

Minutes of The Annual Parish Meeting of Kemberton Parish Council held in The Village Hall, Kemberton on Wednesday 11th May 2016 at 7.30

Present: Ian Amos, Martyn Bidgood, Giles Greenwood, Philip Jones, Mark Lea (arrived at 7.40), Bill Lathe, James Rennison – Chairman, Mary Wright and Shropshire Councillor Michael Wood.

In attendance: Valerie Edwards clerk to the Council.

1 Apologies for Absence: There were no apologies.

2 Chairman's Report on the Council year 1 May 2015 to 30 April 2016.

In his third report as Chairman, Councillor Rennison made the following comment.

This year has seen the normal aspects of Parish council duties being dealt with as usual. However several items have consistently been on the agenda and these relate to planning, the village defibrillator unit, the Parish Plan and superfast broadband for which more detail later.

There have been 5 scheduled meetings of full council held since the last Annual Parish Meeting in May 2015. The meetings have been very well attended. All meetings have been good humoured and constructive and I thank all the councillors for time and dedication throughout the year. I would also wish to thank Cllr. Michael Wood who has attended and supported many of the PC meetings and has kept us well advised on issues that relate both at local and county level.

The Parish Plan

The Parish Council prepared a questionnaire document for the Parish Plan and circulated it to all households in the Parish to establish the needs and requirements of the village. The information has now been collated and the next stage for this year will be to compose a plan and log it to the county council.

Planning

Planning issues are always a concern for the electorate and the preservation of the village's unique character should be a priority. During this session the Council has considered and commented upon 6 minor planning applications for planning consent for property alterations and tree works within the conservation area. On development proposals this has been dominated by the application in the neighbouring parish of Ryton and Grindle for a change of use to agricultural buildings.

Grindle House Farm

The changes in the use/ development at Grindle House Farm, on Apley Estate, have resulted in a protracted planning application. A robust objection to the planning was recorded by both local residents and the Parish Council. The Parish council voiced its verbal objection at the planning committee and the planning application was REFUSED by the committee.

Unfortunately this has not halted the activity at Grindle House Farm and a second application has been re-submitted in November 2015 and a decision is still awaited. The PC has again put a written objection on file.

Village Defibrillator

A village defibrillator has been operating for over a year. There have still been some operating issues but these have reduced. The overall costs for this facility has been more than expected but the obvious benefits of having this in reserve is substantial. I would like to thank all the on-call volunteers for their continued support.

Superfast Broadband

The prospect of Superfast Broadband coming to Kemberton in the short term was very slim. However a village resident Mark Moss was relentless and pursued BT and Connecting Shropshire and helped with his technical knowledge he has managed to secure a pledge for the facility to be installed by the end of 2017. On behalf of the PC and the village I would like to thank Mark for his efforts.

Finance

The precept has been increased this year by the maximum permissible percentage increase as the overall running costs of the Parish Council has escalated with the defibrillator unit and overall general administration costs. I still consider that the Parish council is running at very modest amount. The accounts have been prepared as required.

Parish Clerk

Val Edwards as our Parish Clerk has continued to be a great asset to the Kemberton Parish council; I would like to thank Val sincerely for her efforts during the year.

Thank you to you all for your support and contribution throughout the year

3 **Report from Shropshire Councillor Michael Wood on the Council year 1 May 2015 to 30 April 2016.**

- Councillor Wood commenced by thanking all the Councillors, he noted that they all serve on a voluntary basis. He also noted that Parish Councils are Statutory Bodies.
- A worrying change to funding is causing concern. The Rates Support Grant Supplement will be lost by 2020. After this, Business Rate will be retained at County. This will **not** favour Shropshire Council because of the sparsity of businesses which can contribute.
- Adult Social Care is an increasing and major drain on finance for Shropshire. The cost of this item is escalating and uncontrollable costing the council in the order of £126K per week. Councillor Wood noted the colossal imbalance of the level of funding per head of population in this category. Quoting the following per capita comparisons: Westminster Council receive £141K per annum, the average in England is £62K per annum, Shropshire Receive £41K per annum. Similar funding imbalance applies to care for children within the county. It is predicted that by 2020 80% of the total budget will be taken up by Adult Social Care and Children's care. (A meeting between Officers of SC with The Government Minister responsible is scheduled for 12th May to discuss this problem).
- Planning – Grindle House Farm, This matter has been ongoing for over 2 years. The latest application is at the stage where the Highways report is recommending refusal. The next stage will be dealt with by delegated powers and will then proceed to enforcement. Apley Estate will then have six months in which they may appeal the decision.

4 The Chairman opened the meeting to any questions relating to the items above.

Discussion took place on the process of the Grindle House planning Applications to date and the possible outcome. On the assumption that the latest application would result in refusal by SC, questions were explored about the process and time scale both of enforcement and the possibility of an appeal.

The state of the Village roadways was discussed. Especially in the context of the damage caused by vehicles traveling to and from Grindle House Farm. Councillor Wood indicated that it is probable that the cost of the repair would fall on Shropshire Council.

It was noted by the meeting that the approved route was not being adhered to.

The question was asked about the category of Council Tax which is being paid by Grindle House Farm. This is to be investigated.

In closing The Chairman thanked Councillor M Wood for his continued support on the Grindle Planning Applications.

Meeting closed at 8.00.

Minutes of Meeting of Kemberton Parish Council held in The Village Hall, Kemberton on Wednesday 11th May 2016 following the Annual Parish Meeting

Present: Ian Amos, Martyn Bidgood, Giles Greenwood, Philip Jones, Mark Lea, James Rennison – Chairman, Mary Wright and Shropshire Councillor Michael Wood.

