



Kemble & Ewen Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Kemble & Ewen Parish Council held on Friday 12th January 2007 at 7.30pm in Kemble School Hall.

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

In attendance: John Birch, District Councillor
Andrew Lennard, VHMC Chairman
Isobel Yates, Clerk

1. Acceptance of apologies for absence. Apologies were accepted from Councillor Laura Hetherington.

2. Receipt of Declarations of Interest. DB & SS declared an interest in item 11.1 (Planning 06/20 – links with Kemble Farms Ltd), & JC in item 8 (Communtiy Fund - Treasurer of Kemble Playgroup).

3. Approval and Signing of the Minutes of the Previous Meetings. The Minutes of the meeting held on Friday 24th November 2006 were approved, and signed by the Chairman.

4. Report on matters arising from the minutes - items not on the agenda.

Oct06/4 Thames information board – GM had spoken to the Ramblers who supported the initiative. GM had sent an email to the National Trails Office for advice on how to progress this. **C/f.**

Nov06/4 Fly tipping at the Play Park had been reported to CDC.

Nov06/5 Setting up a Youth Committee. GM had spoken to his contacts but no one had come forward as a leader. It was agreed to use the Parish Action Plan launch on 23rd January to seek a co-ordinator for this work.

Nov06/6 Tree works permission granted for the Coach House, Kemble. The response received from the Conservation Officer at CDC was accepted by the meeting.

5. Report on the Village Hall refurbishment programme. Andrew Lennard reported on the successful completion of the first stage of the works which included new lights, heaters & curtains, insulation above the ceiling & re-decoration. Traces of woodworm had been found & treated. He advised that an inspection for asbestos had been carried out & some had been found in the soil pipes which would have to be dealt with when the toilets were refurbished in the summer. He confirmed that a fall by one of the decorators had not been serious & the contractor did have the relevant insurance in place.

He explained that the VHMC had decided not to increase fees at present but would reconsider this once the kitchen & toilet facilities had been improved later on in the year. He confirmed the costs todate of £21,000 were within budget and requested a transfer from the Parish Council's Village Hall Fund of £5,000 for the ongoing work. This was proposed by JC, seconded by GC & unanimously approved by the meeting. It was agreed that all possible avenues of grant funding would be explored by the VHMC, & John Birch explained that he would be working with Andrew to put together the grant application to the CDC. It was anticipated that this would come together over the next 2-3 months. RP thanked Andrew for all his work on this project.

6. Highways:

6.1. Emergency Vehicle Access to Abbots Way bungalows. John Birch reported that Marcus Kitchen had written to Redcliffe Homes asking for their support for the Parish Council's proposal of access via the Station Road estate. He was chasing a reply.

6.2 County Highways. LH had provided a report that confirmed Highway's approval of a warning sign for the approach to the Windmill Road/main road junction, with the installation date to be confirmed.

She also reported that a Stop sign was not an option as its use was very carefully proscribed & this case did not meet the criteria laid down. LH had also confirmed that she would be in touch with Kemble School to co-ordinate the efforts being made to introduce safety measures in School Road. Adverts had been placed around the villages seeking extra volunteers for the Traffic Group but no one had come forward to date. It was agreed that the Action Plan meeting would provide an opportunity to recruit members.

6.3 Windmill Road measures. In view of the response received from local residents to the proposed installation of wooden posts along the verge, it was confirmed that this work would not go ahead. It was agreed that the Traffic Group would work on an alternative proposal, in consultation with the residents & in particular taking into account the suggestions received from Mr Tyler, who, it was hoped, would join the Group.

7. Movement of soil at Kemble Cemetery. John Birch reported that CDC's Engineer was on compassionate leave & that in his absence no progress had been possible. He confirmed that he would keep the matter in hand.

8. Community Fund Awards. It was agreed by the meeting that MB would investigate possible sources of computer equipment for the Parish Magazine as soon as possible. If this was successful, the Bledisloe Cup budget of £500 would be transferred into the Fund & the combined total would be distributed between the remaining applicants.

Jan07/1 MB to speak to business contacts re sourcing computer equipment.

9. Kemble At Play.

9.1 The report was received. RP agreed with JB that details of the section 106 draw down for the cycle track would be given to CDC as soon as KAP knew the outcome of their grant application to the Local Area Network. This was expected in February.

