chairman, Kemble & Ewen Parish Council, April 2013

Summary of the year's activities 2012-2013

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, cemetery, 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 2013, and it will increase for the first time in many years to £20,000 for 2013-14. For a typical Band D property, this equates to £38.49 per year, or less than 11p per day.

The budgets of the Cotswold District Council (CDC) and Gloucestershire County Council continue to be under pressure although the CDC has made savings by working jointly with other councils. You have probably noticed an impact on some of the services they provide on our behalf to Kemble and Ewen – particularly matters such as road repairs and cleaning, maintenance of drains, pavements, and lighting.

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, once again, the greatest amount of time has been spent on the significant application concerning Top Farm, Kemble. This culminated in a planning inquiry late in 2012 where the inspector determined that the proposed development was sustainable, despite the overwhelming majority of residents being in opposition. It could be many months before any detailed development is brought forward, and there will once again be a chance to respond to plans and designs once that point is reached.

Highways and Parking

We have had a lower than hoped for interest from potential Speed Watch volunteers, a minimum of six being needed for training before being allowed out with the equipment to monitor and record speeds. We expect the focus for attention to be the A429, especially near the pedestrian crossing, as well as the School area, and through Ewen, as these are the most often mentioned as of concern.

Car parking as a consequence of station overflow or the opportunity to park for 24 hours or longer without paying, led to a peak of complaints, particularly from residents of Windmill Road, Station Road and adjoining roads. Driveways blocked, abuse from drivers, and dangerous parking near junctions and the shop have provoked outcry. Our first action was to secure support from our local MP and District Councillor to press for an increase in station car parking capacity. Following a joint meeting we were pleased to agree

plans for an increased capacity of around 42 spaces at the Station car park as part of the track-redoubling scheme. Next, we followed up with Glos Highways to introduce parking bays in the worst affected roads near the station. These were intended to reduce hazards and introduce a degree of discipline into parking arrangements. However, although this scheme has generally benefitted the position, it has not eliminated complaints. In consequence we have since had several meetings with Glos Highways, District Councillors and local Police about introducing a restricted parking regime. Currently, this has to await the new station parking spaces coming into use, and the plan is to nominate a one-hour slot each weekday during which street parking is banned – the aim being to leave residents as free as possible to park conveniently, while deterring long-term commuter parking. It seems possible to do this without intrusive yellow lining, by using a no parking zone (similar to that used in parts of Cirencester town centre). This arrangement is unusual in a village such as ours and will need detailed consultation and advance notification. We are following the guidance of Glos Highways on procedure and hope to have a scheme in place fairly soon. We are grateful to the many residents who responded to our appeal for their feedback.

Cemetery

We remain aware that additional cemetery space remains a long-term

issue without an obvious solution.

Kemble Airfield / Cotswold Airport

The airport applied to Wiltshire Council both for a Voluntary undertaking to reduce some non-consented activities as a trade for securing consent for others and for a Certificate of Lawful Use for General Aviation. The Council spent considerable time and money on legal advice to present the strongest possible case to Wiltshire Council on the long-term activities at Kemble Airfield, now known as Cotswold Airport. Due to the impact on our local environment we were committed to agreeing a reduction in activities likely to cause annoyance and concern. We are delighted to have achieved a reasonable outcome, while ensuring the airport business can continue to thrive.

Kemble Community Gardens

The Parish Council renewed the lease for two years until early 2014 - although the CDC has retained the right to use the land for its own purposes - as this will allow time for discussions about the possible purchase of the site to ensure long-term security for the popular and successful Community Gardens. 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, with a recent unwelcome outbreak of property thefts and attempted break-ins.

Fortunately, we can set this against lower recorded crime statistics, which show a drop of 24%.

Youth Club

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

The long awaited work to pass cables underground and move the substation has been completed.

The Railway station

The opportunity of regular meetings with Network Rail and First Great Western consequent on the track re-doubling project has been seized upon to draw attention to long overdue maintenance of our attractive, historic and listed railway station. New toilet facilities are almost completed, as is restoration of the station garden by the Royal Agricultural College (with special acknowledgement to Dawn Adams, Garden Designer, who initially drew our attention to this feature).

In addition, budget provision for next year has been sought for restoration of the footbridge, repairs to guttering and damaged stonework, and replacement of rotten windows and woodwork.

We are now pressing for restoration of the water tower, which is also listed.

Village Assets

To complete the new Jubilee bus shelter in Windmill Road, a new oak post for the timetable was installed, and the Ewen bus shelter was refurbished with a new hard standing, guttering and noticeboard. A new aerial 'zip wire' was installed in Windmill Park using the remaining monies from the development off Station Road, now known as Old Manor Gardens.

Community Fund

This year the fund awarded the following grants to local groups:-

Kemble & District
Royal British Legion £150

Open The Book £150

Kemble Spring Music Festival £200

Neighbourhood Watch £125

Kemble & Ewen Craft Group £100

Code of Conduct

Following the introduction of the Localism Act 2011, we adopted the CDC's revised Code of Conduct. This means that all Councillors are bound by the same standards as those applying at District level.

People

Our ninth councillor, Eric Silk, was co-opted in November after a selection process and presentations from three candidates. Graeme Reay was our village orderly until December, and David Dyke now carries out this vital job. Our warm thanks go to Graeme for his past service.

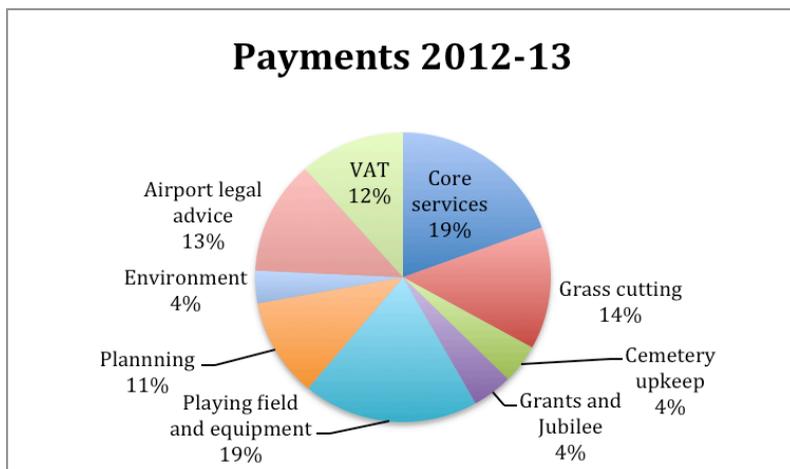
Special thanks to:

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 volunteer to give their time free of charge to run community groups in Kemble and Ewen, including the parish councillors.

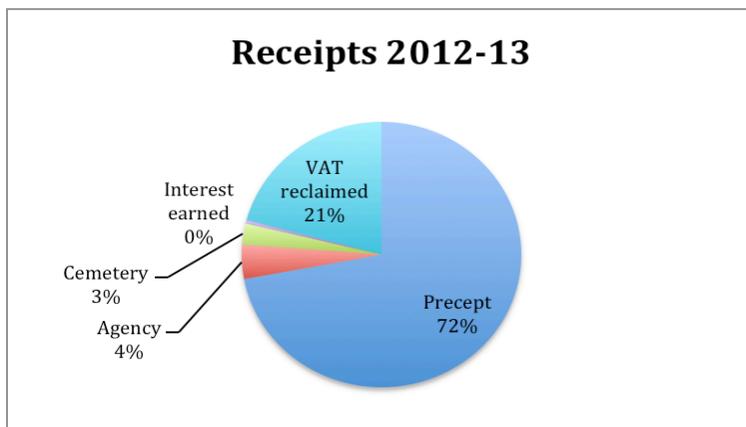
Financial Summary

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 2013.

Payments (year ending 31 March 2013)	£
Core services	6,041
Grass cutting (excl. cemetery)	4,245
Cemetery upkeep	1,352
Grants and Jubilee	1,377
Environment	1,130
Playing field and equipment	5,987
Planning (inc. Top Farm)	3,421
Airport legal advice	3,951
VAT	3,595
TOTAL	31,099



Receipts (year ending 31 March 2013)	£
Precept	18,000
Agency	1,044
Cemetery	641
Interest earned	106
VAT reclaimed	5,195
TOTAL	24,986



Finance commentary:

We have to keep around 3 months' precept in hand for 'contingencies'.

One off items include legal advice for the Cotswold Airport planning applications, and a specialist report for the Top Farm planning inquiry.

The main item of expenditure under 'Playing field' was the new aerial runway "zip wire", from the remaining S.106 monies from the development now known as Old Manor Gardens, off Station Road. 'Core services' includes: insurance, wages and salaries, training, stationery & printing, RoSPA inspections, professional accounting/audit fees, village hall rent, and subscriptions.

Kemble and Ewen Parish Councillors

Roger Pettit (Chairman)	01285 770133
David Ball (Vice Chairman)	07973 500584
Michael Binks	01285 770495
George Collins	01285 770698
Amy Dyke	07870 709967
Lester Napper	07977 910605
Eric Silk	01285 770979
Gabi Somerville	07900 907685
Sohrab Sorabjee	01285 770515
Nick Spindler (Parish Clerk)	07801 472495

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are usually held on Friday evenings, roughly every 6 weeks, in Kemble Village Hall starting at 7.30pm. Dates are shown on the noticeboards in each village and on the village website.

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: kpccclerk@kemble.co.uk

Come to a meeting

Phone a councillor

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