

KEMPSFORD PARISH COUNCIL

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DRAFT

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting

Held Tuesday 9th April 2019, Kempsford Village Hall – 8pm

Present:

Parish Councillors -	Tony Williams (Chairman), Mark Strange, Christine Nugent, Jerry Stokes, Sue Griffin, Phil Nickson and Alison Ward
Teresa Griffin	Parish Council Clerk
Stephen Andrews	Cotswold District Councillor & Community First Responder
Ray Theodoulou	Gloucestershire County Councillor
Mr J Greenhalgh	Resident & 4x4 Response Team
Rev. John Swanton	Church
Stuart Lindsell	RAFCTE
Richard Arquati	RAFCTE
Nick Cook	RAFCTE
Lt Col Joe Knothe	RAF Fairford
Sq.Ldr Jayne Robertson	RAF Fairford
Jon & Joy Cross	Kempsford Village Hall
Ann O'Hara	Kempsford School Governors & Resident
Ruth Gray	Kempsford School Governors/ Kempsford Village Hall/resident
Deborah Pollard	Kempsford Brownies
Philippa Griffin	Kempsford Brownies
PCSO Mark Doyle	Police
Steve Trotter	Lechlade Town Council

Residents:

M Dennt	Trisha James	Heather Holwell	Linda Wright
Celia Kennedy	Alistair Kennedy	Amanda Mather	Bob O'Hara
Liz Moore	Gill Northen	Doug Moore	J Bagshaw

1. Apologies –

Sue Coakley (CD Cllr)	Elizabeth Emberson	Chris Saunders	Iris Lewis (Bellringers)
A Axel-Berg (KCC)	Jenny Collyer		

2. Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting 10th April 2018 – approved and signed by Chair.

3. Kempsford Parish Council Chairman's Annual Report – Chairman Tony Williams gave his 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 for front 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 will be reviewed by a planning inspector from the 2nd July 2019 in the District Council Chambers and is scheduled to last up to 4 days.
4. As you are probably aware Bromford housing is to regenerate Cross Tree Crescent and Oakley Flats. They are to hold a drop in session in The Village Hall on Thursday 11th April between 4pm and 7pm. Once comments have been received they will then submit formal plans to the Parish Council before submitting them to the District Planning committee.

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.
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 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. Regular meetings between the Parish Council and Aggregate Industries are held for updates of progress and concerns.
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 Community Relations Adviser. All issues relating to the airfield and the surrounding villages, towns and communities are discussed at this meeting. As you are aware the airfield will become much more active in the next few years. Exercises will continue, with B52 bombers and other aircraft before the full return to becoming an everyday active base.
8. 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. A meeting has been arranged where issues such as these will be raised, in an attempt to come up with a strategy which help the safety of all concerned.
9. 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 also meet with them prior to the event to talk through the readjusted plans for the upcoming tattoo. The hope is that with these new readjusted plans we will not experience the traffic delays of last year.
10. Potholes and Speeding are the main highway issues. 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.
11. Kempsford Village Hall is now up and running again. A slight delay in the expected reopening due to unforeseen issues. The committee continue to do a much valued job 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 still raising money for the rebuild and although they have had a number of new volunteers, they are still looking for more to help out.
12. 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, including the RIAT café, 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.
13. It is sad that the Cricket Club has had to move venues. However the team continues to play fixtures on a regular basis at their new ground at South Hill, Marston Meysey.
14. 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", County and District Councillors, the Village Hall committee and everybody who run Clubs and Societies in the Community

4. **Police Report** – PCSO Mark Doyle reported –

PC Mark Weedon is the local Police Officer. For the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019 there were 33 reported crimes, compared to 21 last year. There has been an increase in theft related crimes, cases of number plates stolen from vehicles and valuables removed from inside. These crimes can be prevented by ensuring vehicles are locked and valuables are not left inside.

More recently there have been reports of drugs misuse in Kempsford. Patrols are being made.

We would like to encourage residents to sign up for Police Community Alerts.

Comments/questions from Parishioners-

1. Jerry Greenhalgh reported poor service from the police following a recent a break-in of his vehicle. There was a long delay before Officers contacted him, despite advising of important photographic and video evidence. This was followed by an unsatisfactory letter after complaining to the Police Commissioner. PCSO Mark Doyle apologised and offered to look in to the incident and it was agreed further details would be provided outside of this meeting.

