

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk's Office, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 6NA
Tel & Fax: 01732 762841 E-mail: kemsingpc@tiscali.co.uk

**Minutes of a Meeting held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing,
on Wednesday, 15th August 2007 at 8.00 p.m.**

- PRESENT: Mrs. M. Cole (in the Chair)
Mr. D. Bennett, Mr. B. Buttifant, Mr. G. Croughton, Mr. R. Dawes,
Ms. K. Hawker, Mr. I. Rumgay, Mr. S. Smith, Dr. P. Walker,
Mr. A. Waters
- IN ATTENDANCE: 2 Members of the Public
Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)
- APOLOGIES: Mr. P. Burfield
Miss L. Stack (District Councillor)

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

Mr. Waters declared having a personal interest in Item 2(c) as being a Trustee of the Kemsing Heritage Centre Association and Item 6 as being a Member of the PCC.

Mr. Buttifant declared having 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 18th July 2007, Reference KPC/07/07, having been previously circulated, subject to the following amendment:"

Page 5, Item 4: Second paragraph, last sentence to include the following wording after problem:

"due to traffic negotiating an offset crossroads"

CARRIED unanimously

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

- (a) PCSO – Police Community Support Officer (See Minute 2 (a) KPC/07/07)
Both Kemsing and Seal Parish Council's comments had been sent to Mr. Pankhurst on 3rd August 2007 and a response was awaited.
- (b) WI Seat (See Minute 2 (b) KPC/06707)
No further information had been received.
- (c) Long term storage of village archives (See Minute 2 (c) KPC/07/07)
Councillors discussed a request from the Kemsing Heritage Centre Association to consider the building of an archive store as a Parish Project.

Mr. Croughton reminded Members that the Finance Committee Chairman had suggested at a previous meeting that the Council find worthwhile projects on which to spend some of the reserve funds and thought that assisting the Kemsing Heritage Centre Association with a building suitable for the storage of archives would benefit the village as a whole. Mr. Croughton suggested that the Parish Council consider assisting with the construction of a basic building, and that the Kemsing Heritage Centre Association find alternative grants to fit the building out to a standard appropriate for storing archives.

Mr. Rungay proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:

“The Parish Council is sympathetic to providing financial support to the Kemsing Heritage Centre Association and agrees to fund the professional services and associated planning application as a first step to assist the Kemsing Heritage Centre Association in progressing their plans, as a capital project.”

CARRIED unanimously

The Kemsing Heritage Centre Association would have to arrange the architect and surveyor and provide the Council with estimated costs involved in the construction of the building.

- (d) Land in West End (opposite the Library) (See Minute 2 (d) KPC/07/07)
Kent Highway Services advised that this was not considered a safety issue.

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Rungay seconded:

“That the Parish Council accepts the quotation received from the Kent Highway Services’ approved contractor for £1,786 to reinstate and extend the post and rail fence in order to tidy up and to provide a level of protection to pedestrians.”

CARRIED 9 in favour, 1 against (Mr. Bennett)

- (e) Kemsing Parish Council Website (See Minute 2 (e) KPC/07/07)
Councillors received Mr. Rungay’s written recommendations to make maximum use of the website to foster relationships with villagers and visitors.

Mr. Rungay proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

“That the Parish Council appoints a sub-committee to explore the possibilities and to formulate a proposal for consideration by full Council.”

CARRIED unanimously

It was agreed that Mr. Dawes, Ms. Hawker, Mr. Rungay and Mr. Waters would form the sub-committee. The Clerk was also invited to attend the sub-committee meetings.

- (f) Amendments to Standing Orders (See Minute 2(f) KPC/07/07)
The Standing Order Working Group had met on Monday, 23rd July.

- (g) Christmas Lights (See Minute 2 (g) KPC/07/07)
No further information was available.

- (h) Village Sign (See Minute 2 (h) KPC/07/07)
No further information was available.

