

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of a Meeting held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing,
on Wednesday, 18th April 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. P. Kendall, Mr. I Rungay, Mr. A. Waters
Mrs. W. Ross [Arrived at 8.12 p.m.]

IN ATTENDANCE: 3 Members of the Public
Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mr. A. Andrews, Mr. M. Williams
Mr. S. Smith
District Councillor Miss L. Stack

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.

Mr. Croughton expressed a personal interest in item 2(g) as he lives opposite the site.

1. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th March 2007, Reference **KPC/03/07**, previously circulated, had been approved, subject to the following amendment proposed by the Chairman:-

Page 3, Item 2(c)(2) - To replace Sevenoaks **Town** Council with Sevenoaks **District** Council.

CARRIED 8 in favour, 1 abstention

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(a) PCSO – Police Community Support Officer (See Minute 2 (a) KPC/03/07)

The Clerk reported that she had been in discussion with Inspector Adrian Payne to clarify the current situation regarding the PCSO. The following response had been received:-

- A PCSO had been allocated for Seal and Kemsing Parish Councils and would commence duties during the first week in May 2007.
- The Parish Councils would not contribute towards funding this PCSO, who would be employed solely by the Police Force until March 2008. The Parish Councils would have no control over the PCSO.
- Kemsing and Seal Parish Councils still had the option to employ an "additional" PCSO, which would be subject to the Agreement.
- The Parish Councils have to decide whether they were willing to consider funding an "additional" PCSO for Seal and Kemsing.

Mr. Croughton suggested the Parish Council monitors the situation with the new PCSO, but felt that the Council should express an interest to fund a PCSO from April 2008. Mr. Rumgay said that the Parish Council should fund and secure an additional PCSO as soon as possible, bearing in mind the current constant need for police presence in the village to bring matters under control.

Mr. Croughton proposed and Mr. Waters seconded:-

"That the Parish Council wishes to continue the process of securing a PCSO in principle for the benefit of Kemsing and Seal, if Seal Parish Council is willing, with a view to this person being appointed and trained to take over no later than April 2008."

CARRIED 7 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention

(b) WI Seat (See Minute 2 (d) KPC/03/07)

No further information was available.

(c) Long term storage of village archives (See Minute 2 (c) KPC/03/07)

A meeting would be arranged with the Eynsford Heritage Group to visit their newly refurbished site after their archives had been moved there.

The Council received the report dated 12th April 2007 prepared by Mr. Bennett. Mr. Croughton was not in agreement with the last four paragraphs of Mr. Bennett's report, but supported Mr. Bennett's recommendations for immediate action.

Mr. Croughton proposed and Mr. Bennett seconded:-

- *"That the Clerk, Deputy Clerk and such Councillors as are willing, commence a review of documents currently retained by the Council to sort them into the categories identified in this paper for continued retention or disposal accordingly."*
- *"That the Parish Council authorises the Clerk to find an efficient way to remove the unnecessary files from the Parish records by consulting with the Committee Chairmen."*

CARRIED unanimously

(d) Land in West End (opposite the Library) (See Minute 2 (d) KPC/03/07)

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Waters:-

"That the Clerk follows this up with Kent Highway Services."

CARRIED 9 in favour, 1 abstention

(e) Kemsing Parish Council Website (See Minute 2 (e) KPC/03/07)

Mr. Burfield reported that he had updated the website and it now includes all Council Minutes back to 2002 and all Planning Minutes back to 2002. Mr. Burfield was thanked for his time and effort.

Mr. Rumgay said that he had given some recommendations previously and felt that the website should be made more interesting, particularly to include photographs.

Mr. Burfield explained that the "free" website, run by Kent County Council, was very restricted.

8.40 pm [Mr. Dawes left the meeting.]

(f) Amendments to Standing Orders (See Minute 2(f) KPC/03/07)

The working group would be appointed at the May Meeting.

(g) Lower Haffenden Field (See Minute 5 KPC03/07)

No ideas were proposed for using the identified area of 60m x 100m on Lower Haffenden Field and it was agreed that this item would be removed from the Agenda until any proposals were made to the Council.

8.45 pm [Mr. Dawes returned to the Meeting.]

(h) Christmas Lights (See Minute 2 (c) KPC/02/07)

In spite of the uncertainty about the removal of the alder tree in the Well, the Christmas lights working group agreed to arrange a meeting to discuss the various options.

(i) Village Sign (See Minute 2 (e) KPC/08/06)

Mr. Waters reported that two residents expressed an interest to form part of the village sign working group. The Group would arrange a date to meet.

