

KEMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Kemberton Parish Council held on Wednesday 11th May 2022 at 7.30pm at Kemberton Village Hall

In attendance: Cllrs Martyn Bidgood (Angela Blount, Phil Jones, Mark Lea, Giles Greenwood and James Rennison. Also in attendance: Vanessa Voysey (Parish Clerk) and one member of the public.

22.1 Election of a Chairman

It was proposed, seconded, and **resolved** to elect Philip Jones as Chairman

Cllr Philip Jones signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

22.2 Election of a Vice-Chairman

It was proposed, seconded, and **resolved** to elect James Rennison as Vice-Chairman

Cllr James Rennison signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office

22.3 Chairman's Welcome and Announcements

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, and thanked Martyn Bidgood for the excellent job he had done as Chairman

22.4 Apologies

Apologies were received from Mary Wright and accepted by the Parish Council with wishes for a speedy recovery

22.5 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Martyn Bidgood declared an interest in the planning application 22/01519/FUL and noted that he had filed an application in favour of it on Shropshire Council's Planning Portal prior to the meeting.

22.6 Dispensation

There were none at this time

22.7 Report from Shropshire Councillor

Cllr Richard Marshall had sent apologies prior to the meeting as he was unwell. He had reported that the extra recycling bins are starting to be delivered in the south of the county first and that residents who have ordered one should receive it soon.

22.8 Public Participation Session

It was proposed, seconded, and **resolved** to combine the public forum with the agenda item updating the Parish Council on the Solar Farm Working Party.

A member of the public present, being a member of the Solar Farm Working Party, gave an update.

A website had been set-up that at the time of the meeting, it had registered 56 objections to the proposed plans. A spreadsheet has been set-up to compile the comments. It was suggested that whilst a petition would raise awareness, objections on Shropshire Council's website was the main thing, and that a three to four page objection had been written including guidance notes.

Village households had been canvassed to gain views and it indicated that in general residents were opposed to a solar farm development in the village with 6 people in favour, 129 against, and 11 abstaining from comment. Whilst many were in favour of green energy in principle, it was felt that the location was inappropriate being Green Belt and farming land.

A conversation has taken place with a solicitor that had discussed the case and the possibility of taking it on.

The Chairman, Cllr Phil Jones, requested that the minutes record thanks to Cllr James Rennison for supplying banners, currently on the entrance to the village near the site of the proposed solar farm.

Cllr James Rennison explained the process of appeals. Cllr Phil Jones, in the Chair, noted that employing a solicitor would be part of the initial process, and that any donations not used should be returned.

A member of the public expressed his concern that renewable energy could be interpreted as exceptional use of a Green Belt site.

Cllr James Rennison noted the existence of a parish plan, and that it clearly stated that it did not think that renewable energy sites were suitable. Admittedly the reference was to wind turbines, as solar panels were not considered at the time, but the principle remains the same. The Parish Plan should be considered.

It was proposed, seconded, and **resolved**, that the Parish Plan should be sent to [Shropshire Council] to remind planners of the village policy against renewable energy farms being sited in it.

Cllr Mark Lea noted that other farmers had been approached about connecting to the Ironbridge. It was also noted that the campaign against having a solar farm in the village was on a campaign website.

It was proposed, seconded, and **resolved**, that the Parish Council agreed in principle to spend up to £2,500 (excluding V.A.T) on seeking legal advice on responding to the solar farm planning application.

22.9 Minutes It was proposed, seconded, and **resolved** to approve the minutes dated 9th March 2022

22.10 Matters Arising there were no matters arising from the minutes not covered elsewhere on the agenda

22.11 Queen's Jubilee

Cllr Angela Blount had stepped in to help with Jubilee preparations for Cllr Mary Wright. A hog roast has been organised and final arrangements are being made with a meeting planned for 12th May.

There was some discussion on costs, inclusion of all members of the parish, and being able to bring family members who are not residents. Cllr Giles Greenwood reported that it had been suggested that non-resident family members be charged £5 as a contribution towards the event. The total cost of the event was estimated as being around £1500.

It was proposed, seconded, and **resolved**, that the Parish Council agreed to fund the event with the Village Hall on a 50/50 basis.

22.12 Solar Farm Working Party

Updates and consider any recommendations from the Solar Farm Working Party, including consideration of the appointment of a planning consultancy, was raised in an earlier item.

