



KEMPLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the ordinary Parish Council Meeting

Held on Monday 26th September 2022 at 7.30 in Kempley Village Hall

Present:

Councillors:

Martin Brocklehurst (Chairman), Robert Howson (Vice Chairman), Kim Reynolds, David Lewis (candidate for Co-option), Stafford Cruse (left the meeting after item 74)

Officers:

Tim Dain (Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

In attendance:

Tim Rickard (Dymock Forest Rural Action - DyFRA)
Three (3) members of the public

- 70 A minute of silent reflection was observed following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. A further minute was observed for Simon Hanes with condolences expressed following his passing having served many years as a councillor and as Chairman of Kempley Parish Council.
- 71 Apologies were accepted from County Councillor Gill Mosely. The resignation of Edward Lewis was noted, creating a new Parish Council casual vacancy that will be advertised.

Co-option

- 72 Casual Vacancy on the Council – Following introductions and discussion, Council **resolved unanimously** to Co-opt candidate David Lewis onto the Council.
- 73 Cllr Brocklehurst declared the following interest:
Project AURORA - Martin Brocklehurst is a partner in this European Funded Horizon 2020 project that will run for 3.5 years from December 2021 and is leading Work Package 5 Exploitation, Dissemination and Communication for the Project and will receive 70% of all staff costs and 100% of expenses.
- 74 Proposed by Cllr Howson, seconded by Cllr Reynolds, Council **resolved unanimously** to approve the minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held on 18th July 2022.

75 Public Open Forum

A request was made that Council consider the current cost of living crisis when setting the precept for 2023. A 'standstill budget' with provision for inflationary costs was suggested. For full consideration at the November meeting.

Tim Rickard informed the meeting that he was attending on behalf of DyFRA to provide responses if needed to any reports.

Items For Consideration

Documentation review

- 76 In regard to a rolling programme of policy review:
- 76.1 Complaints & Comments Policy

- 76.2 Vexatious Correspondence Procedure

Council **resolved** unanimously to adopt both acknowledging minor updates.

Action: Clerk to update the Policy section on the Council's website

Planning

- 77 New planning applications in the Parish:

77.1 --- Application ref: P1197/22/FUL Saycells Farm HR8 2NP. Erection of replacement dwelling and reconstruction of threshing barn and stable building and relocation of existing barn, landscaping and associated works. Demolition of the existing dwelling.

Council **resolved** to support the application, the development being considered of low impact, on the existing footprint and in keeping with the site.

Action: Clerk to post comment on the FoDDC planning website.

- 78 New planning decisions: none

Reports

- 79 GCC Councillor Gill Mosely sent apologies due to a clash of meetings. No report received. The clerk raised that a parishioner has requested an update on the potential use of Herefordshire County Council recycling centres.

Action: Clerk to enquire if any update on this.

- 80 The Responsible Financial Officers report was received (Appendix I). Council was reminded that the reserves balance has fallen below the value of the annual precept with advice offered that any further discretionary spend is carefully considered.

- 81 The Clerk's report was received (Appendix I). Thanks were expressed to Robin Bennion for ensuring the Village Green flag was appropriately flown during the period of public mourning for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Items For Exchange of Views:

- 82 Welcome Pack for households new to Kempley.

Members supported providing a pack including the Community Led Plan 2017, the Public Rights of Way map and associated leaflets and information on local organisations, the WhatsApp group, Mobile Shop, Milk deliveries. A parishioner has volunteered to deliver the pack to new households.

Action: Cllr Lewis to co-ordinate.

- 83 Centenary Stone Information display

Members invited the attending parishioners to add their comments on the proposed display (Appendix II). Opinions were expressed that information should be limited to the 'Nine Sons of Kempley', and that individual properties should not be identified. It was noted

that only minor changes were now needed to the wording and that there was no need to include the 'app' QR code.

Action: Cllr Cruse to agree final designs and costs with all parties.

Action: Clerk to enquire of GCC Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Team whether funds from the Build Back Better Fund grant could be used to fund the display board. Glyn Bennett Chair of the Daffodil Weekend Committee expressed support for using the funds in this way.

84 Public Rights of Way: Installation of Kissing gates in place of wooden stiles.

Cllr Brocklehurst confirmed that the site and budget for 6 new installations had been agreed within the current financial year. The sixth site, additional to the original plan, will be funded from the Highways Public Rights of Way budget and the County Councillor's local highways fund.

