

ANNUAL REPORT

Kemble & Ewen Parish Council



IN THIS ISSUE

WELCOME

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

COMMUNITY ACTIVITY

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

CONTACTS & MEETING DATES

Welcome

Welcome to the 2022-23 copy of the Annual Report. This report will give you an insight into the activities and work undertaken by the Parish Council on behalf of the electorate of Kemble, Kemble Wick and Ewen.

Residents are welcome to contact councillors about local issues (details of how to reach us are on the final page) or to come along to council meeting to share ideas get involved in community initiatives.

The Annual Meeting of the Parish will be held on Tuesday May 30, 2023 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm, following the AGM of the Village Hall Committee at 7pm. All residents are invited and welcomed to the meeting to discuss local issues.

Chairman's Report

We are pleased to present our Annual Report for residents following another busy year. Our Annual public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 30 May in the Village Hall at 7.30pm and it is hoped that as many residents as possible will come along to hear what has been going on and, importantly, to let the Councillors know your wishes and aspirations to help formulate action plans for the future.

It seems unfortunately inevitable that, as has consistently been the case over recent years, item one on the schedule of this introduction is the village parking scheme. Still in abeyance thanks to the County Council, the progress of the scheme has proved even slower than the definition previously applied of “at a glacial pace”, so slow that it now justifies an upgrade; perhaps “ultra glacial” might now better fit the bill. Anyway, there is promising news on the horizon. Written confirmation has now been received from GCC’s consultants via our County Councillor, Lisa Spivey, that all consultations have been completed, the scheme has been formally approved and issued to their contractors for implementation. All we need now is a starting date and guess what, we are still waiting.

Remaining on the subject of Highways, a couple of items of good news are that, firstly, ANPR cameras are going to be provided first in Ewen and then on the A429 main road (these will be owned by the Parish council, not the Police although the police have approved the Ewen location). Once installed, the registration number of any speeding offenders will automatically be sent to the police for an initial warning letter, with subsequent offences followed up appropriately. Particularly helpful with a problem in Ewen is that the camera will also record details of any HGV weight restriction offenders for follow up initially by the PC. Also, you may have noticed that a fresh piece of equipment appears to have recently been introduced unannounced locally for road surface repairs. This first planes the damaged road surface and then resurfaces with fresh tarmac - a vast improvement both in quality of finish and durability compared with the traditional pot hole repair process. Much of the A429 main road en route to Cirencester has recently benefitted from this, as has the lower end of Church Road.

Good to report that the local monthly litter picking sessions operating from The Tavern continues to attract good support. Thanks to the residents who support this initiative and to The tavern for providing welcome hospitality at each event. Also pleasing to note that users of the airport are generally adhering to the noise abatement requirements and that, consequently, complaints have been very few. Our thanks as ever to the airport management for continuing to cooperate with us on this. A new community Initiative which the Council is pleased to support concerning energy supply, reducing costs for residents, bulk purchase of solar panels and improving our collective carbon footprint attracted much interest at a recent meeting. Further contact information is included in the main body of this report.

Finally, a word of sincere thanks to the Parish Councillors and all of those public spirited residents who actively contribute to the success of our community and help to make it a great place to live. Details of many of these are acknowledged in the main body of this report. On a personal note, after over 20 years of membership, I decided not to stand for re-election earlier this month and so will now stand down, again with thanks for support over the many years to both fellow councillors and to residents.

Roger Pettit, Chairman, Kemble & Ewen Parish Council

Community Activities

Police & Crime

Liaison with local Police remains good and although crime in the area remains relatively low there is no room for complacency. Sgt George Howe as area Sgt and PCSO Bev Rowe maintain a close watch on the area and are swift to act on actual and potential trouble within the Parish. These days most information on criminal activities within the Parish is disseminated via the web and/or via Social Media, those means being both quick and efficient. The PCC regularly discuss these issues and further disseminates via the Parish News or the PCC news letter, in order that all Parishioners are kept fully apprised.

