KEMPLEY PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Virtual[[1]](#footnote-1) Ordinary Parish Council Meeting**

Held on Tuesday 7th July 2020 at 7:30pm via video conference call

**Present:**

Councillors: Martin Brocklehurst (Chairman), Tom Jackson (Snow Warden), Stafford Cruse, David Spencer

Officers: Arin Spencer (Parish Clerk and RFO)

In attendance: Chris Bligh (DyFRA)

Three (3) members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence** received from Cllr David Lewis.
2. **Declarations of disclosable pecuniary or non-statutory disclosable interests**. None.
3. **Minutes**

**Resolved** (nem con) to approve and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 5th May 2020 as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Jackson, seconded by Cllr Spencer.

1. **Matters arising from previous minutes** (for information only)

Potholes on the stretch of road from the Queens Wood car park to the parish boundary were reported to Gloucestershire Highways by the Parish Council. Highways have been out to assess the stretch of road and have marked out several of the potholes for repair.

1. **Public Participation**
   1. Ingrid Barker (owner of land adjoining the Centenary Glade in Dymock Woods) thanked Cllr Jackson for liaising between DyFRA (Dymock Forest Rural Action) and the landowners adjoining the glade. She also thanked the Parish Council for its support and understanding of the concern to landowners caused by the presence of ragwort in the Glade.

Ingrid said she was sympathetic to the aims of the Glade in terms of biodiversity. She and her husband own 25 acres of land in Kempley which for 17 years have been managed under various stewardship schemes (currently through Natural England). Their land management has resulted in a diverse sward of grass, replanted hedgerows, creation of wildlife corridors and little corners of wetland.

However, despite not using herbicides on the land, Ingrid said no ragwort would be found on their 25 acres and suggested this was true for any farmland in this neighbourhood.

Ingrid expressed concern that the report provided by DyFRA[[2]](#footnote-2) to Forestry England did not cover the fact that ragwort:

* is highly toxic, not only to animals but also to people,
* is particularly toxic to horses and cattle and can be fatal, especially in silage/hay and in its dried form, and
* is a controlled weed under the *Weeds Act 1959,* and the *Ragwort Control Act 2003* which is accompanied by a *Code of Practice on How to Prevent the Spread of Ragwort 2004* which outlines best practice.

Ingrid said the Code of Practice identifies her land as high risk because it is within 50m of the Glade. The report produced by DyFRA3 acknowledged ragwort was first observed in the Glade on 22 May. She said no action was taken until she and her neighbour complained several weeks later. Forestry England had therefore been aware of the presence of ragwort and had not undertaken its legal duty to take immediate action as required in the Code of Practice.

As Ingrid’s two hay fields adjoin the glade the presence of ragwort, she said, had been extremely worrying.

She added that the report did not offer a long-term management plan. She stated that ragwort is a pernicious and persistent weed that will keep appearing and would require a multi-year management plan with timelines and proper oversight.

She asked for reassurance that a more robust approach to the management of ragwort in the Glade would be followed.

* 1. Jeremy Bennett (Lower House Farm) echoed the sentiments of his neighbour Ingrid Barker. He thanked the Parish Council for its involvement in this matter, particularly the efforts of Cllr Jackson but said there was a need now to move forward proactively.

He noted the report produced by DyFRA[[3]](#footnote-3) but asked how the Glade is still classed as ancient woodland having been cleared. He said the report referred to best practice but did not reference where this best practice came from or where it had been effectively used.

The weed would not go away, he said. The seed can lie dormant for 16 years. He appreciated that the cinnabar moth could help control the weed but expressed concern that a hard winter could mean the cinnabar moth did not survive in its dormant stage to control the ragwort in the following year.

1. **Reports from County and/or District Councillors** – none received.
2. **Newent Loop Cyclists**

A complaint has been received about the behaviour of cyclists signposted through the village on the Newent Loop.

**Resolved:** That the Clerk be instructed to write to the Newent Cycling Group highlighting the emerging problem and asking them to advise members and users of the Newent Loop to be cognisant of pedestrians when passing through the village and that, in due course, this advice be added to the Newent Loop trail guides.

1. **Ragwort in the Centenary Glade**

Complaints have been received about the presence of ragwort in the Centenary Glade.

Proposed resolution:

That the Clerk be instructed to write to Forestry England with a request that they provide details on their current policy for dealing with Ragwort on Forestry property and expressing support for the efforts of the local farming community to keep pasture land free of ragwort.

Cllr Tom Jackson proposed the following amendment and Council

**Resolved:** That the Clerk be instructed to write to Forestry England

* thanking them for the details of their current policy3 for dealing with ragwort on Forestry property,
* expressing support for the efforts of the local farming community to keep pastureland free of ragwort, and
* noting the issues which adjoining landowners have requested be included in the policy.

1. **Community Emergency Plan**

**Resolved:** That the Clerk be instructed to write to all Community Volunteers expressing thanks for their work during the covid-19 pandemic and requesting that they review their contact details for local residents to ensure they are up to date.

Cllr Spencer proposed and Council

**Resolved:** That the Clerk be instructed to write to Gloucestershire County Council asking for notification about centres of outbreak in the local area.

