

Parish Council Meetings

Meetings are usually held on Friday evenings, approx every 6 weeks, in Kemble Village Hall starting at 7.30pm.

The remaining dates for 2009 are:

- May 14th 2009 (Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council itself)
- July 11th 2009
- September 4th 2009
- October 16th 2009
- November 27th 2009

Everyone is welcome to come along and attend any of these meetings. There is an opportunity to speak at the start of the meeting if you wish.



Kemble and Ewen Parish Council

Annual Report 2008-09

**You are invited to:
Annual Parish Meeting - Friday 8 May
7.30pm Kemble Village Hall**

Kemble and Ewen Parish Council members

More details can be found on our web site

Roger Pettit: Chairman	01285-770133	<i>all, planning</i>
David Ball: Vice Chairman	07973-500854	<i>grass, footpaths, playing field</i>
George Collins	01285-770698	<i>finance, cemetery, web</i>
Withiel Cole	01285-771261	<i>police, neigh'd watch</i>
Sara Lawlor	01285-770646	<i>highways, trees, allotments</i>
Glen Moreman	01285-770994	<i>canals, playing field</i>
Sohrab Sorabjee	01285-770515	<i>Ewen, airport</i>
Gabi Somerville	07900-907685	<i>WaterPark, traffic</i>
Sally Turner	01285-771484	<i>V. Hall</i>
Clerk	01285-770816	

Parish Council website: www.pcouncil.kemble.co.uk
email: kpcclerk@kemble.co.uk

*A summary of the Parish Council's activities over the last year.
Delivered to every household in Kemble, Kemble Wick & Ewen.*

Agenda: Parish Meeting: 8 May 2009, 7.30pm

- To accept apologies for absence
- To approve the minutes of the meeting held on Friday 2 May 2008*
- To report on any matters arising from the minutes
- Reports
 - Lynn Saunders: Village Agent
 - County Councillor: Shaun Parsons
 - District Councillor: John Birch
 - Kemble and Ewen Parish Council: Chairman Roger Pettit
 - Finance - a summary of the past 12 months
- To discuss potential changes to Street Lighting
- To discuss traffic issues caused by 'rat-runs'
- Any other business

* A copy of last year's minutes can be seen on our website: www.pcouncil.kemble.co.uk

Chairman's Address

If you turn to the summary of the year's activities you will see a range of issues with consistent threads – community development including actions for young people and safety, both road safety and safety from crime and anti-social behaviour. These are the key threads in the Council's programme and it is good to report progress on all fronts, contributing positively to the quality of life in our villages.

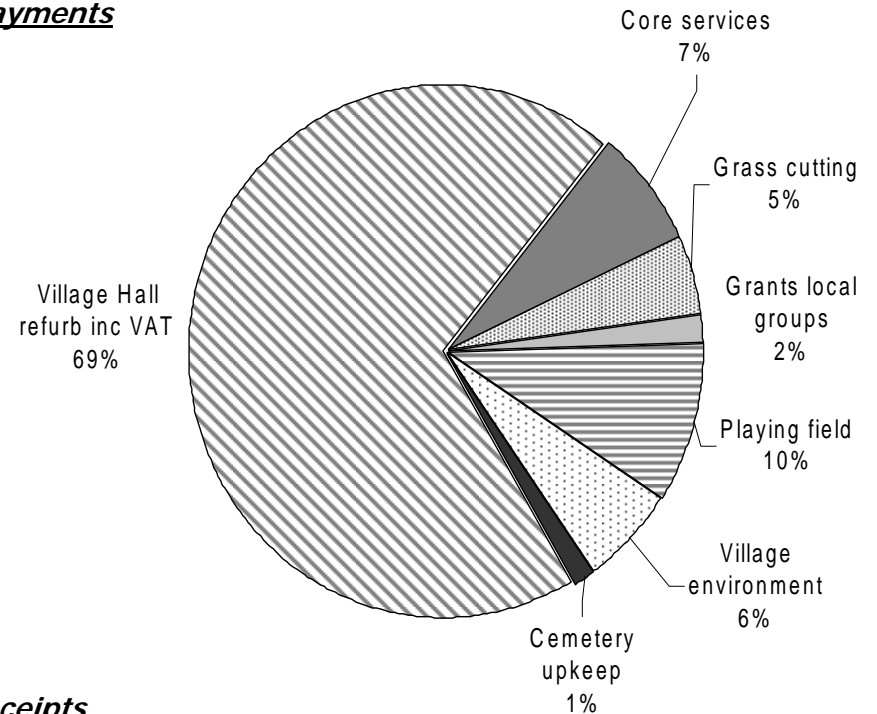
Special mention here of the community gardens. A popular and trailblazing initiative in sustainability with 32 allotment plots, areas of interest for teenagers and much more – enough to attract attention from Highgrove, no less, and a credit to the prime movers, Sara Lawlor and Gabi Somerville.

