



# Kemble and Ewen Parish Council: Minutes

Meeting of Kemble and Ewen parish council was held on: **Friday 9 January 2009 at 7.30pm**  
at: Kemble Village Hall

Present:	Councillor R Pettit, Chairman Councillor D Ball, Vice-Chairman Councillor G Collins Councillor S Lawlor Councillor S Sorabjee Councillor G. Moreman Councillor G Somerville Councillor S Turner Councillor W Cole John Birch, District Councillor	Apologies:	none
Guests and public:	Esmond Jenkins		
In attendance:	F Garnet-Lawson, clerk		

Opportunity for the public to raise any matters.

0. Esmond Jenkins talked about local residents concerns about the management and actions of the Joint WaterPark Committee, and its relationships (or otherwise) with commercial enterprises in relation to the development of the Cotswold Water Park, and Keynes Country Park in particular.

In early 2008 rumours were heard about a commercial joint-venture between the CDC < Joint Waterpark Committee and the Watermark company. This was not confirmed publically at the time, but it has since transpired that a 140 year lease was granted to Watermark for managing Keynes Country Park.

Local residents in the Water Park area are questioning the probity, processes, procedures and legality of (what appears to be) a disposal of a public asset (the Keynes Country Park) to the Watermark Club for in return for £1. The lease allows for considerable development of the Country Park and surrounding Water Park area (shops, conference centre, mechanical rides) which are out of character with the nature of the conservation area eg creating a 800-space car park (the large Tesco car park has around 400 spaces for comparison). Concern was expressed that even through proposed developments would be subject to planning permission, a new ski-wire was given planning permission on appeal despite the unanimous objections by the CDC and objections by many local residents.

Despite many approaches, local residents are not able to discover who actually signed the lease, and on what authority. The lease does not appear to be a joint venture between the Joint WaterPark Committee and commercial interests, but a disposal. The concern is that this may mean that residents do not have free access to Keynes Country Park, (as in theory the Watermark Club could fence off the land and charge for pedestrian and cycle access); the over-development of an area of considerable environmental interest, and loss of a public asset for a notional sum.

Esmond Jenkins urged KEPC to support the desire to find out how and why this lease was signed. **RP to request** a report from District Councillor Shaun Parsons to explain the current situation. JB suggested that **KEPC** also write to Mike Barton about public access via footpaths.

EJ was asked about obtaining national media interest, and he replied that although they had some local links to press and TV, they did not have a national media campaign. Any help would be appreciated however.

**[www.savekcp.co.uk](http://www.savekcp.co.uk)**

1. **Apologies for absence:** none
2. **Declarations of interest:** SL, GS, WC: allotments; GM allotments and airfield
3. **Approval of minutes from previous meeting:**

The minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 21 November 2008 were unanimously approved by the council and signed by RP with no alterations.

Proposed: SL; seconded: SS

4. **Matters arising**

a) **Recycling bins:**

JB to follow up with Great Western Railways about potentially using the Tavern side of their site for bins. A plastics recycling facility is the chief priority.

b) **Kemble Airfield CLEUD:**

Judicial review will be 24 - 25 March 2009.

It was agreed that KEPC would continue to see co-operation with surrounding parish councils about re-instating the airfield liaison meetings, even though Coates PC seems to have acted on their own in the matter. RP reported that he was misquoted as saying things that he has not! The clerk was asked to follow up the email sent to surrounding parish councils about prospective meetings and to aim for a preliminary face-to-face discussion (outside to the parish meeting) in Jan/Feb.

clerk

Following this, an approach could be made to the Airfield about re-starting the liaison group. It was anticipated that this time constraints would mean that this would probably take place after the judicial review hearing.

c) **HGV depot at Kemble airfield:** JB to pursue planning consent.

JB

d) **Electricity sub-station at Even.** Planning meeting on Wednesday 28/1/09 concerning the new access. It was noted that the hedge has already been opened for the potential new access for the substation prior to planning being granted.

