

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of a meeting held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing,
on Wednesday, 19 February 2014 at 7.30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Mrs. M. Cole (in the Chair)
Mr. A. Andrews, Mr. D. Bennett, Mr. B. Buttifant, Mr. G. Croughton,
Mrs. S. Dickinson, Mr. P. Eaton, Mrs. M. Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Mr. R. Dawes, Mr. R. Lang & Mrs. R. Wedderburn

1. MINUTES

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Parish Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2014, Ref KPC/01/2014."

CARRIED unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Annual Parish Meeting (Minute 8 KPC/01/2014)

The draft agenda was approved subject to two minor amendments.

(b) Sewer at School alley (Footpath SR35) (Minute 4(e) KPC/01/2014)

Members noted copies of correspondence between a local resident and Thames Water regarding the issue with the overflowing sewer.

Mrs. Cole reported that Thames Water had carried out a CCTV survey and it would appear that the blockage was caused by tree roots penetrating the sewer wall. Thames Water hoped to carry out the necessary repair works in mid-March. Unfortunately the work cannot be carried out sooner due to the current flooding problems which was taking up the majority of their resources.

3. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC & PRESS

There were no questions from the public or press.

4. COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS

(a) Planning Committee

Mr. Andrews proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

"That the Parish Council notes the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2014, Ref No P/01/2014, and the minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2014, Ref No P/02/2014."

CARRIED 7 in favour, 1 abstention {Mr. Croughton}

(b) Report from Chairman

Play Place – Councillors noted a progress report which had been circulated at the meeting.

(c) Reports from Councillors

Damaged power cable on Lower Haffenden Field – At the beginning of the week Mr. Buttifant had informed the Clerk of a damaged power cable. This was reported to UK Power Networks and it was understood that the cable had since been made safe.

(d) Reports from District Councillors

There were no reports received from the District Councillors.

5. DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

(a) Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group

Mr. Eaton proposed and Mr. Buttifant seconded:

"That the Parish Council makes a financial contribution of £100 to the Group."

CARRIED 7 in favour, 1 against {Mr. Bennett}

- (b) Society of Local Council Clerks
Mrs. Cole proposed:
“That the Parish Council renews the annual subscription for the Clerk at a cost of £184 per annum.”
CARRIED unanimously

6. **CONSULTATIONS**

- (a) Kent County Council Road Casualty Reduction Strategy for Kent
The consultation paper was noted.

7. **FAMILY FUN DAYS**

Sevenoaks District Council, in partnership with Voluntary Action Within Kent proposed to fund some Family Fun Days again this year. Parish Councils were asked to provide the venues, toilet facilities and other facilities that might be needed.

Mrs. Cole proposed:

“That the Parish Council makes available the Common Field Recreation Ground for this activity for one day (4 hour session) in the Summer. A contribution of no more than £20 to be made to the Sir Mark Collet Pavilion for using their toilet facilities on the day.”

CARRIED unanimously

8. **CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL KENT – Sevenoaks Area Committee**

Councillors were asked to consider the invitation to represent Kemsing on the Sevenoaks Area Committee. Mr. Bennett was considering this but would discuss the details with the Committee’s Secretary at their Annual General Meeting in June. The Clerk would remain Kemsing’s contact person for the time being.

9. **KENT COUNTY COUNCIL’S PARISH COUNCIL LEGAL SCHEME**

The Parish Council noted the scheme, which provides accessible and cost-effective legal support for Parish Councils.

10. **LAND IN THE OWNERSHIP OF THE PARISH COUNCIL**

Mr. Andrews asked the Parish Council to consider alternative uses of its land and suggested the Parish Council formed a sub-committee whose Members could be asked to prepare a list with all land parcels in the Parish Council’s ownership, including the current uses. The sub-committee should investigate ideas for alternative uses of this land with a suitable recommendation to the full Parish Council for consideration. Mr. Andrews thought that the results of the examination would allow Parish Councillors to make an informed decision as to whether or not they think there were opportunities for alternative use of the land.

Some Members felt that the Parish Council was already utilising its land to its full potential whilst other Members were concerned about providing land to be used for example, affordable housing, due to current restricted regulations which does not guarantee that the housing provided would benefit and remain exclusively for Kemsing residents only.

RESOLVED: The Clerk was instructed to prepare a scheduled map, highlighting all the land parcels in the Parish Council’s ownership, with a schedule of the current uses of this land.

11. **REQUEST TO REMOVE TREE AT FAIRFIELD CLOSE**

A willow tree situated on the Parish Council’s land between the rear gardens of 31 Park Lane and 44 Fairfield Close had damaged the rear boundary fence. There was a further risk of potential damage to a structure (summer/garden house) in the rear garden of this property. The Clerk met with a Tree Surgeon at the site on Tuesday, 4th February 2014 to consider the best course of action. The recommendation was that the tree should be removed due to its close proximity to the fence and garden structure and potential damage to the property.

Mrs. Cole proposed:

“That the Parish Council accepts the quotation of £150 for the removal of the tree.” {To be paid from the Parish Council’s General Contingency Fund.}

CARRIED unanimously

12. **TREES IN THE VILLAGE COMPETITION 2014**

The annual competition would be held by the Kent Men of the Trees and villages should register before 30th April 2014.

13. **COUNCIL TAX REFERENDUM PRINCIPLES & COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT**

Councillors noted the Department for Communities and Local Government's referendum principles relating to Council Tax increases for 2014/15 which indicated that there were currently no principles applying to local precepting authorities (e.g. Parish and Town Councils).

Sevenoaks District Council had advised that they would not be in a position to pass on the Government's Council Tax Support Grant as they did last year due to the Government being unable to identify the money within the overall grant to the District Council this year. Therefore Sevenoaks District Council had taken the position that the money was not there. Sevenoaks District Council stated that they *"would always pass 100% of the monies clearly identified for another authority on to that authority, as last year; unfortunately the Government has made this impossible this year."*

14. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Mr. Eaton proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

"That the Parish Council approves the list of payments (Vouchers 253-276) and notes the list of receipts (Vouchers 26-29)."

CARRIED unanimously

15. **INFORMATION REPORT**

The following was noted:

- (a) Clerks & Councils Direct magazine – January 2014 issue
- (b) Society of Local Council Clerks magazine – January 2014 issue
- (c) National Association of Local Councils – Direct Information Service – Issue 825, 826
- (d) Sevenoaks District Council – Community Safety News – January 2014
- (e) Kent Association of Local Councils – Parish newsletter – January 2014

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

There were no matters raised.

17. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

19 March 2014

The meeting closed at 8.29 p.m.

Signed by Chairman : Date: