

KEMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th March 2020 In Kemberton Village Hall, 7.30pm

1. CHAIR WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Present were Cllr Michael Wood (Worfield) and Graeme Manton, a representative from Apley Estates.

2. APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Cllr James Rennison

This was **accepted** by the Council, all in favour

3. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None at this time

4. DISPENSATION

None at this time

5. REPORT FROM SHROPSHIRE COUNCILLOR

Cllr Michael Wood gave a round-up of news from Shire Hall.

He detailed the financial position and imminent increase in Council Tax commenting that he was “pessimistic on long-term funding”. Shropshire Council is working on the basis that it will get Governmental funding but the fair-funding issue is not yet resolved. Cllr Wood compared the amount received by Shropshire to the greater amount given to London boroughs.

Pot-holes remain a county-wide problem. There is now a new consultant in place who has looked at the Kier contract and has said due diligence was not done on it. More gangs are going out on the road. Cllr Giles Greenwood questioned if this was ‘good money being thrown after bad’. Cllr Wood said that quality of work has been an issue. The new consultant comes with a pedigree and will be judged on results - “we are now getting somewhere”.

Cllr Wood also said that there was a new ‘My Shropshire’ app where road matters, lampposts and other reporting matters could be filed and where users will be able to follow problems they have reported to its conclusion. This will save multiple reports being received on the same issue.

Cllr Mark Lea asked if we are to continue to with the Pothole Portal as it has been a waste of time. Cllr Martyn Bidgood said that Shropshire Council’s management of potholes has been abysmal. He said that whilst he accepts that major roads are a

priority, the lanes in the parish are used for access, and the Parish Council is obliged to follow through the issue on behalf of the public who has contacted the Council about it. Cllr Wood said that he does have sympathy - he is also a road user.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SESSION

A representative of Apley Estates said that only two complaints about lorries had been received from the Clerk since the Autumn. One wasn't going to Grindle and the other one *should have gone to Crowgreaves. The last bit of concrete is being laid at Cowgreaves* newt week. There will be more traffic on Brockton Road as the site is completed and the site at Grindle is emptied but there will be no reason for traffic to come through Kemberton Parish.

Cllr Phil Jones said that a Renew flat pack lorry comes through the village every day at 7.40am and comes up Hall Lane.

The Parish Clerk said she had not received any other further complaints from the public.

Cllr Martyn Bidgood said the Parish Council would appreciate being kept informed on what happens to the site in the future as it might affect the village. This was noted.

7. MINUTES

The minutes 8th January 2019 were **accepted** as at true record, all in favour.

8. MATTERS ARISING

None at this time

9. HIGHWAYS

i) Potholes

Phillip Dunne has responded to a letter sent jointly by Kemberton and Ryton with Grindle Parish Council about the condition of the roads in both Parishes. He has offered to meet Parish Councillors on 27th March.

Cllr Mark Lea said it would be useful to take him a drive so he can see in person. Cllr Martyn Bidgood agreed and said that the meeting should be prepared for thoroughly, and it was agreed it would be a good idea to arrange a pre-meeting between Councillors to prepare a route.

Cllr Martyn Bidgood said that what work has been done is not satisfactory, and that there is also a question of government funding outside of poor management on the part of Shropshire Council.

Cllr Mark Lea said that ditch clearance is also an issue; we don't see gullies being cleared or ditches being cleared. If this was done then there would not be so many issues. Evelith Lane cannot be shut off. People live along it and use it as access.

The Parish Clerk reported that she had received two written public complaints about the condition of Field Lane.

The first complaint said:

“As a cyclist, I find the local roads in the village dangerous, particularly in the dark. In a car, the condition of Evelith Lane is so appalling we are unable to use it. Neither can we use Field Lane beyond Field House. The only alternative route, Mill Lane, also has a poor surface and, as everyone is forced to use it, can only deteriorate. This increasing use of one way out of the village causes additional congestion in Shifnal. The A4169 to Shifnal is also becoming dangerous. Many cars travel fast on this stretch of road, often swerving to avoid the potholes, narrowly missing vehicles coming in the opposite direction.”

The second complaint said:

“The village end of Field Lane has had some maintenance over the years but the portion beyond Field House has been neglected, even though it is an adopted road. There are several large potholes just past Field House, opposite the entrance to the field. One in particular is very deep & wide (approx 100x81x10cm) & is now constituting quite an obstacle.”

As you head out of the village, the road on the right hand side is generally starting to crumble away. There is a section which is approximately 5000x89x12cm which has just disappeared.

I have reported these to the council & they have been logged but as yet no action has been taken & of course the defects are extending. In addition the road regularly floods, as drainage channels have not been maintained. I would be grateful for your support with approaching the council to make good the necessary repairs.”

The complaints are in addition to the formal complaint made about the condition of Field Lane beyond Field House that was lodged by the Parish Council after previous complaints made by (different) parishoners to Cllr Mark Lea.

ii) Kemberton Junction

Cllr Mary Wright and Cllr Martyn Bidgood met with two officers from Highways who looked at Kemberton Junction. There is now a scheme in the pipeline for reducing the speed limit to 50 mph.

