



Kemble and Ewen Parish Council

Annual Report 2017-18

You are invited to the Annual Public Parish Meeting

Friday 4 May 2018 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 4 May 2018, 7.30pm

- To receive apologies for absence
- To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Friday 5 May 2017
- Matters arising and public Q&A
- Speakers to include: -Tony Berry, District Councillor; Shaun Parsons, County Councillor; Carol Dougill – Headteacher, Kemble & Siddington Schools.
- Address: Roger Pettit – Chairman, Kemble and Ewen Parish Council
- Any other business

Chairman's Address

We are pleased to provide the Parish Council Annual Report for your information.

Much is reported about the national housing shortage. The District Council Local Plan which sets out proposals to meet the Cotswold's contribution to satisfying demand looks to be nearing finalisation following the Government Inspector's comprehensive review. Three sites in Kemble, about 32 new dwellings, are included in these proposals. From our point of view the objective must be to, as far as possible, accommodate this requirement together with the numerous individual development proposals which flow through the system whilst protecting the essential landscape, historic and architectural characteristics of our village. This is why we are presently grappling with production of a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish. It is essential that this production is through a properly democratic process to represent the views of the majority so if you feel you would like to contribute please let us know.

As is usual, my point is that our Annual Public Meeting is the opportunity for residents to make their views known in person, be they positive, negative, complimentary, critical or aspirational. Both our District and County Councillors will be present together with Parish Councillors so this is a good venue at which to express your views on any issue of local significance. Possible subjects which spring to mind are commuter parking, road maintenance, footpaths, the airport and the protection of trees. You may well have your own issue to pursue. If so, this is your chance to seize the moment.

The Annual Meeting is certainly a good place to table your thoughts. Alternatively, you may wish simply to listen to the reports, the views of others and hear about what is going on. Either way, you are very welcome. I hope we can look forward to seeing you on 4th May.

Roger Pettit, Chairman, Kemble & Ewen Parish Council - April 2018

Summary of the year's activities to 31 March 2018

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 a number of 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.

Protection of Conservation Areas & Landscape

Over recent weeks by courtesy of Martin Kingston and with local contribution from Lester Napper, the village Archaeological Report has been finalised and published. This report, together with the earlier publications of the Conservation Area Appraisal and the Landscape Appraisal will form a valuable backcloth to the

Parish Neighbourhood Plan, collectively produced to help shape the future of the Parish.

The Archaeological Report is an audit of all known archaeological information on Kemble village and the area around it. It includes all published archaeological reports from 1856 till the present, aerial photographs and maps from 1773 to 1921. These and some but not a definitive selection of historical documents have been used to analyse the development of the man-made landscape from the prehistoric to the mid-20th century.

This is not a history of Kemble but does show important elements in the village and the landscape which will help the village make informed planning decisions. This document is now available on the Kemble website

Neighbourhood Plan

It has been decided to appoint a specialist to assist the Parish in the preparation of a Neighbourhood Development Plan. The chosen specialist is Kirkwells who have produced thirty successful Neighbourhood Development Plans. The next meeting is scheduled for early May.

We are still looking for volunteers willing to assist in the project. If you would like to get involved, please contact the Parish Clerk or any member of the Parish Council.

Highways and Parking

The Parish Council continues to meet regularly with Highways Management from GCC. The budget is always tight and our purpose is to ensure that we secure our fair share of expenditure locally. Good work has been done this year on the road from Kemble to Ewen and more recently on Church Road and the junction of the A433 and A429. However, in common with much of the rest of the country, many local roads remain plagued with potholes and repairs achieve no more than temporary relief. Our objective is for a more permanent solution.

The new station car park has been open for several months and is attracting an increasing number of users. Unfortunately it appears that none of these have transferred from village roads, several of which remain choked with commuter vehicles. Despite much pressure from us, the new parking control scheme is long overdue in consequence of a delay on financial settlement between GWR and GCC. Settlement should be imminent so that final public consultation can be completed and the scheme rolled out. Residents are encouraged to participate in this process so that we get a scheme which solves the problem.

An unfortunate accident involving one of our younger residents created a special focus on improving road safety. The Speedwatch team has been re-energised and thanks to the volunteers activity levels in both Kemble and Ewen have increased. New road signs warning that Speedwatch is active have been erected

at all entrances to both villages. Operation of the electronic sign at the top of the hill on the main road is also under review to improve effectiveness particularly in relation to the safety of the pedestrian crossing.

Kemble Airfield / Cotswold Airport

We still co-ordinate occasional meetings between the airport, Cotswold District Council, Wiltshire Council and neighbouring parishes. However, due to the departure of Nick Howard, the airport manager, this has not happened for a while. His replacement, Christian Ackroyd, has now taken up the position and we are due to meet in early May.

The Parish Council has heard nothing more about the development plans mooted in 2015/6.

Kemble Community Gardens

Kemble Community Garden's Committee held its first meeting on the 2nd of February 2008. To celebrate this and to help make the KCG better known to the village there will be a garden party open to all on Sunday 3rd June at 2.30pm.

The KCG, which can be accessed through Old Manor Gardens, is open to all villagers. Apart from giving villagers a great place to unwind, have a walk or let children play, the KCG also aims to conserve wildlife and provide plots for people to grow vegetables. We have a major slow worm colony and provide a habitat for many birds, amphibians and small mammals.