5. **County Councillor's Annual Report** – Ray Theodoulou reported –

- The County Council is solvent and is in quite a good state despite constraints.
- The annual budget is £420 million, of which 56% is raised from council tax payments.
- This proportion is growing over time and I suspect the trend will continue. As a result we have been unable to keep tax down. For this year there is a 4.99% increase, including an adult care levy of 2%. We are not obliged to charge this but the Government does allow us to.
- Care of the elderly is the fastest growing budget item for the County Council. Together with vulnerable children it accounts for 60% of the total budget, and within Gloucestershire we have an ageing population. We encourage the elderly to remain in their own homes where possible. Following a bad OFSTED report on the children's budget, it is accepted that more money is needed to improve services.
- On the capital side, we are committed to spending £150 million over the next 4 years on road improvements. Potholes and other defects can be reported online, but residents can also email me direct. Last year improvements were focused on the primary roads. This year we are looking to see considerable improvement in the secondary roads. £100 million is committed for new schools and improvements to existing schools.
- With regards to Persimmons and the Top Road development, I received information this morning that there has been a meeting with them. Many promises and lists have been made and I am told that it is intended to get everything sorted out.
- On the positive side, we have been able to assist with a grant towards works carried out at Whelford Village Hall.
- You may have read in the press that our Police Commissioner has made a second bid for Gloucestershire Fire Services. The County Council's view is that more effort should be spent on Police matters and has opposed his bid for a second time

Comments and questions raised:

1. Do Aggregate Industries contribute to our roads given their usage? No, unfortunately due to current Government Policy they do not have to.
2. You mentioned money is set aside for schools, Kempsford School is in need of money to replace a terrapin, can you offer any advice on how we may progress this? I do not recall seeing Kempsford on the list of schools for which money is proposed. If you could ask the Head Teacher to contact me direct I can look in to it.
3. Is it possible to see the program for repairing secondary roads? I don't think it is a published document but I can try and find out.
4. The C124 is constantly being damaged by lorries. Is there a map showing which parts are Wiltshire and which are Gloucestershire? Tony Williams advised that the Parish Council will try and produce a map to publish in the newsletter showing this.

6. **District Councillors Annual Report** - Stephen Andrews reported on behalf of CDC –

Background

- Sue Coakley and I are the District Councillors for Kempsford, Lechlade and part of Fairford;
- Sue is Cabinet Member for the Environment responsible amongst other things for waste and flooding and also sits on the Planning and Licensing Committee;
- I also sit on the Planning and Licensing Committee and am part of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, which is tasked with looking at the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council as well as being the District representative on the Gloucestershire Health and Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, holding the NHS to account in Gloucestershire, and the Cotswold Canal Partnership Board, the line of the canal of course running through Kempsford.

- Sue is standing down at the election next month and Steve Trotter, a recent past Mayor of Lechlade, will be standing in those elections together with three other candidates from other parties for the two Councillor positions.
- With that election in mind, this report will concentrate on the facts of what has happened over the last year with any questions on the future possibly limited in our ability to provide a comprehensive reply.

District Responsibility

The main areas of direct concern that are a District Council (Rather than County or other authority) responsibility include:

