

## Local Elections May 2011

The local elections in May will take place after this leaflet is published.

Depending on the results of these elections, the names of the councillors may be different from those listed here.

## Kemble & Ewen Parish Councillors

Roger Pettit: Chairman	01285-770133
David Ball: Vice Chairman	07973-500854
Michael Binks	01285-770495
George Collins	01285-770698
Amy Dyke	07870-395845
Lester Napper	07977-910605
Sohrab Sorabjee	01285-770515
Clerk	01285-770816



Kemble and Ewen Parish Council

# Annual Report 2010-11

You are warmly invited to the  
Annual Parish Meeting - Friday 6 May  
7.00pm Kemble Village Hall

*A summary of the Parish Council's activities over the last year.  
Delivered to every household in Kemble, Kemble Wick & Ewen.*

### How to contact us

[www.pccouncil.kemble.co.uk](http://www.pccouncil.kemble.co.uk)

- [kpccclerk@kemble.co.uk](mailto:kpccclerk@kemble.co.uk)
- Come to a meeting
- Phone a councillor
- Write to us c/o:

5 West Hay Grove,  
Kemble, GL7 6BE

### Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are held on Friday evenings, roughly every 6 weeks, in Kemble Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

The dates for the rest of 2011 are:

- 20 May 2011 (Parish Council AGM)
- 8 July 2011
- 9 September 2011
- 14 October 2011
- 25 November 2011

Everyone is welcome to come along to any of these meetings. You can raise issues or ask for advice or ask questions at the start of the meeting if you want to.

## Agenda: Parish Meeting: 6 May 2011, 7.00pm

- To accept apologies for absence
- To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Friday 7 May 2010\*
- To report on any matters arising from the minutes
- Speakers
  - Chris Connors — head teacher Kemble Primary School
  - County Councillor: Shaun Parsons
  - District Councillor: John Birch
  - Kemble and Ewen Parish Council: Chairman Roger Pettit
  - Finance - a summary of the past 12 months
- Any other business

\* A copy of last year's minutes can be seen on our website: [www.pcouncil.kemble.co.uk](http://www.pcouncil.kemble.co.uk)

### Chairman's Address

Localism has become a Government buzzword over recent months. If we forgive the distortion of the language, the concept seems good – transferring responsibility and ownership to local people for issues which directly affect their well being.

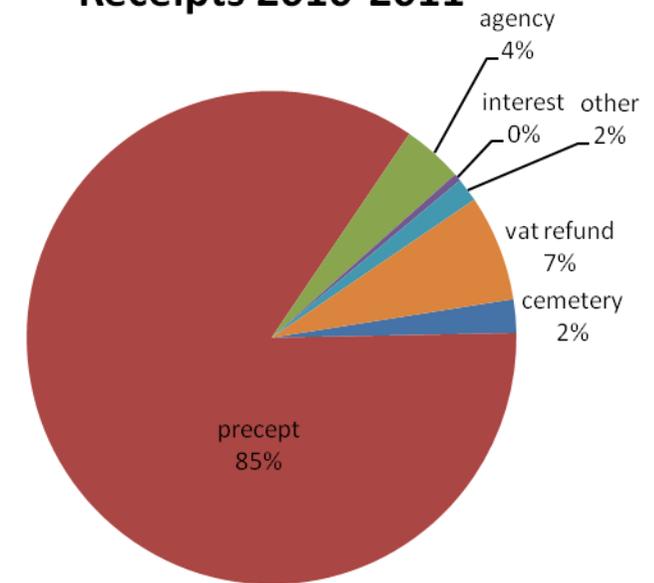
The Parish Council is the level of local government with the closest links to the community. I like to think that our Parish Council has always practised "localism" in the sense that our priority is to understand, represent and deliver on the aspirations of our fellow residents. We welcome any additional areas of decision making which may transfer to us as the localism concept develops. Your contribution to our progress is to keep us aware of your wishes. The Annual Parish Meeting is an opportunity for you to update our understanding so I hope you will be able to join us at the meeting.

