

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of a meeting held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing,
on Wednesday, 16 October 2013 at 7.30 p.m.**

- PRESENT: Mrs. M. Cole (in the Chair)
Mr. A. Andrews, 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,
Mrs. R. Wedderburn
- IN ATTENDANCE: 1 Member of the Public
Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)
- APOLOGIES: None

1. **MINUTES**

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Parish Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2013, Ref KPC/10/2013, subject to the following amendments:-

Page 1, Item 2(f) – replace 'logged' with 'lodged'

Page 3, Item 6(b) – replace 'who' with 'which'

Page 4, Item 10 – Mr. Bennett was against, not abstaining".

CARRIED unanimously

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(a) Bus shelter at Greenlands Road (Minute 2(a) KPC/10/2013)

The bus shelter had been installed and a letter of appreciation from the Noah's Ark Residents' Association was noted. An application had been submitted for the Kent County Council Parish Bus Stop Shelter Grant Scheme on 8th October 2013 and a reply was awaited.

(b) Councillor Casual Vacancy (Minute 2(b) KPC/10/2013)

Advice received from Sevenoaks District Council Electoral Services Manager regarding possible reduction of the number of Parish Councillors was noted. SDC could consider change to membership numbers at any time, but such changes would not come into effect until the next ordinary election, i.e. May 2015. The Parish Council also has to justify the proposed reduction of the number of Parish Councillors, including evidence of a consultation with parishioners.

Mr. Croughton reminded the Council that, prior to the mid 1970's, there had only been 11 Councillors, and the decision was made to increase the number to 13 during a time when the Parish Council had been engaged a number of major projects at the time. The number could revert to 11.

RESOLVED: No further action to be taken at this stage.

(c) Recycling units in village car park (Minute 2(e) KPC/10/2013)

Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) was asked on 20th September 2012 to consider contacting the land owner to ask whether the concrete base could be removed and two car park spaces created. SDC replied on 8th October 2013 that a final decision had not been made, however, SDC acknowledged that the car park does not generate any income for SDC and consequently any form of expenditure on their part, would be minimised.

(d) Sevenoaks District Seniors Action Forum (SDSAF)– Public Access Defibrillator (Minute 7 KPC/10/2013)

The Parish Council's request to obtain two defibrillators was rejected as only one per Parish was available.

RESOLVED: To arrange a meeting with the SDSAF to progress the matter.

- (e) St. Edith Hall Management Committee – request for lease with Kemsing Boxing Club (Minute 8 KPC/10/2013)
Further details of the proposed lease would be supplied to the Parish Council at a future meeting.
- (f) St. Edith Road – proposed name change (Minute 2(f) KPC/10/2013 & Minute 4 (c) KPC/08/2013)
Both Royal Mail and SDC had confirmed that the correct spelling of the road is St. Ediths Road. SDC had checked the historic data which reflected the name as St. Ediths Road. Royal Mail had advised that they were not responsible for third party companies who might have updated their own databases to show a different listing. The Parish Council's request to amend the street name was therefore unsuccessful.

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

There were no questions from the public and press.

4. **COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS**

(a) Planning Committee

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:

"That the Parish Council accepts the minutes of the meeting held on 16th September 2013, Ref No P/12/2013."

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

"That the Parish Council accepts the minutes of the meeting held on 30th September 2013, Ref No P/13/2013."

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Downland Management Committee

Mr. Bennett proposed and Mr. Buttifant seconded:

"That the Parish Council accepts the minutes of the meeting held on 26th September 2013, Ref No DM/03/2013."

CARRIED unanimously

(c) Recreation Grounds Committee

Mrs. Dickinson proposed and Mrs. Wedderburn seconded:

"That the Parish Council accepts the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd October 2013, Ref No RG/05/2013."

CARRIED unanimously

(d) Report from Chairman

Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) : CPRE Sevenoaks Protect Kent invited a Kemsing resident to put his/her name forward to replace Mr. D. Eley as Kemsing's representative on CPRE's Sevenoaks Protect Kent Committee.

(e) Reports from Parish Councillors

Claimed Restricted Byway from Pilgrims Way at Kemsing to Tinkerpot Lane and St. Clere Hill at West Kingsdown (SD283 & SD284):

Mr. Buttifant reported that an application had been made to modify the legal record of Public Rights of Way to record as a restricted Byway (which provides the right of way for the public on foot, on horseback or leading a horse and in a non-mechanically propelled vehicle). Mr. Buttifant, in his capacity as Footpaths Officer, objected to the proposed change on safety grounds as the path exits onto the Pilgrims Way at the southern end, near a bend with a poor sight line.

The Parish Council fully endorsed the objection.

(f) Reports from District Councillors

District Councillor Miss L. Stack reported to the Clerk that all the previous reported matters were being progressed and that there were no new matters to report on. There was no report received from District Councillor Mr. M. Butler.

5. DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

(a) Remembrance Day – donation for wreath

The Council was asked to consider a donation towards the wreath for this year's Remembrance Day.

RESOLVED: A donation of £60 will be made towards the cost of the wreath.

6. CONSULTATIONS

No consultations had been received.

7. DOG FOULING ON THE COMMON FIELD RECREATION GROUND

The Parish Council considered a letter dated 7th October 2013 received from Mr. B. Banister, circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting, regarding the increase of dog fouling on the Recreation Ground. Mr. Banister offered various solutions and asked the Parish Council to consider those.

Mrs. Wedderburn thanked Mr. Banister for writing to the Parish Council and reminded Members that the Recreation Grounds Committee had investigated this matter in March 2011, following receipt of complaints regarding excessive dog fouling incidents on the Common Field Recreation Ground. At that time, Mrs. Wedderburn had carried out an extensive study, including discussions with the SDC Animal Welfare Officer, to find out what course of action could be taken to alleviate the problem. Some of the options included providing "dog toilet boxes" which is basically an enclosed sand pit where dogs can be allowed to go. Some Councils used fluorescent paint which is sprayed on the excrement to highlight where it is whilst others have used small flags. At the time, the Recreation Grounds Committee did not progress the matter further.

Dog fouling is a problem throughout the whole village. Mrs. Wedderburn said that the Parish Council already supply many dog waste bins and also signs to remind people of their responsibility, but this is clearly not effective enough and in her opinion, campaigning to raise awareness might be a solution. It was hoped that it might change people's behaviour when they are informed of the potential dangers to others, particularly young children if they do not clear up after their dogs.

Mrs. Wedderburn urged the Parish Council to consider producing "hard hitting" flyers detailing the facts, including penalties, etc. and suggested, as Mr. Banister asked, that volunteers 'man the entrance gates' to the Recreation Grounds and Nature Reserve, to talk to dog owners and to hand out leaflets and plastic bags.

RESOLVED: Mrs. Wedderburn to lead a working group, together with Mrs. Dickinson and Mr. Andrews. The Group to set up a campaign against dog fouling in the village. This would include preparing relevant leaflets and arranging sessions to hand out leaflets to dog walkers on Recreation Grounds and Kemsing Down Nature Reserve entrances. Posters to be displayed on the Parish Council's notice boards and various field gate entrances will also be produced. Funding to support printing leaflets and posters were approved.

8. PUBLICATION SCHEME

The current Publication Scheme, adopted in January 2009, was reviewed with no changes.

9. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Mr. Eaton proposed and Dr. Walker seconded:-

"That the Parish Council approves the list of payments (Vouchers 149–174) and to note the list of receipts (Vouchers 15-18), and to approve the following Bank transfers:-

£5,000 from Precept to Reserve Fund {Annual repayment of playground equipment}

£6,000 from Precept to Reserve Fund {Annual repayment for possible car park project}

£5,600 from Reserve Fund to Precept {Refurbishment of the Gents' toilets – St. Edith Hall}."

CARRIED unanimously

10. **INFORMATION REPORT - To following was noted:**
- (a) National Association of Local Councils – Direct Information Service – Issues 817, 818 & 819
 - (b) Sevenoaks District Community Safety Partnership – Community Safety Newsletter – September 2013.
 - (c) Action with Communities in Rural Kent – Oast to Oast newsletter and Invitation to Annual General Meeting.
 - (d) Home Instead Senior Care – Invitation to attend a free Dementia Workshop for Family Carers
 - (e) Sevenoaks District Council Community Grant Scheme 2014/15 – The scheme is now open to application from voluntary organisations that provide help and services for residents in the District.
 - (f) Department for Communities and Local Government - Openness and transparency on personal interests (A guide for Councillors – September 2013)
11. **MATTERS TO BE RAISED AT THE NEXT MEETING & GOOD NEWS**
None.
12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
20th November 2013.

The meeting closed at 8.14 p.m.

Signed : Chairman

Date :