

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of a Meeting held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing,
on Wednesday, 19 August 2009 at 8.00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Mrs. M. Cole (in the Chair)
Mr. P. Burfield, Mr. B. Buttifant, Mr. G. Croughton, Mr. R. Dawes,
Mr. P. Eaton, Mrs. W. Ross, Dr. P. Walker, Mr. A. Waters

IN ATTENDANCE: 5 Members of the Public
Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Mr. D. Bennett, Ms. K. Hawker, Mr. I. Rumgay

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 15 July 2009, Reference KPC/07/09, previously circulated, be approved."

CARRIED 8 in favour, 1 abstention

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(a) Pedestrian Crossing (Minute 2(a) KPC/07/09)

An email dated 17 July from Mr. G. Palmer, drawing attention to the potentially serious road safety concerns with the crossing, was noted. Mr. Palmer's concern was referred to Kent Highway Services (KHS) who advised that a safety audit would be carried out.

KHS would be reminded to remove the "Loose chipping" sign which was obscuring motorists' view.

(b) Archive Store KHC (Minute 2(b) KPC/07/09)

Mr. Burfield reported that a meeting would be arranged with the Clerk, the Chairman and himself to finalise a response to the Council's solicitor with the Council's comments on the draft lease.

8.05 p.m. The Chairman suspended the Meeting and invited Mr. Bob Banister to ask questions.

Mr. Banister said that it was anticipated that building work would commence in October or November, and asked for a guarantee from the Council that the lease would be finalised and signed before work started. Mr. Burfield stated that the Council was progressing the conclusion of the lease.

8.10 p.m. The Chairman re-convened the Meeting.

(c) Proposed closure of public conveniences in Kemsing car park (Minute 2(c) KPC/07/09)

Sevenoaks District Council had been advised on 23 July that the Council could not accept full responsibility and would only consider offering a fixed annual figure towards the operating costs.

Mrs. Cole said that many residents had expressed a concern regarding the closure of the conveniences and that the Council should endeavour to retain this service.

Mrs. Cole also drew attention to an article in a recent WI magazine, which highlighted the problem with the closure of public conveniences across the Country.

Members considered an email dated 28 July from the Staff Officer working for Councillor Nick Chard at Kent County Council (KCC), asking the Parish Council to confirm the exact amount requested for funding from KCC.

It was agreed to apply for an annual sum of £4,000 from KCC to cover the cleaning operations.

(d) Park Lane Play Area (Minute 2(d) KPC/07/09)

The owners of the land had offered temporary use to the end of September 2009, with conditions including no alterations to fencing. Subject to the removal of part of the fencing for equipment access, scrub removal cost had been estimated to be in the region of £300. The Parish Council's Insurance Company also required a risk assessment and Mrs. Cole did not consider this to be a viable option.

The Clerk was asked to write to the landowners to thank them for their offer, and to enquire whether they would consider extending the period of temporary use to 1 or 2 years in view of the costs involved in clearing an area suitable for children to play on.

(e) Request from PACT meeting to install speed indicator devices - safer roads (Minute 2 (f) KPC/07/09)

This matter was still being considered by Kent Highway Services.

(f) SDC CCTV in Village Car Park (Minute 2(g) KPC/07/09)

A meeting had been arranged with SDC on Tuesday, 25 August 2009.

(g) Parish Council land to the rear of 33,35,37,39 Park Lane (Minute 2(h) KPC/07/09)

A site meeting had not yet taken place.

8.23 p.m. The Chairman suspended the Meeting and invited Mrs. Hobson to ask questions.

Mr. Dawes said that, provided assurance from the landowner could be obtained that they would advise the Parish Council prior to entering into a written agreement with regard to selling their property, he could see no reason for not issuing a licence to Mrs. Hobson, who had agreed to confirm this in writing to the Parish Council.

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

It was agreed that, subject to the receipt of Mrs. Hobson's confirmation, a licence would be issued. Mr. Roy Willmore's licence would be varied to exclude No. 37.

