

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of a meeting held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing,
on Wednesday, 20 June 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. R. Lang,
Dr. P. Walker, Mrs. R. Wedderburn

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Mr. B. Buttifant, Mr. R. Dawes, Mr. J. Jermain, Mrs. M. Robarts

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

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2012, Ref KPC/06/12, previously circulated, were approved.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Kemsing Village Car park (Minute 9(a) KPC/06/12)

Kent Association of Local Councils advised that there was a recent development from the Department for Communities and Local Government on Local Council Borrowing. The Department has now requested that all Councils applying for Borrowing Approval should also include evidence that there had been a public consultation with residents in respect of the proposed project and the Borrowing. The details of the consultation and the result should accompany the application form for Borrowing Approval.

In terms of the car park project, Councillors were of the opinion that a local consultation had already taken place by means of the Extra-Ordinary Parish Council meeting held in January 2012. However, it could not be confirmed at the time of the meeting whether this 'consultation' would be considered to sufficiently meet this requirement. It was also noted that the existing property valuation would probably be out of date by the time it was required, and that updated valuations reports would have to be obtained, should the need arise to proceed with applying for Borrowing Approval.

AGREED: That clarification on the type of public consultation required by the Department for Communities and Local Government be sought.

(b) Community Governance Review (Minute 6 KPC/03/12)

Sevenoaks District Council's draft recommendations in respect of the Community Governance Review had been published and a public consultation is underway. The deadline for comments ends on 31 July 2012. Sevenoaks District Council had recommended that Sevenoaks Town Council's proposal to 'take over' various Parishes, would not be adopted.

(c) Kemsing Pavilion Trust (Minute 2(g) KPC/03/12)

Correspondence dated 21 May 2012 from the Kemsing Pavilion Trust was noted. The Trust had advised the Charity Commission of the demise of the Kemsing Sports Association and although several letters had been sent to the Commission, they had not yet responded.

(d) Code of Conduct (Minute 7 KPC/11/11)

Prior to the meeting correspondence received from Kent Association of Local Councils including the draft Code of Conduct dated 17 May 2012, prepared by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC), had been circulated to Members.

At the meeting the following papers were tabled:-

- Email correspondence dated 6 June 2012 from Sevenoaks District Council
- Email correspondence dated 19 June 2012 from Kent Association of Local Council, including the NALC 18 June 2012 FINAL version of the Code of Conduct and the NALC Legal Briefing dated 18 June 2012 on the Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interest) Regulations 2012
- Email correspondence dated 20 June 2012 from the Monitoring Officer at Sevenoaks District Council

NALC recommends that Parish Councils should adopt a new Code of Conduct as soon as possible, however, the new regime takes effect 1 July 2012. If a Parish Council has not adopted a new Code by 1 July 2012, Members of the Parish Council are still subject to the mandatory obligations in the 2011 Act, particularly with reference to Pecuniary Interests.

The Monitoring Officer had advised that there are currently various Model Codes available. These were produced by the Local Government Association (LGA), Department for Communities and Local Government ('Bob Neill Code'), NALC and there is also a Kent Code produced by the Association of Kent Secretaries (a professional association for Kent Local Authority Chief Legal Officers and Monitoring Officers).

Sevenoaks District Council's preferred option is the 'Bob Neill' Code and Parish Councils are advised to follow the District Council's lead in adopting this Code.

RESOLVED: An informed decision could not be reached given that most of the information had only been received on the day of the meeting. It was AGREED to defer the adoption of a new Code of Conduct to the next Parish Council meeting.

3. **QUESTIONS THE PUBLIC & PRESS**

There were no questions from the press or public.

4. **COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS**

(a) Planning Committee

Mr. Croughton proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

"That the Parish Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 28 May 2012, Ref No P/08/2012, previously circulated, including Minute 9 (Appointment of Officers for the Year 2012/2013)."

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Croughton proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

"That the Parish Council receives the minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2012, Ref No P/09/2012, previously circulated."

CARRIED unanimously

It was noted that the demolition of the former Wheatsheaf Public House had not yet commenced. The derelict building is attracting young people who enter the site and take part in anti-social activities. They could be potentially in danger as the structure is probably not sound.

