

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of a Meeting held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing,
on Wednesday, 18 February 2009 at 8.02 p.m.**

PRESENT: Mr. P. Burfield (in the Chair)
Mr. D. Bennett, Mr. B. Buttifant, Mr. G. Croughton, Mr. R. Dawes,
Mrs. W. Ross, Mr. I Rumgay, Mr. S. Smith, Dr. P. Walker,
Mr. A. Waters

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Mrs. M. Cole

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

1. **MINUTES**

Mr. Burfield proposed:

"That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 January 2009, Reference KPC/01/09, previously circulated, be approved."

CARRIED unanimously

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- (a) Barnfield Crescent – Retained Housing Estate Land (Minute 2 (a) KPC/01/09)
The Title Information Document and the Official Copy Entries had been received. Members noted the Clerk's Report dated 10 February 2009 confirming that the Parish Council's Insurers had indicated that no additional premium would be required to include this land under the Parish Council's Public Liability Insurance.
- (b) Pedestrian Crossing - Junction Childsbridge Lane, Dynes Road & West End (Minute 2 (b) KPC/01/09)
Members noted details (previously circulated) of the proposed scheme, which was that a "zebra crossing" be constructed on the south side of the crossroads.
- (c) Leisure plots 184 & 185 (Minute 2(c) KPC/01/09)
No further progress was reported.
- (d) Review of the Kemsing Play Areas (Minute 2(d) KPC/01/09)
Mrs. Ross reported that 76 responses had been received and a summary, which would be presented at the next Recreation Grounds Committee Meeting, had been prepared. Mr. Rumgay was surprised by the "short" consultation period (2 weeks), and felt that a higher number of responses would have been received if the consultation period had been longer. Mrs. Ross responded that the time-table had been agreed by the Play Area Working Group at a previous meeting to ensure that the summary would be available for the Annual Parish Meeting.

(e) Archive Store KHC (Minute 2(e) KPC/01/09)

Mr. Burfield informed the Council that the Clerk had been corresponding with the Parish Council's Solicitor to make arrangements for the preparation of the Lease. Members noted that the Solicitor's initial charge for preparing the Lease would be between £600 to £800.

Mr. Burfield proposed:

"That the Parish Council agrees to fund the preparation of the Lease and accept the charges quoted by the Solicitor."

CARRIED unanimously

(f) Paragliding from Green Hill (Minute 2(f) KPC/01/09)

A valid insurance document had been received and examined by Mr. Bennett and the Clerk. It was pointed out to the Paragliding Club that the Parish Council hold a limit of £5 million in respect of Third Party Insurance and that the Club's Third Party Insurance should match this. The Club replied that it would cost each club member an additional premium of £30 per annum to arrange a £5 million Third Party Liability. It was agreed that the £2 million cover would be acceptable.

Mr. Burfield proposed:

"That the Parish Council accepts the Club's £2 million liability, and that the Parish Council agrees to permit the Club to use the land as per the pre-agreed terms."

CARRIED 7 in favour, 2 against (Mr. Bennett, Dr. Walker), 1 abstaining (Mr. Rungay)

(g) Parish Councillor vacancy (Minute 3(c) KPC/01/09)

Sevenoaks District Council had been advised of Mrs. Kelly's resignation and a public notice had been displayed on the village notice boards, advising that an election would be held to fill the vacancy, if ten electors request one. The notice would expire on 23 February 2009.

(h) Proposed closure of public conveniences in Kemsing car park (Minute 3(c) KPC/01/09)

Members considered the request from Sevenoaks District Council for the Parish Council to take over ownership of the public conveniences in Kemsing. Correspondence from both District Councillors were noted.

Mr. Burfield informed the Parish Council that he and the Clerk had met with the Sevenoaks District Council's Head of Environmental and Operational Services, Mr. R. Wilson, on Monday, 9 February 2009, to discuss the request. Mr. Wilson explained that the proposed closure was a decision made by the Cabinet and gave a brief outline of the charges and costs involved. Mr. Burfield asked Mr. Wilson to defer the proposed closure until such time as the Parish Council had an opportunity to consider the matter in detail. In response Mr. Wilson said that the Cabinet would meet on Monday, 23 February, and asked for the Parish Council's response by that time. Mr. Bennett proposed and Mr. Rungay seconded:

"To note that the Parish Council is very disappointed with the position taken by District Councillor Moore in relation to the proposed closure of the public toilets in Kemsing."

4 in favour, 5 against – *The proposal fell*

Mr. Croughton proposed and Mr. Waters seconded:

"That the Parish Council reply to Sevenoaks District Council that the Parish Council is not prepared to take over full responsibility for the maintenance of the toilets, as it is the Parish Council's view that the principal beneficiaries are tourists and educational parties. However, if Kent County Council is prepared to fund the facility through their Tourism budget, the Parish Council would give favourable consideration to making a modest contribution."

CARRIED 8 in favour, 2 against (Mr. Dawes, Mr. Smith)

(i) Requests for salt/grit bins (Minute 3(d) KPC/01/09)

Two requests from residents to install salt bins were noted. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council did not have a specific statutory power to install salt bins, and that payments towards these costs could only be considered under Section 137.

Mr. Burfield proposed:

"It is the Parish Council's view that Kent Highway Services are responsible for installing grit bins as the Parish Council does not have a specific statutory power for this expenditure. Future requests for salt bins would be forwarded to Kent Highway Services."

CARRIED unanimously

(j) Freedom of Information Act - Publication Scheme (Minute 6 KPC/01/09)

The draft prepared by the Clerk was approved after a few minor amendments.

Mr. Burfield proposed:

"That the document be included on the Parish Council's website."

CARRIED unanimously

3. **COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS**

(a) Planning Committee

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Smith seconded:

"That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 January 2009, Reference P/01/2009, previously circulated, be approved."

CARRIED unanimously

Planning Committee

Mr. Waters proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:

"That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 February 2009, Reference P/02/2009, previously circulated, be approved."

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Croughton drew attention to Item 6(c). Mr. Croughton and Mr. Waters had represented the Parish Council at the recent Planning Conference at Otford held on Wednesday, 11 February 2009. There were three workshops after the presentations and Mr. Croughton was particularly interested in the Rural Housing workshop, led by Mr. G. Misson (Service Manager, Housing Policy Community & Planning Services at Sevenoaks District Council).

Mr. Croughton outlined the Parish Council's experience with affordable housing and the reason for not pursuing it, which was the lack of guarantee that the proposed dwellings would be retained to meet local needs in the future. Mr. Croughton was advised that this decision by Government had been abandoned and he was assured that affordable housing built on "exception sites" in the Green Belt could be kept to meet local needs indefinitely.

Mr. Croughton proposed and Mr. Waters seconded:

"That the Chairman of the Parish Council, the Chairman of the Planning Committee, the Clerk and one other Councillor, meet with Mr. Misson from Sevenoaks District Council to discuss the possibility of affordable housing in Kemsing in light of this new information."

CARRIED 7 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions

- (b) Finance Committee
Mr. Burfield proposed :
"That the Minutes of the Special Meeting held on 4 February 2009, Reference F/114/09, previously circulated, be approved."

Item 2(a) was considered and the following recommendation was made:

- *"That the funds from the City Asset Management Account, maturing in March, be transferred to a new 30 Day Notice Deposit account.*
- *That the remaining interest received on the City Asset Management Account be transferred to the Co-operative Account for transfer to the new Deposit account."*

CARRIED unanimously

- (c) Downland Management Committee
Mr. Bennett proposed and Mr. Buttifant seconded:
"That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 November 2008, Reference DM/04/08, previously circulated, be approved."
CARRIED unanimously

9.08 p.m. [Mr. Dawes briefly left the Meeting.]

- (d) Report from Chairman
An invitation was received from Kent Wildlife Trust to attend their Supporter Days. Members were asked to contact the Clerk for more information if they were interested to attend.
An invitation from Action with Communities in Rural Kent to attend a seminar to raise climate change awareness, was noted.
The invitation from Action with Communities in Kent for the Retailer of the Year competition was noted.
Mr. Croughton would represent the Parish Council at the service of Licensing of the Revd. James R. Oakley on Monday 23rd February at 7.30 p.m.

- (e) Reports from Councillors
No reports were received.

4. REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

- (a) The London Green Belt Council - Request for annual subscription

Mr. Burfield proposed:
"That the annual subscription of £10 be renewed."
CARRIED unanimously

- (b) Action with Communities in Rural Kent - Invitation to join
Members considered the invitation to join the Action with Communities in Rural Kent.
Mr. Burfield proposed:
"That the Parish Council declines this invitation."
CARRIED unanimously

5. CALOR KENT VILLAGE OF THE YEAR 2009 COMPETITION

The Parish Council was invited to enter the Village of the Year competition.
Mr. Burfield proposed:
"That the Parish Council declines this invitation."
CARRIED unanimously

6. ACTION WITH COMMUNITIES IN RURAL KENT - PARISH PLAN

Members noted an invitation from Action with Communities in Rural Kent to attend a workshop to find out more about Parish Plans, which was declined.

Members agreed not to reply to the survey received from Action with Communities in Rural Kent to establish why parishes in Kent were reluctant to produce community action plans.

7. BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

7.1 Annual Parish Meeting

Members approved the draft of the Annual Parish Meeting Notice after minor alterations. Distribution to be undertaken by Councillors.

7.2 Bank Mandate

It was agreed that Ms. Hawker, Mr. Rungay, Mr. Smith and Dr. Walker would be signatories on the Bank Mandate for the account held with the Co-operative Bank. The Clerk would make the necessary arrangements.

8. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC & PRESS

There were no questions from Members of the Public and Press.

9. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Mr. Burfield proposed:

"That the Parish Council approves the payment list (Vouchers 304 - 318 & 322) and payment of £63.00 (Postage), £95.00 (Mr. J. Farrow - Village Tidiness) and £58.30 (Mr. J. McIntyre - gravel at entrance to Common Field) and to note the receipt list (Vouchers 319 - 321)."

CARRIED unanimously

10. INFORMATION REPORT

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

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

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

11 March 2009

The Meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.