(h) Parking at the junction of West End and St. Edith Road (Minute 5(b) KPC/07/09)

An application pack from Kent County Council for the installation of a white vehicle access highlight marking (dog bone), was received. The Clerk reported that in order to introduce the marking on the public highway, the necessary criteria should be met. There must be a proven persistent obstructive parking problem of at least 3 months and each individual problem should be reported to the Police, and an incident number obtained. A non-refundable administration fee of £115 is required with the application and a further £150 is payable for installing the marking. Mr. Burfield said that these fees would not be payable by the Parish Council.

It was agreed that PCSO Harwood would be asked whether she had a record of previous reports which could support the Parish Council's application.

- (i) Wooden post and rail fencing along West End opposite Library (Minute 8 KPC/07/09)
Mrs. Ross said that she had observed SDC repairing a post and rail fence recently and the Clerk was asked to contact SDC to find out whether they could provide any assistance.

The Clerk was also instructed to advise KHS that the timber is decaying and becoming unsafe and that a recent inspection had indicated that the fence was in urgent need of repair. This should be considered as a matter of urgency, in the interest of Public safety.

- (j) Request for traffic calming at Heaverham Road (Minute 9 KPC/07/09)
KHS replied that they were unable to assist with the request to move the 30 mph speed limit.

Dr. Walker proposed and Mr. Dawes seconded:

"That the Parish Council accepts the response from KHS and that no further action is taken."

CARRIED unanimously

- (k) Old Chapel site – St. Edith Road (Minute 10 KPC/07/09)
Members noted that the letter sent had been returned with the answer: "No longer at this address – return to sender." No further action would be taken.

- (l) Parish Councillor vacancy (Minute 3(d))
The Notice for a casual vacancy dated 3 August had been displayed on the Parish Council's notice boards, giving residents the opportunity to request an election within 14 working days from this date. The expiry date would be 20 August.

3. COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS

(a) Planning Committee

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:

"That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 July 2009, Reference P/10/2009, previously circulated, be approved."

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Waters :

"That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 August 2009, Reference P/11/2009, previously circulated, be approved."

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Recreation Grounds Committee

Mr. Burfield proposed and Mr. Waters seconded:

"That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5 August 2009, Reference Number RG/33/2009, previously circulated, be approved, including the approval of the Charlton Football Club's request to use the Common Field for four football sessions in September."

Mr. Burfield drew attention to Item 3(f) and noted correspondence from the Charlton Football Club, giving more information regarding their request to use the Common Field in September.

CARRIED unanimously

(c) Report from Chairman

Kemsing Evergreens : A thank you note for the Council's 2008/09 donation was noted.

Dynes Road Tree work : SDC advised that deadwood removal would be carried out in the autumn.

Church Lane Tree work : SDC advised that removal of diseased trees would be carried out in the autumn. SDC would be asked to clarify the exact location of the trees.

(d) Reports from Councillors

Sevenoaks Quarry : Mr. Dawes reported that under the latest proposals, a guarantee was given that the structural landscaping would be completed first and that much attention had been given to the environment. Kemsing would not be affected.

SAYT (Youth Club) : Dr. Walker reported that Sevenoaks District Council had not made the youth worker's contract permanent. It was hoped that a replacement would be found soon.

Play Place Youth Club : Dr. Walker noted that approval had been given to Mr. Hennis to extend the availability of the Church Hall for the youth club. Mr. Hennis would be reminded to make a donation to the Church for the use of the Church Hall, which was provided free of charge.

Dead cherry tree (corner The Landway) : Mr. Buttifant reported that the dead cherry tree near the seat at the junction with The Landway and West End (near No 1 The Landway), should be removed.

Drain clearance (Highways) : Mr. Buttifant advised that KHS responded that drain clearance takes place every two years.

Vegetation opposite the Library : Mr. Buttifant reported that KHS had been asked to cut back the overgrown vegetation along the footpath opposite the Library.

30 mph Speed limit on Pilgrims Way : KHS replied that this request had been put to the Signs and Lines Team.

Wooden fingerpost at crossroads with Childsbridge Lane, West End : KHS advised that the preferred material was recycled plastic. A sample of this material was awaited.

