

**KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL**

Clerk's Office, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 6NA, Tel & Fax: 01732 762841  
E-mail: [kemsingpc@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:kemsingpc@tiscali.co.uk)

**Minutes of a meeting held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing,  
on Wednesday, 16 January 2013 at 8.00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Mrs. M. Cole (in the Chair)  
Mr. D. Bennett, Mr. B. Buttifant, Mr. G. Croughton, Mr. R. Dawes, Mrs. S. Dickinson,  
Mr. P. Eaton, Mr. R. Lang, Mrs. M. Robarts, Mrs. R. Wedderburn

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Dr. P. Walker

1. **MINUTES**

Mrs. Cole proposed:

*"That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 November, Ref KPC/12/12 be approved."*

*CARRIED* unanimously

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(a) Speeding along Childsbridge Lane (Minute 2(a) KPC/12/12)

Mrs. Wedderburn attended the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board (SJTB) Committee meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012 and produced a written report asking the Parish Council to reconsider its previous decision not to support a speed limit reduction, particularly in the interest of safety for school children walking from Kemsing to Seal. The minutes of the SJTB meeting were tabled at the meeting and Members noted that a petition and a written report had been presented to the Members of the SJTB, campaigning for a reduction in the speed limit and provision of a footway over the bridge for pedestrians. The Committee resolved that an interim report be prepared and presented at the next SJTB meeting. Mr. Buttifant had walked this section of road numerous times and did not deem it to be as dangerous as it is made out to be. He also thought the statistics quoted in the report prepared by the Campaign Group were questionable.

*RESOLVED: That the Parish Council does not take any action at the moment and awaits the Interim Report.*

The safety issue with the bridge is being addressed by Seal Parish Council, and Kemsing Parish Council's concern has always been to encourage motorists to reduce speed before entering the village from the south, something which the Parish Council thought would have been achieved by the installation of the speed flashing indicator. Clearly this does not always have the desired effect and Mr. Buttifant said that a meeting is being arranged with the KCC Transport Engineer to consider improving the 'village gateway', i.e. improving the signage and perhaps setting back the existing 30 mph speed limit indicator to provide sufficient warning for motorists to reduce speed.

*RESOLVED: Mr. Buttifant, Mr. Croughton, Mrs. Wedderburn and the Clerk to attend this meeting.*

Mrs. Cole thanked Mrs. Wedderburn for representing the Parish Council at this meeting.

(b) Village car park – Community Right to Bid (Minute 2(b) KPC/12/12)

Nothing further to report.

(c) Library Services (Minute 2(c) KPC/12/12)

The public meeting has been arranged for Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> February 2013 commencing at 7.30 p.m.

(d) Bus shelter at Greenlands Road (Minute 2(d) KPC/12/12)

The Clerk had obtained a quotation for the repairing of the bus shelter, including painting, repairing the wooden slats at the rear and the right hand side of the shelter, and any other parts that are in need of repairing. Additionally, the Noah's Ark Residents' Association had approached a contractor to obtain a second quotation for a total re-cladding of the external wood and replacing it with pressure treated sawn soft wood, which is a complete refurbishment of the shelter.

Given the great difference in the specifications supplied to the contractors, Mr. Croughton felt it would be beneficial to ask both contractors to supply quotes for (i) a complete refurbishment of the shelter and (ii) making good and repair the broken parts, including repainting the structure.

*RESOLVED: The Clerk to ask for revised quotations from both contractors.*

(e) Councillors' Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (Minute 6 KPC/12/12)

Section 33(1) of the Localism Act 2011 provided that the Council may grant a dispensation to a Member who has a DPI to enable the Member:

(a) to participate or to participate further in any discussion of the matter at the meeting and/or

(b) to participate in any vote or further vote taken on the matter at the meeting.

Because the Part 1 Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 and the Regulations do not provide for any general or specific dispensations the Council will grant to all Members (upon written request) a dispensation to speak and vote at any relevant meeting on the following:

(a) the approval of the budget,

(b) the approval of any borrowing under the Local Government Act 2003,

(c) the making of the precept,

(d) the making of the calculations under ss 49A, 49B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, the approval of an allowance, payment or indemnity to Members

The following Members have requested Dispensation relating to budget and precept setting and any other financial decision for the period from 16 January 2013 to 16 May 2015:-

*Mr. D. Bennett, Mr. B. Buttifant, Mrs. M. Cole, Mr. G. Croughton, Mr. R. Dawes, Mrs. S. Dickinson, Mr. P. Eaton, Mr. R. Lang, Mrs. M. Robarts, Mrs. R. Wedderburn.*

Mrs. Cole proposed:

*"That the Parish Council grants the requests for dispensation from the Members (listed above) to enable the Members to set the precept, set the budget and make any other financial decisions, for the period from 16 January 2013 to 16 May 2015."*

*CARRIED* unanimously

3. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC & PRESS**

There were no questions from the public or press.

