

KEMPSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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

Tel: 01285 713691 Email: clerk@kempsfordparishcouncil.net

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 18th July 2023

Present:

Mark Strange (Chair)
Karen Saunders
Christine Nugent
Neil Green

John O'Connell
Stephen Andrews
Clare Muir (CDC)
Teresa Griffin (Clerk)

Dom Morris (GCC)

Members of public:
Mr & Mrs Slade

1. **Apologies:** Helene Mansilla.
2. **Minutes:** Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 20th June 2023 were approved.
3. **Disclosure of member's interests:** None
4. **Dispensation requests:** None
5. **Matters Arising:** None.
6. **Questions from members of the public:** Mr and Mrs Slade had asked a number of questions by email to Dom Morris regarding the reopening of the Hannington Road for RIAT prior to the meeting, including –
 - Where is the permission enabling RIAT to re-open it and will a new closure order be required after the event?
 - The position in respect of car insurance when a road is legally closed?
 - Who gives permission for RIAT to use it and stipulate who uses it and when?
 - Information on traffic orders relevant to the road for the 15/16th July.
 - What is the current state of repair and when will it be re-opened for use by all traffic?Dom Morris explained that he did not consider it right to have different rules for residents and RIAT traffic on who could use the road over the period and it was not how he would have done it. The cost of reopening it for the event was paid for entirely by RIAT with no public money used. The team dealing with the repair have been severely chased today to get it reopen by the end of the summer.
Prior to the show there are lots of decisions made and GCC Officers would have understood the road is crucial to event traffic. He found out on Thursday the situation in respect of usage by residents and apologised.
Mrs Slade explained that she fully accepts that during the Air Show it is difficult for local people to move around, but feels that each year the local people are considered less.
Mark Strange advised that the show has expanded over the years from a weekend event, then to half day Friday and now a full three days. Part of the problem for local people is that Friday is a work and school day.
7. **County Councillor's Report:** A general GCC News briefing was circulated by email prior to the meeting with the follow updates –
 - RIAT was very successful despite the weather and Fairford, Kempsford and Whelford did really well.
 - Lechlade Halfpenny Bridge – Repairing and reopening the bridge is very complicated due to its historic status and all the parties involved. There is a public meeting regarding this at Lechlade on Thursday and everyone is encouraged to attend.
 - Highways are trialling a new 'find and fix' method of repairing pot holes with initial feedback appearing positive. We have a jet patcher working which deals with a 100 pot holes a day.
 - I will report the trench that has been dug by Cross Tree Crescent and not filled correctly tomorrow and they will be fined. At Gloucestershire level, utility companies were fined £440,000 last year.
 - The Highways Manager has replied this evening regarding the installation of poles at Whelford for the ASW cameras. The Clerk confirmed that he has reduced the cost to £500 and that it is now being dealt with by a new Community Speedwatch Camera Team.
 - I will organise for your Highways Manager to visit before the end of August. Stephen Andrews suggested we discuss the yellow lines around RAF Fairford at this time following the meeting held earlier this year, and the response from RAF Fairford.
 - Stephen Andrews suggested Highways may wish to raise with RAF Fairford the scraping of the road almost opposite Washpool Lane caused by HGV's entering the Base gate.
 - Neil Green advised that he reported the concrete bollards had been moved on the Hannington Road and Highways attended immediately to deal with. There is concern that this may happen again.

8.

District Councillors Report: -

- Clare Muir reported –
 - I have circulated a briefing on the Holiday Activity Programme.
 - Crowdfund Cotswold is gearing up for the next funding round of the scheme if there are any ideas within the community.. It was lovely to see children using the new skatepark at Fairford achieved through the last round.
The project for a toilet at Kempford Church was suggested by Mark Strange
 - It has been useful to hear feedback on the highways situation. I have been copied in to various emails also.
 - Bin monitoring - I am aware that the service level of refuse collecting has been a bit bumpy recently so please let me know if there are any incidents of missed collections and encourage residents to report it through the CDC website. I have noticed a regular pattern of certain areas/roads that get missed.
 - Mark Strange asked if there had been any joy in getting Planning Enforcement involved in the issue with Persimmon and Hazel View? Clare advised that she had chased it this morning. The Clerk reported that Richard Pitts from GCC Education Team had responded to say he would be happy to attend a meeting but there has been no response from Mark Parker at GCC yet. Mark suggested he talk to the School Governors to see if they would be willing to be involved.
 - Stephen Andrews raised a couple of things that Clare may be able to assist with –
 1. Rural England Prosperity Fund for Village Halls – it covers capital projects between £2,000 and £50,000 and although it is match funded, villages are only required to contribute 20% of the overall cost. Clare agreed to look in to the procedure and report back.
 2. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) – This was discussed yesterday by CDC but did not mention the District Council’s CIL and their priority list for doing things. The closest project on the list for us is Improvements to the Shell Garage Junction.
 3. PV Installation Residents Scheme – Hopefully this will not involve Parish Councils, and individuals apply direct. Clare will look in to how it works and confirm whether the scheme requires involvement from Parish Councils.
- Helene Mansilla sent the following written report prior to the meeting –