Footpath at the bottom of Dynes Road : B & G Contractors had been asked to cut back the heavily overgrown vegetation.

Hedge cuttings at end of The Landway : The resident at No 3 The Landway would be asked to remove the hedge cuttings as it posed a fire risk.

It was noted that this property was rented and the Clerk was instructed to bring this matter to the attention of the Letting Agent.

Signpost at junction with Honey Pot Lane and Watery Lane : Mr. Waters reported that the directional sign had been knocked down.

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

Questions from the Public were taken elsewhere during the Meeting.

5. **DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS**

(a) Kenward Trust – Request for financial assistance

Dr. Walker proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

“That the request for financial assistance be rejected.”

CARRIED unanimously

6. **KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – KENT ALCOHOL STRATEGY**

The Council was invited to comment on the Strategy which addresses the issues of alcohol and alcohol misuse in our communities.

Mrs. Cole proposed:

“That the Council has no comments to make.”

CARRIED unanimously

7. **BT – INVITATION TO ADOPT THE RED TELEPHONE BOX IN NOAH'S ARK**

Members noted a letter from BT. This service had only been used 17 times in the last 12 months and the Council was invited to adopt the box for £1. The equipment would be removed and ownership of the structure would be transferred to the Parish Council. Applications to be submitted by 31 October 2009. The Noah's Ark Residents' Association had been made aware of this request, but no comment was received.

Mrs. Cole proposed:

“That no action is taken.”

CARRIED unanimously

8. **PHARMACY APPLICATION FROM MATRIX PRIMARY HEALTHCARE LTD**

A letter dated 3 August from the Kent Primary Care Agency was considered. West Kent Primary Care Trust received a preliminary consent application from Matrix Primary Healthcare Ltd to open a new pharmacy in the vicinity of the development at 11-25 West End, Kemsing. Matrix Healthcare's original application dated 27 June 2007 was agreed by the NHS Litigation Authority Family Health Services Appeal Unit, in a letter dated 5 June 2008, which had not been received by the Parish Council. This approval would lapse in September 2009.

9.33 p.m. Mr. Dawes briefly left the Meeting.

Dr. Walker proposed and Mr. Burfield seconded:

"That the Parish Council objects to this application on the same grounds as explained in the Council's letter dated 21 August 2008 and that the Council's views remain unchanged."

CARRIED unanimously

9.40 p.m. Mr. Dawes returned to the Meeting.

9. **SEWERAGE LEAKAGE AT SCHOOL ALLEY**

Following repeated problems with sewage seepage from this drain cover the Council agreed to request Thames Water to investigate and resolve the apparent unsatisfactory condition of this part of the drainage system. Mr. Croughton advised that the leak had been repaired, but that the footpath was still covered with the debris and that this posed a health hazard.

It was agreed that this would be brought to the attention of the Environmental Health Department at SDC.

10. **FAIRFIELD CLOSE - REQUEST FOR LITTER BIN**

Moat Housing received a request from residents in Fairfield Close to install a litter bin in that area. Members felt that there was no need for a litter bin in the estate which had no through route.

Dr. Walker proposed and Mr. Eaton seconded:

"That the request to install a litter bin in Fairfield Close be rejected."

CARRIED unanimously

11. **2012 OLYMPICS**

A letter dated 30 July from the PCC, advising that the Diocesan Focus Group 2012 had been discussing the ways in which local churches could engage with the 2012 Olympics. The PCC's Church and Society Team felt that this was in the remit of the Parish Council, and offered to help the Parish Council rather than taking up leadership in the activities.

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That no action be taken."

CARRIED unanimously

12. **BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

No business was discussed.

13. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Mr. Burfield proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:

"That the Council approve the list of payments (Vouchers 102, 103, 107-120) and £280 (Cheque no 203849) and note the list of receipts (Vouchers 104 - 106).

CARRIED unanimously

14. **INFORMATION REPORT**
The Information Report was noted.
15. **MATTERS TO BE RAISED AT THE NEXT MEETING & GOOD NEWS**
Kemsing Festival – Parish Council to consider co-ordinating the Festival in 2011.
16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
16 September 2009.

The Meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.