KEMPLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

Held on Tuesday 26th January 2021 at 7:30pm via video conference call

**Present:**

Councillors: Martin Brocklehurst (Chairman), Stafford Cruse, Tom Jackson, Ricky Goodwin

Officers: Arin Spencer (Parish Clerk)

In attendance: No members of the public were present.

1. **Apologies**

None

1. **Declarations of interests and requests for dispensations**

Chairman Brocklehurst declared an interest in item 95. He is a partner in the bigger Aurora project but derives no direct financial benefit from the Forest of Dean bid.

1. **Minutes**

**Resolved** to approve and sign the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 3 November 2020 as a correct record.

1. **Update on progress of resolutions from the last meeting held on 3 November 2020**

81. Letters regarding the condition of highway surfaces in Kempley were sent to Gloucestershire and Herefordshire Highways in November 2020. Members noted the disappointing responses received in December.

**Action:** The Clerk was instructed to publish the letters sent to Gloucestershire and Herefordshire Highways and the replies received on the parish council website and invite local residents to write to Highways about this issue themselves.

83.a **FODDC Local Plan 2021-2041** Preferred Option Consultation

This item was deferred from the previous meeting. Members discussed the impact of the local plan in terms of traffic and competition for services on the parish but agreed that no comment would be made at this stage.

1. **Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present.

1. **Reports from District and County Councillors**

None received.

1. **Casual Vacancy**

An application for co-option had been withdrawn prior to the meeting.

1. **Kempley Climate Change Emergency implementation plan**

Chairman Brocklehurst presented the following report:

**Executive Summary**

Kempley Parish Council declared a Climate Change Emergency at our meeting on 26th September 2019.

We agreed at our November 2020 meeting that Kempley Parish Council would move forward towards carbon neutrality by 2030 by taking the following actions:

1. Baselining our current community carbon emissions
2. Showcasing best examples of carbon reduction programmes
3. Promoting the uptake of existing grant schemes that will support carbon reduction
4. Promoting the full uptake and use of superfast broadband [to drive change in the way we work, travel and shop to reduce carbon emissions].

**Progress Report**

We have made the following progress on our four key target areas:

**Baselining our current community carbon emissions –** We have registered our interest in a new tool being jointly developed by the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE – Bristol) and Exeter University to allow Parish Councils to baseline community carbon emissions. This will be our best way to measure carbon emissions from our community and we will monitor its progress through testing to ascertain when this tool can be used in Kempley.

**Showcasing best examples of carbon reduction programmes –** We have joined forces with 9 other Parish and Town Councils\* to share best practice. We have agreed to take part in a Local Communications Pilot being led by the CSE that will highlight actions that can be taken by local people to reduce carbon. Monthly themes are being promoted and communication materials are being provided that we can use in Kempley Parish Council communications. The first two themes are:

**December 2020** – Insulation of Homes

**January 2021** – Land Management and Connecting with the Land

**Promoting the uptake of existing grant schemes that will support carbon reduction –** We are in discussions with partner parish councils on setting up a joint Zoom conference to promote existing UK based grant schemes that can be used by local businesses, farms, and residential property owners to reduce carbon and save money. We will announce our ideas once the current pressure created by the COVID-19 pandemic subside. In addition, we are looking to support an EU Horizon 2020 project – AURORA (see below).

**Promoting the full uptake and use of superfast broadband –** Since our November meeting installation of fibre optic cables to premises in the northern end of Kempley by Airband has started. Trenching work between Bridges Farm and Kempley Court is complete and we await installation of aerial fibre optics (delayed by the need to install new telegraph poles – scheduled for 30th January 2021), splicing in of the new cables, commissioning and final offers for property connections. For the rest of the village, we await briefings from Gigaclear in the spring for installation 3Q 2021. Once installation is underway, we can begin offering training events on how to get the best benefits from the new systems and understand how we might reduce carbon emission as a consequence.

**Partnership working with the Forest of Dean –** In addition to the above a consortium of European Universities has invited the Forest of Dean District Council and the Centre for Sustainable Energy to take part in a bid to the EU Horizon 2020 Programme “Achieving a new European Energy Awareness” (AURORA). If the bid is successful it will lead to an investment of about €500,000 in the local area to support pilot schemes in the Forest of Dean that will in particular support the establishment of a community photo-voltaic scheme (circa 200kW) and to support local participating people to move to **Near Zero -Emission Citizens** with a citizen science programme targeted at electricity, heating and mobility that will provide a personalised reporting package for their use. This research package could provide a major boost to the work of the FDDC to support its stated drive to achieve a near carbon neutral Forest of Dean Community by 2030 over the next 4 years (see attached summary for details). The pilot will be one of 7 pilots across the European Union and the United Kingdom Local Parish Councils are being requested to offer a letter of support for this project bid which I commend to Kempley Parish Council.

Martin Brocklehurst

Chair Kempley Parish Council - 26th October 2020

\*Annex 1 - List of participating Parish Councils

West Dean Parish Council

Newland Parish Council

Westbury on Severn Parish Council

Lydney Town Council

Coleford Town Council

Cinderford Town Council

St Braviels Parish Council

Linton Parish Council

Kempley Parish Council

Chairman Brocklehurst left the meeting.

1. **Aurura EU Horizon Funding Bid**

**Resolved** to submit a letter of support for the EU Horizon 2020 funding bid by Aurora to build a 200Kw photovoltaic installation in the Forest of Dean.

Chairman Brocklehurst rejoined the meeting.

1. **Finance**
   1. **Resolved** to donate £200 to Kempley Village Hall Trust towards the cost of kitchen appliances.
   2. **Resolved** to use the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils (GAPTC) Internal Audit Service for 2020/21 at a cost of £175.
   3. **Resolved** to approve the following list of payments compiled by the RFO:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| DESCRIPTION | CHQ NO | POWER | BUDGET | AMOUNT (£) |
| Website Hosting (Dec) | DD | LGA 1972 s142 | Website & IT | 7.20 |
| Salaries (November) | SO | LGA 1972 s112 | Staff Costs | 207.40 |
| Salaries (December) | SO | LGA 1972 s112 | Staff Costs | 207.40 |
| Royal British Legion | 424 | LGA 1972 s137 | Donations | 30.00 |
| Christmas Tree Base | 425 | LGA 1972 s137 | Christmas Tree | 86.76 |
| Christmas Tree Lights | 426 | LGA 1972 s137 | Christmas Tree | 100.00 |
| Peps Electrical | 428 | LGA 1972 s137 | Christmas Tree | 197.60 |
| Kempley Village Hall Trust | 429 | LGA 1972 s137 | Donations | 200.00 |

* 1. Noted income received as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| DATE | DESCRIPTION | BUDGET HEADING | AMOUNT (£) |
| 10/12/2020 | M Brocklehurst | Donations | 20.00 |
| 10/12/2020 | A Spencer | Donations | 20.00 |

* 1. Noted Lloyds Bank Statement as at 31/12/2020 £ 8,514.34
  2. Noted bank reconciliation balance as at 31/12/2020 £ 8,069.98
  3. Received the accounts summary as at 31/12/2020 including budget monitoring.

1. **Date of next meeting**

**Resolved** that the next meeting of Full Council be held on Monday 15th March 2021 at 7:30pm via Zoom video conference call.

With no further business the meeting was closed at 20:24pm.

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)