

## KEMERTON PARISH COUNCIL

The minutes from Kemerton Parish Council Meeting held at the Victoria Hall on Tuesday September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7.00pm.

Present Cllr's Mrs K Cartwright, Mrs C Ford, (Chairman), Mr A Darby, Dr C Renfrew and Dr R Withnall.

In Attendance Ms J Shields (Clerk).

### **1. Apologies For Absence.**

Apologies were received and accepted from Sir D Logan, Mr S Papacostantinou and Cllr Hardman (County).

### **2. 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.

### **3. To Consider The Adoption Of The Minutes Of The Meeting Held On The 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2013.**

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

### **4. Finance.**

#### a) Invoices To Be Paid.

The following invoices were agreed for payment:-

SO J Shields £123.41, Lengthsman £115.15, VAS Expenses £25.00.

New Farms July £612.00 and August £360.00, Grant Thornton £150.00, Overbury School Grant £500.00, Clerks Expenses £90.20.

The council agreed to increase the clerks salary in line with the national guidelines.

#### b) To Receive Bank Balance To Date.

The following remittances had been received:-

Lengthsman £143.75.

The bank balance was presented to the council.

#### c) New Homes Bonus.

To date the council has £1,126 in this fund, the future of further funds coming to the parish is unclear as the Government is changing the way it funds the districts. Hopefully the situation will be clearer by the next meeting.

Chairman to write in support of Wychavons' comments.

### **5. Planning.**

#### a) To Ratify The Comments For Applications Submitted Since The Last Meeting.

W/13/01485/LB - The Old Rectory House, Back Lane, Kemerton. No reason to object.

W/13/01507/LB - The Grange, Kemerton, Tewkesbury. Alterations to landscape within the curtilidge of a listed building, removal of lean too shed and improvements to site access. No reason to object.

W/13/01506/PP - The Grange, Kemerton. Alterations to landscape within the curtilidge of a listed building, removal of lean too shed and improvements to site access. No reason to object.

#### b) To Consider Planning Applications Submitted since the Publishing of the Agenda. None received.

#### c) To Report Wychavon Planning Decisions.

W/13/01485/LB - The Old Rectory House, Back Lane, Kemerton.

### **6. To Consider Parking on the Grass Verge Outside the Victoria Hall.**

Due to lack of response from contractors, Cllr Ford was unable to supply samples of matting for the meeting, Mr Coombs had been approached for professional advice, however due to commitments had not been unable to do so to date. Cllr Ford is hopeful she will have the samples and information for the Church Fete.

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### **7. To Discuss The Draft Traffic Calming Document.**

Cllr Renfrew presented the latest update of the document taking into consideration all the comments he had received. Traffic Consultants, Hamilton Ballie, had volunteered to look at the document, and they will advise on whom to approach for funding. A questionnaire will be circulated to gauge the village response. Further suggestions were made to enhance the document by councillors. Cllr Darby to ask The Cotswold Conservation Board if they would consider helping with funding.

### **8. To Discuss Participation at the Church Fete.**

Cllr Cartwright volunteer a gazebo, Cllr Ford will draw up a rota for the afternoon; councillors will promote the Traffic Calming Document and inform residents that it will be on the Web site shortly. It is hoped that samples of the matting will be on display to gauge the parishioner's response.

### **9. To Consider Village Hall Plans.**

The council has concerns over the proposed changes to the Victoria Hall; Mr Phillips will be invited to attend the next meeting if he wishes to address these. Cllr Ford to ask the Victoria Hall Committee if they will be prepared to contribute to a solution for parking outside the hall.

### **10. To Discuss Overhead Electric Cables.**

Deferred to the next meeting for further information.

### **11. County Councillor Report.**

No report received.

### **12. District Councillor Report.**

Please accept my apologies for being late. I had to attend a meeting of the Wychavon Executive Board at which there was a presentation on how the Council is going to achieve the cut of £4 million pounds per annum which is going to be required of it over the next five years.

