

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 21st July 2020

Meeting held remotely using video and telephone software.

Present:

Tony Williams (Chair)	Jerry Stokes	Parishioners:-	
Phil Nickson	CD Cllr Stephen Andrews	Mel Denny	Bob Gilbert
Alison Ward	GC Cllr Ray Theodoulou	Chris Prevett	Karen Saunders
Mark Strange	Teresa Griffin (Clerk)	Josie Goodinson	

1. **Apologies:** Christine Nugent
2. **Minutes:** Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16th June 2020 were approved. The Chairman to sign hard copy when delivered.
3. **Disclosure of member's interests:** None
4. **Dispensation requests:** None
5. **Matters Arising:** None.
6. **Questions from members of the public:** None
7. **County Councillor's Report:** Ray Theodoulou reported –
 - The County Council continues to work on its duties regarding the Covid situation and remains under great pressure on the social services side. The council is preparing for when we can move away from lockdown and start the recovery period. On the health care side, it appears to be alleviating with fewer cases and fewer deaths. We are still setting up test centres. The nearest one is in the suburbs of Gloucester and I'm not aware of any demand to have one closer to here.
 - The CDC household recycling centres seem to be working okay with a booking system.
 - The County Council finances will be seriously overdrawn at the end of the year, despite substantial cash injections from the Government. We are still expecting more money from them.
 - The last County Council meeting was run via Web X from my house in Quenington and it worked very well, even with 60 people joining.
 - There have been one or two attempts to put in walking/cycle lanes at a disadvantage to motorists. Initially some of these schemes were welcomed by Town Councils, but now they are backing off, for example Bibury.
 - Mark Strange asked about the publicised delay of the 'Missing Link' road and is there a chance that the scheme will be scrapped. Ray advised that he has not heard of any intention to cancel it and the funds have been committed, although as per other schemes the costs seem to rise almost daily. The National Trust has lodged an appeal against it and there is considerable opposition from 'green' members.
 - With regards to the incinerator debate, a group called JC4, which is an arm of the objectors, have been trying to hold it up. This has been thrown out by the courts.
 - Planning proposals for the Coln House site have been drawn up. Fairford Town Council has asked me to lobby for some proper changing facilities for their management with regards to the sports ground. The site has not been marketed yet, but will be shortly.
8. **District Councillors Report:** - Stephen Andrews reported –
 - Waste Collection. Now back to the "normal" schedule including collection of Green Bins. There continue to be some collection misses in the areas which have generally been followed up with 3-5 days.
 - Fairford and Lechlade Communities Wellbeing Programme have commenced its survey with the support of CDC. Help in ensuring that the correct message gets out to each of the three "groups" being surveyed is much appreciated.
 - Main event recently has been the meeting of Full Council last Wednesday. Issues of interest;
 - Raising of car parking charges by 30%, something that Cirencester businesses amongst others

- were strongly against;
- Declaration of an Ecological Emergency
- Management of Public Open Space on New Developments;
- COVID-19 Memorial and Awards.
- Roads – The Horcott Road was scheduled to be closed on Monday and Tuesday, but due to Thames Water Staff illness will now be closed Wednesday and Thursday. RAF Fairford will be opening the gate on the Whelford Road for HGV traffic.
- The long proposed cycleway between Lechlade and Fairford is again picking up interest and both Town Councils are keen to revisit what may be feasible.
- Meeting scheduled for next week –
 - Overview & Scrutiny will be looking at climate change and other routine matters going forward.
 - Audit Committee has 19 items on the Agenda and there is some debate about whether the meeting will be far too long.
 - There is an extra Full Council Meeting which is due to look at leisure services. This will be a non-public matter and no agenda papers have been published yet.
- Phil Nickson asked what the current situation is with Farmor’s Sports Hall? It is going to open for sports club bookings. The gym element is now closed and we need to look for alternatives.
- Mark Strange asked if CDC is having a change of plan about traffic following the postponement of the multi-storey car park plans, plus the increase in parking charges? I think that Cirencester is one of the schemes that are looking at restricting traffic further. There are 2 car parks about to open. One at the old Memorial Hospital site and the other at the Rugby Club.

