

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of a Meeting held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing,
on Wednesday, 19th September 2007 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. I. Rungay, Dr. P. Walker, Mr. S. Smith, Mr. A. Waters,
Mrs. Ross [*arrived 8.30 p.m.*]
- IN ATTENDANCE: PCSO S. Harwood
5 Members of the Public
- APOLOGIES: Mr. D. Bennett, Ms. K. Hawker
Miss L. Stack (District Councillor)

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

1. **MINUTES**

Mrs. Cole proposed from the Chair:

"That the Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th August 2007, Reference KPC/08/07, having been previously circulated."

CARRIED 8 in favour, 1 abstention

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(a) PCSO – Police Community Support Officer (See Minute 2 (a) KPC/08/07)

Kent Police Legal Services Department had reviewed the comments and suggested changes submitted by Seal and Kemsing Parish Councils. Councillors noted a copy of the response received from Kent Police and *it was agreed to postpone this item until the next Parish Council Meeting.*

(b) WI Seat (See Minute 2 (b) KPC/08/07)

Mrs. Bannister had written and advised that a faculty from the Diocese was in fact required and the response is awaited.

(c) Long term storage of village archives (See Minute 2 (c) KPC/08/07)

Mr. Burfield advised that Mrs. Erica Cole was in the process of arranging a meeting with himself and an Architect. He had received a letter from Mrs. Cole asking to clarify the St. Edith Hall Management Committee's position on a view items.

(d) Land in West End (opposite the Library) (See Minute 2 (d) KPC/08/07)

Kent Highway Services had been advised on 6th September 2007 that the quotation had been accepted.

(e) Kemsing Parish Council Website (See Minute 2 (e) KPC/08/07)

Mr. Rungay reported that the St. Edith Hall Management Committee Members had expressed an interest for the St. Edith Hall to have a page on the Parish Council's website.

This, together with the recommendations made by Mr. Rungay at the August Parish Council Meeting, would be investigated by the Website Working Group. A meeting will be arranged.

- (f) Amendments to Standing Orders (See Minute 2(f) KPC/08/07)
Mr. Burfield reported that the Standing Orders had been updated and that another meeting would be arranged soon to finalise the draft.
- (g) Christmas Lights (See Minute 2 (g) KPC/08/07)
Due to the problematical and uncertain position on the removal of the alder tree from The Well, Councillors felt that, regrettably, it would not be appropriate to make a capital investment for Christmas lights at this time. It was agreed to remove this item from the agenda until the situation on the alder tree was clarified.
- (h) Village Sign (See Minute 2 (h) KPC/08/07)
Mr. Waters reported that a site meeting would be arranged to look into the possibility of installing another sign by the horse trough, and a letter would also be drafted to householders in that area, to obtain their views on the proposal to install a village sign there.
- (i) Bus service from Kemsing (See Minute 2 (i) KPC/08/07)
Mr. Croughton was disappointed to inform the Council that his attempts to contact Arriva had failed, despite leaving several messages, however, Kent County Council (KCC) was very supportive of the ideas which had been put forward by the Parish Council, and KCC confirmed that they were still investigating some possibilities. Mr. Croughton would contact Arriva again and hoped to report some progress at the next Parish Council Meeting.
- (j) Sewage System (See Minute 2(j) KPC/08/07)
It was agreed to remove this item from the Agenda.
- (k) Barnfield Crescent – Retained Housing Estate Land (See Minute 2 (k) KPC/08/07)
No further progress had been reported.
- (l) Alder Tree - The Well Area (See Minute 3 (l) KPC/08/07)
The relevant documents had been forwarded to the Structural Engineer.
- (m) Petition - Junction Childsbridge Lane, Dynes Road & West End (See Minute 2(m) KPC/08/07)
Mrs. Cole reported that she had attended a site meeting with Mr. Bennett, Mr. Croughton, the Clerk, Mr. A. Jiwaji (Kent Highway Services), Mr. M. Chard (County Councillor), Mr. Pierson (School Governor), a Member of the Press, and 3 Members of the Public. The major suggestion was to install a pedestrian crossing the south side of Childsbridge Lane. It was also suggested to ask the householder on the north west corner to substantially reduce the height of the hedge as this would improve visibility for vehicles turning out of Dynes Road. The question of a mini roundabout was raised, but this was deemed not practicable due to insufficient space. Another idea was to install traffic calming on the north side of the crossing in an attempt to slow down traffic approaching from Pilgrims Way, as speeding was one of the main concerns. The junction sign as you approach the crossroads from the north needed improvement, as it did not indicate an offset crossroad. Kent Highway Services noted the serious problems with this junction and Mr. Jiwaji undertook to look into the suggestions made. Mr. Waters suggested that the Parish Council considers contributing 50% of the cost to the householder for lowering the hedge.