Two further sites have been identified to satisfactorily complete upgrades to the Daffodil Way from Fishpool to Kempley Green, to come out of the 2023/24 budget. It was suggested that these might be appropriately funded from the Build Back Better Fund Grant if funds are left over after paying for road signage (item 85). Glyn Bennett Chair of the Daffodil Committee expressed support for using the funds in this way.

Action: Clerk to seek approval from GCC Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Team.

85 Highway Matters - Build Back Better Fund Road signage

Cllr Brocklehurst confirmed that design approval had been reached with GCC Highways Department for new village signs using the standard village branding developed by Robin Bennion (See Appendix III) with the exception of the daffodil symbol. The font and colour scheme have also been approved.

Anticipated cost per sign is between £90 to £125 plus VAT plus fixing costs, plus a £55 delivery charge. Approval from the Daffodil Committee was confirmed to be in place so the Clerk can now proceed with an order from Morlock signs.

Council **resolved** to order 10 signs to allow for spares to replace any that become damaged.

Action: Cllr Howson will co-ordinate a volunteer working party for installation

Action: Clerk to check Parish Council's insurance cover for erecting signs.

Action: Clerk to order signs and fixings.

86 Kempley Community Broadband Project

Cllr Brocklehurst advised there is one installation bid from FullFibre. The company have an existing depot off the M50 at Bromsberrow and have recently completed an installation into Ross-on-Wye. Backhaul (the connection between an access node and the core network) will be in Ross and reach Kempley via Upton Bishop. FullFibre plan to pick up incidental properties along the route and aim to start work after Christmas 2022. Only one very remote property who submitted a request has not been included.

The bid now needs approval from Fastershires and there will be a community meeting to adopt the contract [held on 11th October]. The new infrastructure will involve mainly aerial fibreoptic cables with some trenching. Full Fibre will make final decisions on how much trenching will be undertaken. There is an anticipated need for a wayleave to cross the Village Green. [County Council and Community approvals has since been received and contracts will be issued for all parishioners who have expressed an interest in receiving the new service.]

87 Road verge maintenance

Cllr Brocklehurst presented the original Licence to Cultivate Highway Verges agreed with GCC Highways in 2008 (Appendix IV) which states the Parish Council's obligations. It was noted that some of the verges included lie outside the Parish boundary in Oxenhall and Dymock and it was queried why, presumably due to there being no Parish Council covering Oxenhall. To exclude these would require the full agreement to be rescinded and may risk loss of any input regarding the daffodil management regime.

GCC Highways have confirmed that the agreement remains valid. A concern was raised that late cutting this year had raised the fire risk during the summer drought.

The original objective was to allow the cultivation of daffodils and it would be useful to know how successful this has been. It was agreed that the management programme for the verges needed to be documented to ensure that the Parish Council could confirm all its legal obligations were being met. Tim Rickard informed that formerly Balfour Beattie and now Ringway do verge cutting on behalf of GCC but only 0.5m from the road edge and at visibility splays.

It was noted that there is no current budget provision for verge maintenance.

Action: Tim Rickard agreed to liaise with Chris Bligh and report back on the current management programme in order that the Parish Council could document current arrangements and if necessary seek volunteers to assist.

88 Biodiversity strategy

Information provided by DyFRA (Appendix V) was reviewed. GCC are understood to have surveyed verges over the summer during the drought and that Linda Moor, (County Ecologist, Gloucester Centre for Environmental Records) has agreed to become involved and Gary Kemerson is commissioned to carry out a survey in Spring 2023.

89 Climate Change

Cllr Brocklehurst presented his report (Appendix VI) showing the relatively high Carbon Footprint of the village using the Impact Tool when compared with the Forest of Dean (FOD) and GB averages. This reflects both rurality and relative affluence of the village.

Comparing the Household Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) ratings, FOD averages 31% in the bottom (worst performing) quartile whilst Kempeley had nearly 50% in the bottom quartile. The Parish Council could target advice to the property owners affected, who would

be able to gain not only the greatest carbon reductions but also economic benefits through reduced fuel use.

Bob Earl has already had some insightful conversations and identified that whilst Kempley residents don't want to be lectured about climate change, they do want to know what steps they can take and to come together as a community to increase understanding and exchange ideas.

Bob Earl will facilitate a public meeting in the Village Hall on 29th October to be attended by a local renewable energy company who will be able to answer questions about switching from fossil fuels and availability of grants. The Aurora project phone app will be available from late 2022, allowing users to track and reduce their energy demands. Examples of innovation were shared such as a scheme in Totnes, Devon whereby crowd-funded solar photovoltaics have been installed on buildings, with the electricity generated being sold to local people via an energy supplier company. Locally, the AURORA project has a proposal for solar panels to be installed on Lydney School with power being used by the school and surplus sold to the neighbouring Leisure Centre. The scheme will be crowd sourced funded with shares in this scheme being available for purchase by the public. It was speculated that Kempley could learn from these examples and set itself the ambition to set up a Community Interest Company (CIC) to produce and sell electricity. The village could in effect become a prosumer, generating income from solar energy and selling power at below market rates to benefit the community.

Items For Resolution & Decision:

Financial Matters

90 Council **resolved** to accept the following financial reports as at 31/08/2022

- Bank Statement
- Bank reconciliation
- Budget monitoring report
- Reserves statement

91 Council **resolved** to approve the following online payments made since the last meeting:

DATE	PAYMENT TYPE	DESCRIPTION	POWER	AMOUNT
13/07/22	DD	Website/IT – Website Hosting	LGA 1972 s.142	£7.20
26/07/22	SO	Clerk's Salary	LGA 1972 s.112	£216.80
11/08/22	DD	Website/IT – Website Hosting	LGA 1972 s.142	£7.20
26/08/22	SO	Clerk's Salary	LGA 1972 s.112	£216.80

92 To was noted that the fee for the Internal Audit carried out by GAPTC is £177.25 and not £175.00 as anticipated and previously agreed at the May meeting (agenda item 21)

93 Council **resolved** to approve and sign the following list of cheque payments:

DATE	CHQ No	DESCRIPTION	POWER	AMOUNT
19/09/22	481	Defib Pads (Village Green)	PHA 1936, s234	£100.80
19/09/22	482	Clerk's expenses (Jul-Aug)	various	£109.38
19/09/22	483	GAPTC – Internal Audit		£177.25

Initial: _____

It was noted that all three sets of Defibrillator pads have now been replaced this year in line with expiry dates, with the Village Hall set’s invoice awaited. Cllr Reynolds and Cllr Howson agreed to become involved with regular Defib checking.

Action: Clerk to liaise with councillors to advise on required checks and to continue inputting the information onto the Webnos website.

94 Council **resolved** that no response was required to the public consultation on the FoDDC Local Plan 2041.

95 Council **resolved** that maintenance of the Village Green in future will be in accordance with Minute item 56.2 (01/09/2020) and a 30cm band directly around the Centenary Stone, bus shelter and along the northern boundary will be left uncut if wild daffodils are present. All remaining areas will be cut and kept tidy throughout the year.

96 Council **resolved** that organisation of this year’s Act of Remembrance will be delegated to the Friends of Kempley Churches.

Action: Clerk to write to the Friends of Kempley Churches to confirm.

97 Council **resolved** that Cllr Howson would arrange, supported by Mary and Robin Bennion, an approximately 25’ Christmas Tree to be sited on the Village Green, to be decorated with the existing stock of decorations.

Council **resolved** to approve a budget of up to £250 to be made available from Parish Council funds to purchase the tree.

98 Council **resolved** to support the promotion of a Climate Change Event on 29th October 2022 through the Council’s website and social media channels.

99 Council **resolved** to remain opted in to the SAAA appointed external auditor for the next 5-year cycle. (See Clerk’s report)

General

100 The following items will be included on the agenda for the next meeting:

- Budget setting 2023/24 (‘Standstill’ budget)
- Road verge management updates

101 Date and time of next meeting:

**Monday 21st November at 7:30pm
Kempley Village Hall**

With no further business, the meeting closed at 21.18

Signed (Chairman)

Date

Initial: _____

Appendices

Appendix I – RFO and Clerk’s report

Appendix II – Centenary Stone information display

Appendix III – Road signage design

Appendix IV – Licence to Cultivate Highway Verges

Appendix V – Biodiversity information supplied by DyFRA

Appendix VI – Carbon Footprint Report – Kempley (September 2022)

Kempley Parish Council is no longer receiving hard copy planning applications. All planning applications can be viewed on the Forest of Dean District Council website at: <https://publicaccess.fdean.gov.uk/online-applications/>
All meetings of the council are open to the public and press except for items considered under Standing Order 3(d)

Members are reminded that the Council has a general duty to consider the following matters in the exercise of any of its functions: Equal Opportunities (race, sexual orientation, marital status and any disability), Crime and Disorder, Biodiversity, Health and Safety and Human Rights.