Congratulations too for the Village Hall Committee for superb improvements to make the building an attractive facility and centrepiece for village functions. Thanks to all those who set aside their time and energy to make happen the things that make our villages special.

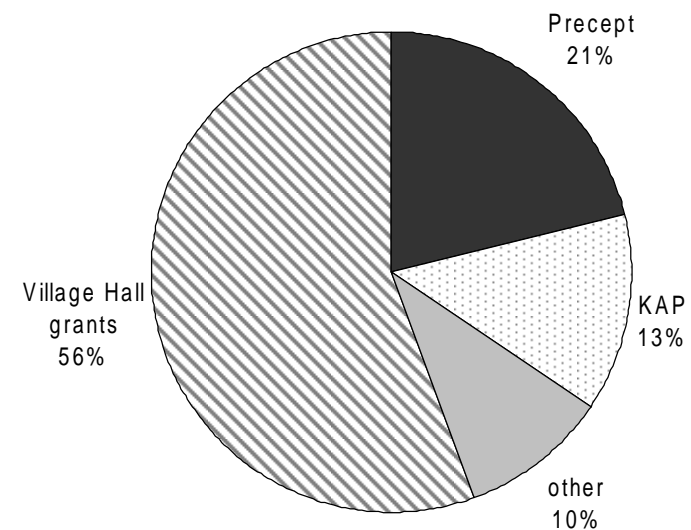
Our annual meeting is an opportunity for you to make your views and aspirations known, to make sure that we are on the right track. Hope to see you there.

Roger Pettit, Chairman, Kemble & Ewen Parish Council, May 2009

Payments



Receipts



Financial Summary

Anyone can look at the parish Council's unaudited accounts by asking the Clerk. A copy of the audited accounts will be available from the Parish Clerk following the completion of the external audit in July 2009.

Payments (year ending 31 March 2009)	
Core services #	£7,260
Village Hall refurbishment inc VAT	£71,080
Grass cutting	£4,900
Cemetery upkeep	£1,386
Playing field inc skate park	£9,872
Environment Ewen footpath and Thames Awareness boards	£6,321
Grants to local groups	£1,800
Section 137	£0
TOTAL	£102,619

Receipts (year ending 31 March 2009)	
Precept	£15,000
Village Hall grants	£40,000
Kemble at Play	£9,688
Other*	£7,149
TOTAL	£71,837

'Core services' includes: insurance, wages, training, stationery, inspections, professional accounting/audit fees, memberships, rent

'Other' includes: bank interest, burial fees and training refunds

KAP '= Kemble at Play'

All values are excluding VAT, except for the Village Hall, where VAT cannot be reclaimed.

Summary of the year's activities 2008-2009

The parish councillors represent the electorate of Kemble and Ewen across a wide range of topics and issues. Discussions in council meetings are lively and occasionally controversial! Each councillor has an area of 'special interest', such as local policing, the play area, churchyard, planning etc. Over this year topics have included everything from a traveller's caravan; to the legality of major planning issues; to the problem of tree branches obscuring road signs; to starting the ground-level input into the CDC's 10 year planning strategy for the region and the dualling of the rail track. It also had to respond to legislation and red-tape for local government, charities, tax, accounting and employment which those of you who run small businesses will be horribly familiar with.

Finance

The council's main source of income is the local council tax, known as 'the Precept'. The Precept was reduced to £15,000 in the year ending 31 March 2009. This coming year (2009-2010), the precept will be restored to £18,000, which is the level it has been for several years prior to 2008, due to the higher than expected contribution by the Parish Council towards the cost of refurbishing Kemble Village Hall.