- Planning:
 - The Local Plan has been completed and adopted. It is now being referenced in all planning applications.
 - The Section 106 agreement for the Chesterton development has been “signed off” firming up an important part of the delivery of housing required of the District as part of the Local Plan.
 - The District has been shown to have a more than adequate supply of land for planned housing and to have been building at more than adequate rate.
 - Within Kempsford Parish, the major planning application for 62 houses in land between John of Gaunt and The Knoll was refused by your Ward Councillors based upon the recommendation of the Planning Officer. Significant to that was the Local Plan and the planned and achieved levels of new housing.
 - The approval of the Chesterton strategic site with the prospect of at least 1,800 houses being constructed by 2031 does help to consolidate the delivery of more than the minimum of 5 years’ worth of planned housing – making it more difficult for developers to put pressure on less suitable sites.
 - RAF Fairford expansion. Your Ward Councillors have acted to bring together Officers from the County, District and Borough Councils affected. Cotswold District will continue to act, in its role as Host Local Authority, to ensure that the impact of the base expansion is managed locally.
- Housing
 - The District Council is working closely with Bromford on its plans to regenerate its housing stock in Kempsford.
- Flooding:
 - Although not tested by extreme weather, the flood alleviation measures implemented by the District have been shown to be effective.
- Recycling and Waste Collection:
 - The cost of the green bin collection has been held unchanged for a further year. However, the service is being revised in order to
 - improve an already impressive recycling rate by allowing other items to be collected and recycled; whilst,
 - maintaining an efficient and regular collection service; with,
 - no change to general waste collection; and,
 - an improved weekly waste food collection in more substantial “Boar Proof” caddies that will allow waste food to be separated out and recycled more appropriately; and
 - a garden waste collection service that will, after the completion of a review period, aim to ensure that unnecessary vehicle movements are minimised - reducing emissions and fossil fuel consumption to that which is necessary for the service to work.
- Finance:
 - The CDC proportion of Council Tax has been raised for the coming year. The make-up of Council taxes was included on all bills.
- Community Funding:
 - The Youth Football Club has received financial support from the funds allocated to Councillors.
 - Funding was provided to assist the community celebrate the Centenary of the end of the 1st World War.
- Mineral Planning:
 - Main responsibility lies with Gloucestershire County Council as the Mineral Authority.

- We are working with the Parish Council to ensure that conditions are met as the extension is implemented and that the opportunity is taken to improve the footpath network between Kempford and Whelford.

Comments/Questions raised –

1. Having recently moved to the village I am amazed at the number of bags, bins and containers for waste collection, many of which are spread all over the paths and roads after collection. Is it cost effective for residents to be separating their waste and recycling in this way? Kerbside separation is cheaper and better than everything being put in one bin and sorting out later. Stronger and better bags/boxes are being introduced.
2. You mentioned that from November more categories of recycling will be collected. Does this mean more bags and boxes? No, hopefully not. Tony Williams suggested that residents should contact Claire Locke whose details are on the leaflet recently distributed regarding recycling.
3. Why is the council purchasing new waste collection vehicles if the services are done by contractors? It is part of the way ownership is set up. It is easier and better for us to own the capital items. The contractors are wholly owned by local authorities.
4. Can the elderly and those with difficulties have their bins collected from outside of their houses, rather than have to struggle to get them to the kerbside? I accept the point and will see if there is a way that this could be dealt with.

7. Reports from Representatives of Local Organisations

a) **School Governors Report** - Report from Ann O'Hara -

Apologies from the Chair of Governors, who is away this week and so not able to attend tonight. He has asked Ruth Gray, Chair of the Resources Committee and myself as Chair of the Ethos Committee to represent the governors.

- We are very proud of our Year 6 children who left Kempford in July 2018 for achieving very well in their SATs. In particular, in Reading, we exceeded the national average in the percentage of pupils attaining the Expected Standard AND in those attaining working at greater depth. The new Ofsted in place from September 2019 emphasises the importance of reading and how schools develop this. We are being told that *"if we want to give all children opportunity, a good place to start is through reading to them frequently, introducing new vocabulary and meaning within contexts that stimulate their thinking."*
- We are also very proud of praise we have received from a number of external experts on our early years provision in The Hive. Most recently, with assistance from lottery funding, we have put in place artificial grass for play and a range of new equipment.
- As governors, we have also received praise for being fully involved in school self-evaluation and planning, very organised and systematic, and having a good team spirit – which is why you have us tonight!
- We are a Church of England School, so as Chair of Ethos, here are some brief points. We have been working closely with members of St Mary's church:
 - ▶ Rev. Lynn Hayler, Rev. John Partington, and more recently Rev. Nick Scott, lead Wednesday Collective Worship in school;
 - ▶ The Open the Book team go in once a week to act out stories from the Bible and help children to reflect on the school values; and
 - ▶ At a time when we hear more about mental health for all ages, the OTB team and school staff run Prayerspaces twice a year, giving children and adults time to pause in a busy world and reflect – in December, we thought about those who had no homes, little food, children who had to work from a young age and those giving up their Christmas day to look after the sick and injured in hospital.

More details are available in the Kempford Parochial Council Annual Meeting report.