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

The Clerk enquired from Arriva and Kent County Council (KCC) whether any progress had been made. Mr. Croughton advised that KCC had informed that they had so far been unsuccessful in their attempts to re-instate a limited service, but that they would still pursue the avenues open to them. KCC had enquired about the Parish Council's ability to assist with possible funding towards the re-instatement of a limited service.

Mr. Croughton felt that, in principle, the Parish Council would be willing to consider making a contribution in conjunction with other local authorities concerned, but that the details had to be made clear before Members would consider this request. The Clerk would inform KCC accordingly. A reply was awaited from Arriva.

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

Mrs. Cole read a reply from District Councillor Miss Stack, who indicated that Sevenoaks District Council and Thames Water reiterated what the Parish Council had already been told. However, Miss Stack would report back to the Parish Council at a later date as a new Sevenoaks District Local Plan, which must include infrastructure provision "strategies", would come into force in September.

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

Sevenoaks District Council confirmed on 24th July that all the necessary papers had been passed to its legal section in order to progress the proposed transfer.

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

An Arboricultural assessment would cost £450 plus VAT. Previously, the Parish Council had agreed up to £400 for an Arboricultural assessment. The Council was asked to approve an increase of £50 for this assessment, making it £450 in total for the Arboricultural assessment and £450 for the structural survey.

Mr. Bennett attended a site meeting with the Clerk and Mr. A. Cox, Structural Engineer, to discuss the possibilities of obtaining a structural survey on the The Well. The Clerk would supply further information on the tree and The Well to Mr. Cox, who would prepare a draft report. Mr. Cox suggested that it would probably be beneficial to hold an informal meeting with the Arboricultural Officer at Sevenoaks District Council, in an attempt to clarify some of the issues.

Mr. Bennett proposed and Dr. Walker seconded:

"That the Parish Council agrees to instruct the Structural Engineer to carry out the structural survey of The Well, and to increase the estimate for the Arboricultural survey by £50, making it £450 in total, but that the Arboricultural survey would be put on hold until it proves necessary."

CARRIED unanimously

(m) Petition - Junction Childsbridge Lane, Dynes Road & West End (See Minute 3 KPC/07/07)

All the relevant documents had been forwarded to Kent Highway Services on Friday, 20th July. The petition would be presented at the next Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board Meeting, to be held in September. The Council noted an email received from a resident dated 29th July, requesting whether a 20mph speed limit could be applied throughout Kemsing, with chicanes to the North and South of the Dynes Road/Childsbridge Lane cross roads to make the limit effective. This request was referred to the Highways Committee for discussion.

3. COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS

(a) Planning Committee

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Water seconded:

"That the Parish Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th July 2007, Reference P/10/2007."

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Planning Committee

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:

"That the Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 30th July 2007, Reference P/11/2007."

CARRIED unanimously

(c) Emergency Services Committee

Mr. Rungay proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

"That the Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th July 2007, Reference ES/28/07."

CARRIED unanimously

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That Ms. Hawker be appointed as the Emergency Services Officer."

CARRIED unanimously

(d) Report from Chairman

(i) Mrs. Cole had purchased a gift for Mr. Tony Andrews, who had been a Councillor for some 25 years. Mr. Andrews would attend the next Parish Council Meeting in September when the gift, to be paid from Chairman's Allowance, would be presented to him.

(ii) Youth Worker, Miss Jane Down was getting married in September and Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Parish Council offer a wedding present to the value of £25 to Miss Down."

CARRIED unanimously

(iii) The trustees of the Volunteer Development Agency and Voluntary Action West Kent have agreed to merge.

(iv) A request had been received from the Local Works – Campaign for the Sustainable Communities Bill, to lobby the government reminding them of the commitments that the previous Minister Phil Woolas had made on its behalf and to urge them to continue to support the Bill in its current format. It was agreed that the Clerk would send a further affirmation.

(v) Mrs. Cole referred to correspondence from the West Kent Youth Offending Team, informing the Council that two young people who had committed the offence regarding damage to the trees on the Nature Reserve, had recently been sentenced at the Youth Court. Both offenders had received a Referral Order of three months.

(vi) *It was agreed that Ms. Hawker be appointed to the following Committees: Downland Management, Recreation Grounds and Emergency Services.*

(vii) *It was agreed that Dr. Walker be appointed to the following Committees: Finance and Downland Management.*

(e) Reports from Officers

- (i) Mr. Buttifant said that problems had been experienced with storm water due to the recent flash flooding. Many areas around the village suffered from surface water remaining on the roads. Kent Highway Services advised that these drains should be cleared by Sevenoaks District Council twice a year.

The Clerk was asked to write to Sevenoaks District Council to find out if they could clear the drains, and a copy of this letter would be forwarded to District Councillors Miss Stack and Mrs. Moore.

4. **CCTV**

Councillors considered a memorandum dated 29th July 2007, prepared by Mr. Waters, asking Councillors to consider submitting a request to Sevenoaks District Council to install a CCTV camera in the village car park. Mr. Croughton supported the idea of installing a CCTV camera in view of recent incidents of vandalism.

Mr. Waters proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

“That the Clerk be asked to submit a request to the Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) for a CCTV camera to be installed in the Kemsing Village Car Park which is land currently leased by the SDC. The Parish Council make this request primarily to assist the police to combat the vandalism that affects parishioners.”

CARRIED unanimously

Copies of the request would be sent to PC Wilkinson and District Councillors.

5. **NHS – PRELIMINARY CONSENT APPLICATION TO OPEN A PHARMACY IN KEMSING**

The Council noted a letter dated 16th July 2007 from the NHS, Kent Primary Care Agency, informing that the Agency had received a preliminary consent application to open a pharmacy at an unspecified address in Kemsing. The Parish Council was asked to comment on the map provided whether the area was in whole or part rural in nature.

Mrs. Cole introduced Mr. Shafi (Owner of Otford Pharmacy), who gave a brief summary on what his thoughts were on the application.

Mrs. Cole reminded Councillors that an appeal by West Kent LMC against West Kent Health Authority’s decision regarding the rurality of West Kingsdown, Otford, Kemsing and Seal in March 2001, had been dismissed for various reasons. The report indicated that Kemsing, being a recent settlement, had the feel of urbanisation. The Parish Council supported that decision and its view remained unchanged on the areas of which it had immediate knowledge. It was agreed that in reply, the Clerk would refer to the Inspector’s report of March 2001. The reply would also include a statement to the effect that the Parish was very happy with the existing arrangements and the extremely good service received from Mr. Shefi and his staff.

6. **YOUTH WORKER**

Mr. Waters informed the Council that Miss Jane Down, the current Youth Worker had tendered her resignation as she was getting married on 1st September and would be moving to Gloucestershire with her husband to be. Dr. Walker said that Judith Cork would be available for detached youth work in Kemsing.

Mr. Smith was unfortunately unable to attend the "Building Community Day" to be held on 22nd August, which had been arranged by Miss Down. Mr. Smith was asked by Miss Down to find out whether any other Councillor(s) would be able to attend, but unfortunately everybody had other commitments.

7. **BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

There was no business to be discussed.

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

There were no questions from Members of the public or press.

9. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Mr. Croughton proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

"That the Council approves the payment list (Vouchers 130-139, 141, 144-147, 151-160) and to note the receipt list (Vouchers 124-127, 143, 148-150), including payment for £450 (Mr. Mzimba – Internal Auditor)."

CARRIED unanimously

10. **INFORMATION REPORT**

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

Mrs. Cole reminded Councillors of a Councillor Information Training Day, to be held on Saturday, 22nd September 2007, at the Lenham Community Centre.

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

There were no matters raised.

12. **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:**

28th August 2007: Planning (Tuesday)

29th August 2007: Highways

5th September 2007: Downland Management

10th September 2007: Planning

19th September 2007: Parish Council

24th September 2007: Planning

The Chairman closed the Meeting at 9.45 p.m.