

Kemble & Ewen Parish Council



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Kemble Village Hall on Friday 22nd April 2005.

Present: Parish Councillor R Pettit, Chairman

Parish Councillor D Ball, Vice Chairman

Parish Councillor S Sorabjee

Parish Councillor G Moreman

Parish Councillor G Collins

In attendance: I Yates, Parish Clerk, plus 20 members of the public.

Speakers: County Councillor S Parsons

Nick Fox, Vice Chairman of School Governors

Mrs Pat Owen, Thursday Group

District Councillor J Birch

Mrs Pat Ayres, MBE

1. **Apologies** were received from Cecil Cleverly, Mark Bainbridge, Chris Yates & PCSO Clive Wilkes.
2. **Minutes** of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Friday 28th May 2004 were approved and signed as a correct record.
3. **Matters arising** from those minutes:
 - 3.1 **Network Rail.** RP reported that work had commenced on the access road. Improvement works were still outstanding at the station & station car park. This would be pursued with Wessex Trains.
 - 3.2 **A429.** RP reported that recent speed checks had been within acceptable limits from the Police point of view & they would not take further action at present. He agreed to follow up with County Highways the suggestion of changing the entrance into West Lane, as a means of slowing traffic turning into the village from the main road.
 - 3.3 **Kemble Airfield.** Points were raised about jets & pleasure aircraft flying directly over the village contrary to CAA Licence advice & that this had been getting more frequent. Concern was also expressed about the proposal to fly 737's from the site. Support for the airfield activity was also expressed by members of the public. RP confirmed that the Airfield Liaison Meetings now gave advanced warnings of future plans & had improved communication. He summarised the Parish Council's position as being generally supportive of the airfield & recognised its need to operate commercially. In conclusion, he asked for respect and consideration from the Airfield for all its neighbours.

4. Reports.

4.1. County Council. County Councillor Shaun Parsons gave his report. He outlined the new planning regime which would give the Regional Assembly control of planning policy. The new Spatial Strategy up to 2016 would allow for major growth in Cheltenham & Gloucester, minor growth in smaller towns but very little elsewhere which he considered damaging to rural communities.

SP mentioned the review of Primary Secondary Schools currently being undertaken at County level. It was his view that Kemble School was large enough not to be under threat but that some smaller village schools in the area may be.

Turning to roads, he reported that he was pushing for the Tetbury Road junction to be sorted out. He also considered more money should be spent on minor road repairs. He proposed that County Highways be invited to meet the Parish Council to raise local issues directly with them, including the suggestion of proper priority control being introduced at the Thames Head Bridge & more prominent weight restriction signs for Ewen.

In response to concerns about vandalism at the station & school, he agreed to contact the Youth Service & put them in touch with the Parish Council.

4.2 District Council. Councillor John Birch commenced his report by remembering Roger Somerville & the unstinting service he had given to the village and surrounding communities over many years.

He outlined the reasons for the 3.5 % increase in Council Tax this year, an increase which would be maintained over the next 3 to 4 years. Highlights from the last year included the reopening of the Corinium Museum & work starting on the new leisure centre, which would be opening in spring 2006. He mentioned that the Airfield Liaison Meetings were working well and improving communication.

Concern was expressed by the meeting about the large increase in parking fees in Cirencester. JB noted the concerns. He explained the problems in trying to balance the budget, and that increasing parking fees was the only option. He agreed to feed back to the District Council a request for season tickets to be transferable between all town centre car parks.

4.3 Parish Council. RP began his report by remembering Roger Somerville & the contribution he had made to the parish. Roger had been the longest serving councillor by some considerable way & he would be sadly missed.

RP stated that it had been a busy year, with over 40 planning applications being considered by the councillors. He mentioned that through Councillor Ball's efforts, the grass cutters were keeping the verges & the cemetery in good order. He was pleased that, through new Community Fund, the council had been able to help the Thursday Group & Kemble Rangers. He highlighted the efforts the councillors had made to keep in touch with the parish over the last year, which included the quarterly newsletters, the new web site & the stall at the village fete.

Turning to the Bledisloe Cup & Calor competitions, he was pleased that the villages would be taking part this year as it was a great opportunity for further increasing community spirit. He thanked Mark Bainbridge for all the work he was putting into preparing the entries & asked everyone to continue to give him their support.

Regarding the plans for the village hall, he said that he hoped to table proposals within the next few weeks. The views of all residents would be sought.

In conclusion, he thanked the Clerk and all the councillors for their hard work. He also thanked the following for their contributions to the community over the last 12 months: Penny Wheeler for the Parish Magazine, Pat Ayres for the Newshound column; Christian Brann for the new information booklet; June Woodley & Brian Robbins for keeping the village tidy; David Stothard for his work over many years maintaining paths & stiles; Kate Lawlor for KAP; Brian Ayres for looking after the War Graves; Everett Austin for maintaining the War Memorial, & finally Sue Burge for all her work with Neighbourhood Watch.

4.4 School Report. Nick Fox remembered the contribution Roger Somerville had made as a governor & recalled the fond memories the school had of him. He reported that the school currently had just over 100 on the roll & that 4 classes had been maintained. SATS results had been good, especially in science & maths. The governors were working with staff to implement the School Improvement Plan which had come out of the last OFSTED review.

He mentioned highlights of the last year: the opening of the new hall, the improvements to the heating system, the continuation of exchange visits with an Italian school, a new play area for the reception class and an improved play area for both infants & juniors.

One of the actions for the forthcoming year was to consider installing CCTV. He asked everyone to contact the Police if they saw anyone in the grounds out of school hours. The school would also continue to push for replacements for the temporary class rooms and also find a way of financing the new requirements for staff preparation time.

He concluded by thanking the staff, & all the support & ancillary workers for their efforts. He also acknowledged the huge support that the school enjoyed from parents & the wider community. He particularly thanked Kemble Parents Group for all their efforts.

In response to a complaint about parking on School Road at 3pm, he acknowledged it was an ongoing problem. The School had asked the Police on several occasions to come & move parents on. Also he said that the School regularly reminded parents via school newsletters to park carefully & would continue to do so.

4.5 Poole and Partridge Account. Pat Ayres reported that the charity had paid out £150 during the year & the current balance was £203.12. She mentioned that the group was considering winding up the charity as funds were small & circumstances had changed since its foundation in 1897. RP thanked Pat Ayres for all her efforts & thanked her for carrying on as the council representative.

4.6 Thursday Group. Pat Owen thanked the council for their £100 grant. The Group's first meeting had been in March this year & 19 people had come along, to chat & play card games etc. Help had been given by the GRCC In Touch advisor & the plan for the future was to adopt a constitution so that the group could apply for grants. The group had also made contact with Cirencester College which could provide free tuition on a range of courses. RP thanked Pat & Tony for setting up the group & hoped it would continue to flourish.

4.7 Kemble Rangers. Glen Moreman thanked the council for the £100 grant & explained the group had started in September last year. There were regularly 12-15 children who went along. The group had acquired nets & new footballs. Following contact from CDC, a free five day coaching course was now planned for the leaders. Finally, Glen encouraged more dads & children to come along & get involved. RP thanked Glen for all his work with the group.

5. **Finance.** The finance report was considered by the meeting. RP thanked the Clerk for her work on the report.
6. **Any Other Business.**
 - 6.1 Glen Moreman reminded everyone of the VE Day Concert at the airfield.
 - 6.2 Tony Owens thanked the Parish Council for all their efforts over the last year.

The meeting closed at 10pm.