(j) Annual Parish Meeting (See Minute 4 (a) KPC/03/07)

After some minor text alterations, the Minutes of the Meeting had been noted.

Mrs. Cole had received a written request from Mr. Graham Palmer, urging the Parish Council to take the initiative to arrange a meeting with representatives from the Parish Council, Parents, Youth Worker, Police and the young people, to try and find solutions to the problems of anti-social behaviour. Although not objecting to a Public Meeting, Mr. Croughton felt that it would be preferable to arrange an informal meeting with representatives from Kemsing Parish Council, the Youth Worker Miss Down, Revd. Ashworth, parents, and the Scouting Organisation to explore the possibility of using the Scout Hut, - which he understood was not required every evening - to form a "Drop-in-Centre" for say three evenings a week. Mr. Croughton acknowledged that issues such as insurance and security would need to be addressed, as well as recruiting Volunteers to manage such a centre. The result of the informal meeting would then form the basis for discussion at a public meeting.

Mr. Croughton proposed and Mr. Bennett seconded:-

"That, initially, an informal gathering will be arranged with representatives from Kemsing Parish Council, parents, the Youth Worker, the Vicar, and the Scouting Organisation, to explore the possibility of using the scout hut as a form of a 'drop-in-centre', and that the result of this informal meeting would form the basis for discussion at a public meeting."

This motion was DEFEATED by 2 in favour, 6 against, 2 abstentions

Resident Mr. David Rogers said that he felt misled by the Agenda prepared for the Annual Parish Meeting as he was unaware that the youth issues were being raised. Mrs. Cole explained the procedure of the Annual Parish Meeting and said that residents could raise any issue at an Annual Parish Meeting. Mr. Roberts thought that the problems would not disappear by simply erecting a youth shelter and that a public meeting should be arranged to come up with a scheme which included structured activities to give the young people something to do.

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:-

"That the Parish Council arranges a controlled meeting, properly structured and convened by a professional convener, with the representatives of all the parties concerned to find out what the problems are."

CARRIED 8 in favour, 2 abstentions

Mr. Palmer stressed that he was very concerned about the situation, and thought that it could get quite dangerous if something was not done, but thanked the Parish Council and thought that this was a big step forward.

- (k) Tree Preservation Order - Alder Tree, The Well (See Minute 3 (b) KPC/03/07
Sevenoaks District Council advised that the Parish Council's objection to the Tree Preservation Order would be reported to the Development Control Sub Committee.

3. COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS

(a) Recreation Grounds

Mrs. Cole proposed and Mr. Rumgay seconded:-

"That the Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th February 2007, Reference RG/24/2007."

CARRIED unanimously

The Chairman reported on correspondence received from four residents in relation to Item 2(a), opposing the proposed erection of the youth shelter at the Nightingale Road Recreation Ground. Members agreed that the Committee should pursue the idea of shelters for use by older children as an additional facility to the playground equipment.

(b) Planning Committee

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:

"That the Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th March 2007, Reference P/03/07."

CARRIED unanimously

(c) Planning Committee

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Waters seconded:

"That the Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th March 2007, Reference P/04/07."

Mr. Kendall, Mr. Burfield and Mr. Terry Steley were thanked for dealing with the application with regard to the meeting room alterations of the St. Edith Hall.

CARRIED unanimously

(d) Highways Committee

Mr. Buttifant proposed and Mr. Waters seconded:

"That the Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th April 2007, Reference H/02/07."

Item 4.3 - The Council noted Mr. Bennett's draft Proof of Evidence and Mr. Buttifant thanked Mr. Bennett for his effort, but informed Members that the Otford Railway Crossing Extinguishment Order was likely to be withdrawn, as indicated in a letter dated 13th April 2007 received from the Planning Inspectorate.

Item 5.7 - The Clerk was asked to circulate details of the M26 resurfacing to all Members.

Item 2.13 - Mr. Croughton had pleasure in advising that the fingerpost at the top of Childsbridge Lane had been replaced, but noted that it was now on the north side of Pilgrims Way.

