



Kemble and Ewen Parish Council

Annual Report 2016-17

You are invited to the Annual Public
Parish Meeting

Friday 5 May 2017 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 5 May 2017, 7.30pm

- To receive apologies for absence
- To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Friday 6 May 2016
- Matters arising and public Q&A
- Speakers to include: -Tony Berry, District Councillor; Shaun Parsons, County Councillor; a representative from Bathurst Estates.
- Address: Roger Pettit – Chairman, Kemble and Ewen Parish Council
- Finance – summary of the past 12 months
- Any other business

Chairman's Address

Spring is in the air and, in the time-honoured manner, here for your information is our Annual Report.

As you will see in the report it has been another busy year. By way of illustration, planning applications have increased by almost 60% over the last four years from 52 in 2012 to 82 in 2016. The special nature of our locality with both the railway station and the airport on the patch mean that our Parish should certainly qualify for the description highly active.

As is usual, my point is that our Annual Public Meeting is the opportunity for residents to make their views known, be they positive, negative, complimentary, critical or aspirational. Thinking about aspiration the opportunity to express your views is particularly significant this year because we are now setting about the production of a Neighbourhood Plan which will seek to define the future nature of our villages. The question is should there be development, if so how much and where, what do we wish to protect among the existing features and what do we want to see by way of additional facilities. It is important that this planning process is democratic and represents the wishes of the majority. The process will be handled by a group of volunteers who will be pleased to know your thoughts. You may decide you would like to join the team in which case you would be very welcome.

The Annual Meeting is a good place to table your thoughts. Alternatively, you may wish only to listen to the reports and the views of others. Either way, you are very welcome. I hope we can look forward to seeing you on 5th May.

Roger Pettit, Chairman, Kemble & Ewen Parish Council - April 2017

Summary of the year's activities to 31 March 2017

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 responded to over 80 planning applications this year, including extensions, new builds, listed building consents, tree orders and appeals. Applications are carefully considered in terms of location, appearance, effect on neighbouring properties and are discussed at parish meetings which residents are welcome to attend. Decisions are recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Neighbourhood Plan

Following agreement by the Council to progress with the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP), a Steering Group has now been established. The group held its inaugural meeting on 2nd March 2017.

The NDP will be developed over the coming 2 years and will capture the preferences of residents in term of

Housing, Facilities, Infrastructure, Environment, Economy and Tourism. It should be emphasised that the Neighbourhood Development Plan does not necessarily constrain development and will need to align with the District Councils Local Plan to be approved. However, the advantage of having an NDP is that by law it must be considered as part of any future local planning and puts a greater levy on developers who build here.

The Group is now up and running but there is a lot to do in the coming months so any further offers of assistance would be most welcome. To get in touch please contact the steering group at ndp@kemble.co.uk.

Highways and Parking

The Parish Council meet regularly with Highways at GCC to discuss matters concerning our roads and footpaths, the source of many complaints. After much pressure over a substantial timeframe the A429 has finally been resurfaced. Potholes in other roads were repaired but have subsequently developed more holes so further discussion is needed.

Construction of the new car park is nearing completion. However due to planning restrictions, a parking control scheme for the village has be introduced before the new car park can open. The process of public consultation which must be completed before a scheme is introduced is underway and residents are urged to take part.

Kemble Airfield / Cotswold Airport

We are continuing to host occasional meetings with the airport, CDC and neighbouring parishes. You may recall that Commercial Estates Group (CEG), a development company, put forward a general proposal for development last year. There has been little heard from them since, but they are still looking at planning opportunities in the area.

Just over the county border, a planning application has been approved by Wiltshire Council to provide new storage and office space and alter the vehicular access off the A429 to Kemble Enterprise Park. A roundabout is to be built to replace the current access road junction.

Protection of Conservation Areas and Landscape

A professional review and update of the Conservation Area Statement was completed to assist in protecting and preserving the important aspects of the area. To help to protect important elements of our local landscape the first draft of a Landscape Statement has been prepared and is now ready for public consultation. Thanks to Martin Kingston for sponsorship of both initiatives.

Kemble Community Gardens

KCGs continues to thrive 10 years on from its inception and we were pleased that CDC has renewed the lease until April 2018. Events are being planned to

celebrate our 10 years, there will be information about these coming soon.

The gardens are open to all villagers and are a great place to unwind, have a walk or a picnic or to let children play in the woodland. The woodland areas have been preserved to enhance the habitat for small animals and birds, and support our own slow worm colony.

