

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of a Meeting held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing,
on Wednesday, 21 March 2012 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. W. Ross

IN ATTENDANCE: 1 Member of the Public
Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Mr. J. Jermain & Mrs. R. Wedderburn

Councillors were reminded to disclose personal and prejudicial interests on matters to be considered at this Meeting.

1. **MINUTES**

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2012, Ref KPC/03/12, previously circulated."

CARRIED unanimously

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(a) Kemsing Village Car park (Minute 2(a) KPC/03/12)

Mr. Eaton declared a personal interest and abstained from voting on any matters relating to this item.

The Parish Council's attempt to establish a mutually acceptable purchase price with the vendor had been rejected as the vendor had preferred to sell the entire site rather than the car park in isolation. Mrs. Cole informed the Parish Council that the St. Edith Hall Management Committee, as well as neighbouring properties of the former Wheatsheaf Public House site, had received letters from a developer, advising that the sale had been agreed and that work to develop the Wheatsheaf site would commence in May 2012. No reference to the car park at the rear of the site had been made.

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Parish Council initiates negotiations with the new owner to express its interest to purchase the car park site at the rear of the former Wheatsheaf."

CARRIED 9 in favour, 1 abstention {Mr. Eaton}

Councillors debated whether to appoint a suitably qualified person to enter into discussions with the developer.

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Parish Council appoints Sheffords Property Surveyors to act on the Parish Council's behalf to enter into discussions with the developer, with a view for the Parish Council to purchase the car park at the rear of the former Wheatsheaf site."

CARRIED 9 in favour, 1 abstention {Mr. Eaton}

8.08 p.m. [It was resolved to close the meeting for the Public and Press due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.]

A summary of the discussion is contained in a confidential paper.

8.25 p.m. [It was resolved to re-open the meeting for the Public and Press.]

- (b) Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons and Celebrations 2012 (Minute 2(b) KPC/03/12)
See Item 4(b).
Mrs. Cole reminded Councillors that a village picnic is being organised in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The gas beacons proved to be smaller and very expensive and would not be appropriate for Green Hill. These types of beacons are more used on buildings such as Church towers. Mrs. Cole invited Councillors to put forward any suggestions for events which could be explored.
- (c) Church Lane – Deliveries to 'Cleves' (Minute 2(h) KPC/03/12)
Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) would arrange for the appropriate sign to be installed. SDC suggested the Parish Council requested the developer to install a suitable directional sign at the entrance to the private road. *This was AGREED.*
- (d) Police Community Support Officer (Minute 2(j) KPC/03/12)
The following correspondence from Kent Police was noted:-
Letter dated 23 February 2012 from the Chief Constable's Executive Support Office, letter dated 28 February 2012 from the Sevenoaks District Commander and letter dated 5 March 2012 from the Divisional Commander of the West Division. The Parish Council was assured that the PCSO replacing PCSO Harwood, PCSO Adelaja, would commence work in Kemsing on 18 March 2012 and that the same level of service would be provided to Kemsing.
- (e) Sevenoaks District Council Community Governance Review (Minute 6 KPC/03/12)
Members noted a letter from the Sevenoaks Town Council dated 2 March 2012, apologising for the upset it had caused to Kemsing Parish Council.
- (f) Kent County Council (KCC) – Development and Infrastructure – Creating quality places consultation (Minute 7 KPC/03/12)
KCC is reviewing its approach to the collection of development contributions for services, including education, adult social care, libraries, community learning and youth services. The Parish Council was invited to comment on the consultation paper which is also looking at how the infrastructure might be funded using existing and proposed funding sources from both the public and private sector, including more cost-effective and innovative service delivery methods. The closing date is Tuesday, 24th April 2012. Mrs. Cole drew attention to a copy of the Kent Association of Local Council's response to the consultation and proposed:
"That the Parish Council supports KALC's comments on the consultation. The Clerk to respond accordingly."
CARRIED unanimously
- (g) Memorial bench for the late Mr. Ted Watson (Minute 3(a) KPC/03/12)
Kent Highway Services (KHS) had confirmed ownership of the land at the corner with Dynes Road and Northdown Road. KHS had no objection in principle for the seat to be installed alongside the footway at this location and confirmed that it would have no responsibility for maintaining the bench. Mr. Buttifant said that the matter is being progressed and that KHS would be asked to check if there were any gas or electricity services in that area.
It was AGREED that the Parish Council should write to the three affected properties to inform the residents of the intention to install a bench and to establish their opinions. Mr. Buttifant would keep Mrs. Watson informed.

3. **QUESTIONS THE PUBLIC & PRESS**

There were no questions from the public and 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 20 February 2012, Ref No P/03/202."

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:

"That the Parish Council accepts the minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2012, Ref No P/04/2012."

