

KEMERTON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes of Kemerton Parish Council meeting held at the Victoria Hall, Kemerton on Tuesday 6th March 2012.

PRESENT Cllrs Mr A Darby OBE, Mrs C Ford, Sir D Logan (Chair),
Mr S Papacostantinou, Cllr Dr C Renfrew and Mrs K Cartwright (for items 3-17).

IN ATTENDANCE Ms J Shields (Clerk)

1. Apologies For Absence.

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs' Withnall and Mr A Hardman (County).

2. To Co Opt A Councillor.

The Council elected Mrs Cartwright; her acceptance of office was duly signed.

3. Declaration Of Interests.

Councillors were reminded to update their registers of interest and to declare any personal or prejudicial interest in items on the agenda and their nature. Cllr Mr Papacostantinou declared a prejudicial interest in item 10.

4. To Consider The Adoption Of The Minutes Of The Meeting Held On The 10th January 2012.

The minutes having been previously circulated were agreed and signed as a true record.

5. County Councillor Report.

6. District Councillor Report.

The district council approved its budget at its meeting of 21 February. There is to be no increase in Wychavon's council tax, and the government will compensate us by a special grant for one year only. This means that next year when we increase the council tax in line with inflation we will be doing so on a smaller base, with the result that in all future years there will be a permanent loss of income for which we will receive no central government compensation.

We approved the Council's new Service Strategy and its Intelligently Green Plan.

In the Service Strategy I successfully proposed an amendment that there should be an additional promise related to maintaining biodiversity in Wychavon. "In the light of the national importance of Wychavon's natural habitats, the Council will play a key role in development of the Worcestershire Local Nature Partnership."

It was also resolved that the Intelligently Green Plan 2012-2020 be approved, "including the reference to Wychavon's natural heritage, the wording for which was to be agreed between Councillor A M G Darby, Heritage Champion and Councillor T V McDonald the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Skills and Transport."

On the planning front, I have persuaded Wychavon and the other South Worcestershire Councils to put in a comment on the Cheltenham Gloucester Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy and have helped the officers in drafting this.

The South Worcestershire Development Plan has now been put back somewhat and a new timetable has been agreed. I have attended two meetings of the JAP. I am arguing for the formulation of new policies to replace those on the protection of our natural and built heritage which are being lost with the ending of the current Wychavon local plan.

I was on the panel to appoint a new head of planning and housing. An interesting experience and we have appointed an exciting young candidate.

7. Progress Reports For Information.

a) Clerk.

The Clerk's report had been previously circulated.

The Clerk had reported the uneven surface of Peppercorn Alley and had requested gully jetting in the village and Overbury Road from Highways. She had also asked Overbury Estates to clear water courses in Castle Hill Road and Overbury Road.

b) Chairman's Report.

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The Chairman had spoken to the Overbury Estate Manager regarding the practices at Ashbury Farm on behalf of the Village. He mentioned the work of the committee established to organise activities for the Queen's Jubilee: he felt the Council should be able to meet modest requests for funding in connection with these.

The Council took this opportunity to express formally their appreciation and great gratitude to the Walker family, whose Butcher's shop had been such an important part of Kemerton for a great many years. Mr. and Mrs. Walker had made a major contribution to village life not just through the shop, but in many other ways, including through Mr. Walker's membership of the Council, where he had been the source of much wise and experienced advice. The Council wished Mr. and Mrs. Walker a long and happy retirement.

c) Bredon Hill Conservation Group.

No meeting had taken place.

d) Vehicle Activated Speed Sign.

See item 12. The Council would also consider other traffic calming measures for the village at its next meeting.

8. Correspondence For Information. (Listed on the Clerk's Report.)

The Council agreed to donate £25.00 to the 'Bobby Club'.

9. To Discuss the Forthcoming Visit Of Crew Members of HMS Kemerton.

The Council agreed to donate £100.00 to cover the cost of small gifts and of teas for the crew of HMS Kemerton.

10. Kemerton Post Office.

CLlr Mr Papacostantinou left the room. The Council on behalf of the village expressed their sympathy and support to CLlr Mr Papacostantinou and Mrs K Maber after the burglary at the Post Office and Shop. The Council noted that there had been widespread expressions on the part of parishioners and others of a wish to help CLlr Mr Papacostantinou and Mrs. Maber after what had happened. The Chairman would keep in touch with them about this in the light of developments in their discussions with the Post Office about consequences of the burglary.

11. The Use Of The Village Hall.

The Chairman referred to the exchange of correspondence between himself and the Chair of the Village Hall Committee. The latter had said that their responsibility was for the care and maintenance of the building rather than to organise events there. The Council noted that the Annual Parish Meeting provided an opportunity for discussion of this issue.

12. New Homes Bonus.

The Council agreed to purchase a vehicle activated speed sign for the village. It would be moved from time to time between locations determined by Highways by the lengthsman. To meet the cost of this, the County Councillor would donate £1,000.00 from his local allocation, £1,126. 00 would come from the New Homes Bonus allocation for 2010/11 and the remaining £499.00 would be allocated from Parish Council Funds.

13. Bredon Hill Website.

The Council has received an email from Bredon Hill View, a new website providing news and information from the Bredon Hill villages, asking for news about the village. The Council noted that its minutes were available on the County Council website, displayed on the notice board and reproduced in the parish magazine. Mrs C Darby will inform Mr Wood, who runs the website, about the planned Diamond Jubilee event.

14. Finance

a) Invoices To Be Paid.

Kemerton Parish Council Election £700.12, R Jones (Grass Cutting) £1,050.00, K White (Bus Shelter) £75.00, Victoria Hall £13.00, A Hull (Lengthsman) £312.80, Clerks Expenses £31.56.

b) To Receive Bank Balance To Date.

Remittances received - Lengthsman £321.00 and Interest 0.24p.

An up to date finance report was given to the Councillors.

c) To consider a contribution to The 'Volunteer Service'.

The Council agreed to donate £25.00.

15. Planning.

a) To Ratify The Comments For Applications Submitted Since The Last Meeting. W/11/02867/PP. Thornberry, Kemerton. Orangery. No objection.

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b) To Consider Planning Applications Submitted since the Publishing of the Agenda.

None received.

c) To Report Wychavon Planning Decisions.

Approved by Wychavon

W/11/02754/PP Tustains, Hill Road, Kemerton.

W/11/02660/PP The Stables, Hill Road, Kemerton

W/11/02867/PP Thornbury, Kemerton

16. Items For Future Agenda And Councillor Reports.

The W I had approached Cllr Darby about planting a tree to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee.

Next meeting Agenda – Mission Statement for the Council.

17. Date Of Next Meeting.

Annual Parish Meeting 20th March 2012.

Annual Parish Council Meeting 1st May 2012.