

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of a Meeting held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing,
on Wednesday, 15 April 2009 at 8.00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Mrs. M. Cole (in the Chair)
Mr. D. Bennett, Mr. P. Burfield, Mr. B. Buttifant, Mr. G. Croughton,
Mrs. W. Ross, Mr. S. Smith, Mr. A. Waters

IN ATTENDANCE: PCSO S. Harwood, Mr. C. Hennis (Play Place)
7 Members of the Public
Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Mr. R. Dawes, Mr. I. Rungay, Dr. P. Walker

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

1. MINUTES

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 March 2008, Reference KPC/03/09, previously circulated, be approved."

CARRIED unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Pedestrian Crossing - Junction Childsbridge Lane, Dynes Road & West End (Minute 2(a) KPC/03/09)

A meeting with the Kent Highway Services representative responsible for putting the scheme together had been arranged to find an alternative to the proposal to construct the pedestrian crossing on the north side of the junction.

Mr. Buttifant, Mr. Croughton, the Clerk and representatives from the Kemsing School Walking Bus had attended the meeting. All parties agreed that the safety of children crossing the road was the main concern. Constructing the crossing on the north side was considered to be ineffective as it was thought that it would not be utilised to its full potential. The Kent Highway Services representative agreed to take the comments and concerns raised at the Meeting into consideration and agreed to alter the scheme.

An amended scheme had been proposed and plans for the crossing on the south side of the junction had been received. The scheme would commence around 18 May and *it was agreed that the Parish Council would write to residents in Childsbridge Lane, advising them of the new proposal. (This would apply to properties south from the crossroads to the junction with Castle Drive).*

(b) Leisure plots 184 & 185 (Minute 2(b) KPC/03/09)

Knocker & Foskett Solicitors advised that registration at the Land Registry had been completed. Mrs. Cole proposed:

"To approve payment of £307-50 (Excl. VAT) in respect of the Solicitor's fees to conclude this transaction."

CARRIED unanimously

- (c) Review of the Kemsing Play Areas (Minute 2(c) KPC/03/09)
It was agreed to remove this item from the Agenda and refer it back to the Recreation Grounds Committee.

- (d) Parish Councillor vacancy (Minute 2(e) KPC/03/09)
Members noted that one application had been received. The candidate, Mr. Paul Eaton was invited to address the Council and give a short presentation of why he was interested in becoming a Parish Councillor.

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That Mr. Eaton be co-opted as a Member of Kemsing Parish Council."

CARRIED by a majority vote

After signing the declaration of acceptance of office, Mr. Eaton joined the other Members at the table.

- (e) Proposed closure of public conveniences in Kemsing car park (Minute 2(f) KPC/03/09)
County Councillor Mr. Chard had advised that it was his understanding that the public conveniences would stay open this year with an expectation that Sevenoaks District Council would not continue funding beyond this. Mr. Chard would talk to colleagues at Kent County Council in an attempt to find a solution. *The Clerk was asked to follow up with Mr. Chard.*

- (f) Affordable Housing (Minute 2(g) KPC/03/09)
Members noted correspondence from the Sevenoaks District Council's Service Manager, Housing Policy, who had advised that there had been some issues affecting affordable housing in Kemsing, which Sevenoaks District Council was endeavouring to resolve.

- (g) Youth Shelter (Minute 2(h) KPC/11/08)
A quotation for £8,914-75 (Excl VAT) had been obtained for a youth shelter to be erected on the Common Field. This included excavation and concrete for the structure. *Mrs. Cole proposed:*
"That the Council accepts the above quotation for a new youth shelter."
CARRIED 8 in favour, 1 abstention

3. COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS

(a) Planning Committee

Mr. Waters proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:

"That the Parish Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 March 2009, Reference P/03/2009, previously circulated."

"That the Parish Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 March 2009, Reference P/04/2009, previously circulated."

CARRIED 8 in favour, 1 abstention

(b) Report from Chairman

Parish Forum - Sevenoaks District Council invited Members to attend a Parish Forum to be held on 30 April to discuss the changes to the General Permitted Development Order.

Kent County Council Common Land/ Village Green Seminar - An invitation was received to attend the seminar on 14 May 2009.

Kent County Council (Clean Kent Campaign) - This campaign focussed on fly tipping, littering and other forms of environmental crime. The contact details would be advertised in The Well magazine.

Kent County Council (Closure of Bradbourne School and The Wildernesse School) - A public meeting would be held on 28 April 2009.

Sevenoaks Town Council (Invitation to Gala Celebrations for the Stag Community Arts Centre) - The 'opening show' would be held on 24 April 2009.

(c) Reports from Councillors

Grazing proposal - Mr. Bennett reported that some difficulties had been experienced with the aerial map of the area. The public consultation would commence as soon as these issues were resolved.

4. **DONATIONS & SUBSRIPTIONS**

(a) Kent Association of Local Councils

Mr. Croughton proposed and Mr. Burfield seconded:

"That the Parish Council renews the annual subscription of £1,020 (Excl. VAT)."

CARRIED 8 in favour, 1 abstention

(b) Hospice in the Weald - Request for donation

Mr. Croughton proposed and Mr. Smith seconded:

"That the Parish Council donates £100 to Hospice in the Weald in respect for bereavement support."

CARRIED 6 in favour, 3 abstentions

(c) St. Mary's Church - Articles published in The Well magazine for 2009 editions

Mr. Bennett declared a personal interest as being on the electoral role of the Church.

Mr. Waters declared a personal interest as being a Member of the PCC.

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Parish Council donates £250 to St. Mary's Church in respect of the Parish Council's regular page in The Well magazine. "

CARRIED 8 in favour, 1 abstention

(d) Society of Local Council Clerks

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Parish Council renews the annual subscription of £111-25."

CARRIED 8 in favour, 1 abstention

5. **PETITION FOR A CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA IN PARK LANE**

Members noted a petition received from young residents in Park Lane. West Kent Housing had prohibited children from playing ball games on the green in front of the flats and the Parish Council was asked to make available the field at the bottom of Park Lane (privately owned), for a play area. Mr. Burfield was concerned that the suggested piece of land was in a bad air quality zone and also pointed out that West Kent Housing would have to be approached to assist with the funding of such a project.

It was agreed that the Parish Council's first action would be to make enquiries with the landowner.

6. **St. EDITH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - REQUEST FOR FUNDING**

Mr. Burfield had obtained a quotation to supply and fit a new door and partition wall to the new access to the Meeting Room in the sum of £1,205-72, to be paid from the Development Grant. The work has not been started and the Parish Council was asked to permit Mrs. Cole and Mr. Burfield to release payment once the work had been carried out.

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Parish Council accepts the quotation of £1,205-72 and that Mrs. Cole and Mr. Burfield be authorised to arrange for payment subject to their satisfaction of the work completed."

CARRIED unanimously

7. **PLAY PLACE - Youth Club**

The Parochial Church Council (PCC), in a letter dated 23 March 2009, expressed their concern about an incident in the car park a few weeks ago, and complaints received in relation to the youth club. Members of the PCC felt that, because the youth club was held in the Church Hall, the PCC was seen to be responsible for the youth club, which it was not. The PCC asked the Parish Council to convey its concerns to Mr. Hennis (Organiser of Play Place), with the hope that various issues such as staffing, etc. could be addressed.

Mr. Hennis was invited to respond verbally to this letter and said that unfortunately this incident, which involved two young people, had occurred at the club. Mr. Hennis acknowledged that the noise levels were higher than usual during the incident. Mr. Hennis confirmed that the issue had been dealt with immediately by his staff and that PCSO Harwood had been made aware of this.

PCSO Harwood was invited to speak and drew attention to the crime statistics for Kemsing. Anti-Social behaviour incidents had dropped by 49% in the last 12 months. This demonstrated the significant role Play Place had played in the Village and how successful their efforts had been. Mrs. Cole asked Mr. Hennis whether activities during school holidays could be provided and he agreed to look at this.

Members also noted correspondence dated 16 and 26 March 2009 from Mr. Hennis. Mr. Burfield proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

"That the Parish Council agrees to donate £2,000 to Play Place in respect of the Monday evening youth club for the period from July 2009 to March 2010."

CARRIED 8 in favour, 1 abstention

The Clerk was instructed to respond to the PCC letter, addressing the following points:-

- That it is the Parish Council's understanding that the staffing is adequate.
- That it would be beneficial if any problems could be reported directly to Mr. Hennis as soon as possible.
- That the Parish Council has agreed to make a further contribution of £2,000 until March 2010 to support Play Place in Kemsing.

8. **STANDARD LIFE INVESTMENT**

The Council was asked to approve the opening of a 10-day notice investment account with Standard Life Investment Bank and to transfer £60,000 to this account, *which was agreed.*

Mr. Burfield, Mrs. Cole and Mr. Croughton were appointed authorised signatories on behalf of the Parish Council.

9. **PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON AIR QUALITY ACTION PLAN - 2009**

The Parish Council was invited to comment on Sevenoaks District Council's new Air Quality Action Plan.

It was agreed that the following reply be sent:

"The Parish Council noted the Air Quality Action Plan 2009 with interest, however, it was felt that more details were required, specifically with regard to Park Lane, Kemsing, (near the M26), to reflect a more accurate representation of the air quality in that area."

10. **ELECTRICITY SUPPLY FOR CAR PARK LIGHTS AT TENNIS COURTS**

Members noted that the current contract with British Gas expired on 6 August 2009, however the contract would automatically be renewed for 2 years by 8 May 2009 if not instructed otherwise. The rate under the current contract is 9p per unit with no standing charge. The new contract did not offer the "no standing charge" option. The standard charge is 27.17p per day and the unit price is 8.68p per day. The additional standing charge would add around £100 to the annual bill.

The Clerk was instructed to pursue other companies with a view to obtain a lower price. The Clerk was authorised to accept any lower quotation and to renew a contract for 2 years.

11. **BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

11.1 Annual Parish Meeting

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 18 March 2009 were noted.

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

A resident from Copperfields asked when the broken wooden fingerpost at the Childsbridge Lane/West End crossing would be repaired and thought that the vandalised bus shelter should be removed. Mr. Buttifant explained that the two broken wooden finger posts (at junction with Childsbridge Lane/West End and junction with Childbridge Lane/Pilgrims Way) had been reported to Kent Highway Services several months ago who had advised the Parish Council that they had experienced difficulties in finding a suitable contractor to repair them. The work was in hand. Mr. Buttifant advised that the bus shelter would be removed when the proposed pedestrian crossing was constructed.

13. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Mr. Burfield proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

"That the Parish Council approves the payment list (Vouchers 342-354, 356) and payments in relation to cheque numbers 203761-203771, and to note the receipt list (Voucher 355)."

CARRIED 8 in favour, 1 abstention

14. **INFORMATION REPORT**

The Information Report was noted.

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

Mrs. Cole advised that the renovation of the village sign was being progressed.

16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

20 May 2009 - Annual General Meeting

The Meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.