Planning

The Parish Council has responded to 38 planning applications this year, including major works at Ewen Manor and the now-named Kemble Airport which have taken a lot of time to investigate and consider. Objections were lodged to 10 applications. The Planning Committee has sought neighbours' views wherever possible, and more widely as the situation demanded.

With regard to the regularisation of planning matters at Kemble Airport, the CLEUD was approved in July 2008. Kemble and Ewen Parish council made representations on behalf of residents following its public meeting in May 2008. However the outcome of the CLUED proved to be controversial, and a formal Judicial Review was set up for March 2009. At the time of writing, no decision has been reached on the outcome of the review, which is frustrating as several items relating to the airport are left 'on hold' by the planning authorities until this issue is resolved.

The Parish Council has also been active in supporting other local parishes' investigations into the granting of the Cotswold Water Park's lease to Watermark Developments. This situation also continues to be under legal scrutiny.

Summary of the year's activities 2008-2009

On a lighter note, the Kemble Wick phone box has been bought by the council on your behalf, as a landmark for the parish - but without the phone, for the princely sum of £1.

New Ewen permissive path

The new permissive footpath from the edge of Kemble village towards Ewen, has been completed to improve the safety of residents who walk between the two villages, and for visiting walkers using the Thames Path. Unfortunately the cost of completing a similar path to Kemble station was too high for our budget this year and has been postponed.

Highways

The 2007 floods has meant that the Gloucester County Council (GCC) has had little money to spare for traffic (and pavements) projects this year, and it has been an uphill struggle to progress any measures on speed restrictions or traffic flow. GCC will only prioritise projects where several traffic-related deaths have occurred and fortunately we are not in this position. Volunteers conducted an informal speed traffic survey along Windmill Road and through Ewen which proved that drivers regularly exceed the speed limit.

The Parish Council is still following up

the traffic calming measures on Station Road with the Highway authority. The authority has to undertake some surveys before it will remove the chicane.

We are also looking into the concerns of residents of The Oaks and West Lane in Kemble about drivers using this as a short-cut through the back lanes to Cirencester. Several suggestions have been made to overcome this but all have a knock-on effect on other residents. Similar issues apply to creating a safer crossing point for pedestrians across West Lane and around Kemble School.

Village Gates

We are continuing to investigate the cost and design of installing village 'gates' on either side of the A429, at the entrance and exit to Kemble village, to make a clear visual statement that drivers are entering a residential area and to encourage them to slow down. We hope to progress this project during 2009-2010.

Community Gardens

The Parish Council has now signed a three year lease with CDC for the land behind Old Manor Gardens as allotments and community gardens.

Summary of the year's activities 2008-2009

This is now the second spring of the project, and there 32 smallish plots, some of which are shared between two families. The scheme is run by a separate committee, and is working on creating a community orchard and setting up workshops and activities that all can enjoy.

Policing and neighbourhood watch

Considerable progress is being made by the PC and Peter Burns on re-establishing the neighbourhood watch scheme. Unfortunately illness and changes in the Gloucestershire Community Policing team has meant that decisions have taken longer than hoped.

Thames Information Board

A board which promotes Kemble has been installed near the Thames path finger post on the main road. It describes the heritage of the area and boosts tourism in the future amongst those walking the Thames Path and, eventually, the Severn and Thames canal towpath.

Station recycling bins

Following an act of vandalism, First Great Western demanded that the recycling bins were removed. Despite trying various options, no alternative site for these bins was found. However

the successful doorstep recycling scheme has meant that there have been no formal complaints from local residents that we are aware of.

Youth Work

The parish council is working to support several groups who want to establish activities and facilities for older children and youth in the village. We all recognise that there is little to do or places to go without transport, and the local bus service does not run into the evening. This is a co-ordinated effort between Doug Turner, the Church and the Community Gardens teams - and of course the footballers!

Community Fund

This year the fund awarded grants to Kemble Thursday (£150), Kemble Women's British Legion (£150) and Kemble Dad's Army (football club) (£600) towards paying for youth away match fixtures. A grant of £900 was given to the Kemble Community Gardens at the start of the year.

Staffing

Sadly June Telling resigned in March 2009 after many years of maintaining the high standard of our villages' appearance by clearing litter from paths, verges and play areas; and removing any graffiti. June's zealous war on rubbish will be missed by all.