[note, application withdrawn 13/1/09]

GS to attend meeting on behalf of KEPC and speak for 3 minutes only. GS to draft text and circulate for comments to KEPC and JB in advance.

e) **Trees A429** - there are now 3 residents' concerns about the shade (The Oaks), wall damage (WHG) and rotten tree (WHG). Still need to pin down exactly which trees are the responsibility of KEPC and which the responsibility of Highways. The opinion of the council was that the native trees (planted in 1991) belong to KEPC, whilst the ash seedlings near the railway bridge 'belong' to Highways. The status of the maples planted by Bovis Homes is unclear. **SL** to ask Highways again

SL

f) The **allotment contract** for Kemble Community Gardens, with CDC, was approved for signature. WC asked to prepare a corresponding contract between KEPC and Kemble Community Gardens. The rent payable to CDC is £150.00 pa

g) **heating oil clubs** - notice placed in Parish News, to register interest. It is anticipated that any club formed would be operated outside of the KEPC.

[Councillor JB left the meeting]

5. **Financial report** and cheques for signature- were noted and approved. KEPC has instructed Avon Construction Services and is now awaiting final bill for VH refurbishment. The council approved the payment in principle.

The precept for 2009-2010 was agreed unanimously at £18k. The clerk was instructed to send the paperwork to CDC to notify them of the council's decision.

clerk

Budget by category will be published separately, but projects that will be budgeted for in 2009 (ie in addition to 'standard' expenditure to meet KEPC contractual obligations) may include: village gates, Youth Club, improved sports facilities, and improvements to the village environment (projects to be determined). The pedestrian access to the station has had to be postponed due to insufficient funds. Doubt was expressed about landowners agreeing to the proposed cycle path between Tetbury and Kemble.

GC

A new sports pavilion, (with changing facilities, showers etc) to replace the earlier wooden hut, was deemed to be one of the highest priorities for the village as a whole now that the Village Hall refurbishment is complete. It might also generate some revenue towards running costs by attracting

GM

visiting sports clubs from surrounding villages. **GM** to investigate grants and funding as soon as possible.

clerk

Clerk instructed to investigate alternative (free) business banking providers due to poor service from Abbey.

**6. Planning:**

It was noted that the absence of large scale paper plans had the result of limiting local participation and discussion. To be discussed at a later date.

The Dutch Barns planning has been refused consent by CDC.

Whilst there are no objections to Kewen house, concerns were expressed about encroachment onto adjoining agricultural land. THE clerk is to write to CDC planning expressing concern and hope that the new extension does not encourage this in the future.

clerk

Clayfurlogn barns - FGL to follow-up progress on planning application for fences.

**7. Highways and road safety:**

a) Flooding at Ewen bend to be reported again- may need gully clearance.

SL

b) Laura H has left the village, so there is now a 'rolling chair' arrangement for the sub-committee. Has recognised the need to identify and focus on a few key issues, rather than too many smaller issues.

SL  
SL

c) the pedestrian traffic light sequence is incorrect, and needs to be set right.

RP

d) Long grass at bottom of hill by Ewen - SL to ask Highways if KEPC can cut this and re-charge.

e) Station Road - the traffic calming is to be reviewed at an 'effectiveness audit' meeting by Highways in March 09.

**8. Tree warden:** SL outlined a new competition to raise the awareness of trees. Intends to involve children and other groups in the village, using publicity in the Parish News, standard and school. Discussed possibility of posting photographs on Parish web site, or creating a Face book site instead.

SL

**9. Neighbourhood watch/police:**

Police liaison meeting on held 8 December. There will be an introductory N.Watch meeting 13 Feb in Village Hall at 7pm with David Bragg (before the KEPC meeting) 18 people from the Kemble and Ewen have indicated that they will attend to agree priorities and initiatives.

**10. Thames Canal** - there is a meeting next Thursday. GM will attend

GM

**Playground:** council decided to leave the surface for now, despite the start of some erosion, due to cost and funding constraints. Still getting problems with litter and glass being left. GM has spoken to local residents. The clerk was instructed to replace the small swing seat.

clerk

**11. Village Hall** - the floor has been re-surfaced (and looks wonderful!). A 100% grant has been obtained to install a new AV and sound systems for the rural cinema.

**12. Allotments and Community Gardens:** the shed is now up. The ponds will be fenced in shortly. About 5 new allotment holders have just joined to break-in the new plots towards the rear of the site. The group is hoping to start the new Community Orchard area this spring.

**13. AOB**

DB

a) The lines denoting the no-parking area outside the village shop, to enable access to the bungalows behind, will be re-painted

DB

b) the dry-stone wall alongside the new Ewen-Kemble footpath is starting to fall in places. DB to repair.

c) clerk instructed to ask NALC about receiving charitable donations.

clerk

Meeting adjourned at 10.30 pm.

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**The next meeting will be on Friday 13 February 2009 at 7.30pm**