

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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

**Minutes of a Meeting held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing,
on Wednesday, 18 April 2012 at 8.00 p.m.**

- PRESENT: Mrs. M. Cole (in the Chair)
Mr. D. Bennett, Mr. G. Croughton, Mrs. S. Dickinson, Mr. P. Eaton, Mr. J. Jermain,
Mr. R. Lang, Mrs. M. Robarts, Dr. P. Walker, Mrs. R. Wedderburn
- IN ATTENDANCE: 2 members of the public
Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)
- APOLOGIES: Mr. B. Buttifant, Mr. R. Dawes

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 21 March 2012, Ref KPC/04/12, previously circulated."*
CARRIED unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Kemsing Village Car park (Minute 2(a) KPC/04/12)

- (i) The entire site (Wheatsheaf and car park) had been sold to Wealden Homes, who had advised the Parish Council that they were not intending to sell the car park at this time. There are no changes planned for the car park site in the foreseeable future, but a planning application for the demolition of the former Wheatsheaf Pub and the erection of three dwellings on that site had been received and considered by the Planning Committee. This planning application did not include the car park.
- (ii) Councillors noted comments (previously circulated) from a resident regarding the Localism Bill which suggested that Sevenoaks District Council is required to maintain a list of assets of community value. It is believed that the car park is one such. Mr. Bennett thought that the car park should be designated as a local amenity under the Bill and Mr. Jermain agreed but said that although the Localism Bill has received Royal Assent, it is not yet law.
- Mrs. Cole proposed:
"That the Parish Council writes to MP Mr. M. Fallon, asking for his support to urge Sevenoaks District Council to designate the car park as an important village amenity."
CARRIED 8 in favour, 2 abstentions (Mr. Eaton & Dr. Walker)

(b) Police Community Support Officer (Minute 2(d) KPC/04/12)

West Kent Police had not yet shared any details for a replacement PCSO.

Mrs. Cole proposed: *"That the Parish Council requests West Kent Police to advise when an appointment for a new PCSO can be expected."*
CARRIED unanimously

(c) Memorial bench for the late Mr. Ted Watson (Minute 2(g) KPC/04/12)

In response to the Parish Council's prior consultation with local residents in the area, a number of strong objections had been received and noted. As a result of the objections, it was agreed that this location was no longer suitable for the proposed seat. Mrs. Cole reminded Councillors that there is an existing timber memorial seat at Kemsing Library which is gradually deteriorating. Mrs. Cole had made enquiries with regards the details of the memorial and it would appear that the family of the deceased no longer resides in the area. Councillors considered this site to be a suitable alternative and it was agreed that the Parish Council offers this suggestion to Mrs. Watson.

Mrs. Cole proposed: *“That the Parish Council asks Mrs. Watson to consider the Kemsing Library site as an alternative location to replace the existing seat with the proposed new seat in memory of the late Mr. Watson. This would be subject to the approval of Kent County Council.”*

CARRIED unanimously

(d) Public conveniences (Minute 9 KPC/03/12)

The cleaning contract was extended for a further 12 months. A 3-month notice period applies and the existing pricing structure remains unchanged.

(e) Connexions Services (Minute 10(d) KPC/11/11)

A progress report was noted.

Mrs. Cole proposed: *“That the Parish Council offers to fund the service for a further 3 months.”*

CARRIED unanimously

(f) Annual Parish Meeting (Minute 2(f) KPC/03/12)

The draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting were noted. Mrs. Cole drew attention to the request for planting additional trees and suggested the Parish Council consider adopting a policy for future tree planting requests.

RESOLVED: To refer to the Recreation Grounds Committee and Downland Management Committee for further consideration. The Clerk thought that the Downland Management Committee had adopted a tree policy.

3. **QUESTIONS THE PUBLIC & PRESS**

There were no questions from the public and press.

4. **COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS**

(a) Planning Committee

Mr. Croughton proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded: *“That the Parish Council accepts the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2012, Ref No P/05/2012, previously circulated.”*

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Croughton proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded: *“That the Parish Council accepts the minutes of the meeting held on 2 April 2012, Ref No P/06/2012, previously circulated.”*

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Recreation Grounds Committee

Mrs. Cole proposed and Mrs. Wedderburn seconded: *“That the Parish Council accepts the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2012, Ref No RG/02/2012, previously circulated.”*

CARRIED unanimously

(c) Report from Chairman

Mrs. Cole referred to a recent article in the local press about the proposed planning application for the redevelopment of the former Wheatsheaf Public House site. Mr. Buttifant and the Clerk were contacted by the Sevenoaks Chronicle to provide the Parish Council's view on the application. It is apparent that there are a number of incorrect statements in the article dated 12th April 2012.

It is alleging that the Parish Council had previously been opposed to any redevelopment of the site in June 2011, though in March 2012, the Parish Council approved the proposed plans. The article omitted to clarify that this planning application was for the former Wheatsheaf site only, and that it did not include the car park. The Clerk's statement of the facts was not printed, and Mr. Buttifant (who is not on the Parish Council's Planning Committee), vehemently contests the statements attributed to him in the article.

RESOLVED: To inform the Editor of the Parish Council's disappointment for the reporter's inability to quote statements correctly.

(d) Reports from Councillors

Mr. Croughton referred to the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting (Item 4.5). It is understood from County Councillor Mr. Chard's report that Kent County Council had allocated funds to provide bus services to Pembury Hospital.

Mr. Croughton proposed that the Parish Council asks Kent County Council to provide details of such services which have been introduced, or are being planned.

5. **DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS**

(a) Kent Association of Local Councils

Mrs. Cole proposed: *"That the Parish Council renews the annual membership of £1116-16 (VAT not included)."*

CARRIED unanimously

6. **CAR PARK LIGHTS NEAR THE TENNIS COURTS, HEAVERHAM ROAD**

The existing 1 year fixed term contract with British Gas, renewable on 7 May 2012, expires on 6 August 2012. Councillors considered a report by the Clerk detailing the various options.

RESOLVED: To accept a 3 year fixed contract with British Gas at 18.32 p/kwh unit charge and 22.15 p/day standing charge.

7. **ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2012**

The annual return should be completed by 11 June 2012. The Internal Audit will be completed before the end of April and the final accounts, including the Internal Auditor's report, will be put forward for approval at the May Parish Council meeting.

8. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Mr. Eaton proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded: *"That the Parish Council approves the list of payments (Vouchers 286 to 295) and (Cheque numbers 204467 to 204475) and to note the list of receipts (Vouchers 29 & 30)."*

CARRIED unanimously

9. **INFORMATION REPORT**

The following information was noted :-

- (a) Parish Council Legal Scheme – Kent County Council is offering an expert legal service at very competitive rates to Parish and Town Councils.
- (b) The Journal of the Kent Men of the Trees (Winter-Spring 2012 edition).
- (c) National Association of Local Councils – Direct Information Service (Issues 779 & 780).
- (d) Campaign to Protect Rural England – AGM invitation on 9 June 2012.
- (e) Kent Association of Local Councils Sevenoaks Area Committee – Minutes of meeting held on 9 March 2012.
- (f) Kent Association of Local Councils – Membership Information for year 2012/13.
- (g) Action with Communities in Rural Kent – Oast to Oast magazine (Spring).
- (h) Campaign to Protect Rural England – Countryside Voice magazine (Spring).

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

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

16 May 2012 (Annual General Meeting of the Council)

The meeting closed at 8.37 p.m.