(n) CCTV (See Minute 4 KPC/08/07)

The Council noted a response dated 3rd September received from the CCTV Manager at Sevenoaks District Council.

Mr. Waters suggested that the Parish Council pay for the installation of a camera, but that Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) would be asked to pay for the running cost of it, in view of the fact that the car park is their property. Mr. Burfield said that SDC had not commented on this fact and that pressure should be put on them for taking responsibility.

It was agreed that a Meeting would be arranged with SDC to explore the possibilities. Mr. Buttifant and Mr. Waters indicated that they would be interested in attending a site meeting.

(o) NHS-Preliminary consent application to open a Pharmacy in Kemsing (See Minute 5 KPC/08/07)

The Council noted further correspondence dated 31st August 2007 received from the Kent Primary Care Agency, stating that following a meeting on 24th August 2007, the Pharmaceutical Regulations Committee considered the rurality of Kemsing and surrounding areas together with all the comments received, and it was agreed that the whole area outlined in green on the map received with the previous correspondence, was rural in character, with the exclusion of some areas, as identified in the letter. *It was agreed that no further action was needed at this time.*

3. COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS

(a) Planning Committee

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Waters seconded:

"That the Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th August 2007, Reference No P/12/2007, previously circulated."

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Recreation Grounds Committee

Mrs. Cole proposed and Mr. Waters seconded:

"That the Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th August 2007, Reference No RG/26/2007, previously circulated."

[8.30 p.m. The Chairman adjourned the Meeting for the Public.]

Two residents of Nightingale Road asked the Council what facilities the Council was going to provide for the youth. Mrs. Cole replied that the young people were asked what they would like and they said a youth shelter. The Recreation Ground Committee was currently looking at a suitable site for a shelter at Nightingale Road taking account of closeness to housing and possible nuisance.

[8.35 p.m. The Chairman reconvened the Meeting.]

Mr. Smith said he was very frustrated about recent incidents in the Nightingale Recreation Ground, one of which involved a vehicle being driven into a tree and set alight on Oxenhill Shaw. The fire brigade had been called out to extinguish the fire. In a separate incident, also in Oxenhill Shaw, the fire brigade had to be called out again, to attend to a fire in the woods. Mr. Smith was very concerned about the amount of wood and debris which were lying around, and Mr. Buttifant, Member of the Oxenhill Shaw Meadow Committee, said that coppicing and clearing would take place soon.

CARRIED unanimously

(c) Highways Committee

Mr. Buttifant proposed and Mr. Smith seconded:

"That the Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th August 2007, Reference No H/04/07, previously circulated."

CARRIED unanimously

(d) Downland Management Committee

Mr. Buttifant proposed and Mr. Burfield seconded:

"That the Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th September 2007, Reference No DM/04/07, previously circulated."

Item 3 (d): The Clerk advised that a quotation of £150 was received from B&G Contractors to lower the hedge in line with the pillars on the wall where information regarding St. Edith is shown on a plaque.

The following recommendation was agreed:

"That, provided the estimate is within the current budget, the hedge be lowered by no more than one foot, and that this work be carried out, if possible, before the Remembrance Day ceremony."