This report sets out the details of progress over the last year and I am pleased to say that once again our budget has been kept down to last year's level. The Top Farm development proposal is presently dominant in the planning category and has proved highly contentious, provoking a substantial postbag and excellent attendance at the special public meeting. We shall discuss this and report the latest position at the Annual Meeting.

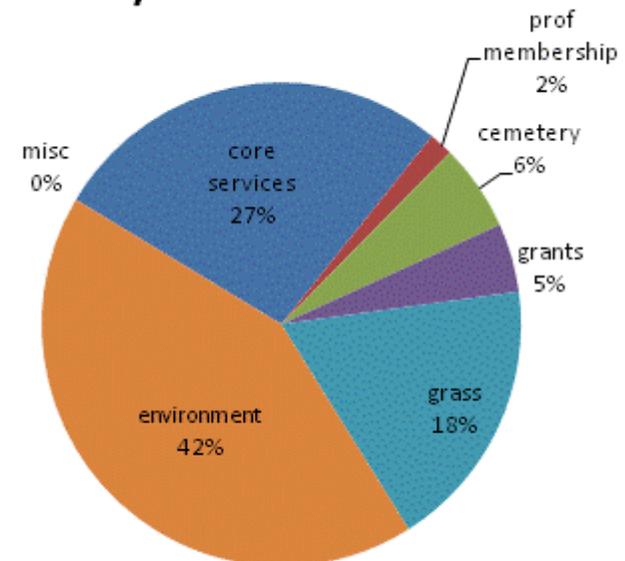
Look forward to seeing you on 6th May.

**Roger Pettit, Chairman, Kemble & Ewen Parish Council, April 2011**

## Receipts 2010-2011



## Payments 2010-2011



## **Financial Summary**

Any resident may look at the Parish Council's unaudited accounts by asking the Clerk. A copy of the audited accounts will be available from the Parish Clerk following the completion of the external audit in July 2011.

<b>Payments</b> (year ending 31 March 2011)	
Core services #	£6012
Grass cutting (excl cemetery)	£4030
Cemetery upkeep (inc grass cutting)	£1286
Grants to local groups	£1015
Professional memberships	£359
Environment	£94001
Misc	£0
Section 137	£0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£22102</b>

# 'Core services' includes: insurance, wages, training, stationery, inspections, professional accounting/audit fees, village hall rent

\* 'Other' includes: bank interest, vat refund allotment rent, training course fees

<b>Receipts</b> (year ending 31 March 2011)	
Precept	£18,000
Agency	£844
Cemetery	£466
Other*	£1765
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,221</b>

We have to keep £4k in-hand for 'contingencies'; . Any balance left over from this year will be saved for projects in 2011-12.

This year the timing of the VAT repayments means that we have 2-year's worth in the accounts.

The main environment expenditure was the permissive path (which we did over one year rather than two, due to a good price deal, and four dog-waste bins.

## **Summary of the year's activities 2010-2011**

The parish councillors represent the electorate of Kemble and Ewen across a wide range of topics and issues. Discussions in council meetings are lively and occasionally controversial! Each councillor has an area of 'special interest', such as local policing, the play area, churchyard, planning etc. Residents are welcome to contact councillors about local issues – details of how to reach us are on the back page.

### **Finance**

The council's main source of income is the local council tax, known as 'the precept'. The Precept was £18,000 in the year ending 31 March 2011, and it will stay the same this coming year (2011-2012). This will be the 5th year in a row that the level of the precept has remained the same - so your council is always trying to achieve more with less.

The budgets of the CDC and GCC will be severely affected for the next few years. This will reduce some of the services they provide on our behalf to Kemble and Ewen – particularly the mobile library, roads, verges, pavements, lighting and possibly the community police officers).

### **Planning**

The Parish Council has responded to 30 planning applications this year,

(including tree orders; listed building consent and multiple applications for the same premises).

However the most amount of time has been consumed by consultations that have yet to result in a formal planning application – namely at Kemble Business Park and Top Farm, Kemble. Both of these are likely to have wider implications for our community, and we wait to see with interest what transpires. Unfortunately until a plan is formally submitted much of the discussion is hypothetical.

It is noticeable that most of the applications which were rejected by the CDC subsequently went to appeal – and many won.

The KEPC has also formally registered the Village Hall with Land Registry office.

### **Highways**

we have negotiated for another flashing speed limit sign on the A429 near Clayfurlong barns and hope that it will be installed before the end of this financial year.

We have to admit that we have struggled to implement legitimate ways of preventing rail commuter parking on the street. Unfortunately the CDC and GCC will not support us with any legal methods to prevent anti-social parking

## **Summary of the year's activities 2010-2011**

eg yellow lines; parking permits etc due to their inability to enforce them.

### **Windmill Road**

After many years on the 'to do' list, we have completed building 3-4 parking bays; enlarged the hard standing bus stop; and sought quotes for a wooden bus shelter as a result of consultation with local residents. We hope to build the bus shelter next year.

There is still an issue with thoughtless parking and driving over the verge, which causes damage to the grass and pavement.

### **Cemetery**

Repair of headstones should take place this year (2011). The search for additional cemetery space remains a long-term issue.

### **Kemble Airport**

Unfortunately the liaison meetings between the all parishes that surround Kemble airport, and the airport itself have gone quiet. The CDC also informs us that their usual liaison channels are no longer responding and that regular meetings have ceased. The airport continues to attract the Air Salvage International business which breaks

up planes.

### **Permissive path – station**

The path from Windmill Road to the station, along the back of the playing field has been completed within one year, rather than two as funds enabled us to bring this forward. We now have a safer pedestrian route to the station and Thames Path. This is a permissive, not a public footpath, which means that Kemble Farms maintain its rights over the land. We are waiting for Gloucestershire Highways to install a safety barrier where the path terminates on the road.

### **Community Gardens**

The Parish Council is concerned about the CDC's new lease proposals which include a short-term lease on 2/3 of the land to enable it to be sold for housing.

Whilst we appreciate that the CDC needs money for vital services, the Parish Council will resist this. It has made an offer to buy the land from the CDC but this has been rejected. We will continue talking to the CDC in the hope of encouraging them to extend the lease and recognise the value of this project to the village.

## **Summary of the year's activities 2010-2011**

### **Policing and neighbourhood watch**

The neighbourhood watch scheme is particularly important at the moment. Rising oil prices and uncertain incomes are likely to have triggered the spate of burglaries in Cirencester and nearby villages over the past few months.

### **Youth Club**

The Youth Club had had another successful year and as a result needs more adult helpers. The Parish Council continues to support the work of the Youth Club team, and wishes them success over the coming year.

### **Ewen electrical substation**

Unfortunately the work to complete the substation has been postponed yet again with no completion date in sight. This is most frustrating.

### **Community Fund**

This year the fund awarded grants to the Thursday Club £125; Kemble and District Playgroup £250; Neighbourhood Watch £25; Open Book group £50; Kemble Parish School £150; and the Parish News £100. A grant of £315 was given to the Kemble Youth Club earlier in the year for equipment.

### **People**

We welcome two new councillors – Lester Napper from Railway Terrace in Kemble and Michael Binks from Ewen. Parish Council elections take place this May and results will not be known before this newsletter is published.

Greame Reay has joined us as the new playground orderly. In this climate of concern over public sector pay, residents can be reassured that the clerk's pay rate has been frozen for the past two years and that neither of the Parish Councils employee's jobs receives a pension.

### **Other**

More new dog-refuse bins have been installed plus two grit bins by the station entrances. We are investigating the cost of replacing the village notice boards (catalogue ones are too expensive). A St John Ambulance course was run in January – 6 residents attended.

### **Special thanks to:**

Steve Marsh who runs the website; the Parish News editors and Pat Ayres for communications; the Village Hall committee and all those many others who selflessly volunteer to give their time free of charge to run community groups in Kemble and Ewen, including the parish councillors.