

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of a Meeting held in the Main Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing,
on Wednesday, 11 March 2009 at 8.05 p.m.**

- PRESENT: Mrs. M. Cole (in the Chair)
Mr. D. Bennett, Mr. P. Burfield [Arrived 8.32 p.m.], Mr. G. Croughton,
Mr. R. Dawes, Mr. I Rungay, Mr. S. Smith, Dr. P. Walker,
Mr. A. Waters
- IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor Mr. N. Chard
Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)
- APOLOGIES: Mr. B. Buttifant, Ms. K. Hawker, Mrs. W. Ross
District Councillor Miss L. Stack

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

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 February 2009, Reference **KPC/02/09**, previously circulated, were approved.

Mrs. Cole adjourned the Meeting and proposed that County Councillor Chard be given an opportunity to speak, which was agreed.

Mr. Chard informed Members that he was concerned by the manner in which the alteration to the proposed pedestrian crossing had been handled by Kent Highway Services. Mr. Chard supported the views of local residents on the location of the pedestrian crossing and apologised for the confusion. Mr. Chard would progress this further.

Mr. Chard was very disappointed with Sevenoaks District Council's proposal to close the public conveniences in Kemsing and hoped that a solution to prevent this closure could be found.

Mr. Chard thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak and left the Meeting.

8.12 p.m. The Meeting was re-convened.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Pedestrian Crossing - Junction Childsbridge Lane, Dynes Road & West End (Minute 2(b) KPC/02/09)

The Clerk received information on 25 February that the proposed pedestrian crossing would be installed on the north side of the junction and alerted Mr. Chard. Members noted correspondence dated 26 February 2009 in response to Mr. Chard's enquiry, received from Kent Highway Services, confirming that the decision had been made to alter the location of the proposed crossing. This contradicted the decision made by the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board Committee. Kent Highway Services advised on 26 February that the Project Engineer was in the process of finalising the alternative location scheme for the pedestrian crossing and that the Parish Council and Local Members would be consulted on this proposal very shortly. At the time of the Meeting, the consultation from Kent Highway Services was still awaited. Members also noted the Clerk's Report dated 2 March 2009.

- (b) Leisure plots 184 & 185 (Minute 2(c) KPC/02/09)
No further progress had been reported.
- (c) Review of the Kemsing Play Areas (Minute 2(d) KPC/02/09)
The summary of the Play Area Questionnaire had been reported to the Recreation Grounds Committee at their Meeting on 4 March 2009. *The Parish Council recorded its appreciation to Kemsing Primary School, the Post-Offices, Kemsing Library, Kemsing Newsagent and the Sir Mark Collet Pavilion for distributing and collecting the questionnaires.*
- (d) Archive Store KHC (Minute 2(e) KPC/02/09)
The preparations for the Lease were progressing. *It was agreed that Mr. Burfield, Mrs. Cole and Mr. Croughton would be authorised to sign the Lease on behalf of the Council.*
- (e) Parish Councillor vacancy (Minute 3(g) KPC/02/09)
Sevenoaks District Council advised that no requests had been received to fill the casual vacancy by election and that the Parish Council could make arrangements to fill the vacancy by co-option. *It was agreed that notices inviting interested Parishioners to consider applying for the vacancy be placed in the Seal Advertiser, Notice Boards in the village, Kemsing Library Notice Board and the Parish Council Website. The Chairman would also raise this at the Annual Parish Meeting.*
- (f) Proposed closure of public conveniences in Kemsing car park (Minute 3(h) KPC/02/09)
Sevenoaks District Council advised in an email dated 3 March 2009 that the decision to close the public conveniences would be deferred pending further discussions with the Parish Council.
- (g) Affordable Housing (See Minute 3(a) KPC/02/09)
Members noted a report outlining a record of previous discussions with regard to affordable housing. Arrangements were being made to meet with a representative from Sevenoaks District Council to discuss an affordable housing scheme in more detail.

3. COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS

- (a) Downland Management Committee
Mr. Bennett proposed and Dr. Walker seconded:
"That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 February 2009, Reference DM/01/09, previously circulated, be approved."
- Mr. Bennett received a quotation of £664 for replacing the wooden gate in The Well area.
- Mr. Bennett drew attention to the following recommendation (Item 5) - Proposed grazing on Whiteleaf Down:-
"It is anticipated that the consultation will commence during the last week in March 2009 and continue for a period of 4 weeks."

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Recreation Grounds Committee

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 March 2009 Reference RG/31/2009, previously circulated."

Mr. Waters drew attention to the following error:-

Page 3, Item 7, 1st Paragraph: "Lawson **Cyprus** should read Lawson **Cypress**."

Mrs. Cole referred to Item 3(b) and said that a response had been received from Monster Play Systems, reducing the original quote by £200.

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Mr. Rumgay said that the Play Area Working Group had presented the Recreation Grounds Committee with their findings on the questionnaire. The Working Group had invited one manufacturer to a Working Group Meeting, to give a presentation to replace the existing play areas with new play equipment.

According to Mr. Rumgay the Recreation Grounds Committee Members understood that only certain pieces of play equipment would be replaced, however, the Working Group's view was that more radical changes were necessary, i.e. to replace all of the equipment, which Mr. Rumgay felt would be a substantial investment.

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Working Group be disbanded and that Members of the Working Group who were not Members of the Recreation Grounds Committee, be invited to the Recreation Grounds Committee Meetings."

CARRIED 7 in favour, 1 abstention

(c) Report from Chairman

A request from the Kemsing Heritage Centre Association to hold a mini market at The Well on the grass area adjacent to the footpath (between the two benches), on a Saturday in June 2009, was considered. This event formed part of the Association's fundraising efforts. *It was agreed that the Association be given permission to proceed.*

(d) Reports from Councillors

Mr. Croughton said that Footpath SR567 (between Pilgrims Way and Orchard Way), was in a very poor condition. The surface, which had become damaged, was very muddy and covered with fallen leaves. Overgrown vegetation made the narrow path even more difficult to walk along. The Clerk advised that the PROW Officer had indicated that the path was included on the resurfacing list for next year, but funding was limited. The adjoining land owners would be contacted to cut back the overgrowing vegetation. Mr. Croughton asked if an official announcement to advise residents that this was in hand, could be made at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Mr. Waters said that criminal damage to vehicles in the car park had been reported to him. This occurred last Monday evening when young people congregated in the car park before attending the Youth Club. *The Clerk was asked to report this to PCSO Harwood.*

4. **REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS**

(a) Direct Information Service Subscription renewal

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Council renews the annual subscription of £105."

CARRIED 7 in favour, 2 against

5. **BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE**
There was no business discussed.
6. **POWER OF WELL-BEING**
Members noted new legislation, which extended the power to promote economic, social and environmental well-being to Parish Councils. An extract from the Direct Information Services Newsletter dated 23 February 2009 was noted.
7. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC & PRESS**
There were no questions from the public and press.
8. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**
Mr. Burfield proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:
"That the Parish Council approve payment list (Vouchers 323-338), as well as payment of £12.60 (South East Water) and £43.60 (St. Edith Hall Management Committee), and to note receipt list (Voucher 339)."
CARRIED unanimously
9. **INFORMATION REPORT**
The Information Report was noted.
10. **MATTERS TO BE RAISED AT THE NEXT MEETING & GOOD NEWS**
11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
15 April 2009

The Meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.