CARRIED unanimously

(e) Report from Chairman

- (i) A letter from Mr. M. Fallon was received, confirming his intention to support the Sustainable Communities Bill.
- (ii) The Council agreed unanimously to sponsor £25 towards a prize for the Gardening for Wildlife Award Scheme 2007.
- (iii) A message from the Trading Standards was received, making residents aware of a scam which involves consumers being telephoned by people alleging to be from the Office of Fair Trading.
- (iv) Sevenoaks District Council advised that various tree works were programmed to be carried out over the next few months in Dynes Road, particularly the reduction and removal of decay from Cherry trees.
- (v) The Sevenoaks District Council's Policy and Environment Team will be holding two workshops on Sevenoaks District Open Space Study Consultation and Tree Legislation in October.
- (vi) Mrs. Cole said the PC Wilkinson informed the Clerk that a young offender received his final warning after admitting to graffiti on West Kent Housing property in Dynes Road.
- (vii) Mrs. Cole referred to a request from Dr. Walker, for a contribution towards a Youth Worker for £1500. The Clerk confirmed that the payment agreed to prior to Miss. Jane Down's departure, were up to date. Dr. Walker could not confirm at this stage whether there was a replacement for Miss Down. The funds budgeted for a contribution towards a youth worker would remain unchanged for this year.
- (viii) Mr. John Farrow asked support from the Council to address an issue with excessive litter behind one unit in particular at Chaucer Business Park, Watery Lane. The Clerk would write to the Management Team of Chaucer Estate.

(f) Reports from Councillors

No reports were received from Members.

4. **CO-OPTION OF Mrs. KAREN KELLY**

Mrs. Karen Kelly was invited to address the Council and explained why she was interested in becoming a Parish Councillor. A ballot was held and it was unanimously agreed to co-opt Mrs. Kelly as a Parish Councillor.

5. **CLOSURE OF VILLAGE POST-OFFICES**

Following a decision by Post Office Limited to close some rural Post Offices, the Parish Council received 28 letters from concerned residents, asking the Council to give its support for the Dynes Road Post Office to remain open.

Correspondence received from Kent Association of Parish Councils was circulated at the meeting, which indicated that a Public Consultation by Post Office Limited would commence on 2nd October, when local authorities would be asked to make any comments. It was agreed that if any one of the two Post Offices in Kemsing were included on the "closure list", the Chairman would call an extraordinary Parish Council meeting to discuss the appropriate action necessary. Councillors agreed that the Parish Council would support both Post Offices in Kemsing.

6. **BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

There was no business required by Statute to discuss.

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

Questions from Members of the public were taken during the Meeting.

8. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Mr. Burfield proposed and Mr. Walker seconded:

"That the Council approve the payments (Vouchers 162-198) and note the receipts (Vouchers 191-196)."

Mr. Burfield drew attention to Voucher 195 and the Council noted Mr. Anderson's contribution towards the removal of the bus shelter.

CARRIED unanimously

9. **INFORMATION REPORT**

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

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

There were no matters to be raised.

11. **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:**

24th September 2007: Planning
3rd October 2007 : Finance
8th October 2007 : Planning
17th October 2007 : Parish Council
22nd October 2007 : Planning
31st October 2007 : Recreation Ground

The Meeting closed at 9.15 p.m.

PCSO Sue Harwood addressed the Council and agreed to visit the Open Door to inform residents about the "OFT scam" (See Item 3 (e) (iii)). She would also be looking at ideas to encourage engagement between the young people of Kemsing and residents.

Mr. Tony Andrews, who had been a Parish Councillor for 30 years, and Chairman of Kemsing Parish Council from 1998 to 2003 was presented with a certificate and a gift from the Parish Council recording his valuable contribution to the village over the years. Mr. Andrews said that he was delighted to receive this recognition and recalled some of the most lengthy and controversial meetings at which he had been present during his time as Parish Councillor and wished the present Parish Councillors good wishes in their future duties.