Cllr Martyn Bidgood said that this is not a cancellation of the PCC funding bid but that it will be need to be re-adjusted. It had been clear that in order for the bid to progress it needed to be backed by Shropshire Council.

He also noted that the Shifnal Road is included on Shropshire Council’s Highways Improvement.Capital programme for 2020/21, although it does not detail what this work entails. However, he has been told that the work on the junction will be completed in the next financial year.

Cllr Mark Lea said well done to Cllr Martyn Bidgood for getting to this point after year of pressing for action. Cllr Martyn Bidgood said that whilst he did not think that 50mph was the answer it was recognition of the problem.

iii) HGV access to Grindle

Apley Estates has been made aware of the flatbed truck travelling through the village daily during the public participation session. There were no other issues to report at this time.

10. CORRESPONDENCE

- i) Response to Freedom of Information Question: Kemberton Parish Council requests all correspondence between Shropshire Council and Renew (Grindle Farm) relating to the enforcement of the planning inspectorate's decision, dating from the appeal decision on May 9th 2017 to the current day:-

"I refer to your request for information relating to the above site and can confirm that information is available to view on the Council website at <https://pa.shropshire.gov.uk/online-applications/>.

Other information held is not publicly available as it involves third parties, and is therefore exempt from disclosure under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act – Personal Information of a third party."

Cllr Giles Greenwood asked if there could be further clarification. He questioned why the information was not available as a Freedom of Information request.

- ii) Response from Shropshire Council concerning complaint about repairs on Field Lane

"My understanding of your complaint is that there has been a partial repair of the lane but it did not reach all residences.

Shropshire Council, as the Highway Authority, has a duty of care to ensure that, as far as is reasonably practical, the highway network is maintained in a safe condition. To ensure this happens, regular and routine safety inspections are undertaken by trained and qualified staff. Defects which are identified during those inspections, are passed to Shropshire Council contractors to repair permanently, if it is safe and practical to do so.

From our records I can see that work was undertaken in July to repair 18 defects, but some are still outstanding. Kier, our highway maintenance contractor have now increased their workforce, so hopefully these defects will be repaired soon.

Running in conjunction with the safety inspection regime are a series of significant capital resurfacing, structural repairs or surface treatment projects. Those sites are selected using our highway asset management strategy. The condition data is then used to prioritise our capital programme. This approach is consistent with industry best practice and provides the authority with a network level view of the condition of the asset. I am happy to add Field Lane, Kemberton as a potential candidate to be included in the future work programme, however, please be aware that each potential site needs to be assessed using asset management data and local engineering knowledge, with the highest ranking sites across the county being granted funding. Therefore, I am sorry, but I cannot tell you at this time when or if capital funding will be awarded."

Cllr Angela Blount commented that that repairs that had been made last summer have been washed away.

11. PLANNING APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

20/00689/DIS

Hillfields 11 Mill Lane Kemberton Shifnal TF11 9LU

Discharge of conditions 3 (materials) and 4 (tree protection) on planning permission

19/05134/FUL for erection of detached summer house/office building

Pending Consideration, Validated: 18th February 2020

20/00534/CPE

The Timbers, Grooms Lane, Kemberton, Shifnal, Shropshire TF11 9LS

Application for Lawful Development Certificate for the existing timber conservatory at rear of dwelling

Pending Consideration

Validated: 13th February 2020

20/00569/TCA

Heathmount, Mill Lane Kemberton Shifnal TF11 9LU

Reduce height by 5 to 6 metres and shape lower branches of 1no Poplar within

Kemberton Conservation Area

Pending Consideration

Validated: 12th February 2020

20/00547/FUL

The Grove, Field Lane Kemberton Shifnal Shropshire TF11 9LR

Conversion of garage/office/storage building to form one dwelling

Pending Consideration

Validated: 12th February 2020

There was discussion on the above plans which concluded with agreement that there were no objections or comments to file.

12. PLANNING APPLICATION DECISIONS

19/05134/FUL – Permission Granted

Hillfields, 11 Mill Lane, Kemberton, TF11 9LU

Erection of detached summer house/office building

Permission Granted 14 January

This was noted

13. FINANCE

1. To approve and sign the following:

a) Cheque payments

<i>Cheque Number</i>	<i>Payee</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount</i>
498	Clerk	Salary + expenses	£208.55
499	Village Hall Committee	Room Hire	£75

b) Reconciliation and Bank Statements for the month of January 2019

c) Receipts and Payments including income and expenditure spreadsheets

It was **agreed** to approve the above payments, and to approve the Bank Reconciliation, receipts and payments sheets, all in favour.

d) Note income – bank interest = 13p

14. MEETING DATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2020/21

The following dates were agreed upon

This was noted.

20th May 2020
11th November 2020

8th July 2020
13th January 2021

9th September 2020
10th March 2021

15. AOB

Cllr Angela Blount said that she had received complaints about hedgecutting in the village that is not tidied up and leaves debris on the road.

16. NEXT MEETING

Wednesday May 20th 2020, at 7.30pm Kemberton Village Hall