

KEMPSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Teresa Griffin, Winterwood, Whelford, Fairford, Glos. GL7 4EB

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To all Parish Councillors

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, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, religion and any disability), Crime and Disorder, Health and Safety, and Human Rights.

Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting of Tuesday 16th January 2024

Present:

Mark Strange (Chair)

Stephen Andrews

Neil Green

Karen Saunders

John O'Connell

Debbie Watson

Christine Nugent

CD Cllr Tristan Wilkinson

Teresa Griffin (Clerk)

1. **Apologies:** None
2. **Minutes:** Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 12th December 2023 were approved.
3. **Disclosure of member's interests:** None
4. **Dispensation requests:** None
5. **Matters Arising:**
6. **Questions from members of the public:** None present
7. **County Councillor's Report:** Not Present
1. **District Councillors Report:** - Tristan Wilkinson reported that following on from the Fairford Water and Sewage Issues Joint Working Group meeting held yesterday, a BBC reporter came out to cover the story. It will be shown on BBC Points West tomorrow.
Stephen Andrews advised that he and Debbie Watson attended the meeting, which was primarily focused on Sewerage and included a walk to the sewer outlet in to the River Coln. The sewer has been discharging since the 3rd December and tankering from Kempsford is adding to this.
The Thames Water upgrade is not scheduled until 2025/26, and more likely to be 2026, so things will stay as they are until then. It is affecting new developments at Fairford and pressure needs to be put on Thames Water not to let the timeframe slip any further. Kempsford STP has only discharged for 45 minutes since the 2nd December.
Tristan advised that the improvement works would increase capacity from 37 litres per second to 56 litres per second (compared to Bourton on the Water which has gone from 40 lps to 140 lps), and there is a worry than given climate change and further development we will back to this position again in 10 years.
During the walk we saw the water flowing from the Coln into Lake 104, which then goes in to the Court Brook. The levels of which, has been raised by a neighbouring resident. The next meeting on the 25th March will focus more on flooding and include the 'down lake' issues.
8. **Kempsford Parish Council**
 1. **Forthcoming Road Closures** – Noted.
The Clerk was asked to contact Gloucestershire Highways and request that the road closure in Whelford is from the Horcott Road Junction and not at the Telephone box. This is to prevent the narrow village road being used as it is unsuitable.
 2. **Updates from meetings attended and working groups** –
 - a) Kempsford Village Hall – Minutes from the latest meeting have been circulated. Karen Saunders reported on the following –
 - Drains – They are being repaired on Saturday under an insurance claim.
 - A tree has fallen in to next door's garden and the committee is unable to claim on the Village Hall insurance. A contractor will be removing the tree and it is hoped the neighbours shed has not been damaged.
 - The Christmas event raised £1500 and Sharon Elliott donated £80 from her Christmas Soiree.
 - Forthcoming events – In February there is a music night and in March the Beer Festival.
 - Plans to invest some money are being explored and Barbara Pond at GRCC is working with the Chair on a new constitution.
 - They asked if there is any news on the Short Mat Bowls equipment – Clerk to chase tomorrow.
 - CCTV is being considered.
 - b) A summary of the meeting with our local Highways Meeting was provided. The key issues discussed being –
 - Damage to the verge next to the cemetery by Thames Water
 - Tree/vegetation overhanging and blocking the footpath outside the Old Vicarage

- Visibility at Dunfield junction on the C124
- Chevrons at Dunfield turn on Top Road
- Brambles overgrowing the cycleway
- Pot holes and poor road condition on little road through Whelford
- Badger set on Dudgrove Lane and poor road condition/pot holes leading up to Dudgrove Farm
- Parking restrictions/yellow lines
- Additional signage/road markings outside RAF Fairford to remind motorists to drive on the left hand side of the road. There appears to be some agreed standard signage for American bases and Dan will look in to it.

There is no further news on the Hannington Road closure. In relation to this, it was agreed the Clerk to contact RIAT to ask about their plans for this year's show.

The Clerk was also asked to contact RAF Fairford in respect of the parking restrictions/yellow lines to ask about timings of activity. This would help to move things forward with GCC Highways.

- c) Stephen Andrews reported on the Fairford PPG meeting. John Read is retiring as Chair and will be replaced by Emma Saxby who is the Volunteer Coordinator for Working for Wellbeing.
- d) Community Speed Watch – The Clerk had circulated the latest data from the Top Road 'Smiley' VAS before it was turned around, which shows an average speed of 28.2mph and the 85th percentile speed as 33.4mph. No data from the CSW Group has been received since the 24th September 2023. Data from the Whelford ASW cameras were presented. This time of year they are not only limited in operational time due to shorter daylight hours but there is difficulty verifying dirty number plates. It is felt that signage would make a huge difference to the number of speeding motorists. The Highways Manager has agreed to install additional 30mph roundels but has not provided a date for the works.
- e) CDC Housing Strategy - This was circulated and is now open for comment. Stephen Andrews has started to look at it and made one comment, in that the annex which refers to current development is inaccurate for Kempsford.
- f) Hazel View Community Facilities – Following an email sent to Persimmon inviting them to attend a meeting, they have replied to say they will respond by the end of the week. It was suggested that if they agree to meet, it should be after the meeting on the 31st January with GCC and CDC representatives.

3. Residents reports to Councillors –

- Stephen Andrews has been asked about the possibility of reinstating the Bus Stop at Ham Lane. He will remind the resident of the Cotswolds Connexions service.
- The sad passing of Bob Jones from Cricklade Town and Wiltshire Council was noted.
- Stephen Andrews reported that it had been announced in Church that the Rev Kim Brown had resigned from the post of Vicar to the 5 villages, under medical advice. Her last Service will take place on the 7th April.

9. Planning, Policies and Licensing – None

10. Finance

1. The following bills were approved to be paid:-

002390	Viking Direct (stamps)	£43.44 inc. VAT
002391	Police & Crime Commissioner (ASW letters Jul – Sept)	£60.20
002392	R Caswell (maintenance Jan – Dec 23)	£202.50
002393	M Dyball t/a Willow Gardening (Kempsford final visit 2023)	£240.00
002394	T Griffin (Wages & use of home)	£594.40
002395	HMRC (PAYE)	£90.40
Receipts since last meeting		
Cheque	Gresham Wells Trust (donation re short mat bowls equip)	£700.00
BACS	PCC Kempsford & Whelford (Donation)	£352.50
	Bank Interest December 2023	£83.46
	Bank Interest January 2024	£71.57

2. Finance Reports – The monthly Finance Report consisting of bills to be paid, receipts received, bank reconciliation and income/expenditure vs budget was received and agreed.
3. Draft budget for 2024/25 and Precept request – CDC have not replied to two emails asking for clarification on whether there are any proposals for the responsibility of any additional services to be handed down to Parish

Councils in the forthcoming year. It was therefore agreed to approve the draft budget and precept request presented at the December meeting. The requested precept for 2024/25 is £25,640, which when divided by the Tax Base provided of 476.3 equates to a Band D property cost of £53.83, an increase of 4.16% from the current year. The precept rise to £25,640 from £24,160 in 2023/24 represents an increase of 6.1%.

4. GAPTC has confirmed the appointment of an Internal Independent Auditor for the year ending 31st March 2024.
 5. A grant application was received today from Kempford Primary School requested £1,600 towards the transport cost of providing swimming lessons for years 5 & 6. This amount exceeds the total budget for S137 expenditure for the year and is substantially more than previous donations for this purpose. It was agreed that Mark Strange will contact the head to enquire if it is possible to establish the cost for those pupils most in need of financial assistance and if all other funding options have been considered.
11. **Clerks Report** – Kempford Quarry were contacted re ‘pumping out’ whilst the River was out of bank and localised flooding. They replied stating their obligation under the bird management plan. This needs to be discussed at the next liaison meeting.
 12. **Correspondence** –
 - All correspondence received via email has been circulated. Magazines and literature distributed.
 13. **Date of next meeting** –20th February 2024 at WHELFORD Village Hall
- Copies:- Mrs Nugent, Mr Green, Mrs Saunders, Mr Strange, Mr O’Connell, Mr Andrews, Mrs Watson CD.Cllrs, C.Cllrs.
Meeting ended at 9:50pm