

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, 17 September 2008 at 8.00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Mr. P. Burfield (in the Chair)
Mr. B. Buttifant, Mr. G. Croughton, Mr. I. Rungay, Mr. S. Smith,
Dr. P. Walker, Mr. A. Waters

IN ATTENDANCE: 2 Members of the Public [Item 2 (j)]
Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Mr. R. Dawes, Mr. D. Bennett, Mrs. M. Cole, Ms. K. Hawker,
Mrs. K. Kelly, Mrs. W. Ross

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

1. **MINUTES**

Mr. Burfield proposed:

"That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 August 2008, Reference KPC/08/08, previously circulated, be approved."

CARRIED unanimously

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Mr. Burfield proposed:

"That Item 2 (j) be moved forward and that Mr. C. Arnold (Group Scout Leader) be invited to give a short presentation on details of the proposed plans to replace the scout hut."

CARRIED unanimously

8.05 p.m. [The Meeting was adjourned and Mr. Arnold invited to speak.]

(j) 6th Sevenoaks Scout Hut - Common Field (See Minute 5 KPC/08/08)

Mr. Arnold said that the scout hut had fallen into a state of disrepair and upon advice from an architect it was thought best to replace the building. In addition, some difficulties had been experienced with the current location. Problems with parking occurred when parents dropped their children off and collected them again when using the St. Mary's car park, which did not provide sufficient car park space to facilitate the volume of vehicles. Another problem with the current location was that the field became extremely saturated during the winter months, making it very difficult for both children and parents to walk across the field, and walking boots are always required to do so.

Mr. Arnold thought that the problems identified could be solved by re-locating the proposed new scout hut to the top of the tennis court car park on the Common Field (on the Northwest corner near the gate). This site would provide adequate parking and would only be a short walk from the car park to the scout hut.

8.35 p.m. [The Meeting was re-convened].

Mr. Burfield opened the debate and suggested that the Parish Council, in principle, supported the construction of a scout hut on the Common Field near the tennis courts and car park.

A discussion took place and Members considered various options.

Dr. Walker proposed and Mr. Buttifant seconded:

"That the Parish Council, in principle, supports the Scouts for the erection of a scout hut and awaits more details such as costing, etc."

CARRIED unanimously

- (a) Wooden post and rail fence along West End (See Minute 2 (a) KPC/08/08)
Another meeting would be arranged between the Contractor and the representative from Kent Highway Services to discuss the proposed works.
- (b) Barnfield Crescent – Retained Housing Estate Land (See Minute 2 (b) KPC/08/08)
No progress was reported.
- (c) Pedestrian Crossing - Junction Childsbridge Lane, Dynes Road & West End (See Minute 2 (c) KPC/08/08)
It was noted from the June Minutes of the Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board Committee meeting that progress had been made on this scheme and that it might be possible to bring the scheme forward to this financial year. The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for 30 September 2008.
It was noted that the metal railing at this junction had been repaired after the Clerk had lodged a formal complaint with Kent Highway Services.
- (d) Leisure plots 184 & 185 (See Minute 2(d) KPC/08/08)
Members considered a letter dated 21 August 2008 from Knocker & Foskett, recommending that they carry out a number of searches. These searches included a planning review search and a structural survey. In view of the fact that this is vacant land, Councillors felt that these searches were superfluous.

Mr. Croughton proposed and Mr. Waters seconded:
"That the Parish Council has no wish to authorise any of these searches and that a cheque for £250 be sent in respect of the Solicitor's fee in this matter."
CARRIED unanimously

Members were concerned that the Parish Council had received this letter, which had clearly no relevance to the type of transaction the Parish Council had required. Members were particularly surprised in view of the fact that a number of similar transactions had been dealt with previously by Knocker & Foskett on the Parish Council's behalf. The Clerk was instructed to convey Members' surprise in writing to the Solicitor.
- (e) Review of the Kemsing Play Areas (See Minute 2(e) KPC/08/08)
Mr. Burfield reported that the Group had met last Wednesday when various play equipment and designs had been discussed. A representative from KOMPAN would be invited to provide a presentation with a view to obtain a quotation to replace the equipment based on the size of the Nightingale Road Recreation play area.
- (f) Archive Store KHC (See Minute 2(f) KPC/08/08)
Mr. Burfield reported that the planning application had been forwarded to Sevenoaks District Council and that a decision was awaited.
- (g) Replacement of War Memorial gates (See Minute 2(g) KPC/08/08)
No progress had been reported.

(h) Paragliding from Green Hill (See Minute 2(h) KPC/08/08)
Risk assessment guidelines had been received from the Parish Council's Insurers and would be dealt with by the Downland Management Committee.

