

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of an Extra-Ordinary meeting held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing, on Wednesday, 31st July 2013 at 8.05 p.m.

- PRESENT: Mrs. M. Cole (in the Chair)
Mr. D. Bennett, Mr. B. Buttifant, Mr. G. Croughton, Mr. R. Dawes,
Mrs. S. Dickinson, Mr. P. Eaton, Mr. R. Lang, Mrs. M. Robarts,
Dr. P. Walker
- IN ATTENDANCE: 3 Members of the Public
Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)
- APOLOGIES: Mr. A. Andrews & Mrs. R. Wedderburn

Mrs. Cole and Mrs. Robarts expressed non-pecuniary interests in Item 1 on the Agenda as being Members of the St. Edith Hall Management Committee (SEHMC).

[8.08 p.m. The meeting was adjourned to allow for public participation.]

Mrs. Cole invited Mr. P. Burfield (Chairman of the SEHMC) to explain the current situation with the proposed toilet for the disabled project. Mr. Burfield gave details of the SEHMC's decision to proceed with the refurbishment of the toilets, following the Committee's success in securing a grant of £12,000 to install a toilet for the disabled and associated refurbishment work to the ladies toilets to return it to a usable state. This The SEHMC is currently in a position to fund this work which was estimated to be around £19,500. The SEHMC also considered modernising the gents toilets at the same time, which was estimated at £5,600, but resolved that the Committee was unable to support this work due to a lack of funds, and subsequently agreed that this work would have to be delayed until the required funds could be raised. It was noted that such a delay would increase the price even further which would also require the village hall to be closed for a second time, incurring a further loss of revenue. The SEHMC therefore asked the Parish Council to consider funding the gents toilets refurbishment project so that the whole project could be carried out at the same time, which would be the most cost effective approach. Mr. Burfield confirmed that the SEHMC would not require the 10% (£1,200) *{originally agreed at the February 2013 Parish Council meeting Reference KPC/02/2013 Minute 4}* sponsorship funding as originally requested.

[8.18 p.m. The meeting was reconvened]

1. **PROPOSED TOILET FOR DISABLED PROJECT – ST. EDITH HALL**

Councillors noted a report dated 25th July 2013 prepared by Mr. Burfield and circulated prior to the meeting. Councillors considered the request and it was suggested that such a request is suitable to be treated as a capital project under the Parish Council's Public buildings and village halls power in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, s133. The invoice for the refurbishment work to the gents toilet would be made directly to the Parish Council.

Dr. Walker proposed and Mr. Dawes seconded:

"That the Parish Council funds the refurbishment work to the gent's toilets at the St. Edith Hall to the value of £5,600 (VAT not included), to be paid from the Parish Council's Reserve Fund. The Reserve Fund to be replenished from the Precept and repayable as follows:- £1,600 in the 2014/15 Financial year, and a further £1,000 annually for the following 4 years."
CARRIED 8 in favour, 2 abstentions (Mrs. Cole & Mrs. Robarts)

2. **RECYCLING UNITS IN THE VILLAGE CAR PARK (Ref Minute 2(h) KPC/08/2013**

Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) has conducted a public consultation to gauge residents' comments on the proposed relocation of the bottle banks to the tennis court car park at Heaverham Road. Although the consultation period ends 2nd August 2013, Councillors noted a total of 10 comments received from residents so far. Only 1 of these supported the proposal. The remaining 9 residents expressed concern and/or objected strongly. Most objections were about the additional car journeys that would be necessary to visit the site and the potential vandalism and anti-social behaviour which could result in broken glass on the tennis courts. Other objections were that there were already difficulties with lack of parking spaces at peak times, and siting the bottle banks using 2 or 3 car park spaces would exacerbate the existing problems.

SDC's response to the Parish Council's suggestion to relocate the recycling units to the Old Childsbridge Lane site was noted. Their investigations indicated that the creation of a suitable turning point for the vehicle would be necessary, however, this would be prohibitive as it would have to be a highway standard road surface, and would probably cost in the tens of thousands of pounds. SDC made it clear that this would not be an option. Councillors also noted SDC's comments regarding the Parish Council's suggestion to improve the kerbside collection, which they had considered previously. Their findings confirmed that a glass kerbside collection would be significantly more costly than the current system. One of the reasons for this was that the glass would be mixed and glass recycling companies pay less for mixed glass.

Councillors recognised that, unfortunately, there were no alternative options which could be explored further. The permanent removal of the bottle banks would be a great loss to the village, but in these circumstances, there was nothing more that could be done to retain the facility.

Councillors concluded that the Parish Council had received sufficient opposition from residents and reluctantly agreed not to proceed with the proposed relocation of the bottle banks to the tennis court car park at Heaverham Road.

Dr. Walker proposed and Mr. Dawes seconded:

"In view of the valid objections received from residents to using the tennis court car park as an alternative site to relocate the bottle banks, and there being no other site available, the Parish Council recommends to Sevenoaks District Council that the bottle banks are removed permanently."

CARRIED 6 in favour, 4 against

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

Signed : Chairman

Date :