

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of a meeting held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing,
on Wednesday, 16 April 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: 6 Members of the Public {Arrived at 8.50 p.m.}
Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: None

1. **MINUTES**

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Parish Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2014, Ref KPC/03/2014."

CARRIED unanimously

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(a) Sewer at School alley (Footpath SR35) (Minute 2(b) KPC/03/2014)

Thames Water had advised that the water levels had reduced sufficiently for a camera survey to be undertaken. This was scheduled for Tuesday, 8th April. Once the results of the survey had been processed Thames Water would establish the most appropriate course of remedial action necessary.

(b) Proposed changes in the bus time table (431/432) service for Kemsing (Minute 7 KPC/03/2014)

The Bus Services Working Group met on Wednesday, 9th April 2014. The report of the meeting was noted, including the recommendations therein.

Mr. Croughton proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

"That the Parish Council approves the following recommendations:-

Kemsing Parish Council to ask Arriva to consider the 17.24 and 18.04 services from Dunton Green to wait 3 minutes at the Sevenoaks Railway Station rather than the Sevenoaks Bus Station in order to give commuters a chance to catch the last bus home.

Kemsing Parish Council formalise an approach to Go-Coach Hire Ltd to enquire whether they would be interested to provide 2 or 3 afternoon services on Saturdays."

CARRIED unanimously

(c) Broad band internet service (Minute 8 KPC/03/2014)

BT advised that the fibre optic cables installation in Kemsing would commence in June 2014.

Mr. Croughton reminded Councillors that the Parish Council's request to be included in the Sevenoaks District Council's CCTV scheme had been rejected in view of the lack of fibre optic cables to transmit signals from Kemsing to the CCTV control room in Sevenoaks. In light of the fact that fibre optic cables will now be installed, Mr. Croughton asked if Sevenoaks District Council could be asked to reconsider Kemsing Parish Council's request to be included in the Sevenoaks CCTV scheme. The Clerk reminded the Council that a review of CCTV coverage in the village is due this year.

3. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC & PRESS

Questions were taken elsewhere during the course of the meeting.

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 March 2014, Ref No P/05/2014."

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:

"That the Parish Council notes the minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2014, Ref No P/06/2014."

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Report from Chairman

There was no report received from the Chairman.

(c) Reports from Councillors

Mr. Eaton expressed concern regarding the Co-operative Bank's unstable financial situation and suggested the Parish Council transfer most of the funds held in the Parish Council's current account, to the Reserve Fund, with immediate effect. The Clerk pointed out that the current account balance was running low and that invoices were due to be paid and reminded Councillors that the half-yearly precept was due at the end of April. It was AGREED not to transfer the funds at the moment, but the situation would be reviewed at the end of April.

Mr. Andrews asked if the number of Councillors could be reduced in view of the long-standing vacancy. It was not clear if the number of Councillors should reflect the number of households in the village.

The Clerk would investigate and report back at the next Parish Council meeting.

Referring to the fires in the village over the past few years (Wheatsheaf Public House, Kemsing Lawn Tennis Club Pavilion and now the St. Mary's Church Hall), Mr. Eaton asked the Parish Council to try to do something to prevent this.

Mr. Eaton suggested the Parish Council formed a working group to meet regularly with PCSO Sue Harwood in order to establish if there was anything that could be done to prevent this from happening again.

Members felt that this was a Police matter and that there was nothing the Parish Council could do to prevent fires.

(d) Reports from District Councillors

There were no reports received.

5. DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

(a) West Kent Mediation (WKM)

WKM is providing a mediation service for schools in the local West Kent area, aiming to prevent bullying and resolve conflict. The Parish Council was asked to consider the request for financial assistance.

Mr. Eaton proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

"That the request be rejected."

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Victim Support

Victim Support offers support to victims of crime. The Parish Council was asked to consider the request for financial assistance.

Dr. Walker proposed and Mrs. Wedderburn seconded:

“That the Parish Council makes a donation of £100 to Victim Support.”

CARRIED 9 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions

6. **LOCAL WORKS – SUSTANAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT**

To consider comments received from the National Co-ordinator, asking the Parish Council’s support for the Sevenoaks Town Council’s *“campaign for Parish and Town Councils to be able to use the Sustainable Communities Act – giving Parish and Town Councils the resources they need to help end ‘Ghost Town Britain’ and create vibrant local communities”*. The proposal is as follows: *“That the Government take the necessary action to allow a percentage of Business Rates to be paid direct to Parish and Town Councils for the benefit of local economic growth.”*

Mr. Croughton proposed and Mrs. Dickinson seconded:

“That the Parish Council supports the above proposal.”

4 in favour, 8 against

The proposal FELL

7. **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

(a) Draft minutes of the last meeting

The draft minutes were noted, subject to a few minor amendments.

(b) Annual Parish Meeting notice

For many years copies of the Annual Parish Meeting notice were delivered by Parish Councillors to every household in Kemsing. The notice is published in The Well magazine, which is also delivered to every household in Kemsing and Mr. Eaton suggested that the Parish Council considered abolishing this action to save time and costs.

Mrs. Cole proposed:

“That the Parish Council stops the delivery of the Annual Parish meeting notice to every household in Kemsing, provided the meeting is advertised on the Parish Council’s notices boards, The Well magazine, the local press and the Parish Council’s website.”

CARRIED unanimously

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

The members of the public attending the meeting represented the Kemsing Lunch Club which provided meals for elderly residents on Wednesdays at the Church Hall. In view of the recent fire in which the Church Hall had been destroyed, the group asked the St. Edith Hall Management Committee to make available the Small Hall to continue the lunch club on a Wednesday afternoon. The Group also asked the Parish Councillors for their support. Mrs. Cole assured the group that their request would be considered by the Trustees at the next St. Edith Hall Management Committee.

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

8. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Mr. Eaton proposed and Dr. Walker seconded:

“That the Parish Council approves the lists of payments (Vouchers 303-312), and cheque numbers 204928-204929, 204931-204939, including the annual subscription for Kent Association of Local Councils, and to note the receipt list (Voucher 33).”

CARRIED unanimously

9. INFORMATION REPORT

The following information was noted:

- (a) Sevenoaks District Council Community Safety News – March 2014 issue
- (b) Kent Association of Local Councils – Financial update on the repeal of S150 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972. The Council Tax Support Grant received from District Councils should be allocated as 'other grants' and should not form part of the Precept income.
- (c) National Association of Local Councils – Direct Information Service – Issue 830
- (d) Campaign to Protect Rural England – Field Work magazine (Spring 2014)
- (e) Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group – Thank you letter for the Parish Council's donation.

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

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

21 May 2014 (Annual General Meeting of the Parish Council)

The meeting closed at 8.35 p.m.

Signed by Chairman : Date: