

ANNUAL REPORT

Kemble & Ewen Parish Council



Over the last year there has been some change which has helped with greater collaboration and improved PC outcomes. This started with last year's Annual Meeting of the Parish where a more inclusive format was introduced to encourage parishioners to help inform what we would focus on for the short, medium and longer term.

All in all, it has been a very successful year with some key updates on the following page to our achievements:

The Annual Meeting of the Parish will be held on Tuesday May 21, 2024 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm. All residents are invited and welcomed to the meeting to discuss local issues.

Parish Council:

Parish Councillors

We bid a fond farewell to Lester Napper and welcomed Luke Sherlock.

Bank Accounts

We have reconciled the five bank accounts with three providers to two accounts from one provider. In doing so we have still managed to achieve the same rate of interest on the investment account.

Communication

Through our Newsletter and Facebook profile we have managed to increase communication. Our monthly meetings have also seen better attendance from the community.

The Parish:

Defibrillators

As a result of GWR providing a defibrillator at the station we have moved one of three to the Village Shop. The other two are located at the Village Hall and Ewen phone box.

Solar Farm

We have been in discussion with Aura Power and Crudwell Parish Council on how we will split allocated community funding.

The Tavern

The Tavern provides local activity for local families and is a great asset. It is the host location for our monthly litter picks. While biker night continues to be very popular there has been some unwelcome noise as bikes travel through the village. We are working with support from the Tavern team and locals affected to find a solution.

Village Benches	Last year the village benches received some well-deserved attention. Thank you to Austin Hind for his time and effort.
BT Collapsed Wall	After many attempts to get BT to repair the telephone exchange wall this was completed.
Dog Waste Bins	We continue to push to get more dog waste bins installed throughout the parish however, CDC do not have the capacity to empty them.
Youth Club	The Parish Youth Club has been reinstated thanks to Sportily and the financial support of the PC.
Footpaths	We have continued to identify and report any old footpaths. There is now a deadline for declaring footpaths so we are looking for volunteers to report any footpath that is not mapped.
Very Light Railway	Monitoring process and attending meetings

Grass Cutting:

The Cemetery	The previous contractor who cut the cemetery grass retired at short notice. Members of the PC took voluntary action to get the grass back to peak condition. Keith Harrison has helped to finally get the cemetery back to a good state. Volunteers from the PC have re-laid the path with new stone.
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New contractor this year A new contractor has been engaged to cut the grass and this has gone well so far. We welcome any feedback.

Wilding We are in dicussion with the contractor about how we can enhance the local appearance with suitably placed wild flower sections.

Highways:

Parking Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) Last May the Parking TRO was finally completed after some issues on Windmill Hill. The car was removed and the lines were re-painted. The TRO on Windmill Hill has been very effective and stopped any parking blocking the road

Roads in the parish re-laid We seem to have done well for road laying recently especially the road to Kemble Wick

Community Speed Watch (CSW) The CSW camera was finally installed in April. We must collect baseline data to establish its effectiveness. We require four verifiers to ensure the data is correct. We have three volunteers but need one more (preferably from Ewen)

Community Vehicle Watch The pilot was completed and then funding withdrawn. Hopefully the CSW Camera might help

Ewen:

The Wild Duck The Parish Council are in on-going discussions with Youngs Brewery. We understand they are currently tendering for contracts but do not have a start date.

Bathurst Estates:

Completion of Orchard Grove and Saxon Field	Work completed with minimum disruption and residents integrated within the community
Playing field lease extended by two years	Currently in discussion about the future of the playing field
Village Triangle licence	Renewed for another year
Regular meetings with the CEO, Property & Farm Directors/Managers	Ongoing discussions around how the estate can work with us to better the parish and look at a future development plan. The estate would like to hold quarterly meetings going forward including a longer-term resident representative
Kemble at Play (KAP) Working Group Presentation	The KAP have presented their initial findings and option to the estate and they are very supportive. The decision for the playing field will determine what happens next
Support for the proposed Cycle Path from Kemble to Cirencester	A group from Kemble and the Estate recently walked the proposed cycle route. The government backed Sustainable Transport Initiative are looking to bring in cycle paths and this has been identified as a potential route

I would like to thank the Councillors for their amazing ongoing support, also to those who volunteered their time to support the Parish ensuring we have a great and thriving community.

George Hilliar, Chairman

Financial Summary

Income

The Parish Council's main source of income is the precept (local council tax). For the year 2023-24 this was £xxxx. For a typical Band D property, this equated to £55.71 per year. The Parish Council received £xxxx from Community Infrastructure Levy which are funds from residential developments which can be used to support development community facilities.

Income	Total
Precept	£30,192.00
CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy)	£13,855.86
Agency Services/Grants	£978.08
Burial Ground Fees	£578.00
Interest	£398.01
	£46,001.95

PAYMENTS EX VAT	TOTAL
Grass Cutting	£6,580.00
Employees	£6,286.52
Administration	£3,796.75
Coronation Celebrations	£1,800.00
Cemetery	£1,494.30
Playing Field	£828.75
Litter	£825.00
Professional Memberships	£546.90
Village Environment	£500.00
Village Web Site	£500.00
Grants	£450.00
Publicity	£158.05
Community Gardens	£50.00
Training	£25.00
VAT (reclaimable)	£1,738.22
TOTAL PC EX VAT	£25,579.49

Expenditure

The majority of the expenditure relates to core services (which include insurance, salaries, professional memberships, litter picker refreshments, audit & accounting fees) and grass cutting. In 2023-24 the Parish Council were able to support the Coronation Celebrations and provide grants to Little Fishes and the school.

Each year the Parish Council pays for a full internal and external audit to ensure that correct procedures are being followed. The audited accounts are available on the Parish Council website.

The Year Ahead

For this year ahead, the Parish Council has requested £32842, an increase of 7%. The cost for a band D property will increase by £3.95 per year.

Parish Council Meetings

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.



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