CARRIED unanimously

(e) Chairman's Report

- (1) The Clerk was asked to check whether Co-opted Members were covered by the Parish Council's Insurance. Written confirmation would be required from the Council's Insurers.
- (2) The Local Crime Community Sentence Steering Group (LCCS) invited Members of all Parish Councils to talk about crime and the sentences offenders receive. Members felt that such a presentation would not be of interest to the Parish Council.
- (3) *It was AGREED* that contact details of the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators should be published in The Well Magazine, as requested by Kent Police.
- (4) Due to a lack of interest and the consistently low numbers Sevenoaks District Council advised that the Youth Zone Summer Van would not visit the Common Field this year. Mr. Burfield said that the programme consisted of various activities throughout the scheme and that some activities arranged for Kemsing were not the most popular, which could be a reason for the lack of interest.
- (5) Mrs. Cole reported that she had received a letter received from a resident complimenting the Clerk for her assistance in clearing up the footpath at the bottom of Dynes Road.
- (6) The Emergency Services Meeting scheduled for 9th May 2007 had been cancelled.
- (7) The Highways Committee Meeting would replace the Downland Management Committee Meeting on 30th May 2007.
- (8) Some notice boards users were damaging the boards by using staple guns and it was *AGREED that a request would be placed in The Well Magazine, politely asking users NOT to use staple guns.*
- (9) Mrs. Cole reported that PC Wilkinson had enquired whether the Parish Council wished to respond to a recent report in the Sevenoaks Chronicle to record their continued support for his work in the village.
It was AGREED that the Parish Council does support PC Wilkinson, but that no action would be taken by writing to the Sevenoaks Chronicle, as it would be best to let the matter rest.

(f) Reports from Officers

- (1) Mr. Bennett reported that a request had been received from a resident, Mrs. Josie Grey, to erect a seat on Green Hill in memory of her late husband, Mr. John Grey. Mr. Bennett proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:-
"That the Parish Council agrees in principle to give permission for Mrs. Josie Grey to install a seat of a similar design to the existing seats on Green Hill, in memory of Mr. John Grey."

CARRIED unanimously

- (2) Mr. Waters reported that a notice board had been installed outside St. Mary's Church.

4. **BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

Revised Model Code of Conduct for Local Authority Members Item 4 (b)
KPC/02/07

The Council noted the response received from the Consultation Co-ordinator, Communities and Local Government advising that the six week period for the Amendment to the Model Code of Conduct Consultation was consistent with the normal 6 week period for consultations with local government as set out at Para 5 of the Framework for Partnership between the Government and the LGA.

5. **KEMSING NATURE RESERVE - THE BOTANICAL SURVEY**

A request dated 29th March 2007, received from Mr. Eley, asking the Parish Council to consider whether the Kemsing Heritage Centre Association should hold a presentation on the creation of the Reserve, including the recent Botanical Survey, was noted.

Mr. Bennett proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

"That the Council gives permission to the Kemsing Heritage Centre Association to hold a presentation on the creation of the Reserve, including the recent Botanical Survey."

CARRIED unanimously

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

Questions from Members of the Public had been taken during discussions at the Chairman's discretion.

7. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Mr. Burfield proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:

*"That the Council approves the payment list (Vouchers 356 to 368), as well as the payment and income lists as per the attached sheets, **excluding** the grant payment of **£1,200** in favour of the St. Edith Hall Management Committee in respect of heating and insurance, and that this payment be referred to the Finance Committee in June 2007 to discuss a proper procedure for paying grants and donations."*

Mr. Burfield referred to the payment in favour of SDC regarding after hours emergency work replacing and making safe a manhole cover on the Common Field. Mrs. Cole felt that the Pavilion Management Committee should take responsibility for this payment as the drain belongs to the Pavilion. **Mr. Waters, who declared an interest as Chairman of the Pavilion Management Committee**, felt that the responsibility was that of the landowner, i.e. the Parish Council. Mr. Burfield confirmed that SDC acted lawfully by making the area safe and could charge the Parish Council for this service.

CARRIED 6 in favour, 3 against, 1 abstention

The Clerk would ask the Dynes Road Post Office whether they would be interested in selling garden refuse bags.

8. **INFORMATION REPORT**

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

Mrs. Cole asked the Parish Council to record a vote of thanks to all the retiring Members:-

Mr. A. Andrews, Mr. P. Kendall, Mrs. W. Ross, Mr. I. Rungay & Mr. M. Williams.

Mr. Kendall thanked his colleagues for the courteous and non-political way in which they have dealt with Council business during his term of office.

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

There were no other matters raised.

10. **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:**

23 April 2007 : Planning
8 May 2007: Planning (Tuesday)
16 May 2007 : AGM Parish Council
21 May 2007 : Planning
23 May 2007 : Recreation Ground
30 May 2007 : Highways

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 10.20 pm.