- In common with all village schools, we spend a great deal of time juggling the limited resources we have for the benefit of our children. We have:

- Reorganised and improved our library facilities for the benefit of all year groups, another example of the School's commitment to developing a love of reading from an early age;
 - increased the range of PE equipment, and worked closely with Sport England, to develop life skills such as perseverance, team work and resilience;
 - funded our team of skilled and cheerful teaching assistants who work with individual children and groups; and
 - constructed a new Reflection garden affording our children a quiet space to sit and, simply, to be, time which can be so rare in our busy and pressured family lives. We are grateful to Lechlade Garden Centre for their support with this.
- We are also very lucky to have a wonderful Friends of KPS group. Their enthusiasm and support is incredible and very much appreciated. They not only run very successful school events such as our Christmas fayre, but help us to work with the church PCC team, the Village Hall team and The George to put on fetes for the whole community. We did this for the Royal Weeding in May last year and our next summertime one will be 22nd June this year and includes our first 5 K run.

Looking ahead:

- ▶ we have agreed with Caterlink to be a school Kitchen, supplying the local area and should increase the quality and freshness of the food our children receive.
- ▶ we desperately need to replace 1 Teripin building for a modern wood breakout room for groups of children. Any local funding would be great appreciated.

RG and AOH on behalf of the Governors KPS

b) Church and Youth Group – Revd. John Swanton reported –

For those of you who don't know me, I am the Team Rector of the South Cotswolds.

Kempsford and Whelford PCC have kept the churches going over the last year. We have appointed the Reverend Nick Scott for one year to take pastoral oversight of the area. He is available to take services on 2 Sundays a month and generally around Tuesdays and Wednesdays for other duties, and I am very grateful to him and others who are looking after this Parish.

As you know, we have had difficulty recruiting a permanent vicar for this area. What we are proposing to do, partly because another member of clergy in a neighbouring parish is retiring in October, is advertise for a permanent full time position based here in Kempsford, which will also cover Castle Eaton and the Meyseys. This will comprise 5 churches and 2 church schools, and it is likely we will get more applicants for a full time post.

There is a myth that we've stopped advertising for the current post, but if you look on the Diocese website you will see the advertisement is still there. One person did apply, but it was felt they couldn't be appointed. The Church continues to support the Youth Club which has been led by our Youth Worker Chris Saunders. More volunteers are needed. It is good fun and great work is being done. We get a good 10 – 12 youngsters each week, with 3 that sometimes act as young leaders.

Comments/questions raised –

1. There seems to be a big increase in plastic flowers and other items being left on graves in the churchyard. What is the Churches opinion on this? The graveyard is covered by churchyard regulations and these have been put in the Parish Newsletter. The regulations state plastic flowers are not allowed, however we do try to take a measured approach as in some locations real flowers are not an option. When something becomes unsightly it does need to be removed. Cemeteries run by civil authorities are run differently and make up their own rules.

Written report from the Church Wardens –

This year has again been a busy time for all at St Mary's Kempsford and St Anne's Welford.

With the departure of Rev. Lynn Hayler, we again welcomed and were blessed by a wide selection of different clergy to lead us in our weekly worship in our Church. However, in October, we welcomed the Rev. Nick Scott as a 'temporary' Vicar to provide continuity to our worship. Not only has he done this, but he has also had a beneficial effect on life in the village in general, making sure to be a visible presence in the school. We will hopefully continue to have Nick in our midst until at least September, by which time we will be taking steps to advertise the living at Kempsford once again.

Music continues to play a large part in our Church life. We are lucky to have a vibrant choir at Kempsford, ably lead by the amazing Diana Lee-Brown. Her knowledge and commitment are invaluable in ensuring a high standard of singing at St Mary's.

In May we hosted Cirencester Male Voice Choir in concert as part of Kempsford's celebrations for the royal wedding. The concert was a sell-out occasion enjoyed by all. In June we also hosted a concert given by two sopranos in aid of Church funds, which again was well received by a very appreciative audience. I would like at this point to thank Ann and James, who work tirelessly throughout the year to make sure that any fund raising events are successful.

The Church continues to be a hub for all things happening in the village. In 2018 it was decided not to hold a Church fete as in previous years, but to collaborate with the rest of the village in a joint fete held at the village school in September. Sadly, the weather was less than kind, but everyone still managed to pull a reasonably successful event together, with some funds coming our way to help maintain our lovely Church building. 2018 commemorated the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1. Kempsford and Welford ladies put up a wonderful display of knitted poppies in both of our churches. We also gained a grant to purchase perspex figures of soldiers to represent men from the two villages who were killed during this war, and they were incorporated into the displays of poppies. There were not only displays of red poppies in Church, but also a number of purple poppies to commemorate the horses and other animals taken to war to aid us in our efforts to defeat the German army.

Numbers attending Church at the moment seem to be fairly stable; we have had a small increase since September, and the All Age Service continues to be a success. This year, the Crib Service and Christmas Crafts were combined, and this proved to be very popular; most of the children and parents who came to the craft afternoon stayed on for the service. Midnight Mass was fairly well attended, but again the main number of attendees came to Christmas Morning Mass. As last year, this seems to be following the national trend.

Finally, I would like to say a bit 'Thank you' to all the members of the PCC who give up their precious time to ensure that everything runs smoothly at Church. As ever, there is always room for more members on the PCC; it really doesn't take up much time, and I feel that it is a wonderful way to give something back to our Church and community.

I would like to give especial thanks to Keith, who does all of the physical things that I can't; to Rosemary, who works tirelessly to make sure that all of the paperwork gets done, and to Jaqui, who keeps all of the finances in order. I definitely could not do my job as Church Warden without them.

Here's looking forward to another successful and rewarding year.

- c) **Community First Responder** – Report from Stephen Andrews (member of Fairford & Lechlade CFR Group):
- Community First Responders train to be part of the Ambulance Service and, when on duty, are called at the same time as the Ambulance.
 - They plan to arrive ahead of the ambulance and can provide lifesaving skills.
 - In 2018 the Group has done over 3,500hrs, on duty. Unfortunately, the number of call-outs from that was not a statistic that is easily available. However, it represents a significant amount of time that we provide cover to our community. As a guide, I have completed over 1,000hrs on call over the last year and been called out about 50 times.
 - Members of the Group must complete bi-annual re-qualification, including accompanying an Ambulance crew on a shift.
 - In addition to Life threatening incidents, members of the group have been trained to attend Non-Injury Falls incidents. The specialist chair has been a number of times across our area including in Kempsford.

- With the assistance of the Kempsford based Gresham-Wells Trust and the friends of Fairford and Lechlade Communities a further chair is being bought and should be in service in Kempsford in May.
- Over the coming year, members of the group will be required to meet improved standards of training meaning that the level of care we can provide will be expected to improve.
- There is a current recruiting campaign. Details of how to apply from me afterwards.

d) **RAF Fairford** – Report from Lt. Col. Joseph Knothe :

- I am the Air Base Squadron Commander for RAF Fairford
- We have just finished a large deployment of B52 aircraft. There were 6 of them here together with 500 military members. While they were here they were working for NATO objectives. They have flown over Iceland, Poland, and Czechoslovakia and worked with Norwegians and Italians. Aircraft left over the weekend and the people will be departing this week.
- Over the last 4 years there have been regular deployments, and you can expect on average 120 flying days per year. This is mostly bomber aircraft and we expect this trend to continue.
- We are welcoming back active duty to the base again. This year we are expecting 11 personnel. In 2024 the base will reopen and we will have 800-900 active military personnel together with their 1200 family members, similar to numbers in the 1980's. The reason for re-opening is RAF Mildenhall is closing and the RC-135 aircraft will move to Fairford.
- Between now and then we will be renovating many of the buildings and constructing new ones on base. This will provide lots of jobs in engineering and manual labour and we work through the Defence Infrastructure Organisation to do this who provide contractors.
- We are aware there will be issues for us to work through, including housing. We estimate that 350 people will be housed at RAF Fairford, the remainder will be provided with money to find housing in the community. We expect 90% of these people will live within a 30 minute driving distance of Fairford, so don't expect that everyone will be in the immediate area. They will go where houses are.
- It is currently quiet on base. Since 2010 we have been in 'limited use status' and at present only 12 Americans are here. We do have 200 other people, including contractors, who work daily.

