KEMPLEY PARISH COUNCIL

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

Held on Tuesday 1st September 2020 at 7:30pm via video conference call

**Present:**

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

Officers: Arin Spencer (Parish Clerk)

In attendance: Fourteen (14) members of the public

The Chairman expressed thanks on behalf of the community to John and Joyce Fishpool who died within months of each other earlier this year. They were both community spirited stalwarts of the village who gave a great deal to the community. The Chairman called for a minute’s silence to honour their memory.

1. **Apologies for absence** received from Ricky Goodwin.
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 4th August 2020 as a correct record. Proposed by Cllr Cruse, seconded by Cllr Jackson.

1. **Co-option of new members**

Ricky Goodwin had confirmed his willingness to be co-opted. He could not attend the meeting due to a last-minute work commitment. Cllr Jackson proposed, Cllr Cruse seconded and Council:

**Resolved** to co-opt Ricky Goodwin onto the Council.

1. **Clerk’s Report and Action Tracker** (for information only)

The action tracker had been circulated to Councillors. The Clerk drew attention to progress on the following items:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Felania | A contractor has been appointed to replace the hoarding. A date has not yet been set for works to commence. Council will be informed of the date once available. |
| Cycling | A complaint regarding inconsiderate cycling through the village was passed on to Newent Cycling Group. They have agreed to:   * email all members of Newent Cycle Group and remind them to treat all other road users with respect and consideration * add a notice on the Newent Loop website to the same effect * add a comment to the next publication of the Newent Loop guide to the same effect |
| Covid Data | Both Herefordshire and Gloucestershire County Councils have confirmed that they are now supporting the Kings College Covid Symptom Tracker App. |

1. **Public Participation**

Item 64: Village Green Maintenance

A member of the public commented as follows:

* Residents around the Village Green take care to keep their front gardens neat and tidy which enhances the visual appeal of this shared space.
* The wildflower area could end up looking very untidy with weeds growing between the wildflowers.
* The small area proposed for wildflowers is unlikely to have any impact on biodiversity.

A member of the volunteer group DyFRA commented as follows:

* Kempley is renowned for its wild daffodils. The Village Green is at the centre of the village and should showcase these natural assets.
* The DyFRA consultation (which received majority support of 55% of those who responded on this subject) is not reflected in the proposed resolutions.
* Grass should be mowed every three to four weeks, not every two weeks, to allow wildflowers to set seed.
* The proposed restriction of daffodils to 30cm around the centenary stone is not sustainable as the stone dries out the soil and wild daffodils are happiest in the shade of fine grass.
* In order to plant wild daffodils along the northern hedge of the green would require lifting a one metre wide area of turf so the restriction to 30cm width would not be sustainable.
* Gigaclear could be asked to replace all naturalised wild daffodils after their works are complete.
* DyFRA has been adding to wild daffodils in the area around the stone to the second tree since 2014. They need to be left until late July as they don’t survive if topped too early.
* DyFRA would like the area around the Centenary Stone (from the iKiosk to the second ornamental cherry tree) not to be mowed until late July.

Item 65: Ragwort Control in the Centenary Glade

A resident with land adjacent to the Centenary Glade commented as follows:

* Ragwort is toxic to horses and cattle, particularly in its dried form.
* It will be necessary to use herbicide if ragwort from the Glade intrudes onto their hayfield.
* Forestry England has not had dialogue with neighbouring landowners about the issue of risk.
* The report on ragwort control takes the risk measurements in the Code of Practice very literally without consulting the nearby landowners on their risk tolerance.
* The measurements given in the report appear to be subjective.

A farmer with land bordering directly onto the to the Centenary Glade commented as follows:

* His field adjacent to the Glade is used for silage production.
* While pulling up ragwort from across the Glade during May and June he noted that the closest plants were far less than 50m from the boundary of his field.
* His field is therefore considered high risk in terms of the Code of Practice.
* There is a concern that contaminated silage eaten by his cows, aside from giving the cows toxic poisoning, might also end up as trace toxins in the milk produced.
* The ragwort is going to come back each year and will need a robust management plan for its control well into the future.
* To mitigate the risk of ragwort contamination on his land he has treated the field with nitrogen and herbicide to produce a clean seedbed.
* Further nitrogen and herbicide treatments will be used as long as the ragwort risk remains.