### **New Homes Bonus.**

The government is proposing to change the basis on which it pays New Homes Bonus to councils. So far Wychavon has handed over a sizeable portion of what it receives to Parishes. Under the new proposals Wychavon will receive less central government grant in recognition of the New Homes Bonus it receives and as a consequence may not be able to afford to hand over so much to the parishes. You should have received an invitation to a meeting at Wychavon on 25 September to discuss the implications of this and should have received a copy of Wychavon's response to the government consultation. You are urged to write your own response echoing Wychavon's arguments.

### **Gloucester Cheltenham Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy.**

The next stage of this plan which covers the whole of North Gloucestershire and therefore affects the south of Wychavon has now been approved for further public consultation by Tewkesbury BC and is due for consideration by the other two councils. The development proposed at Ashchurch camp will certainly affect Kemerton. At the moment it is proposed to extend into the open country to the north of the camp. This will generate a lot of traffic up the Kinsham Lane and through the village as motorists look for a "rat runs" to avoid congestion on the A46. It will also bring urbanisation almost up to the parish boundary and increase still further the impact of Ashchurch as seen from Bredon Hill. I am urging all parish councils and Wychavon to make submissions on this strategy.

### **Development at Bredon**

As well as the application for housing on Cheltenham Road which Kemerton PC has already objected to there is a further application at Oak Lane (within the SWDP) and a proposal for 100 houses on the field to the south of Chains corner and to the north of the motorway. Kemerton PC should certainly object to the latter when it becomes a formal application, since it is entirely contrary to the SWDP.

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### **South Worcestershire Development Plan.**

The plan is now with the Planning Inspectorate and the Examination in Public will start on 1 October at Worcester. The first stage of the examination will last three days, will look at major issues such as housing, employment land, and retail requirements and the duty to cooperate with neighbouring councils. The timing of the later stage will depend on whether the inspector thinks that the three councils have got the right answers on these issues.

### **Five-year Housing Land supply**

You will recall that for some time Wychavon had been unable to show that it had a five-year housing land supply judged against the numbers in the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy. The consequence of this is that the saved housing policies in the old Wychavon District plan were regarded as no longer valid.

At its July meeting the Wychavon Planning Committee was told that we had given so many consents that we could now show a five year housing land supply so long as our SWDP allocations were counted, and, therefore, that our existing policy GD1 (no development outside development boundaries) was once again relevant. However we only just met the target and our calculations might be challenged at appeal by developers. Therefore we were advised to pass planning applications outside the GD1 development boundaries where such development could be regarded as sustainable and where the harm did not outweigh the benefit. At the August planning committee meeting we refused several applications on the grounds that they were contrary to GD1 and could not be regarded as sustainable.

If the inspector agrees with the SWDP housing numbers after stage 1 (see above), we will then have a huge excess supply and we will no longer have to consider sites which do not accord with the plan.

### **Flooding**

At the Executive Board meeting this evening we were given details of a new Flood Initiative Support Scheme using a £150,000 fund recently agreed by the council. The report listed villages which had responded to the questionnaire and which were liable to flooding. Kemerton is marked as "Prioritise".

### **Rural Fair Deal**

Wychavon is encouraging all its residents to subscribe to a petition to the House of Commons arguing that the Local Government Finance Settlement is unfair to rural communities and pointing out that urban areas receive 50% more support per head than rural ones despite higher costs in rural service delivery. All members of the parish council are urged to sign this

### **13. Progress Reports for Information.**

#### a) Clerk.

The uneven footway between Applewood and the Grange, had been reported to Highways and they state that there were no *"No safety issues identified. No action planned. Is monitored by the routine inspection schedule"*.

Barriers, around the collapsed ditch on the main road, opposite Fairwinds, have been reported several times to Highways and I have been assured that the barriers are to be re erected and re bagged.

Seven chequebooks have now been received.

#### b) Chairman – Grass Cutting.

The Chairman had met the grass cutting contractor and hopefully all the issues have been addressed.

### **14. Correspondence For Information. (Listed On The Clerk's Report.)**

The county council had been in contact regarding arranging a meeting to discuss flood alleviation for Kemerton.

### **15. Items for Future Agenda And Councillor Reports.**

### **16. Date Of Next Meeting.**

Tuesday November 5<sup>th</sup> 2013, Cllr Withnall gave his apologies.