The PCC is also continuing to ensure that all parishioners are fully aware of 'what to do/who to contact' in an emergency situation to ensure that the appropriate assistance is swiftly summonsed.

On the same vane the traditional Neighbourhood Watch Scheme has likewise 'gone digital' and the traditional meetings have been replaced by an electronic forum, the latter system in its infancy in the Parish but definitely WIP! More information as system is developed.

Airport Liaison

Again relations with the Airport remain good and the main area of concern, direct and continued overflight of any one of the villages in the Parish by light single engined aircraft has been mostly addressed, with the latest instructions on 'what to do if...' recently appearing in the latest Parish News.

The recent increase in the amount of 'Business Jet' activity at the airport is being closely monitored and should activity levels rise beyond acceptable levels then the PCC will be taking the appropriate actions with Airport Management.

Finally a new phenomena, Drones and drone activity is also being monitored by the Committee: where and when they can be flown (bearing in mind the safety implications of operating a drone close to an active airport) and ensuring that both private and commercial drones are operated in accordance with current Civil Aviation Authority legislation and guidance.

More information on either the Police or the Airport please access the appropriate websites... the truth is out there (somewhere!). Any queries regarding either Police or Airport activities should be addressed to PCC representative David Russell on via normal e mail address.

Community Activities

Playing Field & Playground

The playground and playing field are a key facility for the younger members of the community and the Parish Council works hard to ensure the facility remains in good working order. The site is leased from the Bathurst Estate and the Parish Council are currently in discussion to renew the lease and secure the future of the site. Each year funds are dedicated to the ongoing maintenance and care of the play facilities which, due to their age, often require regularly maintenance. The playground is inspected regularly by our qualified playground inspector. Residents are reminded that dogs are not permitted anywhere on the playing field - this is to ensure that health and safety of people using it.

Litter Pick

The Tavern in Kemble is the location for the monthly litter pick. Meet at 10.30 to pick from 11.00 to 12.00. Coffee & Tea is funded in part by the Parish Council and we are very grateful to the Tavern for hosting this monthly event. Equipment is provided.

Village Environment - Highways & Footpaths

Hopefully you have noticed the lovely blossom on the new young trees and additional spring bulbs that are currently lining many of the roads in and around Kemble and Ewen. These are the results of an ongoing project to improve the verges which both creates a more pleasant environment and is also linked to improved traffic calming..

The Parish Council have been advised that the TRO for the Parking Scheme has now been completed and that Gloucestershire County Council are now working with their contract to arranging the installation of the proposed yellow lines.

Community Energy Initiative

The Parish Council is pleased to support the Community Energy Initiative aimed at bringing down energy costs for residents and reducing the carbon footprint. The initiative in Kemble is being driven by Julie Hammerton, Mike McKeown or George Hilliar - please email info@thamesheadenergy.org or visit the website <https://thamesheadenergy.org>

Community Activity

Parish Council Newsletter

A newsletter is produced monthly and made available on the Kemble website, Kemble and Ewen Facebook page and on the Parish Council website. If you would like to receive a copy direct to your inbox please subscribe via the Parish Council website <https://kembleandewen-pc.gov.uk/contact-us>

Additional Funds Available to the Parish Council

The Parish Council will receive £33,000 by way of the Community Infrastructure Levy payable in October 2024. The CIL arises from three current building projects in the area.

“The parish council must use the CIL receipts passed to it to support the development of the parish council’s area by funding the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure; or anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on the area.”

We are keen to identify projects that could fall within this definition and implement those which are of greatest importance to the parish. Current ideas include a refresh of the Windmill Road playground. Please speak to any parish councillor or email via the parish clerk clerk@kembleandewen-pc.gov.uk

Thank you to...

The Parish Council would like to thank the many residents who volunteer to give their time free of charge to run and support community activities. In particular to: the Parish News volunteer editors; Pat Ayres and Austin Hind for their co-ordination of remembrance events; Brian Ayres for maintaining the war graves; Steve Marsh who runs the village website www.kemble.co.uk; the Village Hall committee; the Kemble Community Garden committee; Kam & Nutan who run the Post Office and last, but by no means least, our parish councillors themselves.

