

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of a meeting held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing,
on Wednesday, 18 September 2013 at 7.30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Mrs. M. Cole (in the Chair)
Mr. A. Andrews, Mr. D. Bennett, Mr. B. Buttifant, Mr. R. Dawes, Mrs. S. Dickinson,
Mr. R. Lang, Mrs. M. Robarts, Dr. P. Walker, Mrs. R. Wedderburn

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Mr. P. Eaton

1. **MINUTES**

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2013, Ref KPC/08/2013."

CARRIED unanimously

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 31 July 2013, Ref KPC/09/2013."

CARRIED unanimously

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(a) Bus shelter at Greenlands Road (Minute 2(d) KPC/08/2013)

The brick base had been installed and the shelter would be installed soon.

(b) Councillor Casual Vacancy (Minute 2(e) KPC/08/2013)

Notwithstanding several advertisements there had been no interest to fill the vacancy. It was suggested to advertise the vacancy in the Local Seal Advertiser, which would be subject to a charge. It was also suggested that the Parish Council takes this opportunity to reduce the number of Parish Councillors to 12.

(c) Grass verge damage (Minute 2(f) KPC/08/2013)

Letters had been sent.

(d) Wall adjacent to the Well area and adjoining the Bell Public House garden (Minute (g)KPC/08/2013)

The work had been completed.

(e) Recycling units in the village car park (Minute 2(h) KPC/08/2013) & Minute 2 KPC/09/2013)

The units had been removed.

RESOLVED: That the Parish Council asks the District Council to consider removing the concrete base and re-instate two car park spaces where the recycling units were.

(f) Proposed toilet for the disabled project – St. Edith Hall (Minute 4 KPC/02/2013 & Minute 1 KPC/09/2013)

The project had been completed.

Other matters not on the Agenda

Referring to minute 2(b), Ref KPC/08/2013, Mr. Bennett asked if the landowner had appealed against village car park being placed on the Community Asset Register. The Clerk responded that the deadline for appeals was 15th August and that there had been no indication from Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) that an appeal had been lodged.

Referring to minute 4(c), Ref KPC/08/2013, Mr. Bennett asked if a letter had been sent to SDC about the correct spelling for St. Edith Road. The Clerk replied that a letter would be sent in the next few days.

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

There were no questions from the public or press.

4. **COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS**

(a) Planning Committee

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Andrews seconded:

“That the Parish Council accepts the minutes of the meeting held on 5th August 2013, Ref No P/11/2013.”

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Recreation Grounds Committee

Mrs. Dickinson proposed and Mrs. Wedderburn seconded:

“That the Parish Council accepts the minutes of the meeting held on 31st July 2013, Ref No RG/04/2013, and that the Parish Council considers the following recommendation:

{Minute 6 - 6th Sevenoaks (Kemsing) Scouts’ request to camp on the Common Field Recreation Ground};- [To recommend to full Parish Council to give permission to the Scouts to allow around 60 Scouts to camp on the Recreation Ground sometime in late September.]”

CARRIED unanimously

Referring to Minute 4 – Request for outdoor exercise sessions on the Common Field Recreation Ground, Mr. Andrews expressed his concern regarding a business venture being allowed to be conducted on the Common Field. Approving this activity is in the remit of the Recreation Grounds Committee and Mr. Andrews was asked to refer his enquiry to the Committee directly.

(c) Report from Chairman

There was no report from the Chairman.

(d) Reports from Parish Councillors

Kent Association of Local Councils meeting : Mrs. Dickinson had attended the Sevenoaks KALC meeting last Friday and had noted, with interest, a presentation about the ‘Village Care Taker Scheme’, which had been piloted elsewhere in Kent. *The Clerk would circulate the minutes of this meeting to all Councillors when it becomes available.*

(e) Reports from District Councillors

Councillors noted, with appreciation, a written report from District Councillor, Miss L. Stack, who was unable to attend the meeting. Miss Stack’s report covered the following information:-

- *23 Dynes Road* – Miss Stack will meet the SDC Chief Planning Officer to progress this matter.
- *Potential Solar Farm* – An outline application for a large solar farm on a site near the Kemsing railway station had been submitted to SDC.
- *Housing and Welfare Reform* – Changes to the housing benefit created problems with tenants having shortfalls to pay their rent. This also applies to the new rules on Council Tax where nobody is exempted from paying Council Tax. Miss Stack is working with the SDC Portfolio Holder for Housing at to find schemes where some social tenants could become home owners.
- *Rural Exception Site for affordable housing* – Kemsing Parish does not meet the criteria for an exception site and Miss Stack will meet with SDC Portfolio Holder for Housing to discuss a way forward.
- *Fire at Dunbrik Refuse Depot* – As a result of the recent fire at the waste depot, inevitably some refuse collection services had been affected, however, SDC still managed to maintain 90% of collections at the usual times. Collection vehicles had to return to Swanley and Tunbridge Wells sites. The crews were doing their best at the moment and the tip has been re- opened for the public.

5. DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

(a) Sevenoaks Area Mind – Mental Health Charity

Mrs. Cole proposed:

“That the Parish Council rejects the request for financial assistance.”

CARRIED unanimously

6. CONSULTATIONS

(a) Kent County Council (KCC) Highways and Transportation – Safe and Sensible Street Lighting

KCC’s consultation on their proposal to reduce energy consumption by implementing a number of initiatives in an attempt to reduce energy charges, was noted.

(b) Petition – Rural Fair Share

The Parish Council noted the petition by the Rural Services Network, which is a membership organisation devoted to safeguarding and improving services in rural communities in England and believes the government should further improve their settlement for rural authorities.

7. SEVENOAKS DISTRICT SENIORS ACTION FORUM (SDSAF)

SDSAF offered to provide Parishes with a Public Access Defibrillator (PAD) for installation in a public location for use in cases of sudden cardiac arrest.

Mr. Bennett proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

“That the Parish Council accepts the offer for a PAD for Kemsing.”

CARRIED unanimously

Considering that Kemsing is the second largest village in the Sevenoaks District, a suggestion was made that the Parish Council asks for two PADs if possible bearing in mind the distance between the Eastern and Western sides of the village. Possible locations to install the PAD included St. Edith Hall, The Bell Public House, Kemsing Library and Dynes Parade of shops, but this would be considered later.

8. KEMSING HERITAGE CENTRE ASSOCIATION – REVIEW OF LEASE

In accordance with the signed lease, the three year review for the lease and rent was due on 14th July 2013.

Mr. Bennett proposed and Mr. Dawes seconded:

“That the Parish Council increases the rent to £22-30 per annum for the next three years. This figure is calculated based on the original rent value of £2,000 per annum, including 11.7% RPI rise (£2,230 per annum). The annual rent payable is 1% of the rent value in accordance with the lease.”

CARRIED 7 in favour, 3 abstentions {Mr. Buttifant, Mrs. Cole & Mrs. Robarts}

Councillors noted a report from the Chairman of the St. Edith Hall Management Committee (SEHMC) regarding a possible lease with the Kemsing Boxing Club, but this was deferred to the next meeting when the SEHMC would provide the Parish Council with a formal proposal, including financial information.

9. REQUEST TO HOLD A MC MILLAN COFFEE MORNING ON BARNFIELD CRESCENT GREEN

A request from a local resident to hold a charity event on the Green on Friday, 27th September 2013 between 11 am and 1 pm, was approved.

10. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES IN CAR PARK

Problems had been experienced lately with the cleaning contractors’ lack of regular visits to clean the public conveniences. Councillors noted the Clerk’s report detailing the issues. The contract is subject to a three month notice period. In addition to this, there had been a number of maintenance problems with the toilets, particularly blockages, and it was recognised that it would be beneficial to appoint a local person who could carry out regular daily inspections, 7 days a week which would hopefully reduce vandalism attempts. Any maintenance problems can be sorted out sooner.

Having discussed the issues in detail, Councillors considered the following proposal from Mrs. Cole:-

“That the Parish Council terminates the current cleaning contract by giving 3 months’ notice and that the Parish Council employs Mr. K. Libretto as Care Taker and Cleaner of the public conveniences. This is subject to a formal contract of employment and salary to be agreed for cleaning and inspecting of the toilets 7 days a week, and to report and deal with any maintenance/vandalism issues.”

CARRIED 9 in favour, 1 against (Mr. Bennett)

11. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Dr. Walker proposed and Mrs. Wedderburn seconded:

“That the Parish Council approves the payment list (Vouchers 99 to 148) and notes the receipt list (Vouchers 9 to 14).”

CARRIED unanimously

12. **INFORMATION REPORT – The following was noted:**

- (a) Kent Downs Orchid newsletter – Summer 2013
- (b) Kent Wildlife Trust magazine – Summer 2013
- (c) National Association of Local Councils – Direct Information Service – Issue 813-816
- (d) Campaign to Protect Rural England – Countryside Voice – Summer 2013
- (e) Remembrance Day Parade – Sunday, 10th November 2013.
- (f) The London Green Belt Council – Minutes of the last meeting.
- (g) Society of Local Council Clerks – The Clerk magazine – September 2013
- (h) Clerks & Councils Direct – September 2013
- (i) Change in Post Office Network – There would be a public consultation on proposed changes to the Post Office network in the Sevenoaks Area.
- (j) Sevenoaks District Seniors Action Forum – Newsletter September 2013
- (k) Kent Association of Local Councils – Parish Newsletter August 2013
- (l) Childsbridge Lane pedestrian crossing – Councillors noted an update received from Seal Parish Council.

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

Mrs. Cole was pleased to announce that the Parish Council’s accounts had been passed by the External Auditor with no queries.

14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

16th October 2013.

The meeting closed at 8.32 p.m.

Signed : Chairman

Date :