1. **Management of Kempley Village Green**

From time to time proposals have been received for changes to the way the village green is used and maintained. In order that a community led approach can be developed it is proposed that:

1. The Clerk invite residents in the parish to set up a working group to make recommendations to the Parish Council on how they would like to see the Village Green used and managed over the next 5 years;
2. The top three recommendations be submitted to the Clerk by 15 August so they can be discussed at the September meeting.

No changes will be made to the current management regime until the views of local parishioners have been received.

Following discussion of this item, Cllr Cruse proposed and Council

**Resolved:** that residents be invited (via the mailchimp newsletter) to submit their ideas without the need for a working party.

1. **Kempley Village Hall Trust (KVHT) Representation**

To appoint a member to represent the Parish Council on KVHT following the resignation of Cllr David Spencer from that role.

No members wished to take on this role.

The Chairman said he had asked at the KVHT AGM whether any KVHT members wished to join the parish council as there are at present three (and potentially four) casual vacancies, but the invitation had been unanimously declined.

1. **Climate Emergency**

Following a brief introduction by the Chairman, Council

**Resolved:**

1. That an open invitation be made to parishioners and other interested parties to set up a steering committee to advise the Parish Council on measures that could be taken to assist the Council in reducing or mitigating the carbon footprint of the village in line with the Paris Agreement;
2. That the group, once formed, be invited to recommend its top three suggestions for action by the Parish Council by the November 2020 Council meeting.
3. **Court Farm Footpath Diversions**

Following a brief introduction by the Chairman, Council

**Resolved:** That the Parish Clerk be instructed to write to the Footpath Officer that the Parish Council has no objection to the latest proposed diversions to Kempley Footpath 2 and 3 as long as the landowner maintains the full statutory width to the paths on the field boundaries.

1. **Kempley Footpath** **38**

Footpath 38 running from The Old Post Office and joining the footpath to New Grange Farm is blocked at The Redlands. (For further details see Gloucestershire County Council Online Footpaths Map (<https://maps.gloucestershire.gov.uk/MapThatPublic/Default.aspx?treeid=81@82@83>)

Proposed resolution:

That the Parish Clerk be instructed to write to the Gloucestershire County Council Footpaths Officer expressing Council’s full support to resolve and re-open GKE38.

During discussion of this item the following points were raised:

* the footpath has been blocked for approximately 27 years (the landowner of The Redlands at the time placed a caravan across the footpath and later built a garage across it permanently blocking access to the field beyond)
* it has been a source of friction in the past between landowners and the Ramblers Association who were attempting to walk the footpath
* the matter has been raised by a parishioner with the Gloucestershire Footpaths Officer
* there has been dialogue with the owners regarding whether the footpath should be re-opened or diverted

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Description automatically generated

The proposed diversion is along the Main Street and down the byway to GDY55.

Cllr Cruse proposed the following amendment to the resolution and Council

**Resolved:** That the Parish Clerk be instructed to write to the Gloucestershire County Council Footpaths Officer expressing Council’s full support to resolve GKE38.

1. **Superfast Broadband Provision to Kempley**

Details have been received on installation timetables for superfast broadband for Kempley from Airband and Gigaclear.

Following an introduction to this item from the Chairman, Council

**Resolved:** That the Clerk be instructed to prepare a MailChimp release with the latest updates on the installation timetable for Airband (northern section of Kempley) and Gigaclear (remainder of village).

Cllr Cruse lost connection with the meeting.

1. **Planning Applications**

[P0614/20/FUL](https://publicaccess.fdean.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=QAD2TZHIHPQ00) Chibblers Hill Farm Chibblers Hill Fishpool Kempley Gloucestershire GL18 2BT

Erection of a portal framed calf building with roof mounted photo-voltaic panels, infra-structure works and an area of hardstanding for the siting of a calving operation.

**Resolved:** To support the application but request that light pollution mitigation be considered.

Cllr Cruse rejoined the meeting.

1. **Planning Decisions** – none

Cllr Spencer left the meeting to attend to family duties.

1. **Accounts** as at 31/05/2020 (forwarded with agenda) £

Balance per bank statement 11,692.17

Unbanked cheques (825.49)

Reconciled balance 10,866.68

Balance per cashbook 10,866.68

Members were invited to review the accounts as at 31/05/2020 and

**Resolved:** to accept the figures as presented.

1. **Staff Salaries**

**Resolved:** approved Clerk’s salary schedule for 2020/21 (forwarded with agenda)

1. **Expenditure**

**Resolved:** approved the following items of expenditure

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| DESCRIPTION | CHQ NO | POWER | BUDGET | AMOUNT |
| Staff Salaries (May) | SO | LGA 1972 s112(2) | Staff Costs | £ 207.40 |
| Staff Salaries (Jun) | SO | LGA 1972 s112(s) | Staff Costs | £ 207.40 |

1. **Next meeting**

**Resolved:** that the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 1st September 2020 at 7:30pm remotely via Zoom conference call.

With no further business the meeting was closed at 20:20pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date

1. In accordance with The Local Authorities & Police & Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority & Police & Crime Panel Meetings) (England & Wales) Regulations 2020 this meeting was held by video conference call. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. DyFRA #23 Ragwort Control and Cinnabar Moths [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. DyFRA #23 Ragwort Control and Cinnabar Moths [↑](#footnote-ref-3)