

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of a Meeting held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing,
on Wednesday, 14th March 2007 at 8.00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Mrs. M. Cole (in the Chair)
Mr. D. Bennett, Mr. P. Burfield, Mr. B. Buttifant, Mr. G. Croughton,
Mr. R. Dawes, Mr. I. Rungay, Mr. A. Waters

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Mr. A. Andrews, Mr. P. Kendall
Ms. L. Stack (District Councillor)

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

Mr. Waters & Mr. Buttifant expressed prejudicial interests in item 2 (c) as being Trustees of the Kemsing Heritage Centre Association.

1. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st February 2007, Reference **KPC/02/07**, having been previously circulated, were approved subject to the following amendment:-

Page 3, Item 3(b) - Include before the last paragraph: ***"Mr. Rungay raised the matter of raw sewage escaping from the drain on Footpath SR35, west of the Youth Hostel."***

CARRIED unanimously

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(a) PCSO – Police Community Support Officer (See Minute 2 (a) KPC/02/07)

Mr. Pankhurst advised the Clerk, that the Force's position on employing PCSO's would hopefully be clarified within a month or so and confirmed that every effort would be made to support partners that had already expressed an interest. Kemsing Parish Council's comments regarding the Agreement had been forwarded to Mr. Pankhurst, who would refer these back to their Legal Department, where after a suitable meeting would be arranged to discuss the proposed amendments.

Mr. Burfield, who attended a meeting of the Kent Association of Parish Councils (KAPC) recently, said that many Parish Councils had complained about the delay in deployment of PCSO's. KAPC had formally invited the Chief Superintendent of the West Kent Division to clarify the situation.

(b) WI Seat (See Minute 2 (d) KPC/02/07)

A faculty was awaited from the Diocesan Advisory Committee and Mr. Waters had been asked to chase this up.

(c) Long term storage of village archives (See Minute 2 (e) KPC/02/07)

Councillors noted the notes of the meeting held on 13th February 2007, and the request from the Kemsing Heritage Centre dated 24th February.

The report of the meeting held on 13th March 2007 (passed to Councillors at the Meeting), indicated the size and dimensions of the proposed building (20 by 10 foot), which would be divided in half, creating a 10 by 10 foot area for storage of village archives, supervised by the Heritage Centre Association. Part of this area could be made available for storage of Parish Council archives. The remaining section would provide exclusive use for the Hall Management Committee. Mr. Bennett was not convinced of the need for the half of the proposed building not allocated to the Heritage Centre Association and was concerned that the cost of that part would fall on the Parish Council. Mrs. Cole thought that it would provide a sensible solution for storing the Parish Council's documents, which are currently being stored in a hireable area in the Small Hall.

Mr. Burfield felt that this matter needed progressing and suggested that the working group formulate proper proposals for a debate.

Mr. Croughton said that the Kemsing Heritage Centre Association had access to grants. As a first step, Mr. Croughton asked assurance from the Parish Council to consider providing financial assistance for the construction of the portion of the building, which would be utilised by the Kemsing Heritage Centre Association. The next stage would be to draw up detailed plans for consideration.

Mr. Rungay proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:

"That the Parish Council supports in principle the proposal of having a storage area in a new building at the rear of St. Edith Hall and would consider funding a contribution at the appropriate time."

Mr. Burfield added the following to the proposal and Mr. Croughton seconded:-

"and that the Parish Council will take this opportunity to look at its storage needs."

The proposal, as amended was

CARRIED 5 in favour, 1 against (Mr. Bennett), 2 abstentions (Messrs. Buttifant & Waters)

- (d) Land in West End (opposite the Library) (See Minute 5 KPC/02/07)
A response was awaited from Kent County Council regarding the extension of the post and rail.
- (e) Kemsing Parish Council Website (See Minute 11 KPC/02/07)
Mr. Burfield would report at the Meeting in April.
- (f) Amendments to Standing Orders (See Minute 2(f) KPC/02/07)
The working group would be appointed at the Parish Council's May Meeting.

3. **COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS**

(a) Planning Committee

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:-

"That the Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th February 2007, Reference P/02/2007, previously circulated."

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Downland Management

Mr. Bennett proposed and Mr. Buttifant seconded:-

"That the Parish Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th March 2007, Reference DM/02/07, previously circulated."

Mr. Bennett drew attention to Item 3(a) and said that in his view, the Parish Council should pursue the removal of the tree.

It was agreed that an objection would be made on the following grounds:-

- The tree is too large for the site
- The tree is growing and it would be more expensive to remove it later
- The roots may possibly damage The Well structure
- Inform SDC that KPC intends to replace the tree with a tree more suitable to the site
- An opinion from Down to Earth would be obtained on the inclination of the tree

Mr. Rumgay was of the opinion that the tree roots of the Alder Tree had contributed to the dry condition of The Well.