In attendance: Bill Lathe and Valerie Edwards clerk to the Council.

1 **Apologies for Absence:** There were no apologies.

2 **Declaration of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in respect of items on the agenda**

They will be annotated at the relevant item in the minutes.

3 Minutes of meeting held 9th March 2016

The following amendment was made to the minutes. Item 8 Matters reported from Shropshire Council – second bullet point change “He” to “It”.

The minutes were then approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

4 Matters arising from the minutes There were no matters arising.

5 Election of officers for 2016/17

5.1 Election of Chairman Councillor Lea proposed that Councillor Rennison be elected to this office This was unanimously approved by the meeting.

5.2 Election of Vice Chairman Councillor Lea was proposed for the office of Vice Chairman. This was unanimously approved by the meeting.

5.3 Representative of Kemberton PC to Local Joint Committee. Councillor Amos Volunteered to resume this role. This was greeted with approval by the meeting.

6 Correspondence

6.1 From SALC Invitation to renew membership – Fee for year £143.81 (compared with £145.13 last year). This was approved by the meeting.

6.2 From AON Insurance Invitation to renew policy cost of £232.12 (compared with £224.70 last year). This was approved by the meeting.

6.3 From Shropshire Council Notice of road closure, B4379 Brockton to A4169 Junction, 22.06 for 3 days for surface dressing. This was noted.

6.4 From Kaleidoscope Thanks for the donation.

7 Matters Reported from Shropshire Council Please see report made to the preceeding Annual Parish Meeting.

8 Financial Matters

8.1 Precept A payment of £2053 has been received.

8.2 From Mazars Notice of Annual External Audit of accounts.
Time Table:

Deadline for approval of Annual Return – 30th June, Annual return to be submitted to Mazars – 3rd July, Appointed date for exercise of elector’s rights – 31st July.

8.3 Annual Income and Expenditure Account for yearend 31st March 2016
This was tabled.

8.4 Copy of Annual Return to be forwarded to External Audit.
This was tabled.

The clerk reported a successful completion of internal audit carried out by Julian Gronow. This will enable the accounts to be presented for approval at this meeting.

Mr Gronow requested that the clerk bring the following to the attention of the meeting: time spent on this audit (undertaken without remuneration), reduces the time he has available for chargeable accountancy work.

This was noted by the meeting, thanks were offered to Mr Gronow.

8.5 Requirement for Compliance with Transparency code for Audit from April 2017.

To reconsider the decision made to opt out of the Sector Led Body Auditor Procurement Decision made at Item 7.2 Minutes of January 2016 meeting. (See also item 9.2 of Minutes March 9th 2016).

The clerk informed the meeting that after consultation with both The Chairman and Councillor Jones on this matter, it is now clear that the stage 3 Chairman Communication from SAAA (Smaller Authorities’ Audit Appointments) which now defines much more complex procedures which control the process of Opt Out. It is now clear that for a small council like Kemberton would have difficulty complying with the procedure, it would be too complex to be worthwhile.

After discussion of the Transparency requirements,

it was resolved that: the decision to opt out of the Sector Led Body for Auditor Procurement made in January be now reversed.

Advise on web site requirements is to be sought from SALC for the next meeting.

8.6	For Payment at this meeting:	
	Room Hire November, January, March and May	£ 120.00
	SALC	£ 143.81
	AON Insurance	<u>£ 232.12</u>
		£ 495.93

- 9 Matters related to Grindle House Farm and Ren-new.** This item had been dealt with at length in the proceeding Annual Parish meeting see minutes item 4
- 10 Local Joint Committee** No report of meeting held 13th April was available at this meeting.
- 11 Village Defibrillator** Matters have settled down. There have been a very few “shouts” which did not apply to Kemberton residents.
- 12 Parish Plan/Place Plan** Data from the returned questionnaires has now been collated. It has been circulated to members on Council by Councilor Jones. This is now in need of analysis to compile a draft Plan. The Chairman thanked Councilor Jones for his work to date. A working party was agreed to carry the work forward comprising The Chairman and Councilors Greenwood and Wright.
- 13 Kemberton Broadband** There is no further information at this meeting. The Chairman noted the enormous amount of work, expertise and influence delivered on this by Mark Moss.
- 14 Planning** No plans received for consideration at this meeting.
- 15 Any Other Business**
- 15.1** Councilor Jones reported that he had seen a survey taking place of the roadway adjacent to his house at the “T” junction. He is led to believe that road works are planned.
- 15.2 Flooding on B4379** – Councilor Bidgood commented on the situation which now prevails after recent gully work. Water is now draining from the roadway into the field, but it is filling the septic tank of the two houses close by. Highways are to be notified. A survey is underway to seek any possible remedy.
- 15.3** Councilor Lea commented on the poor state of the road surface between Mill Lane and Evelith. The pothole formation is as a direct result of the flow of surface water along the roadway. This is caused because gullies are blocked. This problem is to be brought to the attention of The Highways department.
- 15.4** Special mention was made of a gentleman named “Euan”, thought to be a resident of Ryton and Grindle. He takes much time to do litter picking in Kemberton. His good work is to be praised and highlighted through the minutes of this meeting and through the newsletter.
- 16 Date and time of next meeting, Wednesday 13th July 2016**

Meeting closed at 8.57.

Meeting schedule 2015	Wednesday	14 th September 2016
	Wednesday	9 th November 20156