



Kemble and Ewen Parish Council

Annual Report 2018-19

You are invited to the Annual Meeting of
the Parish

Friday 10 May 2019 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 May 10, 2019, 7.30pm

- To receive apologies for absence
- To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Friday 4 May 2018
- Matters arising and public Q&A
- Speakers to include: Shaun Parsons – GCC, Victoria Gleed – Kemble Kids & Adrien Kapronczai – PCSO
- Address: Roger Pettit – Chairman, Kemble and Ewen Parish Council
- Any other business

Chairman's Address

As you will see, it has been yet another busy year. Talking of which there can be no doubt that our Parish is a busy spot by comparison with most others of similar size. The reasons for this are several. Most importantly, we are blessed with many active and involved residents who take a keen interest and seek to apply a positive influence on the course of events. In addition, we have the unusual presence of a main line railway station which, together with a neighbouring airport also generate a great deal of activity; inevitably some welcome and some less so. The influence of Kemble Farm on our immediate environment and the wider influence of the farm's owners, the Bathurst Estate are further factors. The good range of local facilities, the popularity of our villages and the consequent demand for additional housing also makes retention of the essential characteristics of our Parish a constant challenge.

This year good progress has been made with the preparation of our Neighbourhood Development Plan. This is a very democratic process with residents directly contributing to preparation of the plan and public consultation involved throughout. The second consultation will be well underway by the time of the Annual Meeting with the results ready for analysis. Following that we should be in a position to complete the final draft and submit to the District Council for the last steps of the adoption procedure, including a referendum.

Continuing the theme of consultation our Annual Public Meeting is an opportunity for residents to make their views known in person, be they positive, negative, complimentary, critical or aspirational. The meeting has been rescheduled a little later than originally planned to avoid the local elections and enable our District and County Councillors to attend without breaching purdah conditions. It is a good opportunity to express your views on any issue of local significance - the currently emerging development proposals for West Lane and Clayfurlong Field, the airport flight path management scheme, road maintenance and footpaths, commuter parking and the potential Light Railway project. Alternatively, you may wish simply to listen to the views of others and hear about what is going on. Either way, you are very welcome.

One final point is that we are very pleased to record our accreditation of the Local Council Award Scheme – Foundation Award as you may noticed from display of the insignia on our paperwork. I hope we can look forwards to seeing you on 10th May.

Roger Pettit, Chairman, Kemble & Ewen Parish Council - April 2019

Summary of the year's activities to 31 March 2019

Our nine parish councillors represent the electorate of Kemble, Kemble Wick 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.

Local Council Award Scheme



Kemble & Ewen Parish Council is delighted to have received a prestigious award as part of the Local Council Award Scheme – the Foundation Award. This achievement recognises that the council achieves good practice in governance, community engagement and council improvement. Moreover, it recognises that the Council go above and beyond the legal obligations, leading the community and continuously seeking opportunities to improve.

In terms of the future, the council is now reviewing ways in which it can keep on improving its offer to the local community and welcomes input from local people and partners on this.

Green Infrastructure – Conservation & Wellbeing Survey

In November 2018 Cotswold District Council (CDC) sent three large scale maps of the parish to the Parish Council (PC) entitled Wildlife, Water and Wellbeing. The maps already had information provided by CDC and the PC was asked to annotate these to provide additional information and corrections as well as aspirational and actual projects that the council has already begun to tackle.

On the conservation map the PC dated woodlands using map evidence & archaeology and marked ponds, ancient hedgerows & drystone walls. On the water map the PC provided information on areas of flooding, the location of springs and significant streams. On the wellbeing map the PC marked on all the permissive paths that exist in the parish and any significant green areas within the villages including open green spaces.

The PC also annotated the map with the seven projects in hand. These include extending the network of safe pedestrian ways linking Kemble and Ewen, Kemble and Clayfurlong Bridge and Windmill Road and the Station. The PC would also like to open up the old Tetbury and Cirencester rail routes as safe cycle and walking routes; these are already part of the CDC Local Plan. Finally, the PC wants to provide more sporting facilities on the playing field. This survey is part of the preparation for the next CDC Local Plan.

Planning

As a consultee, the Parish Council review and discuss all planning applications carefully considering location, appearance and effect on neighbouring properties and the villages. All applications to be discussed are on the agenda and all decisions are recorded in the minutes.

Following the adoption of the CDC Local Plan in August 2018 the Parish Council expect to receive applications soon for the allocated housing development sites.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan steering group have been working hard with the assistance of Kirkwells, the consultants, in creating a Neighbourhood Plan. Following feedback from residents they have identified the key issues and concerns and put together the draft plan.

The next stage is to have a pre-submission consultation where the plan is available for six weeks to anyone wishing to make representation before it is submitted to the local authority for independent examination.

Kemble Community Gardens

Kemble Community Gardens is an open green space situated to the rear of Old Manor Gardens which is open to the public. Comprising of eighteen allotments used for growing produce and an area of mixed grass and woodland, the site provides a beautiful semi wild area for relaxation and leisure for all ages.

Over the past year it has been pleasing to see a steady increase in the number of visitors to the site. The site is managed by a small committee on behalf of Kemble and Ewen Parish Council who ensure that it is maintained for the benefit of all, but with a particular emphasis on cultivation of the plots using organic principles as well as conserving and encouraging wildlife. The area is home to a thriving population of birds, amphibians, hedgehogs and slow worms. The latter are an endangered species and so are of particular concern.

Part of the current site has been allocated for the development of eight properties and following completion of this development the remainder of the site will be given to KEPC to be maintained as a green space in perpetuity. If you haven't discovered this valuable village asset yet, it is well worth a visit.

