

Kemble & Ewen Parish Council



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held in Kemble Village Hall on Friday 5th May 2006.

Present: Parish Councillor R Pettit, Chairman
 Parish Councillor D Ball, Vice Chairman
 Parish Councillor S Sorabjee
 Parish Councillor C Brann
 Parish Councillor J Courts
 Parish Councillor L Hetherington
 Parish Councillor M Bainbridge
 Parish Councillor G Collins
 Parish Councillor G Moreman

In attendance: I Yates, Parish Clerk, plus 30 members of the public.

Speakers: County Councillor S Parsons
 Mrs A Ferries, Kemble Playgroup
 Parish Councillor G Moreman, Vice Chairman of School Governors
 Mrs Pat Ayres, MBE, Poole & Partridge Fund
 Parish Councillor J Courts, Parish Plan
 District Councillor J Birch

1. **Apologies.** There were no apologies.
2. **Minutes** of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Friday 22nd April 2005 were approved and signed.
3. **Matters arising** from those minutes:

3.1 Kemble Station. Chairman Roger Pettit reported that First Great Western had taken over as franchisee from Wessex Trains & that there were a number of issues which the parish council would continue to pursue with them, including commuters parking in Station Road.

3.2 Kemble Airfield. In response to a query about progress on planning permission being sought to regularise Airfield activities, Parish Councillor Sorabjee confirmed that discussions were taking place between CDC, Kemble Airfield & North Wilts District Council. He also confirmed that the local residents who had originally raised the matter with the Local Government Ombudsman were involved in these meetings. A comment was made in response that there ought to be a time limit within which permission had to be sought & that the discussions should be held openly.

3.3 Highways. County Councillor Shaun Parsons promised to follow up the matter of proper priority control at the Thames Head Bridge.

4. Reports.

4.1. County Council. County Councillor Shaun Parsons gave his report. He outlined his concerns about the Regional Spatial Strategy which allowed for major growth in Cheltenham & Gloucester, minor growth in smaller towns but little elsewhere which he saw as damaging to rural areas.

SP mentioned the review of Primary & Secondary Schools currently being undertaken. It was his view that Kemble School was not under threat. He confirmed his strong support for local schools to keep going even though there was a surplus of places at present.

He raised serious safety concerns about the Government's push towards regionalisation of emergency services. He outlined the reorganisation of the fire & ambulance services & expressed his belief that the Police Service would also have this structure imposed on them.

Turning to Highways, SP agreed to raise the problems of Station Road with the new Head of Highways. RP confirmed that discussions were being actively pursued by the Parish Council with County Highways, Redcliffe Homes & the train operator to introduce appropriate traffic calming & no commuter parking measures in Station Road. Concern was also raised at the lack of passing places on the Ewen Wharf road.

Finally, SP gave details of the additional 63 police officers being funded by the County over the next three years, with 10 of these to be allocated to the Cotswold District.

4.2 District Council. Councillor John Birch reported that £12m had been spent over the last two & a half years on the new leisure centre & the museum, which provided very good local facilities.

Looking at the Government's possible plans for the reorganisation of local government, he explained that the White Paper, due in July, would give clearer details on what was proposed.

JB outlined the District Council's plans for litter & rubbish. He confirmed that a six week campaign was due to start shortly about picking up litter on verges. He explained that it was urgent that more was done to increase the amount of rubbish that was recycled, which at present only accounted for 38% of all rubbish collected by weight. He gave details of the council's plans for cardboard recycling, starting next year. In response to a request from the meeting, he agreed to ask the District Council if a plastics recycling bin could be sited at Kemble Station. SP agreed to raise at County level the issue of allowing small commercial firms to use tips, to reduce fly tipping.

Several concerns were raised about the Station Road site, including the levels being used which would affect Railway Terrace residents, sewerage issues & the width of the lane leading to the old people's bungalows. It was noted that a dial-a-ride bus had not been able to use the lane due to the siting of the new garages. JB & RP confirmed they were raising these issues as a matter of urgency.

4.3 Parish Council. RP reported that 2 new councillors had joined recently, Jenny Courts & Christian Brann, & was delighted that all posts were now filled.

He invited residents to look at the Annual Business Plan, which set out the council's aims. This was used to set the budget, which then determined the amount of council tax levied at the parish level.

Reviewing the last 12 months, he confirmed that communication continued to be a key objective of the council. He thanked Steve Marsh & Councillor George Collins for their work on the council web site & the new shared site for neighbouring parish councils.

