

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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

PRESENT: Mrs. M. Cole (in the Chair)
Mr. D. Bennett, Mr. G. Croughton, Mr. R. Dawes, Mrs. S. Dickinson,
Mr. P. Eaton, Mr. J. Jermain, Mrs. M. Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Mr. B. Buttifant, Mr. R. Lang, Dr. P. Walker, 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:

*"That the Parish Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2012, Ref KPC/07/12, previously circulated, subject to the following amendment:-
Page 3, Item 4(e), 2nd line should read: "One additional route was between Tonbridge and Tunbridge Wells.....".
CARRIED unanimously*

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Kemsing Village Car park (Minute 2(a) KPC/07/12)

Advice received from Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) dated 22 June 2012 was noted. Although the Department for Communities and Local Government (DLCG) now determined that all Parish Councils applying for Borrowing Approval should produce evidence that there had been a public consultation with residents in respect of the proposed project, the Department did not issue any guidance on the type of consultation which would be deemed appropriate to support Borrowing Approval applications.

(b) Code of Conduct (Minute 2(d) KPC/07/12)

Members considered two Code of Conduct templates, issued by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and DLGC respectively.

Mr. Bennett proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:

"That the Parish Council adopt a Code of Conduct based on the NALC template, including deleting and replacing items 12 and 13 of the Code so it reads as follows:-

- *12. Where a matter arises at a meeting which relates to a non-pecuniary interest as set out in Appendix B, the member shall declare the nature of that interest and may thereafter speak and vote on the matter.*
- *13. Where a member has an interest as set out in Appendix B which is a sensitive interest (as described in the Localism Act 2011), the member must declare the existence of an interest, but not the nature of that interest, only if:-*
 - a) *it has not already been entered in his/her register of interests; or*
 - b) *he/she wishes to speak or vote on the matter."*

CARRIED unanimously

The above resolution was made in accordance with the Parish Council's function of adopting, revising or replacing a code of conduct under Section 28(13) of the Localism Act 2011. It is a requirement that a Parish Council must publicise its adoption of a new code under Section 28(12) of the 2011 Act.

RESOLVED: To include a note in the next edition of The Well magazine informing residents of the adoption of a new Code of Conduct.

Councillors handed their signed Interest notification registers to the Clerk who would copy and forward these to the Sevenoaks District Council's Monitoring Officer. It is a requirement of the 2011 Act that a copy of each interest form should be placed on the Parish Council's website.

- (c) Security at former Wheatsheaf site (Minute 4(a) KPC/07/12)
Wealden Homes advised that the demolition work is subject to approval of a pre-condition imposed by Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) regarding the provision of tree protection details which had been submitted to SDC. The fencing has been secured.
- (d) DEFRA (Dept. for Environment Food and Rural Affairs) Consultation on improvements to the policy and legal framework for public rights of way (Minute 7 KPC/07/12)
The aim of the consultation is to seek the views on a proposed package of changes to the processes for recording, diverting and extinguishing of public rights of way. Mr. Buttifant and the Clerk had discussed the consultation paper and concluded that this was more appropriate for Kent County Council to respond to as it covered the 'streamlining' of the procedures for recording public rights of way and the Secretary of State appeal process.
- (e) Grass verges outside Dynes Parade of shops (Minute 8 KPC/07/12)
Mrs. Cole and the Clerk visited a number of shop owners who had agreed to keep the grass verges and shop fronts tidy.
- (f) Neighbourhood Plan (Minute 9 KPC/07/12)
Responses received are as follows:-
12 out of 13 responses received, 2 Neither yes or no, 3 Yes, 7 No
Mr. Croughton proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:
"That the Parish Council does not proceed with preparing a Neighbourhood Plan."
CARRIED unanimously
- (g) Local Works - Sustainable Communities Act Campaign (Minute 13 KPC/06/12)
MP Michael Fallon wrote to the Communities Minister, Mr. Greg Clark, to enquire when the provisions of the Act will be implemented. The regulations were laid to Parliament on 18 June 2012 and would come into force on 26 July 2012.

3. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC & PRESS**

There were no questions from the press or public.

4. **COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS**

- (a) Planning Committee
Mr. Dawes proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:
"That the Parish Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2012, Ref No P/10/2012, previously circulated."
CARRIED unanimously
Referring to Item 7(f) – Network Rail's proposed replacement of the Kemsing Railway Station Footbridge, Mr. Croughton expressed an interest to attend a site visit with a representative from Network Rail to discuss the proposal in detail. The Clerk would make the necessary arrangements for a site visit.
- (b) Finance Committee
Mr. Eaton proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:
"That the Parish Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2012, Ref No F/125/12, previously circulated, including the adoption of Item 4 (revised Financial Regulations), Item 5 (revised Internal Audit Review) and Item 6 (revised Statement of Internal Control)."
CARRIED unanimously

(c) Recreation Grounds Committee

Mrs. Cole proposed and Mrs. Dickinson seconded:

"That the Parish Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2012, Ref No RG/04/2012, previously circulated."