The meeting agreed that if, in future, CDC could not respond adequately to requests to remove fly tipping, then DB would be able to arrange collection & disposal of items. It was emphasised that any such requests would need to be made via Kate.

The meeting confirmed that the location of the cycle track still needed to be agreed with Kemble Farms & Kemble Rangers. Councillors asked for clarification of how the proposed track would meet the needs of older children as it was a while since the details had been presented to them.

Jan07/2 SS to circulate the cycle track proposals to councillors again.

9.2 Fencing along the Windmill Road boundary. GC raised concerns about children pushing through the bushes & going out onto the road now that the old fence had broken down along this boundary. He also reported that parts of the wall were crumbling. DB confirmed that Kemble Farms had previously offered to provide a permissive path along this stretch & to continue it along the old railway line, to join up to the Thames Path at Clayfurlong. The meeting agreed that this proposal should be pursued & DB agreed to follow this up with Kemble Farms. It was also agreed that the fencing should be replaced at the same time as the path was constructed, with access down to the road & the station entrance required at some point

Jan07/3 GC to speak to LH re presenting proposal to GCC Highways & seeking their advice on the layout of the access point at road level.

10. Public Recess.

11. PLANNING.

11.1 Planning Committee Report. The Committee's report was noted. John Birch advised the meeting that the four current applications for Brookside & The Coach House, Brookside would be going before the Planning Regulatory Committee at the end of the month. He confirmed that one other objection had been received, apart from the Parish Council's & also that CDC's Conservation Officer would be recommending approval. RP agreed to let him know if one of the councillors would be speaking at the meeting. JB confirmed that he would be expressing his concerns about the way the applicant had disregarded the planning system.

The meeting considered the amended plans for window & door detailing on CT.2474/F & G (applications for full council consideration). It was agreed that there were 'no objections' to the amendments.

11.2 41 Clayfurlong Grove. RP clarified that there were 2 issues arising from the planning conditions imposed:

- restoration of the verge.
- 'driveway to be stopped up & abandoned'.

Re the first issue, the meeting was at a loss to understand how GCC Highways in their role as a consultee on the application could impose a condition that the verge had to be restored & then their Cotswold Divisional Office could decide not to enforce it.

Jan07/4 IY to seek assistance from Shaun Parsons, County Councillor, on this matter.

On the second issue, RP confirmed that a gateway from the drive into the garden had now been built, contrary to the specific planning condition imposed.

Jan07/5 John Birch to raise the construction of the gateway with CDC Planning Enforcement.

12 Parish Action Plan. JC presented the draft Action Plan & Flier, which incorporated comments already received from councillors. The following were agreed:

- Under the reduce speed section, take out the 20mph option as this was covered under the School Road project. Also take out the Kemble to Ewen option.
- Under Station Road car parking, commit to monitor the situation at this stage.
- VHMC to review the sports & recreation sections.

RP & CB thanked JC for all her excellent work on the Plan. CB offered to help with printing the flier.

Jan07/6 Councillors to let JC have their comments on the flier asap.

13. Finance.

13.1 Financial Report. The report was noted. The Clerk reported that the GCC grass cutting grant for 2006/7 had just been received, at double the rate paid the previous year.

13.2 Schedule of Accounts for payment. CB proposed & GC seconded the following accounts for payment. **It was separately proposed that £5.98 be spent under S137 LGA 1972** on Christmas gifts for the village & play orderlies for their work on behalf of the village. These accounts were unanimously approved for payment:

