

KEMBERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Kemberton Parish Council Wednesday 9th September 2020 7.30pm Kemberton Village Hall

In attendance: Cllrs Martyn Bidgood (Chairman), James Rennison (Vice-Chairman), Angela Blount, Mary Wright, Giles Goodwood, Mark Lea, Phillip Jones; Vanessa Voysey (Parish Clerk) and two members of the public.

20.22 Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced the Councillors to the members of the public present at the meeting

20.23 Apologies

There were no apologies

20.24 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Cllr Phil Jones is the Treasurer of St Andrew's Church (Personal Interest)

20.25 Dispensation

None were received

20.26 Report from Shropshire Councillor

None at this time

20.27 Public Participation Session

A member of the public said that he is a local resident and a cyclist who had not been to a Parish Council meeting before but had an interest in condition of the roads. On the positive side, a lot of work has been done by Highways this year. However, he remains annoyed by the state of Grindle Road, Evelith Lane, and Lipton Lane. Nowhere in Shropshire has roads as bad as in the Shifnal area. Chip and tar is fine if repair work is done first. The Chairman said he would continue to follow up issues.

A member of the public expressed concern about the Kemberton Junction and proposals to close the slipway as a safety measure. There is access to a field gate from the slip road

which the farmer will need for his sheep. It was questioned why the speed limit of 40mph was not to be introduced as it was an area with streetlighting. A speed survey was carried out on 11th May in the middle of lockdown period. The member of the public questioned the wisdom of this and what useful data could be gleaned from a speed survey by an industrial estate where businesses were largely closed at the time.

20.28 Minutes

It was proposed, seconded and agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2020 be accepted as a true record.

20.29 Matters Arising

The Chairman thanked Cllr Giles Greenwood for attending the Village Hall Committee Meeting on behalf of the Parish Council this month.

Public footpaths in and around the village has been raised as an issue of concern several times to the Chairman by local residents. It has also been mentioned on social media.

The Parish Clerk said that the issues raised at July's meeting had been logged by Shropshire Council's Outdoor Partnership.

There was some discussion on responsibility for keeping footpaths clear. It is the understanding of the Parish Council that it is landowner's responsibility to keep vegetation under control and footpaths clear, whilst Shropshire Council are responsible for stiles and enforcement. The Parish Clerk said that she would find out from the Footpaths Officer what is the responsibility of Shropshire Council

20.30 Highways

1. Conditions of the roads

The Chairman reported that there had been new service dressing on Hall Lane. Mill Lane has not been reported although it has been marked out. Field Lane past Field House is in an atrocious condition. Grindle Road is on a regular bus route with an increased service. It is in desperate need of substantial work.

Evelith Lane mainly falls in Shifnal Town Council area. It was suggested that a letter raising concerns about its condition should be sent to Highways copying in Shifnal Town Council.

Phillip Dunne M.P visited the area recently, regarding the conditions of the roads and Grindle Farm. The Chairman, Martyn Bidgood, met him and members of Ryton and Grindle Parish Council on DATE. Subsequent correspondence said that Apley Estates are going to repair damage to the road by Grindle Farm. Phillip Dunne also said that he would be contacting Shropshire Council about the condition of the roads.

2. Kemberton Junction

The proposal for safety measures on Kemberton Junction were sent to Shropshire Council via Cllr Michael Wood and needed to be in by 4th September. A response has been sent by the Chairman, making the following points:

- Where did the idea for closing the slip road come from as it directs more traffic to where accidents are happening?
- Turning towards the village from Madeley is angled in a way that is hard to see, if it could be changed to perpendicular it would reduce the danger
- It is a lit area with a junctions so why is it not proposed to make it 40mph?

Mark Lea said after campaigning on this for years, Shropshire Council had come up with a solution that made things worse. It was like we had not been listened to, he is not happy at trees being taken down that he planted, his main issue is the closing of the slip road.

Martyn Bidgood (Chairman) said that a few thousand pounds could save tens of thousands. An emergency call-out for a near fatal accident cost an estimated £100K. It is frustrating that the proposed solution seems to be a cost issue.

Mark Lea said that the Parish Council response had to be robust or it would be ignored.

It was agreed to contact the Highways Engineer with a Parish Council response and to copy in Cllr Michael Wood. The response would oppose the plans and ask for a Highways Engineer to visit the site and talk to members of the Council about it. The Parish Council is unanimously against the plans, and members of the public who visited the last Parish Council meeting expressed the same view.

20.31 Correspondence

It was noted that there will be a temporary road closure on Grooms Lane on 26th October between 8am and 4pm. The work being carried out is tree trimming and the promoter is Western Power Distribution.

It was noted that Phillip Dunne M.P emailed the Chairman, Martyn Bidgood, and members of Ryton and Grindle Parish Council, following a recent visit to the area to look at the condition of the roads. Enforcement officers have given a date of 30th September to finalise the relocation of Rennew from Grindle Farm.

20.32 Planning Applications Received

20/03350/FUL – conversion of outbuilding at Kemberton House – no comment to file

02/03351/FUL – erection of two storey side extension at Glendeen, Grooms Lane – no comment to file

20.33 Planning Application Decisions

20/03035/FUL erection of porch and conversion of garage at 8 Field Lane – planning permission granted on 7th September 2020

20.34 Other Planning Matters

Martyn Bidgood, Chairman, noted that two affordable houses had been built in the village but that one has been empty for 18 months. What efforts have been made to fill it?

20.35 Finance

1.

It was proposed, seconded, and resolved to pay

£318.91 to the Parish Clerk for Salary Quarter 2 (£306.92), travel expenses (£8.19), 5 first class stamps (£3.80)

£7 to HMRC

2.

It was proposed, seconded, and resolved to donate £200 to St Andrews Church. Cllr Phil Jones abstained from voting.

It was proposed, seconded and resolved to donate £100 to Hope House Children's Hospice

It was proposed seconded and resolved to offer £200 to the Village Hall Committee as an additional contribution.

It was recognised that this is a difficult year for charities and for public buildings.

3.

The Parish Clerk gave an overview on the financial position of the Parish Council. There is £ in the current account and £ in the savings account. There is £300 in the budget for the newsletter that had not been spent, and last year only £29.99 had been requested. It was anticipated that administrative costs would also be under budget this year.

It was proposed, seconded and resolved to approve the Reconciliation and Bank Statements up to the month of July 2020.

It was proposed, seconded and resolved to approve the income and expenditure spreadsheets for up to the month of July 2020.

4.

It was reported that there had been slow progress on online banking and that this would be chased up with the bank.

20.36 Environment

There were no environmental matters to report that had not been covered elsewhere in the meeting

20.37 Other Parish Matters

The Chairman, Martyn Bidgood asked what was thought to be the most effective way of communicating with residents. There is a requirement to post Agendas and the noticeboard and the website. The newsletter might be a good place to post meeting dates. GDPR is a consideration when using email lists.

Phil Jones said that the newsletter will now be emailed. It will be asking for permission for use of email. He noted that the current editor would be standing down after 31 years of volunteering and it was suggested by Councillors that offering a gift on behalf of the village might be an appropriate gesture. The newsletter will be emailed from now on and will incur no costs. This means this budget line in the Parish Council annual budget is predicted to be £0.

It was proposed, seconded, and **resolved**, to purchase a thank you gift.

20.38 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be on Wednesday November 11th 2020 at 7.30pm at Kemberton Village Hall