Community

As part of the WW1 Centenary, the Parish Council helped put on events on November 11, 2018 including the beacon lighting and late afternoon refreshments.

An excellent half day First Aid training was funding for residents in early February 2019. Due to the success, it is looking to provide further training, including defibrillator use, later in 2019.

Community Grants were this year awarded to Kemble Kids – who provided activities for families in the summer holidays, Little Fishes, Kemble Community Garden & Kemble Thursday Club.

Footpaths, Highways and

Parking

Agreement has been reached with Kemble Farms to allow the completion of the "missing link" on the footpath from Ewen to Kemble. The new section will run inside the edge of the field adjacent to the road, including a short bridge across the ditch, emerging back out to the road opposite the roadside footpath. Also imminent is completion of the footpath to the Station car park with the final section across the road from the playing field. This will improve pedestrian safety and should provide the added benefit of preventing commuter parking near to the car park entrance.

GCC has appointed new contractors to carry out highway maintenance, at the same time sub-dividing responsibility for the different aspects of the work between three contractors. It is intended that this will lead to better service and improved responsiveness to problems. The new arrangements commenced at the beginning of April and we look forward to testing out the new system following the first of our regular meeting in the new budget year with the Local Highways Manager.

Parking is the most frequently asked question under the Highways heading and for good reason. It is now 18 months since the new Station Car Park was opened and still no sign of a parking scheme. The new car park is accommodating increasing numbers of commuters but not, observation suggests, as an alternative to roadside

parking. There are frequent problems at Pheasant Hill and nuisance commuter parking continues to occur on village roads. The present position, as understood, is that GCC and GWR have finally settled the financial aspects of the scheme to enable GCC to carry out the formal and final consultation and then, it is hoped, press ahead with the introduction of a parking scheme for the whole village.

Kemble Airfield / Cotswold Airport

The Parish Council continue to meet with airport representatives and other local councils. The airport is working to define an approach procedure for landing at the airport and are currently preparing a consultation.

Policing and Neighbourhood Watch

The Parish Council would like to thank Paul Waldron for all his work as Neighbourhood Watch coordinator for the area. Paul has decided to step down from his role so a new coordinator is required.

Kemble & Ewen sit within Cotswold South with the friendly Adrien Kapronczai as the PCSO. Residents are encouraged to register for community alerts via: www.yourcommunityalerts.co.uk

Village Appearance

The villages are looking lovely in the spring with all the bulbs coming up and blossom appearing on the trees. Additional work has taken place to

enhance the A429 verges and sadly a few of the new trees need replacing due to vandalism.

event as part of the Great British Spring Clean. Thank you to everyone who helps keep the village tidy and welcoming.

Our thanks go to Tom Barrow for his ongoing efforts to manage litter in the villages and for coordinating the annual

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 2019 was £22,850. For a typical Band D property, this equated to £44.08 per year. For this year, the Parish Council has asked for £23566, an increase of 1.99%. The cost for a band D property will increase by 88 pence per year.

Payments & Receipts (for year ending 31 March 2019)

Payments

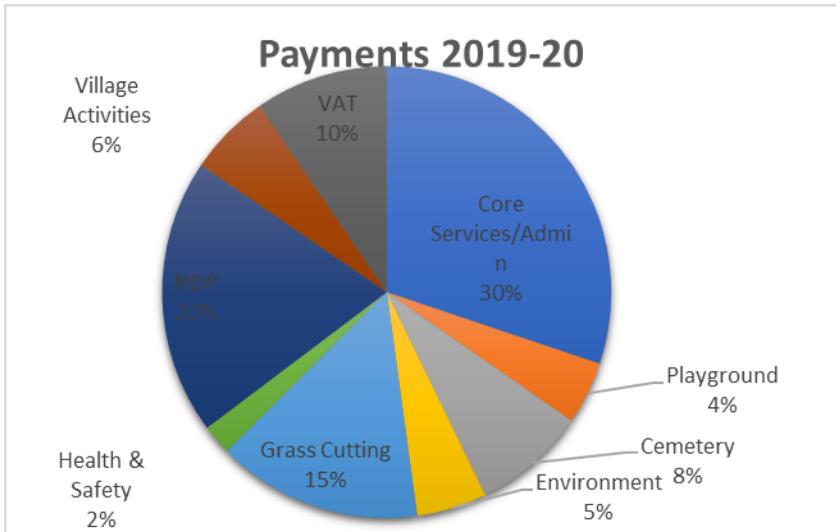
core services/admin	£8,987
village environment	£1,508
cemetery	£2,426
playground	£1,339
grass cutting	£4,400
health, safety	£645
VAT	£2,850
Village Activities	£1,766
NDP	£5,895

Receipts

precept	£22,850
agency & cemetery	£2,443
interest	£101
Grant	£7,722
Other	£3,792

Payments £29,817

Receipts £36,908



About one third of each year's expenses are spent on 'Core services' such as insurance, salaries, training, stationery & printing, professional accounting/audit fees, village hall hire and subscriptions. The remainder is used within the village to provide the services and environment that make Kemble a village to enjoy. This year we benefitted from a grant which covered the cost of the work associated with the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

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. Any resident may look at the Parish Council's unaudited accounts throughout the year by asking the Clerk.

Special thanks to...

Steve Marsh who runs the village website www.kemble.co.uk; the Parish News volunteer editors; Pat Ayres for her co-ordination of WW1 Centenary events; 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

Kemble and Ewen Parish Councillors

Roger Pettit (Chairman)	01285 770133
David Ball (Vice Chairman)	07773 234524
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)