

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of a meeting held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing,
on Wednesday, 19 September 2012 at 8.00 p.m.**

- PRESENT: Mr. G. Croughton (in the Chair)
Mr. D. Bennett, Mr. B. Buttifant, Mrs. S. Dickinson, Mr. P. Eaton, Mr. R. Lang,
Mrs. M. Robarts, Dr. P. Walker
- IN ATTENDANCE: 2 Members of the Public
Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)
- APOLOGIES: Mrs. M. Cole, Mr. J. Jermain, Mrs. R. Wedderburn

1. **MINUTES**

Mr. Croughton proposed:

"That the Parish Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 15 August 2012, Ref KPC/09/12, previously circulated."

CARRIED 7 in favour, 1 abstention

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(a) **Rural Speed Limit Consultation (Minute 9 KPC/09/12)**

The papers had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. The Parish Council was asked to consider commenting on a recent consultation on speed limits. Mr. Croughton drew attention to past experience the Parish Council have had with requests to reduce speed limits, particularly along West End and Heaverham road, which had all been unsuccessful.

8.06 p.m. Mr. Croughton proposed to adjourn the meeting to allow for public participation which was agreed.

A concerned resident (who wrote to the Parish Council in July 2012 asking the Parish Council to lobby Kent Highway Services to consider reducing the national speed limit along Childsbridge Lane between Seal and Kemsing), requested the Parish Council to re-think its previous decision taken at the July Parish Council meeting. The Parish Council considered the request at the July meeting and resolved that the only action it could take in this regard was to ask the Police to hold regular speed checks along Childsbridge Lane and that the matter could no longer be pursued with Kent Highway Services. The resident urged the Parish Council to reconsider in light of a serious accident which happened on this stretch of road recently.

8.10 p.m. Mr. Croughton thanked the member of the public and the Council agreed to reopen the meeting.

Members were of the opinion that a reduction in the speed limit would not be effective, as it could not be enforced. It was suggested that motorists, in most cases, do not take notice of the speed flashing sign and speeding is not being deterred by it.

Mr. Croughton advised Members that in accordance with the Parish Council's Standing Order No 17(s), "A decision (whether affirmative or negative) of the Council shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special resolution, the written notice whereof bears the names of at least four Members of the Council, or by a resolution moved in pursuance of the report or recommendation of a Committee", the Parish Council is not allowed to rescind a previous decision unless a special resolution to do so, is made. Mr Croughton invited Members to make a special resolution to repeal the Parish Council's previous decision of Item 6 KPC/08/12. There being no special resolution made, Members **RESOLVED** that:

"The Police be asked for details of previous speed checks to be made available to the Parish Council."

Referring to the consultation paper, Mr. Buttifant proposed and Mr. Lang seconded:

"That the Parish Council welcomes the consultation paper on the revision of the Department of Transport's speed limit circular and background paper on setting local speed limits."

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Standing Orders Review (Minute 12 KPC/09/12)

The Parish Council's Standing Orders needed to be updated to incorporate the changes following the Localism Act 2011. A paper with the proposed changes had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Mr. Croughton proposed:

"That the Parish Council adopts the proposed alterations to the Standing Orders as circulated."

CARRIED unanimously

RESOLVED: That the reminder of declaration of interests on all agenda and minutes be removed.

(c) Request to install CCTV cameras in Kemsing (Minute 13 KPC/09/12)

This item was deferred to the October Parish Council meeting.

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

8.25 p.m. The meeting was adjourned to allow public participation.

A resident asked the Parish Council whether there were any updates on the recent fires. The Chairman replied that no further information was available and that Police investigations are ongoing.

A suggestion was made that the Council asks for copies of the reports for both incidents from Kent Rescue and Fire when they are made available to the public.

8.28 p.m. The meeting was reconvened.

4. **COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS**

(a) Planning Committee

Mr. Croughton proposed that:

"The Parish Council adopts the minutes of the meeting held on 20 August 2012, Reference P/13/2012." **CARRIED** unanimously

(b) Report from Chairman

Village car park: The car park will be closed on Sunday, 30 September 2012 to allow Sevenoaks District Council to resurface the access road.

Clerk: The Clerk was successful in achieving the Certificate in Local Council Administration which was awarded on the 3rd August 2012 by The National Training Strategy for Town and Parish Councils. The Clerk sincerely thanked the Council for giving her the opportunity to do this for which she is extremely grateful. Councillors extended their congratulations to the Clerk for achieving this award.

Telephone kiosk at The Well:- The Grade II listed building had been repainted at last following nearly two years' attempts by the Clerk for BT to carry out the work.

(c) Reports from Councillors

Parking on pavements: Mr. Buttifant reported that a resident had written to the Parish Council to ask if something could be done to prevent motorists from parking their vehicles on the pavements and footways, particularly in Oxenhill Road and Castle Drive, where the problem is getting worse. The obstruction causes inconvenience to pedestrians who are, on occasions, being forced to walk in the road. This has been reported to the Police who advised that all visiting officers would take note. A suggestion was made that pedestrians who have concerns should report these to the Parish Council so that a dossier could be created which would be used to gather evidence for possible further action.

5. **DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS**

(a) Road closure signs for Remembrance Day – Kemsing Royal British Legion (KRBL)

The KRBL advised that the cost to purchase two road closure signs from the AA would be £150 (excluding VAT).

