

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.

D R A F T

Minutes from the Parish Council Meeting of Monday 20th January 2025

Present:

Mark Strange (Chair)

Christine Nugent

Dom Morris (GCC)

Stephen Andrews

Debbie Watson

Teresa Griffin (Clerk)

Neil Green

John O'Connell

1. **Apologies:** Karen Saunders and Tristan Wilkinson.

2. **Minutes:** Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th December 2024 were approved.

3. **Disclosure of member's interests:** None

4. **Dispensation requests:** None

5. **Matters Arising:**

- Persimmon Transfer – The Clerk is awaiting a call from our solicitor for further advice on accepting the transfer if Gloucestershire Highways have not completed the S38/S278 before the pitch is considered ready for use.

The strip of land running parallel to the High Street end of the pitch fencing is looking very untidy and the old gate is broken. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact GCC regarding this.

6. **Questions from members of the public:** None present

7. **County Councillor's Report:** Dom Morris reported –

- There is a big debate about whether Gloucestershire will become a unitary council. A decision has to be made by the second week of February.
- I've been tracking the email communication regarding a meeting with Public Rights of Way.
- I saw your email to MP Roz Savage regarding a South Cotswolds Flood Meeting and the additional information from Tristan Wilkinson. Please let me know if there is anything I can help with. Stephen Andrews reported that at the Fairford Flood and Sewerage meeting held earlier today, the EA representative advised that their new flood maps will be released shortly. These new maps will show that Whelford village is at a higher risk of flooding. Following the flooding that occurred last year, together with the new maps, we will be looking at additional ways to protect the village. Our Highways Manager has been asked for information on the Whelford Road culvert and for an update on the inspection of the Court Brook culvert – the Clerk to chase up.
- I have not received any update on the Hannington Road closure. Mark Strange advised that he contacted Wales & West and was told they are still in negotiations. He will write to our MP to ask if any pressure can be put on Wales & West to increase the priority.
- How are the Community Speed Watch cameras operating? The Clerk reported that due to lack of sunlight, even with the solar boosters, the operating time is restricted. There is also a problem with dirty number plates this time of year. We did receive an email from the local PCSO over the weekend requesting data on a specific vehicle they are targeting, which is a positive step.
- I have heard there is a protest planned at RAF Fairford and wondered how the community is with relations with the base? In terms of the drones and it being a military base, there has been no negative feedback from the community. The recent storm events affecting Whelford and other issues around construction lorries has resulted in Whelford residents feeling the base is not a good neighbour. This will be fed back to the base and the new Community Relations Officer.
- I have taken a leave of absence from the cabinet as member for highways as flooding for personal reasons.
- Lastly, an apology for anyone who saw the BBC article where a GCC officer advised voters to not drink as much milk. It was not signed off by the Leader and is definitely not the view of the council.

8. **District Councillors Report:** - Not present but Tristan Wilkinson emailed the following update –

- I've shared a response from LBY about recent resident and community concerns. In addition I've asked for a date that we can meet with Andrew Moody and the other councils to discuss the ongoing concerns arising from the LBY site, I hope to get this confirmed for the week after next.

- I am also working with Roz Savage on pulling together a flooding forum to which you will be invited. The goal is to hold this before the end of March and as soon as we have agreed a venue you will see an invitation.
- Lastly, I may have identified some funding to support local flood mitigation it isn't much but may provide some equipment for flood wardens as well as a bunker to store sandbags and other equipment. We can discuss if that is appropriate for Kempford and what might be needed at a future date.

9. **Kempford Parish Council: -**

1. **Housing Needs Survey** – The draft report does show that there is a requirement for some housing, but it does need clarifying as there is no mention specifically of social rent housing, and the report refers to affordable housing only. This is confusing to people.

The response rate was 19.8%, which is better than anticipated given the issue of unmarked envelopes etc. There are a couple of amendments required, such as the addition of Whelford Village Hall as a facility.

2. **Updates from meetings attended and working groups –**

- Kempford Village Hall Committee – Karen Saunders reported after the meeting, the subject of the storage cupboard had been raised again – The Clerk to contact the second-hand office supplies in Cirencester to try obtain a roller door. Until this has been sorted, the VH Committee will be advised to move both filing cabinets to one side if it is a problem.

