

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 Tuesday 20th April 2021

Meeting held remotely using video and telephone software.

Present:

Tony Williams (Chair)	John O'Connell	Mark Strange	Karen Saunders
Jerry Stokes	Christine Nugent	Teresa Griffin (Clerk)	Ray Theodoulou (GCC)
Steve Trotter (CDC)	Stephen Andrews (CDC)		Dom Morris
RAF Fairford: -	Jenny Collyer	Sqn Ldr Jayne Robertson	Capt Christopher Auman
MOD DIO:-	Alison Dorman	Chris Hewitt	Sue Hughes
	Nick Inglis		

1. **Apologies:** None
2. **Minutes:** Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 16th March 2021 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. **RAF Fairford briefing on Change of Use Planning Application for land to the north of the Base** – Following the purchase of 107 acres of land north of the base, Sqn Ldr Jayne Robertson explained that the key requirements for purchase are –
 - i. Improved management of the Base for security.
 - ii. Essential security standoff for key infrastructure.
 - iii. Improved flight safety through essential bird control to prevent bird strike.
 - iv. Provide further space to relocate existing infrastructure for US and NATO strategic requirements in the future.

The change of use planning application is required for change to air base use and details proposed security fencing and access track works. At present there is no confirmed longer term plans for the newly acquired land.

Tony Williams advised that any measures to reduce the risk of bird strike and improve safety is supported and asked if any development of hangers and standing areas is included in this application. Sue Hughes confirmed that this application is purely for change of use and any future plans for physical development would need to be supported by the relevant documents for planning purposes at that time.

Stephen Andrews asked if any access arrangement from Totterdown Lane has been acquired as part of the purchase? It was confirmed that there will be no access from Totterdown Lane, and access will be from within the existing Base site. He also advised that by obtaining change of use this would allow further permitted development rights. Sue Hughes confirmed that by virtue of purchasing the land certain provisions do exist, but yes the change of use status would add further rights.

Ray Theodoulou asked if the Base representatives could provide an update on the loss of water supply to residents at Totterdown Lane. Sqn Ldr Jayne Robertson advised that the matter is being addressed and toilets/bottled water is being supplied to those residents affected. In the longer term, there is a requirement for these residents to have an alternative water supply.

Tony Williams raised the issue of proposed footpaths around Kempsford Quarry following restoration and requested that re-consideration be given to the suggested footpath alongside of Site 16. Sqn Ldr Jayne Robertson asked for an email to be sent outlining the suggestion so it can be fed through to MOD Safeguarding.

Representatives from RAF Fairford and MOD left the meeting.

7. **Questions from members of the public:** None.

8. **County Councillor's Report:** Ray Theodoulou reported –
- The County Council is sponsoring a garden at Gloucester Hospital in remembrance of the Covid pandemic, the people who suffered and the work that was done there. It is being opened tomorrow.
 - A meeting was held to look at Base safety issues arising from the tragic accident at Northamptonshire. It is proposed that there should be some form of signage on the County roads. A meeting is being organised with RAF Fairford and other interested parties.
 - Tony Williams advised that there are a couple of outstanding issues –
 - The lack of correspondence from Daniel Tiffney in respect of Highway issues raised, and
 - The build-up of gravel on the cycleway between Kempsford and Whelford. The PROW officer has now advised that it is the responsibility of CDC Street Cleaning to sweep it
 Ray Theodoulou advised that Daniel Tiffney has looked at these issues and it is understood they are in hand.
 - This is the last meeting for me and I would like to thank you all for your support over the many years. Tony Williams, on behalf of the Council, thanked Ray for his services to Kempsford.

9. **District Councillors Report:** -
Stephen Andrews reported –
- The briefing on Tourism and Visitor Economy that went to cabinet earlier this month did not mention Fairford and Lechlade and I am getting back to the relevant officer to make sure that this corner of the Cotswolds is not forgotten.
 - The Totterdown Lane planning application that is being sought to regularise the use of old barns as workshops and storage has flagged up issues with road ownership. This includes the loop at the end which ensures safe exit on to the Horcott Road, which in theory was part of the restoration and therefore should be removed.
 - An email has been sent to RAF Fairford regarding the proposed multi-purpose hanger to be built as part of permitted development rights which the Clerk will circulate to parish councillors.
 - With regards to Lake 104 of which the footpaths touch Kempsford Parish, there are lots of debates and the struggle goes on.

Steve Trotter reported –

- The Mayor of Lechlade was convicted of assault and has recently resigned from Lechlade Town Council. Last night Nigel Land was elected as replacement Mayor and myself as Deputy Mayor.
- Following a resident's email enquiring about a footpath between Fairford and Lechlade, the current situation is Sustrans have been given a brief to update and expand on their previous report of 2013.

10. **Kempsford Parish Council**

- **To discuss results from speed survey at Whelford and comments from resident** – Council discussed the following points raised by the Whelford resident which will be forwarded to Glos. Highways and the Road Safety team -
 - Data and survey – the report confirms a high percentage of speeding and as a result the Camera Enforcement Unit has been asked to prioritise the location.
 - Poor road surface – There are sections between Kempsford and Whelford where the road surface is poor. This can be raised with Glos. Highways although we are currently waiting for other areas within the Parish which are considerably worse to be done first.
 - Change of speed limits and zones – It is an extremely expensive and lengthy process to change any speed limits even if the proposal was accepted by Glos. Highways and the Police. It was agreed to try and focus efforts in the first instance on getting motorists to abide by the limits that currently exist.
 - Increase in lorries using the Whelford Road – Any evidence of types of HGV's and operators that could be recorded as part of a speed watch would be useful. The Parish Council has previously written to some operators with limited effect. As we understand it there is no powers to prevent HGV's, other than roads that have weight limits, using them.
 - Parking Permits – The permit scheme is not in operation as there is no method of enforcement. Stephen Andrews offered to investigate a scheme that was put in place around Cheltenham Racecourse.
 - Community speed watch and signs – There has been no news on activity of the Community Speed watch Group. With regards to signs, the advice from the Road Safety Team is that mobile signs that move around are more effective as people get used to permanent ones and more likely to ignore them. The purchase of an additional sign is being investigated.

Clerk to contact Camera Enforcement Unit to find out what checks have been carried out and the results before further discussion.

- **Maintenance position vacancy** –
Richard Caswell wishes to retire at the end of June. Copies of a draft advertisement and the current contract

have been circulated to councillors. The advertisement will be put in the May Newsletter and on the website.

• **Updates from meetings attended –**

- Mark Strange reported on the Weymouth Trust meeting. At the previous meeting there was discussion on whether the Trust should continue. The Head Teacher is keen for it to continue and this was agreed. The Vicar has resigned. The Head Teacher provided an update on school numbers. The number of children is reducing considerably over the next 3 years resulting in cost cutting. The plan to convert the last remaining terrapin building has been cancelled.
- Tony Williams reported on two meetings with the new Public Rights of Way Officer, one at Lake 104 and the other to walk the Kempsford Quarry footpaths. Notes from the meeting at Lake 104 meeting have been circulated. There is a further meeting on the 27th April with Aggregate Industries to discuss the quarry footpaths.
- John O’Connell and Tony Williams checked the self-inflating flood bag stock at Dunfield. There are 50 bags but they did not inflate properly which presumably is due to their age and the chemical compound. John will look into alternative products.

• **Residents reports to Councillors –**

- Concerns have been raised about the fenced islands within Kingfisher Lake, off Dudgrove Lake, and whether nesting birds will be able to fledge. The Clerk to contact Lakes by Yoo and Stephen Andrews offered to discuss with Melanie Dodd at CDC.

11. **Planning & Licensing –**

Ref	Location	Proposal	Decision
21/01225/FUL	19 Holford Crescent	Full application for first floor side extension.	No comment
21/00991/FUL	Cox’s Cottage, Dunfield	Full application for conversion of existing barn into 2 No. holiday lets. Form new stables & tack room.	Objection letter has been sent. No further comments.

12. **Finance**

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

002150	Westcotec (speed sign repairs)	£211.80 inc. VAT
002151	SSE (power Dunfield de-fib/Reevey speed sign)	£9.54 inc. VAT
002152	CDC (Newsletter printing)	£95.78

The following bills were approved to be paid:-

002153	VOID	
002154	T Griffin (wages & use of home)	£558.51
002155	HM Revenue & Customs (PAYE)	£81.20

Receipts since last meeting:

Bank Interest	£ .41
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Note. As per the Clerk’s contract the hourly rate from 1st April 2021 has been increased to the next spinal column point – SCP22.

2. The Finance Report having been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting was agreed and approved.
3. Council resolved to approve the Annual Governance Statement for the financial year ending 31st March 2021. Hard copy to be circulated for signature by the Chairman and Clerk.
4. Council resolved to approve the accounts for the year ending 31st March 2021 and Accounting Statements, including the list of ear-marked reserves. Hard copy to be signed by the Chairman.
5. Council considered the qualifying criteria for certifying exemption from a limited assurance review. Both annual gross income (including prior year VAT repayment) and gross expenditure for the year ending 31st March 2021 did not exceed £25,000. Council resolved to self-certify and certificate form to be signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

13. **Clerks Report –** Nothing to report.

14. **Correspondence –**

All correspondence received via email has been circulated.

15. **Date of next meeting –** Annual Parish Council Meeting – Tuesday 11th May 2021. Unless there is any change in current Government legislation the meeting will be held face-to-face at Kempsford Village Hall.

Meeting ended at 9.35pm

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