Mr. Eaton proposed and Mr. Buttifant seconded:
“That the Parish Council purchase two signs for future years.”
CARRIED unanimously

6. DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT – CONSULTATION ON LOCALISING SUPPORT FOR COUNCIL TAX

The Parish Council was invited to comment on the above consultation which sets out the Government’s proposals to provide certainty to local precepting authorities by allowing the Council Tax Base Rate for those areas to be calculated excluding localised Council Tax Support reductions and whether those proposals should also apply to the calculation of special items. The relevant documents were circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. It was noted that Parish Council would not be affected by the changes.

Mr. Eaton proposed and Dr. Walker seconded:

“That the Parish Council responds to the consultation paper as follows:-

- *Reply ‘YES’ to the question – Do you agree that the Council Tax Base for local precepting authorities should be calculated excluding Council Tax support reductions in order to provide certainty for local taxpayers and for the funding of local precepting authorities?*
- *Reply ‘NO COMMENT’ to the question – Do you agree that the Secretary of State should also direct billing authorities to transfer an amount they estimate to be necessary to offset the cost of reduction attributable to local precepting authorities from their general fund to the collection fund?”*

CARRIED unanimously

7. KENT DOWNS AREA OF OUTSTANDING NATURAL BEAUTY MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

There is currently a Management Plan review and Parish Councils were asked to present their views on the way in which The Kent Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Unit is conducting the review process.

Mr. Croughton proposed:

“That the Parish Council does not have any objections to the proposed way in which the review will be conducted.”

CARRIED unanimously

8. REQUEST TO REMOVE TREE AT FAIRFIELD CLOSE

The Parish Council was asked to consider giving permission to remove a tree at Fairfield Close. The tree, situated on the Parish Council’s land between the rear garden of 31 Park Lane and 44 Fairfield Close, is blocking all sunlight into the adjacent garden, clogging up the gutters with the leaves and the roots have damaged the property owner’s fence.

Dr. Walker proposed and Mrs. Robarts seconded:

“That the Parish Council accepts the quotation of £200 from Mr. A. Doe to remove the tree.”

CARRIED 7 in favour, 1 abstention

9. ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2012

The Audit Commission had completed the external audit of the accounts and concluded that the information in the annual return was in accordance with proper practices and no matters had been brought to the Parish Council’s attention. In accordance with Regulation 13(4) of the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011 the Notice of Conclusion was displayed on the Parish Council’s notice boards advising that the audit was completed. The Council thanked and congratulated Mr. Eaton and the Clerk for their hard work.

10. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Mr. Eaton proposed and Dr. Walker seconded: *“That the Parish Council approves the list of payments (Vouchers 99 to 125) and notes the list of receipts (Vouchers 9 to 13).”*

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Eaton proposed and Mr. Bennett seconded:

"That the Parish Council approves the following bank to bank transfers:-

From Co-operative (Precept) account to Co-operative (Kemsing Downs Nature Reserve) account : £1,562-30 {Higher Level Grant from Rural Payments Agency for grazing} and £555-08 {VAT refund for part of 2011/12 financial year}."

CARRIED unanimously

11. INFORMATION REPORT

The following was noted:-

- (a) Kent Association of Local Councils – Parish newsletter dated August/September 2012.
- (b) Memorial seat in memory of the late Mr. Ted Watson – The seat was installed at the Kemsing Library and the family sent a letter of appreciation to the Parish Councillors for their support with this project.
- (c) National Association of Local Councils – Direct Information Service – Issues 790 & 791.
- (d) Audit Commission – Littlejohn LLP was appointed to audit the annual return of the Parish Council for five years from 2012/13. The appointment was made under section 3 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 and commenced on 1 September 2012.
- (e) Campaign to Protect Rural England – Countryside Voice – Summer 2012 edition.
- (f) The definitive map and statement of public rights of way in Kent - The Countryside Access Service at Kent County Council is completing a project to update the Definitive Map and Statement of Public Rights of Way, which is currently dated April 1987. The map fails to reflect new development and change in land use and mapping technology has also advanced hugely. The Parish Council is invited to comment on the routes of any rights of way which are not shown correctly on the plan. The draft consultation can be viewed online at : www.kent.gov.uk/prowconsultations. Comments should be made before 19 October 2012. *Mr. Buttifant and the Clerk had compared the proposed updated map with the existing map to ensure that all the relevant footpaths are marked and no anomalies were found during the exercise.*
- (g) Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Adrian Fromm – PCSO Fromm informed the Clerk that he would be leaving Kemsing on 25 September 2012. No official correspondence had been received from Kent Police regarding the matter. Mr. Lang expressed his concern about the departure of PCSO Fromm and urged the Council to consider contacting PCSO Fromm and/or PCSO Harwood to see if they would be prepared to write a supporting note to Kemsing Parish Council stressing their concern about the necessity of filling the vacant post without delay as Kemsing urgently needs Police presence in the village, particularly in light of the recent alleged arson attacks.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk contact PCSO Fromm and/or PCSO Harwood accordingly.

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

- (a) Car park - Mr. Croughton thought it was good news that the car park access road would be resurfaced.
- (b) CCTV - Report to be considered at next meeting.
- (c) Oaks Christmas Dinner – Mr. Buttifant suggested that the Parish Council asks permission from the Otford Surgery to make available the car park at the Kemsing Surgery for the Dinner which would take place at Kemsing Primary School.
- (d) KALC Localism Conference on Saturday, 29th September 2012. Unfortunately Mr. Croughton was no longer available to attend the conference and Councillors were asked to let the Clerk know if they were interested to attend. Mr. Buttifant and Mrs. Dickinson offered to attend.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

17 October 2012

The meeting was closed at 9.05 p.m.