

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Kemberton Parish Council held on Wednesday 8th November 2023, 7:30PM in Kemberton Village Hall

In attendance: Cllrs Phil Jones, James Rennison, Mark Lea, Mary Wright, Giles Greenwood, Angela Blount, and Stephen Talbot. Shropshire Councillor Andrew Sherrington and the Parish Clerk (Vanessa Voysey).

2023.59 Chairman's Welcome and Announcements

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

2023.60 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence at this time

2023.61 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Phil Jones advised that he had received an email question from a member of the public referring to management of land behind his property.

2023.62 Dispensation

There were none at this time

2023.63 Report from Shropshire Councillor

Cllr Andrew Sherrington said that the budget for the North West Relief Road had been voted in with errors in it. The funding will be from 'Government money', but there are no details of what this entails yet, he also noted that if the road does not go ahead it will mean that £25 to £27 Million will have to be written off. He is concerned that there are large gaps in the controls set in place in the Capital Strategy. This includes half the capital projects being undertaken in Shrewsbury, this is because Shrewsbury-based officers are asked to suggest suitable projects. Branch and root revision is required.

Cllr Sherrington has put two questions to the Scrutiny Committee: the first questions what is the service standard for replies to stakeholders, including Parish Councils and members of the public. The second questions what are the processes for undertaking highway repairs and maintenance, he noted that there needed to be more clarity on what is a capital or revenue expenditure. The Scrutiny Committee is about value for money, the Audit Committee is about controls and procedures.

2023.64 Public Participation Session

There were no questions from the public at this time

2023.65 Minutes

It was proposed, seconded, and resolved to approve the minutes dated 13th September 2023

2023.66 Matters Arising

There were no any matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda

2023.67 Planning Applications Received

There were none at this time

2023.68 Planning Application Decisions

The following planning decisions were noted:

23/02932/OUT Proposed Dwelling To The East Of, Mill Lane, Kemberton: Outline application for the erection of a dwelling (all matters reserved)

Decision: Refusal

23/02871/FUL Woodhead , Hall Lane, Kemberton: Conversion of existing carport and loft space over, erection of new open sided carport

Decision: Grant Permission

2023.69 Another Planning Matters:

- i) There were no planning notifications received after the publication of the agenda,
- ii) Correspondence had been received from the Planning Inspectorate following the publication of the agenda about the appeal on Planning Application 22/02441/FU: installation of solar farm and associated infrastructure.

It was requested that the Parish Council sends in a written request if it wishes to apply for Rule 6(6) Party status. It would require that the Parish Council be a main party at the appeal, including providing witnesses, statements of case, proof of evidence, and having an advocate to examine and re-examine witnesses. The alternative is to be added to an interested parties folder, this would mean representatives could still attend the inquiry, and subject to the decision of the Inspector, give oral evidence.

There was some discussion on the appeal and possible attendance, Cllr Andrew Sherrington said he would be willing to attend, and Cllr Phil Jones said that he would be attending it. It is due to be held on 9th January in Bristol. The key points of the Parish Council were that the land is Green Belt and is by a Conservation Area, despite the applicants suggesting the contrary. Cllr Mark Lea noted that it had been described as the most suitable site. However, it was more correct to say that it was the site made available, as he and other landowners had declined the offer. Cllr Lea said that his farmland was as suitable, but that his perspective was different on the matter as he lived and farmed in the area. The solar farm application was made on behalf of a landowner not resident in the area.

It was proposed, seconded, and resolved, to make a representation as an interested party and not under rule 6(6).

- iii) It was proposed, seconded, and resolved to formally adopt the agreed updated version of the Parish Plan

2023.70 Correspondence

- i) **Shropshire Council: Public Path Diversion Order 2023.** It was noted that a diversion order has been made for the footpath between Mill Lane and Middle Street
- ii) A local resident had written about her concern at the mowing of land behind the Village Hall. Cllr Phil Jones had declared a pecuniary interest in this matter at the beginning of the meeting. Members present noted the suggestions of the resident regarding the environmental impact of mowing agricultural land so that it looks like a lawn. The same resident also raised the condition of the footpath on Middle Street and asked who should keep it clear. This concern was noted, also that it is outside of the remit of the Parish Council and that it is a Shropshire Council responsibility.
- iii) **Shropshire Council: Road Closure – Grindle Road** will be closed between 5th and 13th February 2024 for pre-dressing patching works.

2023.71

i) Finance Payments

It was proposed, seconded and **resolved** to approve the following

	Payee	Description	Amount	Power
BACS	Clerk	Travel Expenses (November)	£13.50	LGA 1972 s.112 (2)
BACS	Clerk	Salary quarter 3	£330.10	LGA 1972 s.112
BACS	Clerk	Tax quarter 3	£82.40	LGA 1972 s.112
DD	HugoFox	Website fees (October)	£11.99	LGA 1972 s.111

In addition to the above, the following it was proposed, seconded, and **resolved** to approve reimbursement of £52.28 to Cllr Mary Wright following the purchase of a gift for the retiring Internal Auditor in recognition of his years of service on behalf of the Parish Council.

A steel soldier has been placed at the entrance to the village, this was provided free through a scheme with ACS and ABF The Soldier's Charity. It was suggested that a charitable donation would be appropriate.

It was proposed seconded and **resolved** to donate £100 to the Army Beneficial Fund ABF, the Soldiers Charity) .

ii) Income

The following was noted:

Bank interest – £9.43 for months of September and October

iii) Bank Reconciliation

It was proposed, seconded, and resolved to receive and accept the Bank Reconciliation to month end October 2023

iv) Spend to Date

It was proposed, second and resolved to receive and accept the Spend to Date for month end October 2023

v) Transparency Grant

It was proposed, seconded, and resolved, to pay the website fees from the remaining £650 transparency grant held in reserves

2023.70 Environment

Cllr Angela Blount noted that thistles that had been reported as intruding on road visibility on Fix My Street had not been cut back but had died away.

2023.71 Highways

Cllr Mark Lea noted that there were still problems with vehicles being driven along village lanes at inappropriate speeds. He asked Cllr Andrew Sherrington what could be done about it and if it could be taken on as an issue of concern. Cllr Sherrington suggested that resident action groups monitoring the speed and volume of traffic would be the most effective method. This would provide data to present to the Highways to request a speed reduction. He did note that it should be expected for this to not be a quick process.

Cllr Sherrington noted that Shropshire Council's contractors were paid by the square metre and not by the hour.

2023.72 Other Parish Matters

It was noted that there had been complaints about Village Hall users parking on the road in front of the Cottages.

Cllr Mary Wright said that she remained concerned about empty properties in the village.

2023.73 **Next Meeting** will be Wednesday 10th January 2024 at Kemberton Village Hall, 7.30pm