22.13 Highways

There were no updates on from the Shropshire Council on Highways matters affecting the Parish at this time.

Cllr Mark Lea commented on how it seemed to him that Shropshire Council's contractors spent more time sitting in vans than fixing potholes and that achievement seemed to be little. Cllr Giles Greenwood questioned the quality assurance of the work.

Cllr Mark Lea said that the surfacing on Evelith Lane had been a superb job. The new surface had attracted more traffic and a lot of returning traffic, unfortunately, two vehicles in particular had caused concern with speed issues. This was particularly the case for pedestrians, equestrians and cyclists, he raised the issues of Quiet Lanes and if there were potential calming measures in this respect. It was suggested that the advice of Shropshire Council could be sought for how this could apply to Evelith Lane and the wider area.

22.14 Correspondence

The following were noted:

- a) **Road Closure** - Field Lane, Chevin, Kemberton, 6th to 7th June, Severn Trent Water, Boundary Box renew, leaking
- b) **Footpath Diversion** – notification has been given of a diversion of Footpath 16th by Montrose

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/outdoor-partnerships/countryside-access-and-public-rights-of-way/current-public-path-orders/>

22.15 Planning Applications Received:

a)

22/01519/FUL, Langley Cottage Kemberton Shifnal Shropshire TF11 9LB, Installation of new septic tank, Validated Date 08 Apr 2022

<https://pa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=R9GVNLTDDMT00&activeTab=summary>

No comment

22.16 Planning Application Decisions: None at this time

22.17 Any other Planning Authority Matters:

Received after the publication of the agenda:

22/01851/FUL, 3 Hall Lane, Kemberton, Shifnal, Shropshire, TF11 9LQ, Erection of a greenhouse to rear of property

<http://pa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?activeTab=summary&keyVal=RACCTCTDN3M00>

No comment

22.18 Proposed Solar Farm Development

22/01968/SCR Request for a Screening Opinion - Town and country (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 Regulation 6 (1) - Proposed Installation of solar farm and associated infrastructure.

Proposed Solar Farm To The South Of Hall Lane Kemberton Shifnal Shropshire

<https://pa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-applications/applicationDetails.do?keyVal=RAW3HTTD0C800&activeTab=summary>

It was proposed, seconded, and **resolved**, to request that an Environmental Impact Assessment be conducted and also an Historical Impact Assessment.

22.19 Any other planning matters for discussion: there were none at this time

22.20 Finance

The Parish Clerk gave a brief overview of the finances at the year-end 2021-2022

22.21 Payments

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

	Payee	Description	Amount	Power
BACS	Clerk	Travel Expenses (May)	£13.50	LGA 1972 s.112 (2)
BACS	Clerk	Salary (Quarter 1)	£300.00	LGA 1972 s.112 (2)
BACS	HMRC	Salary (Quarter 1)	£75.00	LGA 1972 s.112 (2)

22.22 Income

The following was noted:

Bank interest - 2p for months of February and March

Donation - £500 from residents towards the Solar Panels Working Party

22.23 Internal Audit

It was proposed, seconded, and **resolved**, to receive and accept the Internal Audit for the financial year 2021-2022

22.24 End of Year

It was proposed, seconded and resolved to approve and sign the following:

- Reconciliation and Bank Statements for the month of March 2022
- Receipts and Payments including income and expenditure spreadsheets for the month of March 2022
- Certificate of Exemption
- Annual Governance Form
- Annual Return for 2021-22
- Confirm exercise of Public Rights – 13th June to 22nd July 2022

22.25 Insurance

It was proposed, seconded, and **resolved** to accept the renewal invitation of the Parish Council's insurance policy with BHIB due to be renewed on 1st June for the quoted renewal price of £203.46.

22.26 Environment there were no reports on any environmental issues at this time

22.27 Other Parish Matters

- i) Cllr Mark Lea noted that the draining on the B4179 was negligible in places and at times the road had been like a quagmire
- ii) Thanks was given to Cllr Martyn Bidgood for his service as Parish Council Chairman

22.28 **Next Meeting** is scheduled for Wednesday 13th July 2022 at Kemberton Village Hall, 7.30pm but may be re-scheduled for Thursday 14th July 2022