Comments/questions raised –

1. As a neighbouring landowner we always used to receive notification of deployments, but haven't done recently. - The data is classified as 'secret level', however the plane spotters seem to know through listening to radios and obtaining other snippets of information from watching activity on base etc.
2. Are there plans to build a school on base? We do have plans to build a school but it is dependent on how much funding the US Government will give us. We need a school to support approximately 400 children up to the age of 11. The older children will be schooled in the community. Most service families are young so we expect younger children.
3. Can you explain why aircraft are sat running their engines for long periods of time? If we had a better way of doing it we would. They are starting the many computer systems and testing engines, as they are designed differently to commercial aircraft.
4. Were the 4 loud helicopters flying over yesterday from the base? No, they were probably from the Army.
5. How many days flying do they do at RAF Mildenhall and will that be replicated here? Yes it will be very similar here and you can expect a couple a flights a day, 4 or 5 days a week.

Sqd Ldr Jayne Robertson provided an update on bird management in relation to the quarry –

- Bird management of the quarry is paid for by Aggregate Industries and the US Air Force cover the base. Both use the same company and the risk has been significantly reduced through working together.
- I have been in contact with Aggregate Industries regarding the progressive increase in amounts of open water. This has been acknowledged and I am awaiting a reply. The next port of call will be to contact GCC Enforcement Office.

- e) **RAFCTE** – Report from Stuart Lindsell, Operations Director, Royal Air Force Charitable Trust Enterprises Organisers of the Royal International Air Tattoo

2018 marked the Centenary of the RAF

Tue 10 July London 'National Celebration' and RIAT18 marked the International Celebration

Three day show

185,000 attendance, 302 aircraft representing 43 Air Arms, plus 4 Royal parties

Outstanding and safe 8 hour flying displays

Centenary flypasts included BBMF & 617 Squadron

Disappointing that the big flypast had to be cancelled due to weather.

Excellent overall customer feedback

To manage a three day show we needed to do a few things differently and we are grateful for the support of the local community

- Traditional road traffic restrictions were modified over the Air Tattoo period.
- Local schools decided to establish a twilight inset day on Fri 13th July.
- Organic waste collections in Kempsford were brought forward to avoid the Friday

Overall the show was a great success however we acknowledge that there were significant traffic issues in 2019, particularly on the Friday. These have been fully investigated and plans modified to ensure that this does not happen again at the 2019 Show.

As a reminder, we work for an RAF Charity and all the money we raise is passed to them

Their point of difference is youth.

At the heart of the showground is Techno Zone® with youth STEM focus

>7,500 school children hosted on the Friday of RIAT.

Thank you for your patience and support for all we do.

RIAT 19 – 21 July 2019

2.5 Day Show

We have kept our promise to revert back to a Friday Air Tattoo 'lite' as we've done in previous years – with fewer tickets on sale and a condensed four-hour flying display. The Friday is typically less busy – more of a preview day.

Show theme

Space – Sat 20 July marks the 50th anniversary of Man's first landing on the moon.

NATO – we will also mark the 70th anniversary of this vitally important alliance.

We continue to work with the Parish Council to reduce the impact we have over the show weekend. Initiatives include:

- Traffic management
- Rerouting of the Kempsford Whelford cycle path
- We are employing additional parking officers this year as we did in 2018

We want to be a good neighbour and I would like to thank you again for your support.

Please note half price tickets are available for residents for Friday 19th and Sunday 21st July. Tickets can be purchased from Douglas Bader House until 31st May. Please bring a photo ID and a utility bill; max 2 tickets per household.

Comments/questions raised –

1. Will you continue when the Base becomes operational again? Yes, although we accept that we will have to adapt and work closely with the Base.

f) **Kempsford Bell Ringers** - Mark Strange read a written report from Iris Lewis –

The Kempsford band of bell ringers continues to practise weekly on Thursday evening and makes every effort to ring for Sunday services. The band now numbers twelve people, including two under eighteen-year-olds (Izzy, who is now sixteen, and twelve-year-old Joshua). Both our youngsters are making good progress and Joshua has just been invited to join the youth team of the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Association of Bell Ringers. Izzy is already a member of the youth team. As a band we continue to participate in the activities of the Association of Bell Ringers and hosted the monthly practice of the Cirencester branch in December. We were pleased to welcome a new adult learner from Whelford in January this year.

In August the bells were serviced by Taylor's Bell Foundry. This was funded by the church. New ropes (funded by a grant from the Parish Council) have been fitted to the number 5 and number 6 bell. We would like to thank the Parish Council for this grant and also for the most recent grant which will be put towards new stays.