The KCG has been designated as a Green Space in the CDC local Plan, but at the same time it has been proposed that the site will also have 8 houses built on it. The boundary between the two areas has now been drawn and the remaining green space area will be given to the Kemble and Ewen Parish Council.

Policing and Neighbourhood Watch

The Neighbourhood Watch scheme continued to look after the Parish in 2017 and the crime rate in the area have been stable. Vigilance is still urged in order to safeguard property and possessions.

The Neighbourhood Watch team have gained a number of new volunteers, particularly from the new Top Farm development. They are currently looking for new co-ordinators for West Hay and Ewen. If you are interested in this or any other part please contact Paul Waldron, our Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator at pgw_maytree@hotmail.com or Tel. 770242 for more information.

Our police Beat Officer PC Mark Weedon moved to a new position in September 2017, after 4 years. Our new Beat Officer is PC Leah Davis who is based in Tetbury. In February 2018, our long standing PCSO Mike Owen also moved to a new position within the force and his replacement is PCSO Adrien Kapronczai. Both officers have been detailed solely for neighbourhood policing, which should work well for the Parish. We wish them well in their new roles.

Community

Community Grants were this year awarded to Little Fishes, Kemble Thursday Club and the Kemble & Ewen Branch of the Royal British Legion in support of the GP90.

Village Appearance

Visitors to the area and residents are saying how lovely the village looks. We are pleased that our community bulb planting last autumn has now come to fruition with a mix of daffodils, crocus and snowdrops in Kemble and Ewen. Unfortunately some drainage and broadband works have disrupted a few areas, but these should settle next year.

More trees have been planted this year. The Parish Council ensure that diseased or dangerous trees and limbs are removed. Trees causing obstruction to driver visibility have been managed too. Further planting plans are in place so that over the coming years each entrance to the villages will have significant / legacy trees for generations to enjoy.

In addition to our ongoing grass cutting contract we have been cutting back brambles to the drystone walls. Our ongoing problem of litter has once again been lessened by Tom Barrow and conscientious residents. Thank you to everyone who litter picks on a regular basis. The parish council regularly carry out repairs to village assets such as the playground, gates and bus shelters with regular inspections for safety.

If residents see any areas that need attention, please contact the clerk.

People

We would like to welcome Sarah Broadley who has recently joined us at Parish Clerk. Sarah is one of the newer members of our village; she is looking forwards to getting involved in our village. Sarah takes over from Liz Hall, who was Parish Clerk for the last few years. We would like to thank Liz for all her hard work.

Special thanks to...

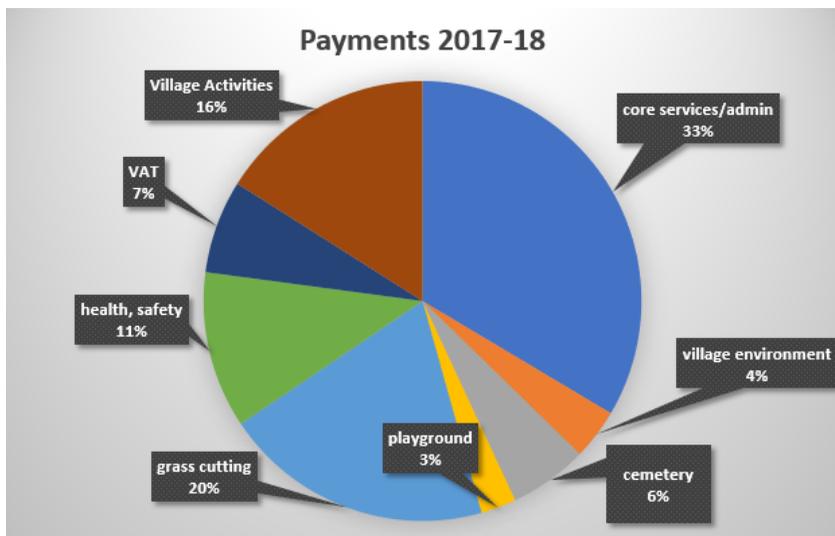
Steve Marsh who runs the village website www.kemble.co.uk; the Parish News volunteer editors; Pat Ayres for her communications on many matters; Brian Ayres for maintaining the war graves; our various contractors and suppliers; the Village Hall committee and all those many others who volunteer to give 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 2018 was £21,800. For a typical Band D property, this equated to £43.29. per year. For this year, the Parish Council has asked for £22, 850, an increase of 1.83%. The cost for a band D property will increase by 79 pence per year.

Payments & Receipts (for year ending 31 March 2018)

Payments		Receipts	
core services/admin	£7,624	precept	£21,800
village environment	£849	agency & cemetery	£2,023
cemetery	£1,316	interest	£74
playground	£595	Grant	£5150
grass cutting	£4,529	Other	£488
health, safety	£2,623		
VAT	£1,559		
Village Activities	£3,649		
Returned grant	£5,150		
Payments	£27,894	Receipts	£29,535



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. This year we applied for a grant for the Neighbourhood development however it was returned as we have now enlisted the services of Kirkwells who will assist us in securing funds next year.

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 2018. 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)	07773 234524
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
Sarah Broadley (Parish Clerk)	01285 770758

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 23 Top Farm, Kemble, GL7 6FA