CARRIED unanimously

(d) Report from Chairman

Connexions (Job Club) - A progress report from Connexions on their activities for the last three months was circulated at the meeting. They are contracted to provide support to young people when they are leaving school to help them find either employment, further education or training. Connexions asked the Parish Council to consider continuing its financial support for the Job Club through the Summer. The Council believes that Connexions' services are valuable to Kemsing young people and Mr. Croughton proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

"That the Parish Council supports the weekly Job Club by offering to fund the hire costs for the Club until end of March 2013."

CARRIED unanimously

(e) Reports from Councillors

There were no reports received.

5. **DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS**

(a) Kemsing Royal British Legion (KRBL)– Remembrance Day Parade

Mr. Brown who organises the Parade on behalf of the KRBL, was advised by the Police that they will no longer make Officers available to attend the parade event to assist with the road closure and that the Legion would have to make their own arrangements. Mr. Brown consulted KHS, who advised that they would inform SDC of a Road Closure Notice, subject to the following conditions:-

(i) Marshalls and signs should be obtained and approved by Kent Highway Services, (ii) Public Liability Insurance cover of no less than £5 million to be obtained, (iii) Risk assessment to be submitted to KHS. The approved contractor to provide road closure signs is the AA and the signs can be hired at a cost of £80 plus VAT (this price is for two signs). The KRBL asked the Parish Council to consider providing funding of £80 plus VAT, i.e. £96, to enable them to hire two road closure signs to arrange the Remembrance Day Parade on Sunday, 11 November 2012.

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Parish Council supports the KRBL by donating £96 towards the cost of hiring the signs for the road closure during the Remembrance Day Parade, to be paid from the Parish Council's General Contingency Fund."

CARRIED unanimously

The above payment is made under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

6. **SPEEDING ALONG CHILDSBRIDGE LANE**

The Parish Council noted a request from a resident who asked the Parish Council to lobby Kent Highway Services (KHS) to lower the national speed limit on Childsbridge Lane between Seal and Kemsing. Members acknowledged that this issue had been raised on many occasions with KHS which ultimately resulted in the installation of the speed flashing indicator sign at the junction of Childsbridge Lane and Castle Drive. It was also noted that Seal Parish Council, at the time when the Childsbridge Farm development was being built, had asked KHS to impose a reduction in the national speed limit that is in force on the stretch of road between Kemsing and Seal. KHS rejected the request. The Clerk advised that PCSO Fromm had been asked to arrange speed checks on that stretch of road, to which he had agreed.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council cannot pursue this issue any further.

7. **SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES**

Family Fun Days

SDC advised that they have allocated a small sum of funding to provide Family Fun Days and asked Parish Councils to register their interests if they would like to facilitate some of these activities in their parishes during the Summer holidays.

The Parish Council also noted a request from VSU Youth in Action, a voluntary organisation, asking the Parish Council to consider purchasing activities for two proposed Family Fun Days in Kemsing on 24 July and 29 August 2012.

Mr. Croughton proposed and Mr. Bennett seconded:

"That the Parish Council takes no action."

4 in favour, 4 against

In accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, in the event of an equality of votes, the Chairman may give a casting vote.

Following the Chairman's casting vote the motion was NOT carried and the proposal FELL.

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Parish Council registers its interest with SDC to arrange a Family Fun Day event in Kemsing."

CARRIED 5 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstention

8. **DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DCLG) – CONSULTATION ON FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR LOCALISING SUPPORT FOR COUNCIL TAX**

The Parish Council's response to the DCLG was noted.

9. **KENT LANE RENTAL SCHEME CONSULTATION – KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (KCC)**

KCC is proposing to request the Secretary of State for Transport, under the powers within Sections 74A, 104(1) and (3) of the New Roads and Street Works Act (1991), to bring into effect a regulation that enables a highways authority to apply charges for occupation of the highway (lane rental scheme), which will focus on the most critical parts of the highway network. This should encourage contractors to carry out the works in a less disruptive manner. KHS produced a list of the roads and streets that are proven to cause significant disruption and congestion. It was noted that none of the roads in Kemsing featured on the list.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk respond to the consultation paper, asking for the inclusion of Childsbridge Lane and Pilgrims Way East (the major routes to and from the village).

10. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Mr. Eaton proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:

"That the Parish Council approves the list of payments (Vouchers 53-75) and to note the list of receipts (Vouchers 4-6)."

CARRIED unanimously

11. **INFORMATION REPORT**

The following papers were noted :-

The Journal of the Kent Men of the Trees – Arbor magazine – Summer 2012

Action with Communities in Rural Kent – Oast to Oast magazine – Summer 2012

Clerks & Councils Direct – July 2012 edition

Society of Local Council Clerks – The Clerk magazine – July 2012 edition

National Association of Local Councils – Direct Information Service – Issues 786 & 787

South East Water – letter dated 9th July 2012 (Temporary use ban lifted)

Kent Association of Local Councils – Parish Newsletter July 2012. Mr Croughton drew attention to the proposed Localism Conference in September. *It was AGREED that the Clerk and 1 Councillor attend the conference on behalf of the Parish Council. The Clerk to advise the Council as soon as possible when details of cost and confirmed date of the conference have been received from KALC.*

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

There was none.

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

15 August 2012

The meeting closed at 9.08 p.m.