Turning to Highways, he stated that the council would continue to press for a 30mph speed limit on the A429. He gave details of the new illuminated advance warning sign which was due to be installed to alert drivers when the pedestrian crossing was in use. He also outlined the council's hopes of purchasing a mobile speed warning sign, to be used at locations in Kemble & Ewen.

He thanked Kate Lawlor & Kemble At Play for their continued work at Windmill Park & for the additional facilities they had introduced over the last year. He also noted the council's recent work with local authorities, supported by The Tavern, to look into providing new activities for teenagers.

Turning to the Bledisloe Cup, Calor & Mitsubishi Village of the Year competitions, he thanked Councillor Mark Bainbridge for all the work he had put into preparing the entries & was delighted to record the success the villages had enjoyed.

RP outlined the new village plan project being led by Parish Councillor Jenny Courts, which, by seeking to identify the ambitions & aspirations of the village residents through consultation, would be used to formulate the parish council's business plans over the next few years. He noted that consultation on the future of the village hall would form a major part of the exercise. He encouraged everyone to go along to the first meeting on Monday 8th May.

He finished his report by also thanking the following for their contributions to the local community: Councillor David Ball for managing the grass cutting contracts; Pete Measures for maintaining the cemetery; Everett Austin for his work on the war memorial; Brian Ayres for the War Graves; June Telling & Brian Robbins for their work as Orderlies; Pat Ayres for the Newshound column & Poole & Partridge Fund; Peter Burns & Bill Matthews for all their hard work over many years for the Village Hall; Penny Wheeler for the Parish Magazine; & finally the Clerk & all the Councillors.

Penny Wheeler thanked Roger Pettit on behalf of the meeting for all his work as Chairman.

4.4 Playgroup. Anne Ferries, the Playgroup Leader, thanked the Parish Council for the Community Fund money Playgroup had received. She explained that in order to meet new requirements from OFSTED, the group had to look for a new venue & had approached Kemble School about having a site on the School Grounds. The cost was likely to be around £75,000. Playgroup had started seeking grants & undertaking fundraising, but had not yet applied for planning permission. Anne confirmed that the Toddler Group would continue to meet in the village hall.

4.5 School Report. Councillor Glen Moreman started his report by thanking Chris Yates for all his work as a school governor. He also thanked: parents & the local community for their continued support; Barry Parsons for his role in maintaining a happy & successful school; Kemble Farms for all their help; & finally Playgroup for their part in bringing the children on.

He reported that there were 94 children on the roll at present. He mentioned that the after school club was due to start shortly, & that there had been very successful links with a local secondary school & the RAC. Sports activities continued to be very successful & the school had reached the Wildlife Quiz final. He also noted the new mosaic on the school wall which Emily Lawlor, Jo Moreman & a few other local residents were working with the children to complete.

In response to general concerns raised in the meeting about children using the station as a playground, GM agreed to mention these to the School.

4.6 Poole and Partridge Fund. Pat Ayres reported that the closure of the fund & the transfer of its assets to the Village Hall had stalled on account of the Charity Commission noting that the original bequest had included a plot of land at Purton. The Commission could take no further action until the subsequent history of this plot had been clarified. Pat confirmed that the Parish Council had contacted Wiltshire Records Office & established details of the plot's location & ownership (the Kemble Poor) in 1910 but further information was now being sought from Gloucestershire Records Office. Pat's written report noted that the Fund had a bank balance of £106.77 plus £827.38 shares.

4.7 Parish Plan. Councillor Jenny Courts explained that the project was about working out what residents wanted for the villages, & what should be preserved & protected for the future. The plan would provide direction for the Parish Council over the next 5 years, building on the earlier Village Appraisal.

She encouraged everyone to come along to the launch event on Monday 8th May, which was a drop in session to give people an opportunity to identify their main issues & concerns. Further consultation on key themes would then follow, including a questionnaire to every household, open evenings, coffee mornings & suggestion boxes. She asked for volunteers to come forward to help.

5. Finance. The finance report was considered. RP thanked the Clerk for her work on the report.

6. Any Other Business.

In response to concerns about the village hall from the VHMC, RP suggested that the committee should continue to maintain the hall & do essential works as they had for the last 2 years, but not commit to any major improvements at this stage. He confirmed that it was hoped that the parish plan exercise would clarify residents' views on the future of the hall. He also stated that the parish council would continue to help the committee to find a new chairman but that it was not appropriate to ask a councillor to fill this role in addition to parish council duties.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed:

Dated: