

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 Monday 17th February 2025

Present:

Mark Strange (Chair)	Debbie Watson	Zoey Peace (RAF Fairford)
Stephen Andrews	John O'Connell	Sarah Walker (GRCC)
Neil Green	Dom Morris	
Karen Saunders	Tristan Wilkinson (CDC)	Helen Cheese-Probert
Christine Nugent	Teresa Griffin (Clerk)	(Parishioner)

The Chair opened the meeting by noting the sad news of Brian Hinders passing.

1. **Apologies:** None.
2. **Minutes:** Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th January 2025 were approved.
3. **Disclosure of member's interests:** None
4. **Dispensation requests:** None
5. **Matters Arising:**
6. **Questions from members of the public:** None
7. **County Councillor's Report:** Dom Morris reported –
 - I forwarded earlier the response from RAF Fairford regarding the recent flooding at Whelford. There are two parts to this, one being what is causing it, and the other being contacts and crisis support. I feel there is a need to sit around a table and discuss this.
 - Hannington Road closure - I hear that the Parish Council is considering raising this with local press and I fully understand this. After reading the latest status update from the Highways Manager, it could have been this time last year. I am concerned that there is only a very short window weather-wise to get works done Mark Strange advised that he emailed our MP and she contacted Gloucestershire Highways and Wales & West. Gloucestershire Highways have replied with some helpful information but she hadn't heard back from Wales & West.
 - How did the PROW meeting go? Stephen Andrews advised that it was a good meeting and there was agreement on suggested amended routes as footpaths. Proposed changes to footpath routes in the Phase 1 area of the gravel workings (landing light field) are more difficult due to the red tap surrounding extinguishments and diversions, and may have to be left as is.
8. **District Councillors Report:** - Tristan Wilkinson reported –
 - The Lakes by Yoo meeting with the Planning Officer last week – hopefully everyone was happy with that. The conclusion was that we are awaiting the Environment Agency Report to determine what happens next.
 - I received the same note from RAF Fairford regarding the flooding response. I hear the concerns regarding this and the quarry and agree a meeting would be helpful.
 - Our MP is holding 2 Flood Summits – one at Cricklade on the 1st March and the other at The Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester on the 8th March. An invite to the 8th March one will follow. We are going to try something a bit different to the previous MP's flood meetings. These public meetings will allow the communities to raise concerns and make suggestions to what is the cause/possible solutions. No water companies or agencies will be present, and we will feed back to them after the meetings to find out what can or cannot be done and report back to the communities. Stephen Andrews advised that there is some benefit though in companies/agencies hearing directly from people affected and vice versa.
 - There are all sorts of plans regarding devolution. One thing as a Parish Council you need to think very carefully about, is, what does it mean for you? CDC is proposing to dispose of its assets, such as public toilets, before devolution.
9. **Kempsford Parish Council:** -
 1. **RAF Fairford Community Relations** – Mark Strange welcomed Zoey Peace to the meeting.

Zoey explained that she is the new Community Relations Officer and is aware that there has been little communication since the previous officer left. She intends to work hard on the communication link between the Parish Council and RAF Fairford and is keen to attend meetings so issues can be raised and fed back. Following the flooding and fallen tree events last year, an 'out of hours' contact guide is currently being prepared and should be completed by next month's meeting.

The Parish Council have requested a formal meeting to discuss flooding and other issues. Zoey advised that there is a meeting with Aggregate Industries in March to discuss flooding and details will be forwarded to the Clerk.

Zoey asked if the new 7am call that started recently affected anyone? It has been turned off for now as it was very loud, and will commence again when the speaker has been fixed.

2. Draft Housing Needs Survey Report – Sarah Walker asked for a bit of background on why the survey was commissioned and then provided further information on the work GRCC does and the registered providers.

The recent survey was one of the largest undertaken for villages, as larger areas are picked up in the normal planning process.

The survey went out to 593 dwellings and a response rate of 20% was received. The average response is between 5% - 30%.

Responses to the question of whether you would like to see more affordable housing in the Parish were mainly focused on infrastructure concerns and affordability.

Homeseecker Plus is the counties register of people looking for lower price housing. 46 householders had identified as wanting to live in Kempsford Parish but when asked by CDC to validate their connection, only 7 were able to prove a local connection.

Taking all of the survey results and the above, it concludes there are 11 households, with a local connection to Kempsford Parish, that are in need. Sarah explained in more detail what is meant by 'affordable' and the demand.

The Government have recognised that we have an aging population and have created what they call the Older Person Shared Ownership for people wishing to sell and downsize. This is open to over 55's, and entails purchasing 75% of a property and not paying any rent on the remaining 25%. It is considered a useful product to move the market.

The final report will be sent shortly together with some 'next step' options to be considered.

3. Annual Parish Meeting date – It was agreed to hold the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 7th April 2025, providing a representative from GCC Highways is available to provide an update on the Hannington Road. The Clerk will email the Highways Manager to request confirmation.

4. Updates from meetings attended and working groups –

- Kempsford Village Hall – Karen Saunders has emailed notes from the recent meeting.
- Lakes by Yoo Meeting – Not much to report on, other than the footpaths will be looked at (and walked) in a couple of months and that it was felt meetings should be held every couple of months or quarterly in future.
- Footpath Meeting for quarry area and Whelford – covered in Item 7 above. There was a couple of other sections of footpath where it was proposed they be diverted or dead-end path to be extinguished. The landowners were not present at the meeting and it was agreed that no further action should take place until they have been consulted.
- John O'Connell met with Paul, a contact through Aggregate Industries, and he has agreed to repair the damaged grass on the Dunfield triangle.

5. Residents reports to Councillors –

- Last week it was flooded outside The Old Vicarage and it was noted that water was coming up and out the drain. Debbie Watson reported seeing Thames Water attending the drain.

6. Tender invitation for sports pitch – The draft tender invitation (circulated prior to the meeting) was approved and it was agreed the deadline for applications should be Friday 14th March 2025.

10. Planning, Policies and Licensing –

Ref.	Location	Proposal	Decision
25/00193/AGRPAN	Barn West of The Gables, Whelford	Notification under Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 2015 Schedule 2, Part 3, Class Q (as amended) for the conversion of agricultural barn to one dwelling house (use class C3) and building operations reasonably	Comment that the footpath through the site is unlikely to be extinguished and any plans must respect the line of the Public Right

	necessary for the conversion	of Way
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11. Finance

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

002478	SSE Energy Solutions (power Dunfield de-fib)	£16.93 inc. VAT
002479	Busy Fingers Printing Ltd (Feb Newsletter)	£94.50
002480	CPRE (membership renewal)	£36.00
002481	T Griffin (mileage exp's & paper)	£25.79 inc. VAT
002482	T Griffin (wages, holiday & use of home)	£851.50
002483	HMRC (PAYE)	£10.42
Receipts since last meeting		
	Bank Interest	£64.54
 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. Karen Saunders carried out the internal check on the 3rd February 2025. Everything is in order and the internal control check list was completed.
 4. The Kempsford grass cutters have increased the cost per cut by £12 + VAT per cut. This was approved.
12. **Clerks Report** – Nothing to report.
13. **Correspondence** – Noted and all correspondence received via email has been circulated.
14. **Date of next meeting** – Monday 17th March 2025, 7pm at Kempsford 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 9.40pm

Appendix A

Kempsford Parish Council - Attendance Report	12 months to:	Feb-25
Name	Attendance	Attendance Percentage
Dom Morris (GCC)	6/12	50%
Helene Mansilla (CDC)	0/12	0%
Tristan Wilkinson (CDC) - elected Dec 23	5/12	42%
Mark Strange (KPC - Chair)	10/12	83%
John O'Connell (KPC - Vice Chair)	12/12	100%
Christine Nugent (KPC)	10/12	83%
Karen Saunders (KPC)	11/12	92%
Neil Green (KPC)	12/12	100%
Stephen Andrews (KPC)	12/12	100%
Debbie Watson (KPC) - Co-opted Nov 23	12/12	100%