CARRIED unanimously

(c) Chairman's Report

- (1) Mrs. Cole reported that Mr. Bannister offered to clean the gravel in the stream by damming and releasing water from The Well. *AGREED.*
- (2) Mrs. Cole reported that the Chairman of Sevenoaks District Council, Mrs. Allison Cook and her husband, visited the parish on Friday, 2nd March. A tour through the village was arranged which Mrs. Cole, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Buttifant and the Clerk attended. Mrs. Cook sent a letter of thanks.
- (3) The Chairman referred to the news release dated 20th February 2007 from Kent Police. *Mr. Croughton proposed that a letter be sent to PC Wilkinson's superiors, commending his actions and thanking him for his assistance and commitment. AGREED.*
- (4) Councillors noted an invitation from The Rural Housing Trust to attend an 'Open House' day in Leigh on Wednesday, 28th March 2007.
- (5) Members noted the invitation from Sevenoaks District Council to attend the DisabledGo information day on 16th March 2007 at the Sevenoaks Leisure Centre.
- (6) The hosepipe bans had been lifted on 28th February 2007.
- (7) A letter from Sevenoaks District Council, advising that the Gambling Statement can now be viewed on Sevenoaks District Council's website.
- (8) Mrs. Cole reminded the Christmas light working group it had not moved forward with the proposed external electrical socket as agreed with the Licensee of The Bell.
- (9) Mrs. Cole reminded the village sign working group it had not made any progress and it was agreed that this would be raised at the Annual Parish Meeting when residents would be reminded to make comments.

(d) Reports from Officers

- (1) Mr. Croughton reported that the "433" bus service would terminate on 2nd April 2007, leaving Heaverham without a bus service, which only one passenger uses. Mr. Croughton advised the Parish Council not to take any action. The service to Otford, Kemsing and Sevenoaks would remain.
- (2) Mr. Rumgay reported that eight households in Oxenhill Road were likely to be left homeless within the next two months. All these residents work locally and many have been born and grew up in the village. Up until a few months ago, these properties had been held in a Trust and could not be sold and some had been rented out since the 1960's. The owner of the Trust had passed away and the beneficiaries wished to sell them.
Mr. Rumgay appreciated that there was nothing that the Parish Council could do to stop the sale or find alternative housing, but asked that the Parish Council make a written representation to the District Council and proposed the following, seconded by Mr. Waters:- *"That the Parish Council offers support by writing to the Sevenoaks District Council's Housing Officer to ask that these families be given priority when any housing stock becomes available in the village."*

Mr. Rumgay also suggested that the Clerk writes to Mr. Nick Chard (County Councillor), Ms. Lorraine Stack (District Councillor), Mr. Simon Reay (District Councillor and the Housing Associations).

CARRIED unanimously

4. **BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

(a) Annual Parish Meeting

The newsletter containing the invitation to the Annual Parish Meeting had been delivered.

Letter had been received from residents for items to be raised at the Annual Parish Council Meeting. Mrs. Cole read a proposal from Mr. Don Eley, congratulating the Parish Council on the Botanical Survey. Councillors were very pleased and welcomed Mr. Eley's comments.

Mrs. Cole read a letter from a resident who was concerned about two blocked kerb drains in the West End. Mr. Buttifant said that Kent Highway Services were aware of the problem.

Mr. Buttifant reported that he attended the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board Meeting on Tuesday, 14th March 2007, with Mr. Croughton and Mr. Waters. A meeting would be arranged with Kent Highway Services, Mr. Nick Chard (County Councillor) and KPC to address the traffic congestion problem in the West End.

5. **LOWER HAFFENDEN FIELD**

Mr. Croughton declared a personal interest as he lives opposite the site.

Mr. Burfield reported that he had been looking at the area of Lower Haffenden Field where the leisure plots are and felt that the Parish Council should change its existing policy to purchase the plots when they become available, and to consider only purchasing a plot if the land has a definite benefit to the Parish. Mr. Burfield felt it would be beneficial to obtain legal advice to draw up a standard legal lease document, offering owners to manage the land at no cost to the owner.

Mr. Dawes said that the current arrangement worked very well and that in his mind, it did not need to be changed at all.

After discussions, Mr. Burfield proposed and Mr. Bennett seconded:-

"That the Parish Council consider to no longer offers to purchase plots as they arise unless the land has a definite benefit to the Parish."

2 in favour, 5 against, 1 abstention (Mr. Croughton)

The proposal FELL

Mr. Burfield presented Members with a map with a marked out area (approximately 60m x 100m), which he thought could be used for a bicycle track for youngsters aged fourteen to fifteen. Mrs. Cole indicated that such a scheme had been offered to youngsters at the Nightingale Recreation Ground, but they were not interested.

Mr. Burfield said that, in his opinion, the Parish Council should consider to offer that strip of land to the young group to see whether they were interested. There are funding schemes available for application from SDC.

Mr. Rumgay was concerned about the safety of the public accessing the area and thought that children on their bicycles would not remain in the designated area. Various concerns were raised regarding public safety and also the access to the plots across Pilgrims Way, and especially the access from Childsbridge Lane was not considered preferable.

Some Councillors felt that such a scheme would not be appropriate on the Kemsing Downs Nature Reserve, which is an area of outstanding natural beauty.

Mr. Burfield proposed and Mr. Rumgay seconded:

"That the Parish Council consider ideas for using the identified area of 60m x 100m on Lower Haffenden Field."

CARRIED 5 in favour, 1 against, 2 abstentions

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

There were no Members of the Public or Press.

7. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Mr. Burfield proposed and Mr. Waters seconded:

"That the Parish Council approves the payment list Vouchers 330 to 355, and note the receipt list Vouchers 328 & 329."

CARRIED unanimously

8. **INFORMATION REPORT**

The Council noted the Information Report, and the papers referred too, were laid on the table.

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

Christmas Lights
Village Sign

10. **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:**

21 March 2007 :	Annual Parish Meeting
26 March 2007 :	Planning
4 April 2007 :	Highways
10 April 2007 :	Planning (Tuesday)
18 April 2007 :	Parish Council
23 April 2007 :	Planning

The Meeting closed at 10.10 p.m.

Yolanda Tredoux
Clerk to the Council