

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of a Meeting held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing,
on Wednesday, 21 September 2011 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 [arrived at 8.50 p.m.], Mr. P. Eaton, Mr. R. Lang,
Mrs. M. Robarts, Mrs. W. Ross, Dr. P. Walker, Mrs. R. Wedderburn

IN ATTENDANCE: 1 Member of the Public

APOLOGIES: Mr. J. Jermain
District Councillor Miss L. Stack

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

1. **MINUTES**

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 August 2011, Ref KPC/08/11 be approved."

CARRIED unanimously

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(a) Capital projects (Minute 2(a) KPC/08/11)

Play Areas – The project has commenced and it is anticipated that the work will be completed within 6 weeks.

Public car park and public toilets – Sevenoaks District Council invited the Parish Council to consider various options in relation to the car park lease.

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Parish Council does not accept assignment of the lease."

CARRIED unanimously

(b) West End – safety issues on footpath (Minute 2(b) KPC/08/11)

Prior to the Meeting Kent Highway Services (KHS) had advised that their attempt to allocate the relevant paperwork for this project had been unsuccessful. The Clerk had forwarded copies of all correspondence since September 2010 between the Parish Council and KHS. Following receipt of the documentation, KHS replied that the Government's decision to considerably reduce public spending had resulted in a significant reduction in staff employed by KCC and as a result, only issues that are safety-critical will be investigated. Although it has been almost a year since the initial contact with KHS regarding the safety issues in West End, the Parish Council is now informed that West End is not categorised as a safety critical site (sites with a higher-than-average number of crashes within the past three years), and therefore KHS is unable to continue working with the Parish Council in developing this scheme. KHS will investigate the possibility of obtaining funding from the Local County Member Fund. These funds may be used for schemes which are categorised as lower priority schemes and do not meet the safety critical criteria, but may be of local importance. KHS would liaise with County Councillor Mr. Chard.

RESOLVED: *In these circumstances the matter cannot be pursued any further.*

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That this item be removed from the Agenda."

CARRIED unanimously

(c) Clarification of Common Field Recreation Ground Trust (Minute 2(d) KPC/08/11)

Enquiries with the Charity Commission are continuing and it is hoped that written confirmation will be received in time for the next Meeting.

- (d) Parish Councillor vacancy (Minute 2 (c) KPC/08/11) – Appointment to Committees
Mrs. Cole proposed:
“That Mr. Lang be appointed as member of the Finance and Recreation Grounds Committees.”
CARRIED unanimously

3. COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS

- (a) Planning Committee
Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:
“That the Council accepts the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22 August 2011, Ref No P/14/2011.”
CARRIED unanimously

Referring to Item 6 (National Planning Policy Framework Consultation), Mr. Dawes was of the opinion that it is likely that most of the proposals may not be adopted.

Mr. Croughton referred to Sevenoaks District Council's Local Development Framework Advisory Group's proposed response to the NPPFC and raised the following points:-

- Paragraph 126 – Safeguarding against unnecessary loss of community facilities (this could apply to car parks and playing fields)
- Paragraph 130 – New 'Local Green Space' designations which would have a similar protection to Green Belt sites (this may apply to the St. Mary's Church field)

Mr. Croughton proposed that:-

- *“The Parish Council supports Sevenoaks District Council's comments on the NPPF.*
- *The Parish Council makes the following representation to the Government consultation, with copies to Sevenoaks District Council, Sevenoaks District Councillors Miss Stack and Mr. Butler, The National Trust, London Green Belt Council and Campaign to Protect Rural England:-*

‘Kemsing Parish Council supports Sevenoaks District Council's comments on the NPPF consultation. The Parish Council is concerned that, in its 'presumption in favour of sustainable development', the proposed NPPF does not make reference to the re-use of previously developed land (brownfield land), and strongly suggests that this should be included in the proposed NPPF.’
CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:
“That the Council accepts the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 September 2011, Ref No P/15/2011.”
CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Dawes drew attention to Items 2(a) and 7(a).

Item 2(a) – 6th Sevenoaks Kemsing Scout Group Hut, Heaverham Road

A planning application for the demolition of the existing scout hall and erection and replacement scout hall on the land to the East of the present location, within the recreation ground adjacent to the tennis courts, was received. Members were asked to note the Supporting Planning Statement, letter to Sevenoaks District Council by the Scouts and extraction of Parish Council Minutes and Recreation Grounds Minutes regarding the proposed new scout hut. This project requires approval from the Charity Commission through the Common Field Recreation Ground Trust.

Item 7(a) – National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Consultation

The Planning Committee Members noted Sevenoaks District Council's comments on the consultation. A copy of an article on the NPPF in the Campaign to Protect Rural England's Fieldwork magazine was noted.