1. Report from County and/or Ward Councillor – none received.
2. **Agricultural Liaison**

Members agreed to appoint Cllr Ricky Goodwin as member responsible for Agricultural Liaison.

1. **Village Green Maintenance**
   1. **Resolved** (nem con) that the village green continue to be managed as a formal public open space suitable for community events and that the current mowing regime be maintained.
   2. **Resolved** (nem con) that permission be granted for wild daffodils to be introduced by volunteers in a 30cm band directly around the Centenary Stone and Bus Shelter and along the northern boundary of the village green (post the installation of Gigaclear fibre optic cables in autumn 2021) and that such areas be left uncut until end July to encourage their establishment.
   3. **Resolved** (nem con) that a Christmas tree be erected on the village green annually from the last weekend in November to the weekend after 6 January with authority for the safe installation and removal of the tree delegated to the Clerk.
   4. **Resolved** (nem con) that the Clerk be authorised to purchase lights and decorations for the Christmas tree up to a maximum value of £150 (applicable only to the 2020/21 financial year).
2. **Ragwort Control in the Centenary Glade**

Council noted the amended Forestry England Report dated 29 July 2020 titled *Ragwort Control and Cinnabar Moths.* During discussion of this item the following points were noted:

* according to DyFRA, the location of the ragwort ‘epicentre’ is 50m away from the nearest farmland
* the report on ragwort control was prepared by DyFRA for Forestry England (FE)
* the Glade, though on the boundary of Kempley parish, lies within the parish of Upton Bishop
* two reports have been received from FE, the second in response to a request for additional detail to be added based on the concerns of local landowners
* there is a limit to what Council can do having highlighted the issue and tried to broker an equitable solution

**Action:** The Clerk was asked to call Forestry England and encourage them to engage directly with the affected landowners to address and resolve their concerns.

1. **Resolved:** (nem con) to adopt draft Terms of Reference for a **Climate Change Working Group** (membership to be confirmed).
2. **Three Shires Stages Rally | 5 September** **2021**

An official from Cheltenham Motor Club, provided details of the Hills Ford Three Shires Stages car rally which will be held next year on Sunday 5th September 2021. There will not be any road closures in the parish of Kempley on that day, but there will be some road closures in neighbouring parishes, in accordance with new laws allowing motorsport events to take place on closed roads under the Road Traffic Act. All properties and / or businesses indirectly affected by these road closures will be notified by letter as soon as practically possible once the route is confirmed.

1. **Planning consultations**

Councillors considered responding to the following national planning consultations:

* 1. Changes to the current planning system
  2. Planning for the future white paper
  3. Transparency and competition (land control)

It was noted that the settlement boundary in Kempley is tightly drawn so (unless that development line changes) restrictions will remain on development in Kempley held back mainly by sewerage, power, water and poor road access.

**Action:** Clerk to invite the other councils in the Dymock Ward to join forces and submit a collective response to the consultations.

1. **Planning Applications** (none)
2. **Planning Decisions** noted

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Reference** | **Details** | **Decision** |
| P1126/20/AG | Hillfields Farm, Kempley Road, GL18 2BA  Prior notification for the erection of an agricultural building to house cattle for isolating due to the farm being under TB restrictions. | Approved |

1. **Resolved:** (nem con) to approve the following items of **expenditure**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| DESCRIPTION | CHQ NO | POWER | BUDGET | AMOUNT |
| Website Hosting (Jun) | DD | LGA 1972 s142 | Website & IT | £ 7.20 |
| Website Hosting (Jul) | DD | LGA 1972 s142 | Website & IT | £ 7.20 |
| Salaries (July) | SO | LGA 1972 s112 | Staff Costs | £ 207.40 |
| Website Hosting (Aug) | DD | LGA 1972 s142 | Website & IT | £ 7.20 |
| Salaries (August) | SO | LGA 1972 s112 | Staff Costs | £ 207.40 |
| GAPTC Internal Audit | 421 | LGA 1972 s111 | Internal Audit | £ 165.00 |
| Maintenance Contract | 422 | PHA 1936 s.234 | Defibrillators | £ 151.20 |

1. Items for next meeting agenda

* Budget 2021/22
* Strategic Plan 2021/22

1. **Next meeting**

**Resolved:** that the next ordinary meeting of the Parish Council will be held on Tuesday 3rd November 2020 at 7:30pm remotely via Zoom 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)