4. **COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS**

(a) Planning Committee

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:

*"That the Parish Council accepts the minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2012, Ref P/18/2012."*

*CARRIED* unanimously

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded

*"That the Parish Council accepts the minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2012, Ref P/19/2012."*

*CARRIED* unanimously

(b) Finance Committee

Mr. Eaton proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

*"That the Parish Council accepts the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012, Ref. No F/127/12."*

*CARRIED* unanimously

8.30 p.m. The Council resolved that the public and press will be excluded from the meeting for the duration of the next item due to its confidential nature.

Various staffing matters were discussed and are set out in a confidential report.

8.39 p.m. The Council resolved to re-open the meeting to the public and press.

*Parish Precept* – “The Finance Committee recommended that the Council approves a precept of £85,000 for the financial year 2013/14.”

Members considered various correspondence, received after the above Finance Committee meeting was held, from the Department for Communities and Local Government, Sevenoaks District Council and Kent Association of Local Councils as well as a report prepared by the Clerk regarding the Localisation of Council Tax and the effect this would have on Parish Council Precepts. In September 2012 the Government published a consultation paper proposing that the Localisation of Council Tax would NOT affect Parish Councils. However, although various representations from Parish Councils considered the proposed approach to be positive, the Government has decided to back track on its proposal and Parish Councils would be affected by the new Localisation of Council Tax regime.

The District Council advised that they would be receiving additional funding from Central Government which could be passed on to Parish Councils to mitigate the effect of the reduction in Council Tax Income, for the first year only, i.e. 2013/14 financial year. For the years following on from then, Parish Councils would have to make up the shortfall. In addition to the above Council Tax changes, Parish Councils are also facing uncertainty over the setting of Parish Council Precepts for the future. It is extremely likely that Parish Council Precepts will be capped from 2014/15; and a proposed Precept increase in excess of 2% would generate a referendum which would cost in the region of £6,000. Kent Association of Local Councils has advised Parish Councils to think very carefully how these changes will affect their Precept requirements for 2013/14.

Taking the above information into consideration, Mr. Eaton proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded: *“That, due to the uncertainty in the current Government Policy regarding capping of Parish Council Precepts and the possible effects of the Localisation of Local Council Tax Support on Parish Councils, the Parish Council approves a precept of £90,000 for the financial year 2013/2014 to provide a contingency fund to cover the expected shortfall. The £5,000 additional to the amount recommended by the Finance Committee and any grant money received from Sevenoaks District Council should be set aside for the potential purchase or rent of the village car park in the future.”* CARRIED unanimously

(c) Downland Management Committee

Mr. Bennett proposed and Mr. Buttifant seconded:

*“That the Parish Council accepts the minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2012, Ref. No DM/04/2012.”*

CARRIED unanimously

(d) Report from Chairman

*Kemsing Over 60's Club* – A thank you letter for the Parish Council's donation was received.

*Fox and Hounds Public House* – A Kemsing resident wrote to the Parish Council about her concern regarding the closure of the pub, which is situated in West Kingsdown parish.

(e) Reports from Councillors

*Bus service to Pembury Hospital* – Mr. Croughton reported that he had obtained a timetable for a bus service from Tonbridge to the new Pembury Hospital in Tunbridge Wells. There is an hourly service (208) from Tonbridge Station leaving at 32 minutes past the hour on Mondays to Saturdays and returning at 15 minutes past the hour. Mr. Croughton has also been advised that the services (209, 216, 217, 279 and 299) also cover this route, however, there were no timetables available.

*[It has subsequently been learned that the 217 bus leaves Tonbridge Station at 58 minutes past the hour, returning from the hospital at 48 minutes past the hour. There is a very limited service on Sundays and Bank holidays.]*

**5. DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS**

(a) Kent Tree and Pond Warden Schemes

Mrs. Cole proposed:

*"That the request for a financial donation be declined."*

CARRIED 8 in favour, 1 abstention {Mr. Croughton}, 1 against {Mr. Bennett}

(b) Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group (SVTG)

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Buttifant seconded:

*"That the Parish Council donates £100 towards this service."*

CARRIED unanimously

This donation is made under the LGA 1972, Section 137.