The most significant national ringing event of this year was 'Ringing Remembers', an Anglo-German initiative to mark the end of the World War 1. The intention was for all church bells across the country to ring out in unison at 12.30pm. At Kempsford we were very pleased to participate in this event, which, in the words of the the culture secretary, Jeremy Wright, was an appropriate way to draw to an end, in sound, more than four years of commemorative events. "Bells will ring out across the world to replicate the outpouring of relief that took place in 1918, and to mark the peace and friendship that we now enjoy between nations."

g) **Kempsford Village Hall** - Report from Ruth Gray –

I am pleased to have been asked to read this annual report on behalf of the chair of Kempsford Village Hall, Hannah Dickens, who, regrettably, is away and unable to present this report herself.

- First, I can report that we are in a good position this year regarding VH Committee Members. There are now 9 committee members including a Parish Council Representative and a new Chair.
- The long awaited refurbishment at the rear of the hall finally commenced in August and work has just been completed.
 - This has provided a separate meeting room, a new and modernised kitchen, upgraded toilets, disabled access, a shower, changing room and storage. The main hall interior will be painted in the near future and new blinds and curtains hung in place. Regrettably, we have not, as yet, been able to fund and undertake some essential extras such as the installation of new rainwater gutters and external painting for the whole building which would, of course, improve the appearance and attractiveness of this octogenarian building.
 - I'm sure you will agree that the internal work is a huge improvement to the hall and the builders have done a fantastic job. We are confident that these improvements will make the hall an attractive and versatile space for hirers.
 - The hall was closed for approximately 6 months to carry out this work and during this time we made alternative arrangements for regular users to continue their activities. We thank them for their patience and loyalty.
 - We are very aware that there is still a lot to do to bring the hall itself up to modern standards and the intention is to continue with fund raising to achieve this.

- I would like to thank all our committee members for their time, commitment and expertise during the last year.
- We continue to have a good spread of regular activities as well many one-off parties and other events.
- Last year we started a regular film night which has proved really successful. We have just carried out our first film night of 2019.
- Regular bookings continue to be Pilates, Zumba, the Youth Group, Brownies, Post Office, Parish and VH Committee Meetings, lunchtime café, etc.
- We also have some new regular bookings including the Cotswold Chippy and Hartbeeps, a parent and baby music group.
- In addition to this, we have many one-off party and special bookings, for instance The Canal Waterways Recovery Group and The Police Base throughout the air show each year and The Kempsford Area Polling Station.
- Nearly all of these generate vital income to run the Village Hall.
- The very successful and busy lunchtime cafe each month is well supported by the villagers and visitors from further afield. We are pleased that it is also attended by some of the younger children from the School and their teachers.
 - We are proud to have been awarded a 5 star food hygiene rating for the cafe during the year. This has been made achievable by our excellent Catering Sub Committee.
- Finally, we have The Village Hall AGM coming up here on Wednesday 9th May at 8pm. We would like to see as many people as possible at this event, especially those who might enjoy the amazing prestige of being a KVH Committee Member. We would also always be interested to hear from any individuals or organisations which might be willing to donate time or money to the continuing cause of improving and maintaining this important village space. There is much to be done and much potential for this building within Kempsford village life as it heads towards its centenary.
- If you have any questions, I will do my best to answer them or, alternatively, I will be pleased to take details to refer back to Hannah Dickens for her to answer on her return.

h) **Whelford Village Hall** – Sue Griffin reported -

- Our biggest issue last year was rewiring the electrics as it was not considered safe. This cost £5,500 and was funded through grants from CDC, 7 Energy and the Parish Council. We would also like to thank the RAFCTE and Bruce Arkell and Partners for their donations.
- We will be running the RIAT Café again this year and hopefully in a different place.
- We continue to fundraise for further improvements and new volunteers are welcomed.
- In 2020 we plan to hold our first Fete at Whelford.
- Whelford Women still meet regularly at the hall.

i) **Kempsford Brownies** – Report from Philippa Griffin -

I run Kempsford Brownies with Debbie Pollard and Jessica Tann.

Firstly I would like to thank the Parish Council for their generous donation which was put towards a trip to the panto for the whole unit and the money left over was used for resources for the new program which changes last September. It's designed to be more up to date and to encourage the girls with self-governance and making their own choices.