Mark Strange reported that the Christmas Darts Event had made a profit of £400, which may have been used to fix the heating. There is a Beer Festival meeting on Wednesday.

- Fairford Flood & Sewerage Meeting – Debbie Watson raised the issue of tankering and that it cannot be a long-term solution having a tanker parked on the road, particularly once it reopens. The solution may involve Thames Water talking to the landowner to see if there is a better option.

There is not a problem with the pump at the station, when it is pumping at the normal flows, but cannot cope with groundwater ingress in to the system during heavy rainfall. It is difficult for a survey to be undertaken as to identify the problem it needs to be when groundwater is entering the system but not full up. Tankering is likely to continue for at least another year. This information needs to be shared with residents and to encourage them to report all problems. Thames Water did ask us to pass on their thanks to residents for their forbearance in putting up with these problems for such a long time.

Following on from the general discussion about flooding, is whether we start examining a secure storage space for emergency equipment. One problem could be who would be responsible for managing and organising it? It may be more appropriate for the properties that know they are at risk of flooding, and those areas identified by the new flood risk maps when published, are made aware of the need for more self-protection, and more focus on area wide protection and alleviation works.

3. **Residents reports to Councillors –**

- Christmas tree and lights – Mark Strange was asked if we could have lights on the Cross Tree again? In the past lights were connected to the electricity of a neighbouring property. There are issues with health, safety and public liability. One suggestion, is the possibility of putting lights on the outside of the village hall. It was agreed that the Parish Council would support any group that wished to find a way of providing lights.
- A further email has been received regarding the request for double yellow lines and parking restrictions opposite the Manor entrance, and an inquiry about installing a mirror. The Highways Manager had previously advised that a new TRO would not be supported. It was agreed to forward the email to Highways to clarify the position regarding installation of a mirror.

10. **Planning, Policies and Licensing –**

Ref.	Location	Proposal	Decision
24/033332/FUL	The Lakes Bar & Kitchen, Claydon Pike, Lechlade	Retention of tented structure accommodating a restaurant, visitor centre & standalone dog wash structure and the erection of a single storey clubhouse building with associated kitchen, plant & storage and other infrastructure, including hard & soft landscaping & parking	The applicant is to provide further info on the relationship with the Country Park & S106. It has been requested that this be circulated 2 weeks before the next community meeting to be considered
25/00058/LBC	Paradise Farm, High Street, Kempford	Listed Building Consent for formation of new stairs and shower room	No comment

11. Finance

- The following bills were approved to be paid: -

002474	R Caswell (maintenance Jan – Dec 24)	£255.00
002475	Viking Direct (toner and stamps)	£107.83 inc. VAT
002476	T Griffin (wages & use of home)	£684.80
002477	Information Commissioner's Office (Data Prot. Fee)	£40.00

Receipts since last meeting

Bank Interest	£63.06
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- 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.
- Draft budget for 2025/26 and Precept request. The draft budget and precept request circulated prior to the meeting was approved. The requested precept for 2025/26 is £27,150, which, when divided by the Tax Base provided of 483.4 equates to a Band D property cost of £56.16, an increase of 4.3% from the current year. The precept rise to £27,150 from £25,640 in 2024/25 represents an increase of 5.9%.
- Tenders need to be sought for maintenance of the Hazel View sports pitch ahead of the transfer. It needs to be discussed with GCC and the School Head to ensure that a cost has been factored in to their budget. The Clerk will recirculate the previously approved management agreement that contains the percentage split of land ownership.

12. Clerks Report –

A resident at Whelford had reported a problem with a dip in the road outside their property to Highways which is causing the house to vibrate when large vehicles drive over it. It was reported using 'Fix my Street' but the case keeps being closed and the resident appears to be blocked from reporting again.

It was raised with our local Highways Manager who advised that it may have failed to meet the safety inspection policy criteria when inspected. The resident was advised to email using the 'Highways Contact Form'.

13. **Correspondence** – Noted and all correspondence received via email has been circulated.

14. **Date of next meeting** – Monday 17th February 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 9.15pm

Appendix A

Kempsford Parish Council - Attendance Report		12 months to: Jan-25
Name	Attendance	Attendance Percentage
Dom Morris (GCC)	6/12	50%
Helene Mansilla (CDC)	0/12	0%
Tristan Wilkinson (CDC) - elected Dec 23	4/12	33%
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%