(c) London Green Belt Council

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

*"That the Parish Council renews the annual subscription of £10."*

CARRIED unanimously

(d) Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)

Mr. Bennett and Mrs. Cole declared non-pecuniary interests as being members of CPRE.

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Buttifant seconded:

*"That the Parish Council renews the annual subscription of £29."*

CARRIED unanimously

**6. KENT FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES (KFRS) – PARISH COUNCIL PROJECT**

A report from KFRS relating to fire hydrant provision for fire fighting and how Parish Councils could work with KFRS by undertaking inspection reports on behalf of KFRS, was noted. There is currently a pilot scheme running in Boughton Malherbe.

Mr. Bennett proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

*"That the Parish Council does not carry out the inspections on behalf of KFRS."*

CARRIED 8 in favour, 2 against {Mr. Buttifant and Mr. Croughton}

**7. FLY-TIPPING ISSUES AROUND THE VILLAGE**

Members noted Mr. Farrow's comments (email dated 3 December 2012) regarding Kent County Council's restrictive policy at the recycling sites and numerous fly-tipping incidents in the last couple of months. Most of the items have been cleared by Sevenoaks District Council.

**8. ANNUAL CIVIC SERVICE**

An invitation from the Lord Lieutenant of Kent, Viscount De L'isle MBE to attend the annual Civic Service at Maidstone All Saints Church on Tuesday, 12 March 2013 was noted.

**9. 'MAKING IT HAPPEN – TOGETHER': THE SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COMMUNITY PLAN, VISION FOR THE NEXT 15 YEARS**

Parish Councils were invited to comment on the draft Community Plan which includes Sevenoaks District Council's vision for the next 15 years and an action plan for the next 3 years.

*The relevant documents were available on the District Council's website at*

[www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/communityplan](http://www.sevenoaks.gov.uk/communityplan).

RESOLVED: No action to be taken.

**10. COUCILLOR VACANCY**

Mr. Jermain has tendered his resignation from the Parish Council with effect from 15 December 2012. Sevenoaks District Council would be advised accordingly and the casual vacancy would be advertised in due course.

11. **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Wednesday, **27 March 2013**. The Annual Parish Meeting's statutory notice will be advertised, as usual, in the local paper, notice boards and Parish Council's website. A newsletter containing the formal agenda prepared by the Clerk was noted and approved subject to a few minor amendments.

12. **PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DAYS**

For the last 12 months or so, there has been an increase in the number of regular bookings at the St. Edith Hall on Wednesday evenings, which results in all the rooms being occupied between 7.00 p.m. and 10.00 p.m. This creates severe problems with parking and room availability for Parish Council meetings. Councillors considered a suggestion to change the Parish Council meetings and Committee meetings from Wednesday to Tuesday evenings.

*RESOLVED: (i) Parish Council meetings will take place on Wednesday evenings, commencing at 7.30 p.m.  
(ii) Parish Council Committee meetings (excluding Planning Committee meetings) will take place on Wednesday evenings, commencing at 7.30 p.m.  
(iii) Planning Committee meetings will take place on Monday evenings, commencing at 8.00 p.m.*

13. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Mr. Eaton proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:

*"That the Parish Council approves the list of payments (Vouchers 184 to 229) and notes the list of receipts (Vouchers 22 to 29)."*

*CARRIED* unanimously

14. **INFORMATION REPORT**

The following information was noted:

- Campaign to Protect Rural England – Fieldwork magazine (Winter 2012).
- Oaks Christmas Dinner – Thank you note from The Revd. John Goulding to thank the Parish Council for supporting this project.
- National Association of Local Councils – Direct Information Service Issues 797, 798, 799.
- The London Green Belt Council – Minutes of the General Meeting held on 7 November 2012.
- English Rural Housing Association – Annual report 2012.
- Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership – Newsletter (December 2012).
- Sevenoaks District Seniors Action Forum – Newsletter (December 2012).
- Kent Association of Local Councils – The Parish News (December 2012).
- South East Water – Water Resources update Winter 2012.
- Action with Communities in Rural Kent – Oast to Oast magazine (Winter 2012).
- Action with Communities in Rural Kent – Rural News (Issue 124).

15. **MATTERS TO BE RAISED AT THE NEXT MEETING & GOOD NEWS**

None.

16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

20 February 2013, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

Signed by Chairman : ..... Date: .....