13.2.1	I Yates 5 hrs/wk @ £9.348/hr x 7wks	£327.18	cheq 56 LGA 1972 s112
	+ village hall heating at 20 Oct/24 Nov meetings	£8.00	LGA 1972 s111
	+ adj for underpayment: The Standard advert	£0.36	LGA 1972 s142
	+ Christmas gifts for village & play orderlies	£5.98	LGA 1972 s137
	+ 40 x 1 st class stamps	£12.80	LGA 1972 s111
13.2.2	J Telling 4hrs/wk @ £5.05/hr x 3wks (cheque 57 spoiled)	£64.20	cheq 64 LGA 1972 s112
13.2.3	B Robbins 1hr/wk @£7.00/hr x 7wks	£49.00	cheq 58 LGA 1972 s112
13.2.4	GRCC: parish plan data analysis	£2,115.00	cheq 59 LGA 1972 s111
13.2.5	David Ball: printing for grass cutting contract	£17.00	cheq 60 LGA 1972 s111
13.2.6	R Smith: repairing cemetery wall	£255.00	cheq 61 LGA 1972 s214(2)
13.2.7	R Richardson: repairing cemetery wall	£270.00	cheq 62 LGA 1972 s214(2)
13.2.8	VHMC: hall rental for 20 Oct & 24 Nov 2006	£36.00	cheq 63 LGA 1972 s111

Cheque 55 for £170 was authorised and issued to Mrs Rice on 14th December. She had requested a refund for the double grave space reserved in 2001 in Kemble Cemetery. Her family has since moved from the area & no longer wish to use it.

13.3 Report on the grass cutting contract. DB reported that 3 bids have been received so far.

13.4 Draft Business Plan. The following changes to the budgets were agreed:

Plus £500 Road Safety, Plus £500 Grass Cutting, Minus £500 War Memorial (work to be completed in current financial yr) & Minus £500 Youth Club (Investment funds separately available).

13.5 Approval of the Precept 2007/8. It was unanimously agreed by the meeting that the Precept request for 2007/8 would be £18,000 - the same level as the previous year.

14. AOB.

14.1 JC commented that the Parish Council should take every opportunity to publicise the local elections in May & encourage residents to come forward as prospective candidates.

14.2 JC advised the council that LH would be raising the issue of babysitting costs with CDC. It was agreed that JC would draft a letter on this issue to the policy unit in Central Government responsible for allowance schemes.

Jan07/7 JC to draft a letter re the issue of babysitting costs not being a permitted allowance.

14.3 DB confirmed that the work on the war memorial should be completed within the next couple of weeks. 8 new oak posts would be installed, set in concrete.

14.4 DB reported fly tipping on the Kemble Wick Road – IY to report it to CDC.

14.5 GM reported that he had been in contact with Celia Haddon who was researching 3 prehistoric standing stones in the local area, one of which was the Athelstan stone. She had written to thank DB for tidying up the area around this stone.

14.6 GM queried whether the new fence down at The Piece kept access to the footpath open, DB confirmed that it did.

SIGNED

DATED

The meeting closed at 10.55pm.

The next PC meeting will be on Friday 23rd February 2007 in the Village Hall.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 8/9/06:

ITEM	ACTION	BY
Oct06/4	To follow up the Thames Information Board with the National Trails Office.	GM
Jan07/1	To speak to business contacts re sourcing computer equipment.	MB
Jan07/2	To circulate cycle track proposals to councillors.	SS
Jan07/3	To speak to LH about presenting proposal to GCC Highways for access to a permissive path along the playing field boundary with Windmill Rd.	GC
Jan07/4	To contact Shaun Parson's about restoration of the verge at 41 Clayfurlong Grove	IY
Jan07/5	To contact Planning Enforcement about the new gateway at 41 Clayfurlong Grove	JB
Jan07/6	Comments on the Action Plan flier to JC asap.	All
Jan07/7	To draft a letter to Central Govt about babysitting costs & allowance schemes.	JC

Notes on discussion held with John Birch, District Councillor, on 12th January 2007.

1. **Station Car Park.** JB confirmed that the First Great Western Group was waiting for quotes for the work, which would then go before the Board for approval.
2. **Recycling bins at the station.** JB advised the meeting that the Station Manager had refused permission for extra bins on security grounds & might review the situation regarding existing bins. JB to follow this up as it was agreed this seemed absurd.
3. **Local government re-organisation.** JB reported that CDC would be putting its proposal for the continuation of the two local tiers to Central Govt by 25th January. It had to be agreed by all the District Councils involved & be self-funding. Some County functions might move to District level.
4. **Thames & Severn Canal.** JB gave an update: Summit level would be last section to be tackled, & currently there was no restoration programme for it. As funding was gained, the eastern end would be done piecemeal. Any compulsory purchase of land or property would require CDC & County Council approval & would be a last resort.