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- **Hazel View** – There has been a few complaints regarding weeds and the un-adopted highway. Persimmon has agreed to spray and tidy up the car park. An abandoned car was also reported as being in the car park – this needs to be flagged up to Persimmon. Works are being finalised for the Section 38. Persimmon has confirmed they will not be installing the pedestrian crossing by the school as Highways failed to request it within the specified timeframe given in the Section 106. The School and Chair of Governors are understood to be writing to the Education Authority and the County Council and it was agreed that the Parish Council should also write to the Chair of the County Council.
- **Update on plans for website** – Mark Strange reported that he and the Clerk took part in a demonstration earlier today on the ‘My Parish Council’ website software. It is written by a web designer who is also a Parish Councillor. It looks very good and the cost is £10 per month plus an annual fee of £16 for the URL which we are paying anyway. It was agreed that a formal decision on whether to go with option would be made when Mark has received a response to his questions.
- **Review of play inspection reports** – These were circulated today to councillor, Persimmon Homes and Whelford Village Hall Trust. There is nothing major identified but one or two small issues to be tidied up. Phil Nickson advised that one of playground gates at Kempsford open outwards which is wrong – this needs to be checked when the padlock is removed, and certainly before any handover. Jerry Stokes suggested that a further inspection be carried out prior to handover.
With regards to re-opening the play areas, it was agreed that Whelford can be reopened, providing the Village Hall Trust are happy, and signage is in place to say it is not sanitised and use at own risk. We should advise Persimmon that we are happy for the play area to be reopened providing they put their own signage up. It was also agreed that the play area behind the Village Hall should not be reopened. No inspection was undertaken and the Village Hall should be asked to remove the equipment.
- **To discuss complaints regarding speeding at Whelford** – There has been complaints from residents in Whelford about speeding traffic, despite the mobile sign being in situ. From a safety aspect there is currently more people walking and cycling through the village and crossing the road by the telephone box. The Police have agreed to come out and do some random checks and a request has been sent to the Road Safety Officer for a static speed survey to be done. This is considered the best way of obtaining evidence as although speed watch volunteers can obtain data, many vehicles automatically slow down when noticing Hi-Viz jackets. There are other types of signs that are available, including some that record the vehicle registration number, but they are very expensive. The Clerk has been looking for any grant funding that may be available. A child’s bicycle has been left on the cycle path by a resident as a way of making motorists think children could be playing. Questions have been asked about obtaining permits for parking on the road as stated on the signs. Stephen Andrews agreed to look in to this further.
- **Updates from meetings attended** –
 - Mark Strange attended the Kempsford Village Hall meeting. They were successful in obtaining a grant for

£10,000 so are financially safe at the moment. They will be using some of the money to purchase hand sanitising equipment and signs initially and are looking at installing broadband. This would enable cashless payments to be taken. There is still no idea on reopening, other than the Post Office which is operating from the hall. The school has said that as things stand, they do not need to use the hall. If restrictions are re-applied this could change. A new volunteer has come forward to join the committee.

- **Residents reports to Councillors –**
 - Sue Griffin had requested the Whelford play area be reopened – covered in Item 9 above.
 - The grass cutters had left some grass around by John of Gaunt as their trailer was full.

10. **Planning –**

Ref.	Location	Development	Decision
20/01912/FUL	6 Bowmoor Copse, Coln Waters, Lechlade	Full application for single storey extension on east side of north elevation	No comment
20/01227/FUL	Land adjacent to Tom's Copse, Welsh Way, Fairford	Full application for erection of new farm buildings with hard standing	No comment

Ray Theodoulou left the meeting

11. **Finance**

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

002093	CDC (Newsletter printing x 2)	£133.57
002094	Westcotec (speed sign batteries/charger)	£273.00 inc. VAT
002095	SSE (power for defib & speedsign)	£9.53 inc. VAT
002096	T Griffin (IONOS domain name)	£19.32 inc. VAT

The following bills were approved to be paid:-

002097	J&T Chesterman (May grass-cutting)	£470.00
002098	T Griffin (wages & use of home)	£494.31
002099	HM Revenue & Customs (PAYE)	£66.80

2. The Finance Report having been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting was agreed and approved.
3. The audit inspection period ends on the 28th July. The AGAR and other information will be sent to the external auditors on the 29th July.

12. **Clerks Report –** nothing to report

13. **Correspondence –** All correspondence received via email has been circulated.

14. **Date of next meeting –** 18th August 2020. A decision on whether it will be an on-line or face-to-face meeting will be decided near the time.

15. **Co-option of Councillor –**

- Candidates were given an opportunity to ask questions:
 - What skills and aptitude is the council looking for? Tony Williams advised that we are looking for an interest in the community, skills in communication and an interest in developing the community.
 - Is there any specific area or topic the councillor will be responsible for? Tony Williams advised that we do not have any sub-committees and work as a team, however there is some councillors that are more involved in certain areas due to their interest in it,
 - What is a typical week for a councillor and what keeps you busy? The Clerk sends emails most days. Some of the issues can be discussed between meetings with a decision made at the next meeting. For example, the last month there has been a lot of correspondence concerning the Hazel View development and Gloucestershire Highways. Overall, it depends on what is happening. This time of year is normally busy with regards to RIAT.
 - Is there any induction training? Training is available and offered through the Gloucestershire Association of Parish and Town Councils, but is not essential.

Members of the public and Stephen Andrews left the meeting

- Councillors discussed and agreed to co-opt Karen Saunders as the new Parish Councillor.

Meeting ended at 9.30pm

Copies:- Mrs Nugent, Mr Stokes, Ms Ward, Mr Williams, Mr Nickson, Mr Strange, CD.Cllrs, C.Cllrs.