We have 14 girls on the register which is a good strong number and have been enjoying a wide range of activities and events.

We are getting more involved with the community and had our own litter pick evening with equipment supplied by Cotswold District Council. The girls really enjoyed this activity and collected quite a lot of litter just from the village hall car park and Hazel View car park.

Just a few weeks ago the girls planted pots of primroses, decorated the pots and included a poem about random acts of kindness and delivered them to houses around the village. From what we have heard, the recipients were overjoyed to receive their flowers.

We continue to grow from strength to strength and to fill our meetings with fun, laughter, games, stories and much more.

Finally, if anyone is interested in volunteering with Girl guiding then please do get in touch.

j) **Kempsford Cricket Club** – No report, but fixtures are listed in the Parish Newsletter.

k) **GW 4x4 Response Team** – Report from Jerry Greenhalgh -

Gloucestershire & Worcestershire 4x4 Response is a self funded Registered Charity formed of volunteers who use their own 4x4 vehicles to provide logistical support to the community, primarily in times of adverse weather, but also in any other civil emergency. We are part of a national network of 30 plus 4x4 Response Teams under the umbrella of 4x4 Response UK.

All our drivers are Enhanced DBS checked and undertake compulsory BORDA standard off road driver training to demonstrate competence in the use of their vehicles.

We raise funds to cover the costs of uniform, training, DBS checks, insurance, communications etc by assisting at local events and shows carrying out car parking, stewarding, marshaling and a host of other tasks. Most notable are the Cotswold Country Show at Cirencester Park, Gloucestershire Steam and Vintage Show at South Cerney, Newent Onion Fayre, Withington Horse Trials, marshaling Triathlons and various other activities.

We are currently upgrading to an Internet based Radio system, which will enhance communications between Controllers and Responders and enable tracking of Responders and logging of journeys and mileages to be carried out.

A recent recruitment drive resulted in approximately 20 new members joining and these are currently under training.

Our main users with whom we have agreements are NHS Gloucestershire and Worcestershire, WRVS, and several Care Homes and Town Councils.

Previous deployments include assistance in floods in 2007 in Tewkesbury and Gloucester, assisting our neighbouring team, Wessex 4x4 Response, during the flood event in Somerset in 2014, and several calls for assistance over recent years to assist with the removal of vehicles from Festival Car Parks such as Glastonbury, Isle of Wight and Portmeirion. Some years ago a joint deployment with other teams was undertaken to transport equipment and goods in convoy to Heathrow from UK Search and Rescue stores after the Haiti earthquake disaster.

A recent snow event from 31st January to 2nd February, saw our team deploying drivers and carrying out numerous jobs, primarily transporting essential staff to and from local hospitals and other work locations. Some statistics are noted below :-

49 requests for assistance, 34 complete, utilising 10 Responders (drivers), overseen by 6 Controllers, covering 1114 miles.

All the above mileages were undertaken in adverse conditions, after a thorough Risk Assessment by our Response Drivers.

Further information can be obtained via our web site at < www.gw4x4r.co.uk

l) **Classic Car & Motorcycle Club** – Alastair Kennedy reported-
The group meets at The George on the 1st Tuesday of every month.

m) **Community Speed Watch Group** – Alastair Kennedy reported –

From the response of people here that are dissatisfied with the speed and volume of traffic going through our village why do we not have more volunteers?

We had a group, but this has reduced to 2 people. A minimum of 3 people is required to do a session.

Sessions involve monitoring the speed of traffic, recording the type of vehicle and registration number. This is then passed to the Police who send a letter to the driver.

Previous sessions identified a bus full of children travelling through Reevey at 43 mph and a car at 52mph – these are not safe speeds.

7. Parishioner's questions –

1. With regards to the Pye Homes Appeal, a lady from CDC Planning was seen taking photographs recently. She suggested attending the first day of the appeal in numbers and to invite the Inspectorate to view our properties. Will the Parish Council be attending each day of the appeal and will there be an opportunity to speak? Tony Williams advised that he will be attending the first day and suggested it is a good idea for objectors to also attend. The Parish Council has not been informed of the structure of the appeal. It is likely that there will be a site visit but no lobbying will be allowed. He advised contacting the Planning Inspectorate's office with regards to speaking at the appeal.

Meeting closed at 10.07pm.