

**Kempsford Parish Council**  
**Annual Parish Meeting Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020**

**Postponed due to Coronavirus**

**Chairman's Report**

1. Welcome. Particularly to those who are attending this Annual Council meeting for the first time.
2. I would like to start with a moments silence in memory, time to reflect and think of all those in the Parish who have passed away in the last year.
3. For the last few years the Pye homes development application has been at the forefront of the community. As you are probably aware, the original application was refused by Cotswold District Council but has now gone to Appeal. This Appeal was held by a planning inspector at the CDC Offices in Cirencester in July 2019 and was attended by a good number of residents, particularly the "Corn not Lawn group". The Inspector upheld the decision made by CDC and found Pye the costs of the appeal. No further application for development on the site has been heard of since.
4. As you are probably aware Bromford housing group are to regenerate Cross Tree Crescent and Oakley Flats. A drop in session was held in The Village Hall in April 2019 with comments taken and reviewed as part of Bromford's planning submission. This has been made but some final details have still to be resolved. Residents of Oakley Flats have been moved into other accommodation and work has started on demolishing them.
5. We are still waiting on Persimmons to complete various bits and pieces before we formally accept the community facilities at Hazel View. We are frustrated, as I'm sure you are, but we will not be accepting anything until the whole development has been fully completed. Solicitors are working on this. The play areas, like all other play areas, are closed at this time due the Coronavirus.
6. Aggregate Industries have extracted minerals in the fields around the landing lights and are transporting sand and gravel to sites throughout the region. We as a Council meet regularly, although suspended at the moment, with the quarry representatives and we have already expressed our concerns on a number of issues, especially noise. These have been rectified very quickly. Concern has been raised with them over the levels of water within the quarry and the possible attraction of geese. Water is being pumped out day by day but can only be done so at a set rate as prescribed by the Environment Agency. The risk of geese and other birds being attracted to the gathering water has been minimised by the MOD safe guarding people who have employed bird scaring personnel.
7. Parish Councillors also meet regularly with other local Councillors at the RAF Fairford Community Liaison group, as well as receiving communications from the RAF Squadron Leader and Jenny Collyer, as the local communications Adviser. All issues relating to the airfield and the surrounding villages, towns and communities are discussed at this meeting. As you know the airfield will become much more active in the next few years and the playing of the National Anthems have recommenced at 4.00pm. Exercises will continue, with B52 bombers, B2 and other aircraft before the fully returning to an everyday active base. Issues have arisen as a result of the Bomber deployment with the Whelford Rd becoming a viewing gallery for many plane spotter and increase in noise levels causing disturbances particularly in Dunfield and Marston Meysey. The plane spotting community, who suddenly arrive when these exercises occur, has been a concern for us. Poor parking, speeding and the numbers of spotters standing in unsafe areas as well as blocking of the pathways and cycleway has been raised with official parties involved. Meetings have been held on each issue in an attempt to resolve these issues.
8. After each Air Tattoo, the clerk and Parish Council meet with representatives of the RAF Charity Trust and talk through issues and suggestions of a way to improve the traffic flow, issues that have arisen and disruptions that have occurred, with a view of addressing these

and improving the week end experience of the community. We accept that it is not ideal for all and some suffer more disruption than others. We normally meet with them prior to the event to talk through the readjusted plans for the upcoming tattoo but due to the coronavirus this year's Tattoo has been cancelled and no meeting will be held. Andy Armstrong who had been the CEO for the last number of years has now moved on and his place has been taken by Paul Atherton OBE, a former Air Vice-Marshall. Email correspondence is still in existence. An unfortunate start for Paul.

9. Surprise, surprise potholes and speeding are the main highway issues now that the Hannington Road has been repaired after the badgers had been moved on. Some major roadworks have taken place in Reevey but the request for a safer junction at the top of Mount Pleasant and Top Road leading to Dunfield has not been completed. When we are able, the Parish Council will meet again with the new area Highways representative in an attempt to rectify the problem. The volunteers who have monitored speeding in the past are open to any new volunteer to help track speeding. Potholes need to be reported on line, if they aren't they are not dealt with. The more people who complete the online form with the location the better.
10. Kempsford Village Hall is now running well. The committee continue to do a much valued work in running the now "famous" monthly Café and together with other fund raising events such as the Beer Festival, Music and the Film night. They are continuing to raising money for more development and although they have had a number of new volunteers, they are still looking for more to help out.
11. Whelford Village Hall committee continues to make improvements at the hall. Last year it was re-wired as it was no longer considered safe. The trustees and villagers regularly carry out fundraising events, to enable further improvements to be made. The new kitchen and free WiFi has attracted new users. The Social Club continue to hold regular bingo sessions and live music.
12. It is sad that the Cricket Club has had to move venues. However the team continued to play fixtures on a regular basis at South Hill, Marston Meysey last season. It is understood that they are now moving to play at Fairford.
13. Finally once again my thanks to everybody who has contributed to any function or activity which has supported this Parish community The Parish Councillors for their hard work, and particularly Teresa Griffin for her tremendous work as Clerk, Parish newsletter editor, and website manager, to Richard Caswell as "Odd Job man", John and Terry Chesterman for their excellent grass cutting, County and District Councillors, the Village Hall committee and everybody who run Clubs and Societies in the Community.