

KEMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of Kemberton Parish Council
held on Wednesday 10th May 2023 at Kemberton Village Hall at 7.30pm

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

2023.1 Election of a Chairman

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

Phil Jones signed the Declaration of Office

2023.2 Election of a Vice-Chairman

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

James Rennison signed the Declaration of Office

2023.3 Chairman's Welcome and Announcements

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

2023.4 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence

2023.5 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest

2023.6 Dispensation

There were no requests for dispensation

2023.7 Casual Vacancy

There were no nominations for co-option from interested parties. Cllr Phil Jones noted that the vacancy has been advertised in the village newsletter. Cllr Giles Greenwood said that the Village Hall Committee had been successful in recruiting new members through a mailshot.

2023.8 Report from Shropshire Councillor

Cllr James Rennison said that giving his report, he would like to thank Cllr Richard Marshall for the excellent presentation he gave at the Planning Committee (that considered the Solar Farm application), and for all of his support. Parish Councillors present concurred with this comment.

Cllr Richard Marshall thanked the Parish Council, and said that the battle had been won but not the war. He feels passionately about it, and has not given up.

The Local Government Boundary Review latest draft has now come through, this would place Kemberton in a new ward called Shifnal Rural to include neighbours Sutton Maddock, Ryton and Grindle, and as far as the Parishes of Boscobel, Tong and Sherrifhales. The ward would have 11 Parish Councils, 1 Town Council, and 2 MPs. Cllr Marshall said that this would dilute his time as Shropshire Councillor and would not be to the benefit of the Parish Council. He also noted that the land area is bigger than some parliamentary constituencies. Comments can be made online about the proposals.

Suggestions of expanding the West Midlands Combined Authority into Shropshire concerned Cllr Marshall for the potential impact on housing, the Green Belt, and disregard for rural communities. He is not in favour of it.

2023.9 Public Participation Session

There were no questions from the public at this time

2023.10 Minutes

It was proposed, seconded, and resolved to approve the minutes dated 8th March 2023

2023.11 Matters Arising

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

2023.12 Correspondence

Severn Trent works will be taking place at Hall Lane, a road closure and a diversion route will be in place. Work is scheduled to start on 30.05.2023 and will last 2 working days until 31.05.2023

Cllr Mark Lea commented on a recent closure by Severn Trent that had not been advertised and had caused annoyance to motorists. Cllr Richard Marshall said that utilities companies can shut roads without notifications for emergency works, but also noted that Shropshire Council had sent a letter to the Chief Executive of Severn Trent threatening legal action if the company continues to invoke emergency powers for two week old faults (of which there was evidence).

The Local Government Boundaries Commission for England has a draft proposal for new Shropshire Council wards, this places Kemberton in the Shifnal Rural division. Comments on the draft proposals are due by the end of July.

2023.13 Planning Applications Received

No planning applications were received between the publication of the agenda and the meeting of 10th May 2023

2023.14 Planning Application Decisions:

The following were noted:

23/00336/FUL: Hilton , Mill Lane, Kemberton.

Erection of two storey rear extension following demolition of existing double garage, utility, lobby and pantry: Grant Permission

22/02441: Proposed Solar Farm To The South Of, Hall Lane, Kemberton,
Installation of solar farm and associated infrastructure: Refuse

2023.15 Another Planning Matters:

Planning applications:

The following planning notifications received between the publication of the agenda and the meeting were noted:

23/00858/LBC: 5 Hall Lane, Kemberton

Formation of vehicle access, vehicle hard standing and access gate affecting a Grade II Listed Building

Decision: Withdrawn

23/00857/FUL: 5 Hall Lane, Kemberton, Shifnal

Proposal: Formation of vehicle access, vehicle hard standing and access gate

Decision: Grant Permission

Reference: 23/00826/FUL: Church Farm, Hall Lane, Kemberton

Erection of a detached carport, alterations to access and installation of new gate.

Decision: Grant Permission

Any other planning matters:

Cllr Phil Jones asked Cllr Richard Marshall for more information on reports that Telford and Wrekin Council were intending to challenge the Planning Directorate on a Solar Farm Application decision. Cllr Marshall said that judicial reviews were cost prohibitive so the Council leader's threat to use this to challenge the decision was unlikely to happen.

2023.16 Finance

i) Payments It was agreed 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)	£330.10	LGA 1972 s.112 (2)
BACS	HMRC	Salary (Quarter 1)	£82.40	LGA 1972 s.112 (2)

Received after the publication of the agenda: SALC Affiliation fees - £150.89

Paid after a decision of the meeting of 8th March 2023: Thrings – legal representation for the Planning Hearing - £2545.26 (including £424.21 of reclaimable VAT)

ii) Income

Noted: £3,740 precept received from Shrosphire Council after the publication of the Agenda

iii) Internal Audit

It was proposed, seconded and resolved to receive and accept the Internal Audit for the financial year 2022-2023

iv) End of Year

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

- Reconciliation and Bank Statements for the month of March 2023
- Receipts and Payments including income and expenditure spreadsheets for the month of March 2023
- Sign Certificate of Exemption
- Sign Annual Governance Form
- Sign the Annual Return for 2022-23
- Confirm exercise of Public Rights as Monday 5th June 2023 to Friday 14th July 2023

v) Insurance

It was proposed, seconded, and resolved to renew the Parish Council's insurance policy with BHIB = on 1st June at the quoted renewal price of £240.41

2023.17 Highways

Cllr Angela Blount noted that the condition of Grindle Road was as bad as ever.

2023.18 Environment

There were no issues to raise at this time

2023.19 Other Parish Matters

Cllr James Rennison said that the Village Plan needed refreshing with appendices.

Cllr Giles Greenwood said that he had been asked to raise the issue of speeding through the Village.

Cllr Richard Marshall noted that there had been problems across the County with trespassing and property damage. He advised landowners to be cautious, and to make sure that their land is properly secured.

2023.20 Next Meeting will be Wednesday 12th July 2022 at Kemberton Village Hall, 7.30pm