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Downland Management Committee

Referring to Standing Order No 14 (b), Mr. Croughton apologised for allowing the resolution to be moved prior to it being referred to the Downland Management Committee.

Mr. Bennett proposed and Mr. Buttifant seconded:

"That the Parish Council accepts the minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2012, Ref No DM/01/2012."

The Council's attention is drawn to Item 9 – To consider the following recommendation:-

"That the Committee recommends to the full Council that no approach is made to the Scouts regarding a possible beacon on Green Hill in view of the Committee's past experience, when there had been damage to a fence, failure to clear up nails and debris and failure on the organiser's part to leave the site in a safe state for livestock. This Committee has adopted a policy not to support any suggested bonfires/beacons on Green Hill for these reasons."

CARRIED unanimously

(c) Report from Chairman

Kemsing Afternoon Women's Institute archives – Mrs. Cole advised that these valuable archives, currently stored at the storage facility in Pembury, would be transferred to the Kemsing Heritage Centre for permanent safe keeping.

Oaks Christmas Dinner Steering Group – Mr. & Mrs. Wilson advised that they had decided to retire as main organisers of this event. Ms. Cartwright and Ms. Fear would take over the reins. Mr. & Mrs. Wilson had been organising this event for the past 10 years and *it was AGREED that the Parish Council, on behalf of the village, send a letter of appreciation to Mr. & Mrs. Wilson for their valued contribution over the years.*

New Kent Policing Model – Kent Police Authority is asking Partners across the country to complete a questionnaire to seek their views on the new model that has been operating for five months. Only two weeks had been given to respond.

The Clerk was instructed to complete the questionnaire on behalf of the Parish Council.

The Parish Council noted that PCSO Harwood would attend the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) on 28 March. The Clerk was instructed to invite PCSO Adelaja to the APM so that he could be introduced to residents and the Parish Council.

(d) Reports from Councillors

Oxenhill Shaw Joint Management Committee – Mr. Bennett reported that a 'public event' is being organised for 26 May 2012. Details are unknown at this stage but it is understood that it would be advertised nearer the time.

Posters and notices on Parish Council's property – Mr. Bennett reported that he had found a number of notices and posters attached to Parish Council property (fences, gates, etc.) advertising various personal services. This is considered to be fly-posting and *the Clerk was instructed to contact the relevant parties to ask them to remove the posters.*

Dropped kerb at Greenlands Road for wheelchair access – A letter of appreciation from the Noah's Ark Residents' Association for the Parish Council's efforts in assisting with this request was noted.

Requests to plant trees as part of the Jubilee Celebrations – Mr. Lang asked if the Parish Council would consider drafting a standard response which could be used to respond to any further requests for the planting of trees on the Parish Council's land.

5. DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

(a) National Association of Local Councils – Direct Information Service

Mrs. Cole proposed:

“That the Parish Council renews the annual subscription of £105.”

CARRIED unanimously

6. SOUTH EAST WATER

(a) A letter dated 13 February 2012 from South East Water regarding the water treatment improvements at Kemsing Treatment Works, Watery Lane, was noted. South East Water is applying for planning permission for the permanent retention of the temporary membrane filtration unit that has been under trial since September 2011.

(b) Letters dated 2 March and 14 March 2012 regarding the current levels of water resources and restrictions on water use were noted.

(c) The proposed draft drought plan, which explains the measures the Company would take under drought conditions to ensure a continued supply of water to its customers, was noted.

7. 50+ DANCE FOR FUN CLASS AT ST. EDITH HALL

Mrs. Roberts declared a personal interest as being a regular member of the dance class and abstained from voting.

The freelance organiser of the dance club is asking the Parish Council's support to act as an independent referee in order to support her application for funding through various Community Fund applications. Mrs. Cole proposed:

“That the Parish Council is unable to support individuals business ventures in this way.”

CARRIED 9 in favour

8. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Mr. Eaton proposed and Dr. Walker seconded:

“To approve the payment list (Vouchers 251 to 285) and to note list of receipts (Vouchers 27 & 28)”.

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Dawes thanked Mr. Eaton for his work with the accounts as Chairman of the Finance Committee.

9. INFORMATION REPORT

The following information was noted :-

(a) Council Tax 2012-2013 – Report analysis prepared by KALC (Sevenoaks branch)

(b) Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group - A letter of thanks for financial contribution

(c) Members' conduct and the registration and disclosure of their interests - legal topic notice from the National Association of Local Councils dated March 2012 (Copies circulated to Councilors)

(d) Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (KCC) – Report from County Councillor Nick Chard

(e) National Association of Local Councils – Direct Information Service Issues 775-778

(f) Society of Local Council Clerks – The Clerk magazine (March edition)

(g) Clerks & Councils Direct – March issue

(h) Kent Association of Local Councils – The Parish Newsletter January/February 2012 (Copies circulated to Councilors)

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

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

18 April 2012

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.