KCGs were approached by a Community Gardens group in Monfort de Chalosse in the South of France and are exploring the possibility of running an exchange programme, an exciting opportunity to share ideas and experiences.

Policing and neighbourhood watch

The Neighbourhood Watch scheme maintained its good work in 2016 and we were pleased to see a further reduction in crime across the area. However, we 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.

As the village grows, the neighbourhood watch team could do with more volunteers to help out. If you would be interested, or would just like to be added to the "watchword" email warning system, please contact Paul Waldron at pgw_maytree@hotmail.com or Tel: 770242 for more information.

Community

The Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations, organised by Pat Ayres and enjoyed by many villagers were supported by the parish council who added to monies raised and provided commemorative gifts to schoolchildren.

Community Grants have been given to Little Fishes Group, Open the Book (who work with the school), Kemble and Ewen WI and Kemble Royal British Legion and Kemble Archives.

The St Johns First aid course took place in June with fourteen parishioners on the course.

Village Appearance

A large proportion of the budget is spent on keeping the village looking it's best. In addition to regular grass mowing, again we have bought and planted new trees in the village, including along the A429 and West Green, where we have installed two picnic benches.

Litter is always a problem and it is hoped the purchase of seven new litter and dog poo bins will help reduce this. Thanks to Tom Barrow for his success with the Clean for the Queen competition and ongoing project which we hope will be an inspiration to keep Kemble tidy. The parish council regularly carry out repairs to

village assets such as the playground, gates and bus shelters.

People

Over the year, we have had a lot of new people move into the village, many into homes at Top Farm. We wish them all a warm welcome.

John Aylett joined us as Playground Orderly, carrying out regular checks on Windmill Park play areas. However, his 'day job' has become busier and he no longer has time to spare. We thank him for his contribution to the Parish and wish him well. We are seeking a replacement, so anyone who can spare an hour a week to inspect the Windmill Park play area and carry out occasional additional works, please contact the Clerk for more details. This is a paid position.

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

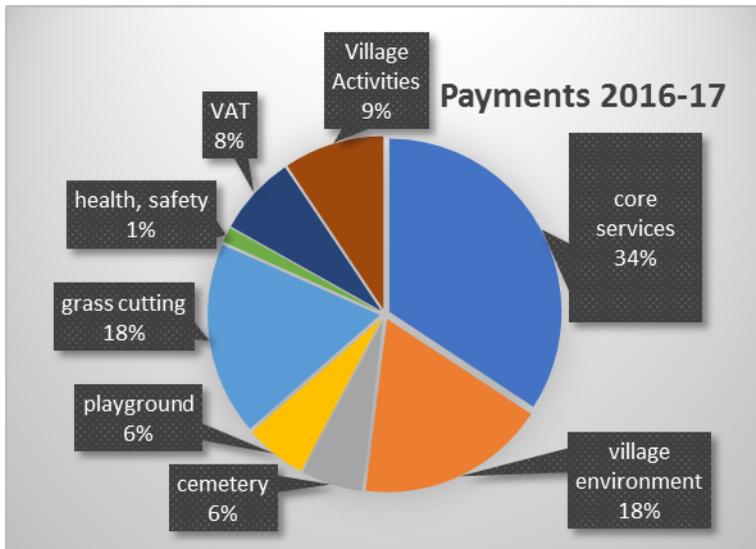
The parish council's main source of income is the local council tax, known as the precept. The precept requested for the year ending 31 March 2017 was £20,000, unchanged from 2015-16. For a typical Band D property, this equated to £42.90 per year, or less than 12p per day. For this year, the Parish Council has asked for £21, 800, an increase of 0.9%. This increase will allow the Parish Council to support projects such as the NDP and the road safety report. The cost for a band D property will increase by 39 pence per year.

Payments (for year ending 31 March 2017)

core services/admin	£8,037
village environment	£4,167
cemetery	£1,359
playground	£1,367
grass cutting	£4,240
health, safety	£335
VAT	£1,756
Village Activities	£2,214
Payments	£23,476

Receipts (for year ending 31 March 2017)

precept	£20,000
VAT refund	£3,672
agency and cemetery	£4,042
interest	£367
Other	£1,079
Receipts	£29,160



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 2017. 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	07545 323280
Lester Napper	07977 910605
Eric Silk	01285 770979
Sohrab Sorabjee	01285 770515
Liz Hall (Parish Clerk)	01285 770510

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are held on Friday evenings, twelve 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 these meetings. There is time allocated 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