

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of a meeting held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing,
on Wednesday, 15 August 2012 at 8.00 p.m.**

- PRESENT: Mr. G. Croughton (in the Chair)
Mr. D. Bennett, Mr. R. Dawes [arrived at 8.10 p.m.], Mrs. S. Dickinson,
Mr. P. Eaton, Mr. R. Lang, Mrs. M. Robarts, Mrs. W. Ross, Dr. P. Walker
- IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)
- APOLOGIES: Mr. B. Buttifant, Mrs. M. Cole, Mrs. R. Wedderburn

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

1. **MINUTES**

Mr. Croughton proposed:

"That the Parish Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2012, Ref KPC/08/12, previously circulated."

CARRIED unanimously

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

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

There were no questions from the public and press.

4. **COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS**

(a) Planning Committee

Mr. Croughton proposed:

"That the Parish Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 23 July 2012, Ref No P/11/2012, previously circulated, subject to the following amendment:-

Item 2(d) – replace 'site' with 'sight'."

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Croughton proposed:

"That the Parish Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 6 August 2012, Ref No P/12/2012, previously circulated."

CARRIED unanimously

Attention was drawn to Item 7(a) – Wheatsheaf Public House. It was noted that Wealden Homes had reminded Sevenoaks District Council on 26 July 2012 that the planning application had not yet been determined. Mr. Eaton had noticed that the derelict site was attracting people to engage in anti-social behaviour and activities. Wealden Homes' recently reinforced fence at the rear of the site had been damaged again. It was noted that the District Councillors were aware of the current situation.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council asks the District Councillors to urge Sevenoaks District Council to determine the application as soon as possible so that building work can commence.

(b) Recreation Grounds Committee

Mr. Lang proposed and Mrs. Dickinson seconded:-

“That the Parish Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 1 August 2012, Ref No RG/05/2012, previously circulated.”

CARRIED unanimously

Drawing attention to Item 7(a) – Mrs. Ross proposed and Mrs. Dickinson seconded:-

“That the Parish Council ratifies the Recreation Grounds Committee’s recommendation to acknowledge Mr. Lomas’ extra visits each week to the Nightingale Road Recreation Ground to empty the litterbin twice a week. The Parish Council’s appreciation to Mr. Lomas would be reflected in Mr. Lomas’ salary for the duration of the summer holidays.”

CARRIED unanimously

8.10 p.m. Mr. Dawes arrived at the meeting.

(c) Report from Chairman

Mr. Croughton reminded Councillors that the final adopted Code of Conduct paper had been tabled at the meeting.

Mr. Croughton gave a brief report on a site meeting held with two representatives from Network Rail with regards to the proposed footbridge replacement at the Kemsing Railway Station. The written report is appended to the minutes.

(d) Reports from Councillors

Mr. Bennett reminded Councillors of the informal unveiling ceremony of the memorial stone for late Mr. Don Eley. The ceremony would take place on Haffenden Field on Saturday, 18th August 2012 at 12 noon. Shortly after the stone had been installed, it became apparent that there were some concerns with overgrown vegetation and soil washing onto the stone in wet weather conditions which was as a result of the setting and positioning of the stone. Mr. Bennett and the Clerk were exploring various options to address these issues.

RESOLVED: That Mr. Bob Banister be asked to consider giving a short report at the unveiling ceremony to include the history and specifically Mr. Eley’s role in the establishment of the Nature Reserve for Kemsing.

5. **DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS**

There were no donations or subscription requests received.

6. **DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT – CONSULTATION ON PAYMENTS BY PARISH COUNCILS**

The Parish Council was invited to comment on the above consultation, which set out the Government’s proposals for reforming the legislation governing payments made by Parish Councils by means of introducing a Legislative Order under the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Act 2006. The current provision is virtually unchanged from 1894 and puts barriers in the way of Councils using electronic means of payment and adopting appropriate controls on payments. The relevant papers had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. Some members were of the opinion that the Parish Council should respond to the consultation paper in a positive manner, whilst others thought that no comment should be made.

Mrs. Ross proposed and Mrs. Dickinson seconded:

“That the Parish Council responds in a favourable manner to the consultation paper.”

2 in favour, 5 against, 2 abstentions {Mr. Croughton and Dr. Walker}

The motion was NOT carried and the proposal FELL.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council does not comment on the consultation paper.

7. **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS (NALC) – DRAFT MODEL FINANCIAL REGULATIONS CONSULTATION**

NALC had produced a new draft set of Financial Regulations to incorporate the Legislative Reform Order changes, if it were to be approved. The Parish Council was invited to make comments on the draft regulations which had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council does not comment on the consultation paper.

8. **SEVENOAKS DISTRICT COUNCIL (SDC) GAMBLING ACT 2005**

SDC published its draft Statement of Principles Gambling Policy and invited the Parish Council to comment.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council does not comment on the consultation paper.

9. **PLAN TO REDUCE RURAL SPEED LIMITS – A CONSULTATION BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR TRANSPORT**

The Parish Council was invited to comment on the above consultation, which suggested in particular, that:-

- 40 mph speed limits to be introduced on single carriageway rural roads where there are many bends, junctions access points or substantial development
- 40 mph speed limit should be considered where there is a strong environmental or landscape reason, or where there are considerable number of vulnerable road users
- On C roads and unclassified routes, it is suggested to introduce a 40 mph speed limit where the road has a predominantly local, access or recreational function

Two separate documents were discussed :

(a) a circular dated 13 July 2012 and headed “Plan to reduce rural speed limits” by the Rural Services Network and

(b) a consultation paper on the revision of the Department of Transport’s speed limit circular dated July 2012.

