

**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, 19 March 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, Mr. R. Dawes,  
Mrs. S. Dickinson, Mr. P. Eaton, Mr. R. Lang, Mrs. M. Robarts, Dr. P. Walker,  
Mrs. R. Wedderburn

IN ATTENDANCE: 3 Members of the Public (Kemsing Primary School)  
Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: None

1. **MINUTES**

Mrs. Cole proposed:

*"That the Parish Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2014, Ref KPC/02/2014."*

CARRIED unanimously

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(a) Sewer at School alley (Footpath SR35) (Minute 2(b) KPC/02/2014)

The current water levels were still too high for any work to be carried out. The Parish Council was awaiting confirmation from Thames Water to attend a site meeting. It was thought that a significant number of properties were connected to this sewer, which may contribute to the regular problems with blockages. Thames Water would be asked at the site meeting to confirm the number of properties which were connected to this sewer.

(b) Land in the ownership of the Parish Council (Minute 10 KPC/02/2014)

The Clerk had prepared a map highlighting the land in the Parish Council's ownership, including a schedule of the current use of the land parcels which were circulated to Councillors.

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 notes the minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2014, Ref No P/02/2014."*

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Dawes proposed and Dr. Walker seconded:

*"That the Parish Council notes the minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2014, Ref No P/03/2014."*

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Downland Management Committee

Mr. Bennett proposed and Mr. Buttifant seconded:

*"That the Parish Council notes the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2014, Ref No DM/01/2014."*

CARRIED unanimously

(c) Recreation Grounds Committee

Mrs. Dickinson proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

*"That the Parish Council notes the minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2014, Ref No RG/01/2014."*

*CARRIED* unanimously

(d) Report from Chairman

There was nothing to report.

(e) Reports from Councillors

Mr. Bennett had noticed that the field gate into Oxenhill Shaw at the bottom of Dynes Road had disappeared. The Clerk confirmed that the Sevenoaks District Council's Senior Countryside Ranger had been informed and arrangements a replacement gate was being made.

(f) Reports from District Councillors

There were no reports received from the District Councillors.

5. **KEMSING PRIMARY SCHOOL SWIMMING POOL REFURBISHMENT PROJECT**

Members considered a request from the school for financial support towards the project.

Mrs. Cole opened the debate and commended the Parents and Teachers Association (PTA) for their fund raising efforts, including the informative advertisement in the recent Well magazine. Councillors were invited to express their initial views. Although there was overwhelming support for the project, Councillors asked for assurance from the school that the facility would be available to all children in the Kemsing community and not just Kemsing Primary School pupils. The discussion touched on potential financial assistance from the Parish Council, however, exact figures could not be confirmed at the meeting.

Councillors urged the PTA to pursue with their fundraising efforts and to explore various funding opportunities and suggested that they get alternative quotations.

*7.58 p.m. The meeting was closed to allow for public participation.*

Ms. Sarah Forret, speaking on behalf of the Kemsing Primary School PTA, gave a brief summary of the project. Having been built in the 1960's, the current swimming pool was still in good condition, however, the roof structure was deteriorating despite regular maintenance work. The structure would soon become unsafe, which would mean that the pool would be closed. The proposal includes new changing rooms and a modern style roof replacement which would also be more cost-effective to maintain in the long-term.

It was estimated that the total cost of the project would be in the region of around £85,000. Sadly the grant application of £40,000 to Sport England was not successful. The school had already raised £28,000 towards this project and was committed to increase their fund raising activities. In terms of time scales the PTA was of the opinion that if the funds had not been obtained by June 2015, the project would not be pursued any further.

*8.20 p.m. The meeting was reconvened.*

Members suggested that the school advertise their project in the Sevenoaks Chronicle to maximise publicity. Mrs. Cole would also provide information on two separate funding schemes which may be explored.

Mrs. Cole proposed:

*"That the Parish Council asks the PTA to follow up on the suggestions made and to report their progress to the Parish Council in June 2014."*

*CARRIED* unanimously

6. **TEXTILE BANK – HEAVERHAM ROAD CAR PARK**

Members considered a request to permit the installation of a Sense Charity Textile Bank in the car park adjacent to the tennis courts on the Common Field, with access off Heaverham Road.

Mr. Bennett proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:

*“That the Parish Council gives permission for the installation of the textile bank in the car park adjacent to Heaverham Road, by the tennis courts.”*

2 in favour, 9 against

*The proposal FELL.*

The Parish Council had already considered this site as a possible location for re-locating the recycling units last year, but a consultation with local residents concluded that there were strong objections against this suggestion. The objections included additional car journeys necessary to visit the site, potential vandalism and restricted car parking spaces at peak times, particularly during the football /cricket seasons and whilst the tennis courts were being used.

Mr. Andrews reminded Councillors that this site is in the Green Belt and recycling units situated in the Green Belt were not deemed to be appropriate.

7. **PROPOSED CHANGES IN BUS TIME TABLES (431/432) SERVICE FOR KEMSING**

The Council was asked to consider comments from a resident regarding the proposed withdrawal of the 431 and 432 Arriva bus service with a planned merger with the 452 service for Dunton Green.

