



KEMBLE & EWEN PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting Held on 4 May 2021 at 7pm via Zoom

Sarah Broadley, Parish Clerk Email: clerk@kembleandewen-pc.gov.uk Tel: 01285 770758

Present:

Parish Councillors: Roger Pettit, David Ball, Michael Binks, Daniel Demain, George Collins, Lester Napper, David Russell & Eric Silk

Guest Speakers: Emma Morrogh-Ryan – Kemble Primary School, Tony Berry – Local Councillor & Richard Gunner – Cirencester Community Railway Project

Members of the Public: 10

1. **Chairman's Welcome** – Cllr Pettit welcomed all to the meeting
2. **To receive any apologies for absence** - None
3. **Guest Speakers:**
 - a. Emma Morrogh-Ryan – Headteacher, Kemble Primary School
Emma provided some background on her career before becoming head of Kemble Primary School and provided an update on life at school during a pandemic. She offered thanks to parents for their support during this time with donations of IT equipment and willingness to work with the school on issues surrounding social distancing/mask wearing. She is currently looking at the curriculum with a focus on sustained development and is interested in getting the school involved in the local community and any community projects.
 - b. Tony Berry – Cotswold District Councillor – Kemble Ward
Tony provided a Ward Report a copy of which is attached (Appendix 1)
 - c. Richard Gunner – Cirencester Community Railway Project
Richard provided a summary presentation regarding the Cirencester community rail project following the recent completion of Stage 1 (of 2) of the feasibility study. Further details of the full presentation can be found [here](#)
4. **Chairman's Report** - Roger Pettit
Roger summarised some of the key achievements of 2019/20 as follows:
Website – new dedicated website for the parish council
Neighbourhood Development Plan – thanks to all involved for completing the process and special thanks to Martin Kingston.
Footpaths – Windmill Road footpath now completed. Disappointment that the footbridge over the Thames had to be removed but hopeful that a replacement can be arranged. Cllrs Napper & Silk are looking at a project to reclaim closed/disused footpaths in the parishes
Parking Scheme – the Parish Council carried out an informal consultation with the village and it is hoped GCC will commence their next stage including a formal consultation soon.
Kemble Community Garden – has been well tended during the past 12 months
Village Environment – trees on the entrances to village are generally growing well (some have been replaced) and the bulb planted has resulted in good colour.

Chairman Initial _____ Date _____

Airport – following a period of reduced operation due to Covid it is expected to see normal activity resuming.

Future items of interest to the village – the Cirencester Community Railway Project & Solar Farm

Thanks – thanks to all who help keep the villages tidy and friendly. Special thanks to Lisa Rawson and the volunteers who helped with the Covid response plan. Also to Sohrab Sorabjee who stepped down as a councillor after many years and a welcome to new Councillor David Russell.

5. To receive comments and questions from residents

Speedwatch – query raised as to any further training will be made available to reboot this initiative.

Airport Noise – a resident raised concern about potential increase in noise from the air salvage business associated with the deconstruction of the aircraft.

6. Any other business – None

Chairman Signature _____ Date _____

Chairman Initial _____ Date _____

Appendix 1:

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ward Member Report to the Parish Council

APRIL 2020 TO APRIL 2021

The year has of course been dominated by the Covid Pandemic, and whilst I don't plan to spend much time talking of this, I would like to say how impressed and encouraged I've been by the way our villages have pulled together to ensure that everyone was looked after and the needy helped. You might wonder sometimes about the state of our society, but when the chips are down there is always a tremendously heart-warming response – 'Community' is alive and active here!

March 2020 saw a change in the refuse and recycling operations with the roll-out of new bins, a weekly food waste collection and a reduction of garden waste collection to every other week. The permit is increasing by 33per cent (£30 to £40). Replacement bins/bags will also be chargeable at £5 per container from now on.

Following on from the previous year's increase in parking charges (+30%), this year brought the news that the option to pay cash at Cotswolds car parks was to be removed (in stages through this coming year) and payment could only be made through an 'app' on a smart phone or by card. Given that some 9,000 adults in the Cotswolds don't have a smart phone and 72% of all payments in 2019 were cash, this doesn't seem rational. I have (and will continue to) challenge this decision; so far the only change has been to drop the 'cost' argument and replace it with a 'green' reason for the change.

During the year there have been major changes in the senior management at the Council, with Nigel Adams (Head of Paid Service with 28 year's service) and Bhavna Patel (Monitoring Officer and Head of Legal Services) both leaving (at a cost of £330,000) to be replaced with a new Chief Executive – Robert Weaver and an interim Monitoring Officer. An additional 8 people have been recruited to fill various positions to deliver manifesto promises.

A number of Strategies and Reports have been proposed at Council, covering:-

- Ecological Emergency declared (July 2020)
- The Climate Emergency (Sept 2020)
- Corporate Strategy and Plan (Sept 2020)

In addition there have been a number of other changes:-

- A number of changes have been made to the Council's Constitution.
- The Community Grant scheme has been replaced by 'Spacehive', a crowd funding platform (costing £30,000 p.a.).
- Removal of the Ward Member's ability to automatically refer planning applications to the Planning Committee where considered appropriate. (This particular decision is causing a considerable amount of annoyance to effected Parishes and is the subject of ongoing discussion.)
- A new additional crest for the Council, designed for use on social media and new road signage including the crest and the parish's name. These being part of a £200,000 'Civic Pride' scheme.
- A new fly-tipping reporting tool has made this a much easier process and there has been a substantive increase in the numbers being reported. I presented a motion to Council to increase the spending on this bane and I believe this has been given through the 'Civic Pride' scheme (to be confirmed).

Chairman Initial _____ Date _____

Agenda KEPC Annual Parish Meeting May 2021

In February, the revised budget for 2021/2 was presented to and approved by Council. I was not able to support this vote due to lack of detail on the £65 million borrowing proposed.

It has been necessary to support the CDC Leisure Centres during the pandemic (circa £650k), some of which we will get back as and when normality resumes.

The Planning Department is currently suffering from large workloads and a lack of Officers – recruitment is currently taking place and I would ask for your patience whilst these matters are being resolved. You have had many planning applications over the year, most of which have been fairly uncontentious. The ones that I've had the most questions about have been the 'Wild Duck' (which I'm pleased to say there's a new application in process which will hopefully lead to a speedy opening), and also the proposed solar farm adjacent to Kemble Wick, on which we haven't yet received a formal application.

Other key village matters in which I've been involved are the Neighbourhood Plan (carried through in record time thanks to Martin Kingston's assistance) and the parking restrictions, both of which are nearing conclusion.

Also, as many of you will know, I'm involved in the Kemble/Cirencester Light Railway project.

I regularly attend your Parish Council meetings to give updates and answer any questions.

Looking forward, it would be nice to see someone taking the lead on the speed watch group which hasn't been very active for a while.

I was also able to add considerably to the level of complaints received by Wilts.C.C re the Airport licence application by ensuring all my Ward villages were made aware of the application.

Chairman Initial _____ Date _____