Highways

1.1 Cllr Mansilla has been dealing, and continues to deal, with residence’s concerns regarding both Halfpenny and St John’s Bridge.

1.2 In May 2023, Cllr Mansilla escalated safety and speeding concerns between Lechlade and St John’s Bridge, and such area has now been approved for the police to set up a hand held enforcement site to enforce the 40mph existing limit in both directions.

1.3 Early in June 2023, Cllr Mansilla additionally requested Highways to implement:
(a) changes to the road environment to ensure it better matches speed limits; and
(b) engineering measures to create or/and enhance safer routes to/from the centre of the town for vulnerable road users.

These requests are currently with Highways for them to review.

1.4 As you are no doubt all aware, on the 20 June, there was a collision on the Halfpenny Bridge which remains closed as a result. On the 20 June Cllr Mansilla assessed the damage to the Halfpenny Bridge and road/paths closures and diversions set up around the whole area. The next morning, Cllr Mansilla spoke with several people in GCC and Highways to check that the correct measures had been put in place, and highlight and discuss the risk that some of the diversion routes could potentially have on other infrastructure e.g. St John’s and Castle Eaton’s bridges, surrounding minor roads, residents and businesses. Specifically, in terms of Kempford, I noted that the diversion signs around Castle Eaton appear to be targeted at the road closure between Hannington Wick and Kempford. Nevertheless, I mentioned directly with Highways and requested them to monitor for any adverse impact on the route between Kempford and Castle Eaton due to the Halfpenny Bridge closure. They acknowledge the potential impact on the aforementioned areas, and confirmed that they will continue to monitor the impact on such areas.

1.5 Halfpenny Bridge is a historical bridge and repair work has to be carried out in liaison with Historic England and the Secretary of the State. Consequently, Cllr Mansilla has been advised that the bridge will remain closed to traffic for potentially up to three months. However, pedestrian access over and under the bridge has been restored, and the River Thames is open to boaters, albeit with a restriction. Cllr Mansilla has been told that the Highways team is working hard to bring back vehicle access.

1.6 Furthermore, on the 26 June, there was a further collision on St John’s Bridge which has been since resolved.

1.7 These two incidents serve to highlight the safety and speeding issues in and around Lechlade and the

necessity for Highways to take preventative measures, like the ones that Cllr Mansilla has already suggested to Highways.

1.8 On the 26 June, Cllr Mansilla raised the aforementioned concerns with Cllr Dominic Morris, and submitted a request for a 20 mph speed limit TRO covering the whole of Lechlade.

1.9 Cllr Mansilla inspected the road closure between Kempsford and Hannington Wick back in June 2023, and noticed that the concrete bollards placed there to close the road have been moved, and one of them removed, to enable cars to pass over the closure. This matter has been raised with GCC, and she is currently waiting for further updates.

2. Quarry

Cllr Mansilla attended the visit hosted by Kempsford Parish Council with X from GCC. Such visit was very informative and productive regarding the many concerns raised by residents.

3. Planning

I have been monitoring and reviewing numerous planning applications, including responding to questions/concerns raised by local residents. Should the Town Council have any questions/concerns regarding planning application please refer to Clare and I.

9. Kempsford Parish Council

1. **Grant application from Kempsford Community Speedwatch Group** – It is good news that a Kempsford Speedwatch Group has been re-established and have received training. It was agreed in principle to support the application for a new speed radar gun, but council would like to see the data from the next month prior to awarding the grant. This is to confirm usage and consider whether the gun used by the Whelford Group could be shared.

2. **Feedback from RIAT 2023** – Some of the issues concerning traffic and the Hannington Road covered in Item 6 above.

There is a definite need for a ‘Wash-up’ meeting, which is usually held around September time.

A list of issues raised will be compiled. The main problems were around traffic, and usage of the purple route in particular, and that the Resident’s Helpline was not working until the Friday.

