

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of a Meeting held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing,
on Wednesday, 18th July 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,
Ms. K. Hawker, Mr. S. Smith, Dr. P. Walker, Mr. A. Waters

IN ATTENDANCE: 9 Members of the Public
Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Mr. R. Dawes, Mr. I. Rumgay
Miss L. Stack (District Councillor)

Mrs. Cole declared a personal interest in Item 2(n) as being a Trustee of the St. Edith Hall Management Committee.

Mr. Burfield declared a personal interest in Item 2(n) as being a Trustee of the St. Edith Hall Management Committee.

Mr. Waters declared a personal interest in Item 2(n) as being a Member of the PCC and a personal interest in Item 2(c) as being a Trustee of the Kemsing Heritage Centre Association.

1. **MINUTES**

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th June 2007, Reference KPC/06/07, previously circulated."

CARRIED 7 in favour, 2 abstentions

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Council approves the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on 4th July 2007, previously circulated."

CARRIED 10 in favour, 1 abstention

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Council agree that the next business to be discussed would be Item 4.1."

CARRIED unanimously

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Council resolve to adopt the revised Model Code of Conduct for Members including paragraph 12(2) with immediate effect."

CARRIED unanimously

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES DATED 20TH JUNE 2007**

(a) **PCSO – Police Community Support Officer (See Minute 2 (a) KPC/0607)**

The revised Service Agreement as amended by Kent Police Legal Services Department in accordance with feed back from a number of funding partners across the County had been received.

Mr. Pankhurst informed that the Force Solicitor had included suggested amendments/changes where it was considered appropriate, but had to maintain a corporate approach. The force was keen to ratify partner funding agreements as soon as possible. Members discussed the copy of the service Agreement, comments from Seal Parish Council and comments prepared by Mr. Bennett, who was thanked for his work in preparing the further draft comments.

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That Council approve the draft comments prepared by Mr. Bennett together with Seal Parish Council to be submitted to Mr. Pankhurst."

CARRIED unanimously

- (b) WI Seat (See Minute 2 (b) KPC/06/07)
A copy of the photograph of the seat has been passed to Revd. Ashworth, who confirmed that he was waiting for a faculty from the Diocesan Advisory Committee and hoped that the seat could be installed towards the end of September.
- (c) Long term storage of village archives (See Minute 2 (c) KPC/06/07)
The Council noted a report prepared by Mrs. Erica Cole (Kemsing Heritage Centre Association) of the meeting held on 5th June 2007 (copy attached for Councillors only).
- (d) Land in West End (opposite the Library) (See Minute 2 (d) KPC/06/07)
A quotation had been noted, which had been obtained from Kent Highway Services. Mr. Bennett was concerned about the funding arrangements. Mr. Burfield indicated that funds could be allocated in the budget for next year. Councillors felt that this was a public safety risk, which was the responsibility of Kent Highway Services.

To note the quotation from Kent Highway Services but that the Parish Council consider this to be a safety issue which needs Kent Highway Services immediate attention in the interest of public safety.
- (e) Kemsing Parish Council Website (See Minute 2 (e) KPC/06/07)
Mr. Rumgay would report at the Parish Council Meeting in August.
- (f) Amendments to Standing Orders (See Minute 2(f) KPC/06/07)
Mr. Burfield had completed the task of bringing together the model Standing Order received from the National Association of Local Councils, with the Parish Council's Standing Orders. Copies would be handed to the Standing Order Working Group Members for discussion at a meeting, which was to be held on Monday, 23rd July. A draft would be presented to full Council for approval when all the amendments have been made.
- (g) Christmas Lights (See Minute 2 (g) KPC/06/07)
The two transformers and cabling, which were held by Mr. Miles were assumed lost.
- (h) Village Sign (See Minute 2 (h) KPC/06/07)
Mr. Waters informed the Council that the Village Sign Working Group met on 16th July, when the group agreed the following:-
- the existing sign by The Well was in order and should remain where it is, it may need a new post in the next 5 years or so
 - a new double-sided sign visible to motorists was needed, the design of which could be based on the design used for the existing sign with the possible addition of background hills

- the best location for a new sign was in the vicinity of The Well area in front of the horse trough
- to use the services of a local craftsman to create a new sign
- Mr. Waters would arrange a site meeting, which would be open to all parishioners

The Group will present a recommendation when costing, etc. had been obtained.