RESOLVED: Wealden Homes to be contacted to ask them to consider starting with the demolition before the schools break up for the summer holidays. If this is not possible they should make arrangements to secure the site.

(b) Downland Management Committee

Mr. Bennett proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

"That the Parish Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 30 May 2012, Ref No DM/02/12, previously circulated, including Minute 11 (Appointment of Officers)."

CARRIED unanimously

(c) Recreation Grounds Committee

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Parish Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2012, Ref No RG/03/2012, previously circulated, including Minute 11 (Appointments)."

CARRIED unanimously

(d) Report from Chairman

No report was received.

(e) Reports from Councillors

Referring to Minute 9(d) of KPC/06/2012, Mr. Croughton reported that he had attempted to find out the routes of the Bus Service Numbers. One additional route was between Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells via Pembury. The other two routes did not affect Sevenoaks or Kemsing.

Dr. Walker reported that the St. Mary's Church Hall had been vandalised, resulting in £700's worth of damage to the building. The Police are investigating the matter.

5. **DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS**

(a) Kent Wildlife Trust

Mr. Bennett, Mrs. Wedderburn and Mrs. Dickinson declared personal interests as being Members of Kent Wildlife Trust.

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Parish Council renews the annual subscription of £46."

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Information Commissioner – Data Protection Act 1998

The annual renewal fee of £35 was approved.

6. **KENT INTEGRATED YOUTH SERVICES**

Correspondence from Play Place dated 29 May 2012 was noted. Mr. Hennis advised that there had been changes to the Kent Integrated Youth Services and that Play Place was planning to bid to be part of the 'Provider Framework'. It was proposed that rather than submitting an 'independent' bid for each area (Shoreham, Dunton Green, Otford, Kemsing, Seal and Westerham), it would be beneficial for the Parish Councils to be part of a local consortium bid by offering their support to the ongoing work. Mr. Hennis welcomed the thoughts of Councillors and asked for support with this project.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk writes to Mr. Hennis outlining the Parish Council's support for Play Place to continue its activities on behalf of the young people in Kemsing.

7. **DEFRA (DEPARTMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS – CONSULTATION ON IMPROVEMENTS TO THE POLICY AND LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**

The Government's proposals to make changes to the existing policy and legal framework governing public rights of way was noted. The deadline for responses is 6 August 2012.

RESOLVED: Mr. Buttifant will be asked to look at the proposals and report back to the Parish Council at the next Parish Council meeting.

8. GRASS VERGES OUTSIDE DYNES PARADE OF SHOPS

Various grass verges in front of the shops are overgrown and look untidy. It was confirmed that it is the shop owners' responsibility to maintain the grass verges.

RESOLVED: The Clerk to have informal conversations with the shop owners to ask if they could keep the grass verges in good condition.

9. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

A copy of the Sevenoaks District Council's Guide to preparing Neighbourhood Plans was circulated with the agenda. Councillors were asked to read the documents and to let the Clerk know their views on it by Monday, 9th July 2012 and whether they are interested to proceed with preparing a Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk would report the result at the July Parish Council meeting.

10. ST. EDITH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ACCOUNTS

The Balance Sheet and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2012 was noted. Mr. Croughton commended the St. Edith Hall Management Committee for their efforts in achieving a much improved financial position.

11. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Mr. Eaton proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

"That the Parish Council approves the list of payments (Vouchers 33 to 52)."

CARRIED unanimously

12. INFORMATION REPORT

The following information was noted :-

- (a) Update for Parish & Town Councils from Sevenoaks District Council (copy attached for Councillors only)
- (b) Campaign to Protect Rural England – Kent Voice magazine (Summer)
- (c) Society of Local Council Clerks – The Clerk magazine (May 2012)
- (d) Clerks and Councils Direct – Magazine (May 2012)
- (e) National Association of Local Councils – Direct Information Service (Issues 781,782,783)
- (d) Campaign to Protect Rural England – Fieldwork magazine (Spring 2012)

South East Water had advised that the current temporary water restrictions in the South East of England would remain in place, most likely for the duration of the Summer season, as the recent rainfall, whilst boosting river and reservoir levels, had little impact on the region's groundwater resources, many of which remain at severely low levels.

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

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

18 July 2012

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.