Members noted a report prepared by Mr. Croughton including a summary of the proposed changes. Mr. Croughton reported that there had been no consultation from either Arriva or Kent County Council. It was understood that Kent County Council had withdrawn its bus subsidy funding for all the Kemsing routes.

As from 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014 the 431 & 432 services would cease to operate and the present 452 service from Dunton Green to Sevenoaks would be extended to Kemsing by the existing route. The Saturday service would be reduced to only 7 journeys each way between Noah’s Ark and Sevenoaks Bus Station. The changes would have a detrimental effect on Kemsing bus users. Commuters to London would not have a suitably timed bus from Kemsing to Sevenoaks Railway Station and people working in Sevenoaks town at weekends would not have a bus home after work. Members also noted comments from a Seal resident who would be adversely affected by the proposed changes.

Mr. Croughton proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

- *“That the Parish Council, in the absence of any official advertisement of the proposed changes, advertises the new time table received from Kent County Council on all the Parish Council notice boards to ensure that Kemsing residents are informed.*
- *That the Parish Council sets up an ad-hoc Committee who would gather evidence of use and if there are any residents adversely affected by the changes, to put forward a proposal of how these gaps could be filled, to be considered by the Parish Council’s. The Committee would be allowed to co-opt residents interested in this and who would like to contribute to the discussions.”*

*CARRIED* unanimously

The ad-hoc Committee would comprise of Mr. Croughton, Mr. Buttifant and Mrs. Robarts.

*Seal Parish Council would be asked if they had knowledge of anyone in their village who would be affected by the proposed changes. If so, they would be asked to consider forming a Joint group with Kemsing Parish Council. Seal Parish Council would also be asked whether there were any changes to the 308 service.*

**8. BROAD BAND INTERNET SERVICE**

The Parish Council was approached by a resident who had been advised by BT that Kemsing was not on any programme for installation of a fibre optic network for telephone and broadband. The Parish Council was asked for its view on this and whether it had any plans to take action in order to get Kemsing on the list for the provision of fibre optic network given the number of dwellings and professionals in the village.

*RESOLVED: That this be raised at the Annual Parish Meeting to find out whether residents would be interested in joining the scheme.*

*RESOLVED: Kemsing Parish Council would contact BT to find out if they had any plans in the foreseeable future to install fibre optic networks in Kemsing.*

**9. KENT WILDLIFE DESIGNATED NATURE RESERVE (REAR OF PROPERTIES 33-39 PARK LANE, KEMSING) – Warden’s responsibilities**

The Warden is responsible to the Parish Council for managing the land on behalf of the Parish Council. Councillors noted the sad passing of our warden, Mr. Roy Willmore.

*RESOLVED: To re-consider in May 2014.*

**10. CONSULTATIONS**

Councillors noted the recent Local Audit and Accountability Act - Openness of Local Government Bodies Draft Regulations consultation. The Chairman reported on the Parish Council’s representation to the consultation.

**11. DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS**

**(a) Action with Communities in Rural Kent**

Mr. Eaton proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

*“That the Parish Council renews the annual subscription of £35.”*

*CARRIED unanimously*

**12. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Mr. Eaton proposed and Dr. Walker seconded:

*“That the Parish Council approves the list of payments (Vouchers 277 – 302) and notes the receipt (Voucher 32).”*

*CARRIED unanimously*

**13. INFORMATION REPORT**

The following was noted:

**(a) National Association of Local Councils – Direct Information Service – Issue 827-829**

**(b) Kent Association of Local Councils :**

- Parish Newsletter (Issue 375) *{Circulated on 10 March 2014}*
- South and South East in Bloom letter (Floral competition details) *{Circulated on 14 February 2014}*
- Sustainable Communities Act 2007 – Letter from Department for Communities and Local Government *{Circulated on 14 February 2014}*
- Repeal of S 150(5) of the Local Government Act 1972 (Requirement that all cheques requires two signatures) *{Circulated on 17 February 2014}*
- Department for Communities and Local Government – Letter regarding the Government’s expectation that billing authorities should pass on Local Council Tax Support funding to Parish and Town Councils. *{Circulated on 3 March 2014}*

**(c) Society of Local Councils Clerks – The Clerk magazine – March 2014**

**(d) Action with Communities in Rural Kent – Oast to Oast magazine – Spring 2014**

**(e) Kent Association of Local Councils – Parish Newsletter (February/March 2014) *{Circulated on 25 February 2014}***

**(f) Sevenoaks District Council Standards Committee’s appointment of Independent Person who will investigate breaches of the Code of Conduct. *{Circulated on 10 March 2014}***

**(g) Clerks and Councils Direct – Newsletter (March 2014)**

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

(a) Flowers

Mr. Buttifant thought the village looked lovely with all the Spring flowers in bloom.

(b) Annual Parish Meeting newsletter

The Annual Parish Meeting agenda was advertised in The Well magazine and Mr. Eaton asked the Parish Council to consider abolishing the delivery of the agenda to every household in Kemsing which would save time and money. This would be discussed at the next meeting.

15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

16 April 2014

The meeting was concluded at 9.05 p.m.