(i) Annual Parish Meeting (See Minute 2 (i) KPC/06/07)

A brief note of the Public Meeting held on Friday, 22nd June 2007 where a village project to provide facilities for the youth of Kemsing had been discussed, prepared by Mrs. Ross, was passed round the table and noted.

Mrs. Cole reported that a request had been received from Youth Worker, Miss Jane Down, who was inviting two Parish Councillors to a "Building Community Day" with around ten young people from the village. Miss Down said that the idea was to build bridges between young people and around five key community members so that they could get to know each other. The day is planned to be at Halls Green or Carrot Wood on Wednesday, 22nd August. Ms. Hawker and Mr. Smith expressed an interest. It was thought that Mr. Dawes might be interested.

(j) Bus service from Kemsing (See Minute 2 (j) KPC/06/07)

The Report of the Meeting held on Thursday, 14th June 2007 was noted. The Clerk would contact Arriva within two weeks to find out if any progress had been made. A vote of thanks was given to Mr. Croughton for his assistance in these discussions.

(k) Sewage System (See Minute 2(k) KPC/06/07)

The Clerk wrote to District Councillor Miss Stack to find out what Sevenoaks District Council's arrangements were with respect to consulting the water Companies when Planning Applications were being considered. A reply was awaited.

(l) Barnfield Crescent – Retained Housing Estate Land (See Minute 2 (l) KPC/06/07)

A site plan had been obtained from Sevenoaks District Council, confirming that the three car park spaces were not included in the transfer of land.

(m) Alder Tree - The Well Area (See Minute 3 (f) KPC/06/07)

The Clerk advised that a site meeting with a Structural Engineer was to be held soon, to discuss a quotation for a survey, which would cost around £450. Further enquiries were being made to find a qualified Arboriculturalist who may be able to give advice on the Alder tree.

Mr. Bennett proposed and Mr. Burfield seconded:

"That the Council approves £450 for a structural survey on The Well structure and up to £400 for a report from an Arboriculturalist to give advice on the growth, etc. of the Alder tree."

CARRIED unanimously

(n) St. Edith Hall Management Committee (See Minute 4 KPC/06/07)

Councillors discussed a letter dated 6th June 2007 from Mr. Peter Kendall, Chairman of the St. Edith Hall Management Committee, a report dated 20th June 2007 from Revd. Ashworth and a document dated 2nd July 2007 prepared by Mr. Bennett for Councillors, with regard to access over land owned by St. Edith Hall Management Committee. The St. Edith Hall Management Committee requested the Parish Council's opinion on what it thought the benefits and disadvantages of the scheme, as a whole, might have on the village.

[8h55 The Chairman adjourned the Meeting and invited the Public to speak.]

Residents expressed their views on the proposed new vicarage and church hall, which required the granting of a right of way by the St. Edith Hall Management Committee.

[9h15 The Meeting was re-convened.]

Various issues were discussed, including the number of current car park spaces. It was thought that the existing spaces in both car parks were already inadequate to meet the needs of residents when attending events and activities in the village.

Dr. Walker proposed:

"That the Parish Council defer this item for a future meeting, until such time as more information had been obtained."

THE PROPOSAL FELL

Mr. Burfield proposed and Ms. Hawker seconded:

"That the Parish Council believes that any agreement by the St. Edith Hall Management Committee with the Diocese will have a detrimental effect on the whole village."

CARRIED 5 in favour, 1 against 3 abstentions [Mr. Bennett, Mr. Burfield, Mr. Waters]

(o) Bus Shelter - Childsbridge Lane (See Minute 5 (KPC/06/07))

A quotation had been received for the removal and disposal of the bus shelter. Mr. Croughton suggested that the Parish Council offer the shelter to the youth for use as some sort of shelter for the interim until a proper youth shelter had been obtained, but Mr. Burfield thought that the structure was decaying and that it was not suitable for a youth shelter.

Mr. Croughton proposed and Mr. Waters seconded:

"That the Council ask the youth of Kemsing whether they would be interested in the shelter and if so, where they would like it installed."

THE PROPOSAL FELL

3 in favour, 5 against, 1 abstention

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Parish Council accepts the quotation of £560 + VAT dated 9th July 2007 from Sevenoaks Direct Services to remove and dispose of the bus shelter."

CARRIED 4 in favour, 2 against, 3 abstentions

Mr. Anderson offered to make a small contribution.

3. **COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS**

(a) Planning Committee

Mr. Waters proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:

"That the Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd July 2007, Reference P/09/2007."

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Chairman's Report

- (i) On Friday, 15th June, the Sustainable Communities Bill passed through its third reading debate in the House of Commons. The Campaign Co-ordinator from the Local Works for the campaign for the Sustainable Communities Bill thanked the Parish Council for its support over the past four years.
- (ii) Committee Meeting Minutes are now available on the Sevenoaks District Council's website and from August 2007 the Parish Council would not receive paper copies.
- (iii) Ms. Hawker reported two incidents of antisocial behaviour in Noah's Ark recently, which resulted in Ms. Hawker's vehicle being damaged. At least two other vehicles had been damaged. A child's bicycle had been stolen from a van parked in the car park of number 75 Noah's Ark (the Old Coachworks).
- (iv) The Council noted a Memorandum dated 16th July 2007 from the Clerk, regarding a "clean up" day which had been organised by Mrs. Ross on Saturday, 15th July. A Memorandum dated 18th July from Mrs. Ross, which had been circulated at the Meeting, was noted.

(c) Reports from Officers

- (i) Mr. Bennett advised that the tree house on the Kemsing Downs Nature Reserve had not yet been removed [Minute 3(f) KPC/06/07].

Mr. Burfield proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

"That the Council approve £250 for the removal of the tree house."

CARRIED unanimously

3. **SAFETY CONCERN - JUNCTION CHILDSBRIDGE LANE, DYNES ROAD & WEST END**

Councillors discussed correspondence from a resident who was very concerned about the safety of school children when crossing this junction. Mrs. Mumford, Head teacher of Kemsing Primary School, also sent a letter in support of making this crossing safe for pedestrians, in particular for school children. In only a few weeks a number of accidents occurred at this junction, one of which resulted in a vehicle being on its side on the pavement. Kemsing Primary School had made great efforts through the recently introduced "Walking Bus Scheme", whereby the children have to cross the road at this dangerous junction.

Mrs. Cole noted that various options had been considered in the past, including a mini roundabout, which had been considered not appropriate in view of the lack of adequate space. Mr. Buttifant thought speeding was the major problem due to traffic negotiation an offset crossroad and hoped that a crossing, accompanied with proper signage, may slow down motorists.

[9h45 Mrs. Cole adjourned the Meeting and invited the Public to speak.]

A petition, supported by some 115 residents, was given to the Chairman, requesting the installation of a pedestrian crossing, and/or some form of traffic calming at the junction. Residents stressed their concerns about the school children's safety.

[9h51 The meeting was re-opened.]

Mr. Croughton echoed Mrs. Cole's comment that attempts had been made in the past to make this junction safer. A considerable increase in housing in Kemsing over the past years resulted in an increase in the number of vehicles using this road.

Mr. Croughton thought it was now a very appropriate time to address this issue. The Parish Council welcomed the petition and shared the concerns of residents. A site meeting would be arranged with Kent Highway representatives, County Councillor, Mr. Nick Chard and District Councillors, Ms. Lorraine Stack and

- Mrs. Emma Moore. The press would also be invited.
4. **BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE**
No other business was discussed.
5. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC & PRESS**
Questions from Members of the Public and Press had been taken at the Chairman's discretion.
6. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**
Mr. Burfield proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:
That the Council approves the payment list (Vouchers 90,91, 95-123) and to note the receipt list (Vouchers 92,93,94)."
CARRIED unanimously
7. **INFORMATION REPORT**
The Information Report was noted and all the papers referred to, were laid on the table.

The Clerk reported that two residents, living near The Well, asked the Council to note recent incidents of vandalism at their properties when youths threw eggs against their walls.
8. **MATTERS TO BE RAISED AT THE NEXT MEETING & GOOD NEWS**
8.1 Kemsing Parish Council Website.
9. **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:**
30th July 2007: Planning
8th August 2007: Recreation Ground
13th August 2007: Planning
15th August 2007: Parish Council
28th August 2007: Planning (Tuesday)
29th August 2007: Highways

The Meeting closed at 10.20 p.m.

Yolanda Tredoux, Clerk to the Council