Following a lengthy debate it was noted that the two documents did not address the same issues. A proposal was made but later withdrawn as it was suggested that this item be deferred to the next meeting pending more information.

RESOLVED: That this item be deferred to the next meeting.

10. **PUBLICATION SCHEME**

The Parish Council’s current Publication Scheme adopted in January 2009 was reviewed and updated.

Mrs. Dickinson asked why some documents were available in hard copy only and not available via the Parish Council’s website. The Clerk explained that, for example, the accounts, could not be attached to the website electronically and that all the documents would have to be scanned individually to be included on the Parish Council’s website, which would be quite a substantial time consuming exercise.

Mr. Bennett proposed and Dr. Walker seconded:

“That only the documents required by law, for example Councillors’ Register of Interest, be included on the website.”

CARRIED unanimously

11. RISK MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

The Parish Council's Risk Assessment needed to be reviewed and updated. Councillors considered a draft assessment which was circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting.

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Bennett seconded:

"That the Parish Council approves the draft risk assessment."

CARRIED unanimously

12. STANDING ORDERS REVIEW

As a result of the Localism Act 2011 the Council's Standing Orders needed updating. Councillors noted a document prepared by the Clerk detailing the items which should be updated.

As governed by Standing Order no 41 (b) - (Variation, Revocation and Suspension of Standing Order) *"A resolution permanently to add, vary or revoke a Standing Order shall when proposed and seconded, stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council"*, Mr. Croughton proposed that the Parish Council update the Standing Orders at the next meeting to include the necessary amendments following the introduction of the Localism Act 2011."

This motion will now stand adjourned without discussion to the Parish Council meeting scheduled for 19 September 2012.

13. REQUEST FROM A RESIDENT TO INSTALL CCTV CAMERAS IN THE VILLAGE

Councillors considered a request to invest in a security monitoring system to catch fly tippers and vandals. This request was made in writing by a Kemsing resident.

Mr. Croughton suggested that a working group be set up to look at the suggestion in detail. Several Councillors felt that the Parish Council had thoroughly considered installing CCTV in previous years and that this had been investigated extensively on these occasions. The end result of all these studies concluded that it would not be cost effective to install CCTV cameras. Furthermore, the Recreation Grounds Committee had just recently explored options to install CCTV cameras at the play areas, and determined that the costs involved were significantly more than what had been originally anticipated. Some Members also felt that by installing cameras, the Parish Council would still have to pay for repairs, etc. which resulted from acts of vandalism. The cameras and recording devices were also likely to be vandalised.

It was noted that the suggestion made by the resident would be more appropriate for a private individual on a residential property and that in order to gather evidence which could be used in court for prosecution purposes, more sophisticated equipment would be required. Consent from landowners to install CCTV cameras would also have to be sought.

Some Councillors agreed with this but felt that the Parish Council should make clear to residents the facts and reasons for the Parish Council's decision not to proceed with installing CCTV cameras in Kemsing. This could be a statement in The Well magazine and on the Parish Council's website. Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Dickinson volunteered to draft a simple statement which could be used to explain the reasons for and against installing CCTV.

RESOLVED: Mrs. Ross and Mrs. Dickinson would contact the Clerk to collate information to prepare a draft statement, which would be presented to and considered by the full Parish Council at the October meeting.

9.12 p.m. Mr. Dawes briefly left the meeting.

14. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Mr. Eaton proposed and Dr. Walker seconded:

“That the Parish Council approves the payment list (Vouchers 76-98), including the annual insurance premium of £279-02) and to note the receipt list (Vouchers 7-8).”

CARRIED unanimously

9.15 p.m. Mr. Dawes returned to the meeting.

15. **INFORMATION REPORT**

The following information was noted:-

- (a) *Kemsing Royal British Legion (KRBL)* - A letter of appreciation from the KRBL for the Parish Council's donation was received.
- (b) *Play Place Youth Club* – The Parochial Church Council (PCC) confirmed the PCC's offer to Play Place to use the Church Hall on Monday evenings from the beginning of the autumn term until the Christmas holidays, subject to all Club members respecting the premises and other users.
- (c) *Action with Communities in Rural Kent* – Invitation to attend the annual meeting on Thursday, 13 September 2012 at Elham Village Hall, commencing at 5.30 p.m.
- (d) *Kent Wildlife Trust* – Wild Kent magazine
- (e) *Hospice in the Weald* – Summer Newsletter
- (f) *Code of Conduct* – Department of Communities and Local Government's guidance on openness and transparency on personal interests (Copies attached for Councillors).
- (g) *NALC* – Direct Information Service – Issues 788 & 789.

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

- (a) Standing Orders
- (b) Rural Speed Review
- (c) M26 noise – A resident made a verbal complaint to the Clerk about the noise on the M26 motorway and asked the Parish Council to urge MP Michael Fallon to contact the Highways Agency.

17. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

19 September 2012

The meeting closed at 9.18 p.m.