Community Activity

Kemble Community Garden

I could say that the gardens have had a good year; they looked very smart for the open day back in May 2022, thanks to individual plot holders tending their plots and a couple of well attended working parties beforehand. Most people's plots survived the drought and I think most of us were pleased with the fruit, veg and flowers that we produced, although it seemed that generally crops of runner beans suffered unduly from the said drought!

Throughout the year all members of the KCG committee have worked to keep the site looking its best and I would like to thank them wholeheartedly for their support and willingness to contribute time and energy to keeping the whole thing going. Special thanks must go to Bob Whitehead who continues to mow, clear and tidy with his own special brand of dedicated enthusiasm.

However, I think I am justified in saying that the end of the year was truly exceptional.... The 'dream' that the housing development planned by CDC would be abandoned has been realised and KEPC has just received the draft lease, currently suggested to be a 50 year term to enable the whole site to be managed for the benefit for the local community with a focus on biodiversity, wildlife and allotments.

So now the real work begins..... plans that were put on hold seven or so years ago can now be revived, reviewed and reinvigorated. Once we have the terms of our tenancy/ management confirmed, the committee has plans, subject to any necessary permissions under the new lease, to reinstate the allotments that were abandoned, reopen the orchard area, install a much-needed pond.

We are looking forward to the challenges of 2023!

Jill Steeden

Chair, Kemble Community Gardens

15th May 2023



Financial Summary

Income

The Parish Council's main source of income is the precept (local council tax). For the year 2022-23 this was £27944. For a typical Band D property, this equated to £52.46 per year. Going forward, the Parish Council will have an additional funding source from the Community Infrastructure Levy whereby funds from residential developments are passed to the Parish Council and can be used to support development community facilities in the area. During 2022-23 £2937.55 was received in CIL payments.

PAYMENTS EX VAT	TOTAL	RECEIPTS	TOTAL
Admin/Core	£11,872.11	Precept	£27,944.00
Grass Cutting	£9,870.00	CIL Payments	£2,937.55
Cemetery	£2,678.50	Contribution from GCC for Grass Cutting	£922.08
Playing Field	£2,387.85	Burial Ground Fees	£829.00
Jubilee Celebrations	£1,341.86	Interest	117.22
1st Aid Courses	£650.00	Grants	£41.25
Defibrillator	£613.00	PC VAT refund	£2,784.08
Litter	£600.00	GRAND TOTAL	£35,575.18
Grants	£598.77		
Community Gardens	£466.40		
Village Environment	£80.00		
VAT (Recoverable)	£2,730.61		
GRAND TOTAL	£33,889.10		

Expenditure

Almost 70% of the expenditure relates to core services (which include insurance, salaries, professional memberships, printing and postage and audit and accounting fees) and grass cutting. In 2022-23 the Parish Council were able to support Jubilee celebrations for the villages, a first aid course, replacement batteries for the community defibrillators and a number of community grants to support local community organisations,

Each year the Parish Council pays for a full internal and external audit to ensure that correct procedures are being followed. Each year the audited accounts are posted on the Parish Council website. Alternatively a copy can be requested from the Parish Council.

The Year Ahead

For this year ahead, the Parish Council has requested £30192, an increase of 6.2%. The cost for a band D property will increase by £3.24 per year. A large contributor to this is the change in how election costs are met. Historically the District Council's have funded all election costs but these will now have to be covered by the Parish Council so provision had to be made within the budget. Additionally, the Parish Council has some potentially costly projects ahead including updating the playground for which reserves must start to be built.

Meet the Parish Council

Meetings are generally held on the second Tuesday evenings of each month in the Village Hall.

Meeting dates are shown on the parish council website where agenda and minutes can also be found.

Residents are welcome to attend and there is time allocated at the start of each meeting where you can raise issues, ask for advice, or ask questions. The Parish Council asks that residents refer to the public participation procedure which can be found [here](#).



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