- (b) Downland Management Committee
Mr. Bennett proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:
“That the Council accepts the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14 September 2011, Ref No DM/03/11.”
CARRIED unanimously

The Council noted with sadness the passing of Mr. Don Eley.

Mr. Bennett drew attention to Item 11 (e) : *Request from the Kemsing Heritage Centre Association to rename The Dell (part of Green Hill) to "Eley's Dell" in everlasting memory of Mr. Don Eley.*

The Downland Management Committee also discussed the possibility of installing a plaque or memorial stone on the Kemsing Downs Nature Reserve, in memory of Mr. Eley.

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Downland Management investigates the possibility of producing and installing a vandal proof memorial stone on the Kemsing Downs Nature Reserve, carved with the agreed wording and wildlife features, in memory of Mr. Don Eley, and that the area of Green Hill locally known as 'The Dell', be renamed as 'Don Eley's Dell'."

CARRIED unanimously

(c) Finance Committee

Mr. Eaton proposed and Dr. Walker seconded:

"That the Council accepts the Minutes of the extra-ordinary Finance Committee Meeting held on Friday, 16 September 2011, Reference Number F-122-11 and that the Council approves the recommended changes to the Capital and Reserve Fund Policy as circulated."

CARRIED unanimously

(d) Report from Chairman

Action with Communities in Rural England – An invitation to attend the annual meeting on 13 October 2011 was noted.

Sevenoaks District Council Annual Civic Service – An invitation to attend this service on 23 October 2011 was noted.

Beaver scouts' 25th Anniversary - The Beaver Scouts are keen to take on the long-term project of creating a blue bell wood in the North East corner of the Common Field. They have been given a large quantity of native blue bell seeds and these will be scattered in mid October 2011. The Beaver Scouts are proposing to replace one Black Poplar (currently not in a good condition and unlikely to recover) on the Common Field, with a Whitebeam tree. *This was AGREED.*

Kemsing Festival – Mrs. Cole will purchase a bouquet to thank Mrs. Janet Eaton for her hard work in the arrangements for the Kemsing Festival (to be paid from Chairman's Allowance budget). *This was AGREED.*

Afternoon Women's Institute – This was the first WI created in Kemsing. Mrs. Cole had been informed that the archives for the Afternoon WI, which had been dissolved in 2001, had been transferred to a storage facility in Pembury. It is believed that these archives contain valuable historic information relating to Kemsing and Mrs. Cole felt that these documents should be looked after by the Kemsing Heritage Centre.

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Parish Council formally requests the archive custodian in Pembury to hand over the documents to the Kemsing Heritage Centre for storage in Kemsing, explaining that the Parish Council had part-funded the new Archive Centre building. This facility is purpose built to provide suitable conditions such as a controlled humidity environment and fire proof safes, specially designed to preserve such documents."

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Eaton is in the process of obtaining archived minutes of the St. Edith Working Men's Club which could also be stored at the Kemsing Heritage Centre.

(e) Reports from Councillors

Mr. Eaton expressed concern regarding the future of the derelict Wheatsheaf Public House and village car park land and urged the Parish Council to approach the landowner to ask what their intentions were.

Mr. Eaton proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

“That the Parish Council writes to the Chief Executive at the Brewery to ask what are their intentions for the future of this land.”

CARRIED unanimously

8.47 p.m. {Mrs. Dickinson arrived}

4. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC & PRESS

There were no questions from Members of the Public and Press.

5. DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

(a) Remembrance Day Parade

Consideration was given for a donation to the Royal British Legion for providing the wreath.

RESOLVED: That a donation of £60 be made available to the Royal British Legion for providing the wreath.

(b) Annual Subscription – Kent Wildlife Trust

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

Mr. Croughton proposed and Mr. Buttifant seconded:

“To renew the annual membership of £41.”

CARRIED unanimously

8.50 p.m. {Dr. Walker left the Meeting}

6. 'CONNEXIONS' KENT

This organisation (funded by Kent County Council) provides free, confidential information, advice and guidance on learning, living and working to young people between the ages of 13 to 19. The staff is specially trained Personal Advisers helping young people to think about volunteering and job training opportunities and are keen to start work in Kemsing.

7. KALC – FINANCE CONFERENCE 2011

The conference will take place on Friday, 7 October 2011 at Lenham Community Centre at a cost of £72 per person.

Mrs. Cole proposed:

“That the Clerk is permitted to attend the Finance Conference on 7 October 2011.”

CARRIED unanimously

8. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Mr. Eaton proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

“To approve payment list (vouchers 100 to 117).”

CARRIED unanimously

9. INFORMATION REPORT

The information report was noted.

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

(a) Salt bins and grit

Mrs. Ross asked the Council to consider taking a more co-ordinated approach in ensuring that sufficient bins are installed and filled. To be discussed at the next Meeting.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

19 October 2011

The Meeting closed at 8.57 p.m.