3. Updates from meetings attended and working groups –

a) Quarry Cluster Meeting with GCC Cllr David Gray – David was given a tour of the perimeter of Manor Farm Quarry and current issues and planning applications discussed. The keys issues to be addressed being-

- The need for a cumulative environmental impact assessment, and
- To prevent important conditions imposed at planning from being removed

b) Kempsford Village Hall – Karen Saunders reported on the recent meeting:

- Things are going well since the new Chair’s appointment. There has been a change to the meeting start time.
- The Treasurer is being replaced by Andy Gray shortly and a handover is taking place.
- Preparations for the Village Fete on the 9th September are progressing well, including the road closure.
- Future events being considered include a Winter Ball, Boxing Day Darts and short mat bowls.
- The tree in the car park has been removed.
- The Gardening Club is going well
- Work continues on the 5 year plan.

c) Lakes by Yoo meeting – A positive meeting with work progressing well on the southern route of the multi-user path. An open day is planned for September with a Footpath Project Plan to be produced prior to this.

A meeting with CDC Officers is to be arranged to discuss the Fairford Leisure Facility. Facilities and Terms of Membership need to be agreed.

The Clerk and Neil Green walked the footpath by Manor Farm to agree the route and change of planting.

d) RIAT – Mark Strange attended on behalf of the Parish Council and reported it was a useful networking event.

e) GCC Adult Social Care Meeting – Stephen Andrews attended. One key issue taken away is that there is no assisted living facility in this part of Gloucestershire.

f) Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) – Neil Green and John O’Connell met to look at the scope of producing a plan and available funding. Plans by other local parishes have been looked at. The process is a lot of work and work require volunteer assistance from members of the community. It was agreed to publish a piece for the Parish Newsletter, which hopefully could be tied in around the same time as the affordable housing survey is undertaken.

4. Residents reports to Councillors –

- Christine Nugent reported complaints of dog fouling at the open space area by John of Gaunt/Tuckwell Road. Clerk to look at putting signs up.
- It was reported that the grass verge alongside the Cemetery wall looks untidy.

10. Planning, Policies and Licensing –

	Ref.	Location	Proposal	Decision
GCC	21/0098/CWS73M	Manor Farm Quarry, Kempford	Variation of condition 10, 11 and 12 (drainage, hydrometric monitoring & surface and groundwater Mgmt Plan	It was agreed to request that the Flood Engineer who designed the flood relief scheme at Whelford be consulted prior to any decision.
GCC	21/0032/CWMAJM	Former RAF Down Ampney Airfield	New information available in relation to the Environmental Statement	No comment
CDC	23/01800/LBC & 23/01799/FUL	Paradise Farm, High St., Kempford	Retrospective application for alterations and conversion of garage outbuilding to holiday let	No comment
CDC	SNN2023114	Former Cross Tree Crescent	Address of new development	Propose new development is named 'Cross Tree Court'
CDC	23/02241/TPO	Middle Farm, High St Kempford	Works to trees with a TPO for 20% crown reduction on chestnut tree in front garden	No objection
CDC	23/01665/OUT	Land Parcel North Of The Knoll Whelford Road Kempford	Outline planning application for the erection of up to 35 dwellings, public open space, landscaping, associated parking, vehicular access and ancillary works	Objection submitted. Applicant has met with the Planning Officer & provided comments to consultation responses. A decision is not expected until late August
WCC			Draft Wiltshire Design Guide Document	No comment

11. Road and Footpath closures noted -

1. 31/07/23 -18/08/23 Temporary road closure of C168 Horcott Road
2. 28/07/23 – 08/09/23 Temporary closure of Public Footpath BKD19

12. Finance

1. The following bills paid between meeting were approved:-

002344	CDC (Newsletter printing May, Jun & Jul)	£273.61
002345	Viking Direct (toner & stationery)	£72.47 inc. VAT
002346	M Dyball (Willow Gardening) – Kempford grass June	£240.00
002347	SSE (power Dunfield defib & Reevey speed sign)	£5.13 inc. VAT
002348	C Nugent (card & gift for P Nickson)	£26.00
002349	T Griffin (dog fouling signs, batteries & water)	£35.46 inc. VAT
002350	T Griffin (wages, holiday & use of home)	£687.70
002351	HM Revenue & Customs (PAYE)	£117.32

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. Lloyds Bank Signatory update – Mark Strange to call Lloyds Bank over signature query.

13. Clerks Report –

- Nothing to report.

14. Correspondence –

- All correspondence received via email has been circulated. Magazines and literature distributed.

15. Date of next meeting –15th August 2023

Copies:- Mrs Nugent, Mr Green, Mrs Saunders, Mr Strange, Mr O'Connell, Mr Andrews CD.Cllrs, C.Cllrs.

Meeting ended at 10:05pm