

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of a Meeting held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing,
on Wednesday, 23rd January 2008 at 8.04 p.m.**

- PRESENT: Mrs. M. Cole (in the Chair)
Mr. D. Bennett, Mr. P. Burfield, Mr. B. Buttifant, Mr. G. Croughton,
Mr. R. Dawes, Mrs. K. Kelly, Mr. S. Smith, Mr. A. Waters
- IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. E. Moore (District Councillor)
PCSO S. Harwood
2 Members of the Public
Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)
- APOLOGIES: Dr. P. Walker
Mr. I. Rungay
Miss L. Stack (District Councillor)

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

1. **MINUTES**

Mrs. Cole proposed that the Parish Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th November 2007, Reference **KPC/11/07**, subject to the following amendments and minor text amendments:-

Page 1 – 2nd Paragraph – 5th Line : “compliment” should read “complement”

Page 2 – Item 2 (b) – 1st Line : “Diocese” should read “Diocesan”

Page 2 – Item 2 (c) – 9th Line : “Mr. Croughton” should read “Mr. Croughton”

Page 6 - Item 8 : PCC should read "Church"

CARRIED unanimously

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(a) PCSO – Police Community Support Officer (See Minute 2 (a) KPC/11/07)

Councillors noted that, following the meeting with the Police Force Solicitor on 22nd November, a revised contract had been received. It appeared that some of the concerns raised by Seal and Kemsing Parish Councils (and previously agreed by the Police Force), had not been incorporated in the revised contract. Mr. Bennett and the Clerk had discussed this latest revised contract and had made further amendments, together with Seal Parish Council. Both Parish Councils' comments had been compiled into one document, which had been forwarded to the Police Force Solicitor.

(b) WI Seat (See Minute 2(b) KPC/11/07)

A faculty had been obtained and Mr. McIntyre would be asked to install the seat. The exact location could not be confirmed by Mr. Waters, but it was hoped that it would be in a location where it would benefit from sunshine. The Parish Council was very appreciative that progress had been made.

(c) Long term storage of village archives (See Minute 2 (c) KPC/11/07)

The Clerk had written to the Kemsing Heritage Centre Association on 11th January 2008, requesting them to confirm their understanding of the agreement between the Parish Council and themselves in writing.

Mr. Croughton referred to the recent increase of vandalism attacks on the Public Toilets in the car park. He thought the building could be considered for an archive store should Sevenoaks District Council ever close the toilets.

District Councillor Moore advised that Sevenoaks District Council was currently reviewing the Public Toilet facilities in the district.

Mr. Smith asked if the room in St. Edith Hall (which is currently being refurbished) could be used for storing archives. Mrs. Cole indicated that the room was not intended to be used as a storage facility, but would be available for hire as a meeting room in the future when refurbishment had been completed.

(d) Land in West End (opposite the Library) (See Minute 2 (d) KPC/11/07)

The cost of replacing the existing fence was expected to be in excess of £1,000. In accordance with the Parish Council's Financial Regulations dated 20th July 2006, three quotations should be obtained wherever possible. Kent Highway Services (KHS) advised that only a KHS approved contractor could carry out the work on the footpath. One new quotation had been obtained and KHS had provided a list of their approved fencing contractors. The Clerk was hoping to produce three quotations for consideration at the next meeting.

(e) Kemsing Parish Council Website (See Minute 2 (e) KPC/11/07)

Kent County Council (KCC) had advised there had been significant improvements to the KCC Parish Website service, which contained the usual existing features, but also included extra facilities. A messaging forum which enables you to interact and publish comments and questions from members of the public, had also been introduced. Kemsing Parish Council's website had been phased over to the new site in early January 2008. The Clerk had been making good progress with completing stage one of Mr. Rungay's recommendation, which would be reviewed towards the end of March 2008.

(f) Amendments to Standing Orders (See Minute 2(f) KPC/11/07)

The working group met on Wednesday, 16th January. A draft copy would be distributed to Members before the full Council Meeting in February for debate thereat. Mrs. Cole thanked Mr. Burfield, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Croughton and Mr. Dawes for the time and interest spent on this matter.

(g) Village Sign (See Minute 2 (g) KPC/11/07)

Mr. Waters said that a quotation had been obtained to repeat the existing village sign on the opposite side, to make a "double-sided" sign. *It was agreed that the Village Sign Working Group would arrange a meeting to discuss the current village sign together with consideration of a new sign and a report be presented to full Council at the February meeting. Mr. Dawes agreed to join the Group.*

(h) Bus service from Kemsing (See Minute 2 (h) KPC/11/07)

Mr. Croughton referred to a letter received from Arriva in response to complaints from two residents. A meeting had been arranged with County Councillor, Mr. N. Chard and the Transport Planner from Kent County Council on Tuesday, 29th January 2008 to discuss the possibility of reinstating a service between Kemsing and Otford. Mr. Croughton hoped to report back with progress on this matter at the next Parish Council Meeting.

(i) Barnfield Crescent – Retained Housing Estate Land (See Minute 2 (i) KPC/11/07)

The Clerk reported that the paper work had been received on 23rd January. It was agreed that this would be progressed at the Meeting in February.

(j) Alder Tree - The Well Area (See Minute 3 (j) KPC/11/07)

Members noted that permission to remove the tree had been sought from SDC on 9th January 2008. A reply was awaited.

- (k) Petition - Junction Childsbridge Lane, Dynes Road & West End (See Minute 2 (k) KPC/11/07)

Members noted that the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board (SJTB) Committee had agreed on 12th December 2007 that Kent Highway Services would continue to carry out the assessment and collection of traffic data. This information would be assessed and included in the 2009/10 programme, should the scheme meet the criteria. An outline scheme would be available at the March 2008 (SJTB) Meeting.

- (l) NHS-Preliminary consent application to open a Pharmacy in Kemsing (See Minute 2 (m) KPC/11/07)

Kent Primary Care Agency advised that a meeting would be held on Wednesday, 13th February at their office in Maidstone when all the parties consulted would be able to make further comments to the Chairman of the Pharmaceutical Regulations Committee. A decision on the application would be made by members of the Pharmaceutical Regulations Committee later that same day.

It was agreed that Mr. Tony Andrews would be asked whether he would be willing to represent the Council.

3. COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS

- (a) Planning Committee

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:

"That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd December 2007, Reference P/17/2007, previously circulated, be approved."

CARRIED unanimously

- (b) Planning Committee

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:

"That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17th December 2007, Reference P/18/2007, previously circulated, be approved."

CARRIED unanimously

- (c) Finance Committee

Mr. Burfield proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

"That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th December 2007, Reference F/110/07, previously circulated, be approved, with the exclusion of Item 8."

CARRIED unanimously

Precept (Item 8)

Mr. Burfield proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:

"That the Council approve a precept of £62,000 for the year 2008/09."

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Burfield reported on a letter received from Sevenoaks District Council. Parish Council had the opportunity to delay receipt of precept through a facility whereby they could acquire interest on the retained funds until it is paid out at agreed times later in the year. Interest would be calculated and added to the precept payment. *It was agreed that this offer would be declined.*

The Chairman proposed to adjourn the meeting and invite PCSO Harwood to address the Parish Council. No objections were received and PCSO Harwood was invited to speak.

PCSO Harwood talked about how anti-social behaviour was rapidly increasing in the village. She referred to a recent incident that occurred in The Well area. Following this, PCSO Harwood regretted to inform that the Police had to withdraw their support for the proposed new youth club.

Mrs. Cole said that not all young people were involved in anti-social behaviour and perhaps offenders could be excluded from the youth club.

Mrs. Cole invited a local resident to address the Parish Council.

The resident informed the Parish Council that he and his family had suffered repulsive verbal abuse from some of the youth on various occasions, and referred to the recent incident mentioned by PCSO Harwood. He explained that he had seen four young people near his vehicle in the road and he subsequently asked them to leave, which resulted in the youths shouting verbal abuse at him. Later that same evening, around sixteen young people, some of them clearly intoxicated, appeared in various areas surrounding his property, shouting appalling abuse. This resident told the Parish Council that he was extremely concerned that even worse could happen if this behaviour is not controlled. He asked the Parish Council if they would support a dispersal order to be obtained to ban the youths from congregating in The Well area.

It was agreed that a meeting would be arranged without delay with Chief Inspector Gill Ellis to discuss the options available. District Councillor Moore wished to attend this meeting.

PCSO Harwood asked that every incident be recorded and reported to the Police. PCSO Harwood and District Councillor Moore.

9.20 p.m. Mr. Dawes, PCSO Harwood and District Councillor Moore left the Meeting.

The Chairman reconvened the Meeting.

(d) Report from Chairman

Senior Citizen Christmas Dinner: The Oaks Christmas Dinner Steering Group thanked the Parish Council for its donation towards the Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner, held on 1st December 2007. *The Clerk was asked to enquire what were the Steering Group's selection criteria for people invited to the lunch.*

Kent Village of the Year: An application from had been received from Action with Communities in Rural Kent.

Rural Community Retailer of 2008: An application form to nominate a rural retailer had been received from Action with Communities in Rural Kent. The idea was to raise the profile of village shops, post offices or farm shops in the local community that they serve. Mr. Buttifant was interested to investigate this further.

Working with Kent Probation Community Payback Scheme: This scheme had been introduced to help offenders carry out unpaid work as part of their community service. The Kent Probations Community Payback Team is currently looking for indoor painting and decorating projects, such as village halls or similar venues. Mrs. Cole would advise the St. Edith Hall Management Committee.

Springtime Super Quiz: The Town Major and Mayoress of Sevenoaks invited the Parish Council to provide a team for a fund raising quiz on Saturday, 9th February. Anyone interested should contact the Clerk.

(e) Reports from Councillors

Mr. Waters reported reading an article in the press recently which indicated that Councils would be consulted on the issues relating to heavy goods vehicles using narrow country lanes, in particular foreign vehicles using the satellite navigation system.

The Clerk would enquire whether Sevenoaks District Council had received any consultation documents and, if so, to make them aware of the existing problems experienced from time to time in the village when heavy good vehicles use Pilgrims Way and West End to reach Chaucer Business Estate.

Mr. Buttifant reported that a request had been received from the Noah's Ark Residents' Association to reinstate the fence at the entrance to Cockney's Wood, from Noah's Ark Road. Contractors repairing the railway fence recently had damaged the footpath and adjacent fence when they drove their vehicle along the footpath to reach the railway fence.

This resulted in the footpath being in a very poor state. It is now also widened to three times its original width. The Clerk had reported this to the Public Rights of Way Officer at Kent County Council and also contacted the Contractor, who promised that they would try to reinstate the footpath to the best of their ability.

4. **PLAY PLACE - YOUTH CLUB**

The Clerk reported on discussions she had with both Westerham and Seal Parish Councils to find out how the Parish Councils assisted with the scheme in the respective villages. A very positive and encouraging response had been received from Westerham Parish Council, who confirmed that they were exceptionally pleased with the youth club services delivered by Mr. Chris Hennis from Play Place. In fact, one session a week had recently been increased to two sessions a week. A noticeable reduction in anti-social behaviour in Westerham was observed.

Councillors felt that the proposed youth club would be beneficial to Kemsing. *The Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with Mr. Hennis to discuss the scheme in detail, which would be reported back to the Parish Council for consideration at the February Meeting.*

9.40 p.m. Mr. Dawes returned to the Meeting.

5. **LEISURE PLOTS 184 & 185 PILGRIMS WAY**

Members noted an email dated 6th December received from the Bank of Cyprus UK, enquiring whether the Parish Council was interested in purchasing the two plots. It is the Parish Council's policy to purchase plots that becomes available.

Mr. Bennett proposed and Mr. Waters seconded:

"That the Parish Council purchase the two leisure plots 184 & 185, Pilgrims Way for the sum of £200."

CARRIED unanimously

6. **CAR PARK LIGHTS** (Reference Recreation Grounds Committee Minutes RG/27/2007)

The Clerk met with a qualified electrician, who submitted a quotation (£548) for a proposed new lighting and control system to the car park lights at the Common Field. Formal permission was received from the Kemsing Lawn Tennis Club for the necessary work to be carried out.

Mrs. Cole proposed from the Chair:

"That the Parish Council accepts the quotation received from DSS Limited for £548 + VAT £95.90, to install two new sodium lights and timer to provide lighting for the tennis court car park."

CARRIED unanimously

7. **BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

7.1 Annual Return

The Audit Commission approved the Annual Return for the financial year ending 31st March 2007, and public notices would be displayed.

7.2 Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting would be held on Wednesday, **19th March 2007**. It was agreed that the Clerk would prepare a Newsletter (which would be hand delivered to every household in the village). The newsletter would include the statutory notice of the Annual Parish Meeting. The Clerk would prepare a draft for consideration at the February Meeting.

7.3 Power of wellbeing: What it means for Parish Councils

Councillors noted a new Local Government Bill – “The power of well-being”, which would significantly increase the Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 power of eligible Parish Councils. The precise criteria for the new power are currently being discussed and once the local government bill passes into law, all Parish Councils would have the opportunity to apply for the new power.

8. **LOCAL WORKS - SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES BILL (KPC/02/07 Item 3(e.3))**

Members noted information from Local Works promoting the Sustainable Communities Bill advising that it became law and is now an Act of Parliament. The Parish Council also noted that Michael Fallon MP was promoting the Planning and Energy Bill.

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

Questions from Members of the Public were taken during the Meeting, at the Chairman’s discretion.

10. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Mr Burfield proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

"That the Council approve the payment list (Vouchers 277,297-301, 303-306, 309-336, and payment of £76.37 to Stanley Berwick for replacing roof tiles) and note the receipt list (Vouchers 275,276,278,279,302,307,308)."

CARRIED unanimously

11. **INFORMATION REPORT**

Members noted the Information Report, and the papers referred to, were laid on the table.

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

13. **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:**

28th January 2008 : Planning
6th February 2008 : Highways
11th February 2008 : Planning
20th February 2008: Parish Council
25th February 2008: Planning
27th February 2008: Downland Management

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 10.02 p.m.