(i) Provision of clear recycling sacks to outlets within the village (See Minute (k) KPC/08/08)
The two outlets in the village were informed of the Parish Council's decision at the last meeting. However, both owners were reluctant to sell the bags at £1 per roll, unless written confirmation was obtained from Sevenoaks District Council, confirming that this practice was acceptable.
Mr. Burfield proposed:
"That this matter be brought to the attention of the District Councillors."
CARRIED unanimously

3. COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS

(a) Planning Committee

Mr. Waters proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:
"That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 August 2008, Reference P/12/2008, previously circulated, be approved."
CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Waters proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:
"That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 August 2008, Reference P/13/2008, previously circulated, be approved."
CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Waters proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:
"That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 September 2008, Reference P/14/2008, previously circulated, be approved."
CARRIED unanimously

(b) Downland Management Committee

Dr. Walker proposed and Mr. Burfield seconded:
"That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 September 2008, Reference DM/03/08, previously circulated, be approved."

Dr. Walker drew attention to Item 3(a) and noted that the Committee had identified a preferred location for the replacement tree.
CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Burfield noted that vegetation within the Well Area obstructed motorists' view turning out of St. Edith Road onto the High Street. B & G Contractors would be asked to trim back the vegetation.

(c) Report from Chairman

Request for a pharmacy in Kemsing: Kent Primary Care Agency advised that the Pharmaceutical Regulations Committee refused the application for a pharmacy in Kemsing.

The Stag Theatre Complex, Sevenoaks: A letter from Sevenoaks Town Council asking for the Parish Council's support (including some financial assistance), to enable Sevenoaks Town Council's plan to take over the management of the Stag Theatre, was considered. It was agreed that the Parish Council generally supports Sevenoaks Town Council's plan to take over management. Unfortunately no financial contribution could be made.

Local Development Framework (LDF) Briefing for Parish Councils: Campaign to Protect Rural England invited Parish Councils to attend a briefing providing an update on the key features of the new LDF system. Councillors who were interested to attend, were asked to contact the Clerk.

Polling place for Kemsing West: The Electoral & Land Charges Manager at Sevenoaks District Council advised that the designated polling place for Kemsing West will be The Dynes, Nightingale Road, Kemsing, starting from the Kent County Council elections in 2009.

Cabinet Office (National Survey of Third Sector Organisations): The Parish Council received an invitation to complete a questionnaire giving its views on a range of issues affecting the organisation. *It was agreed that the Clerk would complete the questionnaire.*

Sevenoaks District Council (Empty homes): The Public are invited to attend a meeting of Sevenoaks District Council's Services Select Committee on Wednesday 24 September to discuss the issue of empty housing within the district.

Place Survey: This survey (introduced by the Government), will ask residents' views on local issues and public services. Around 4,000 households in the Sevenoaks District would receive questionnaires.

Kemsing Primary School : The Parish Council noted a copy of a letter sent to Thames Water by Mr. Banister (Vice Chair of the School Governors), complaining about raw sewage spills in a public footpath used by primary school children.

'Kemsing Green Day' : A request was received from Mrs. C. Copleston asking the Parish Council to consider hosting an Environmental Day - 'Kemsing Green Day'. The purpose of this day is to make residents aware about home energy efficiency, composting, recycling, climate change, etc. Although Councillors thought it was an interesting idea, and although the Parish Council would not become involved in co-ordinating such an event, it had no objection if Mrs. Copleston arranged such an event.

(d) Reports from Councillors

Mr. Buttifant reported that a Meeting would be arranged with the Parish Council's Liaison Officer at Kent Highway Services to discuss outstanding matters.

Mr. Buttifant drew attention to a copy of a letter received from a resident from Dynes Road who wrote to West Kent Housing, complaining about the poor state of the footpath adjacent to the flats in Dynes Road. This refers to the unadopted section of the road and footpath and whilst Parish Councillors shared the resident's concern, it was a matter for West Kent Housing to resolve.

Mr. Rungay asked when the section in West End would be resurfaced and the Clerk reported that Kent Highway Services advised that they were aware of the problem and that it would be dealt with as soon as possible.

Mr. Buttifant noted that there was a water leak in the vicinity of 180 West End and the Clerk would inform Thames Water.

4. **REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS**

(a) Sevenoaks Citizens Advice Bureau (SCAB)

Mr. Croughton proposed and Mr. Burfield seconded:

"That the Parish Council donates £500 to the Sevenoaks Citizens Advice Bureau."
CARRIED 6 in favour, 1 abstention

It was agreed that this donation would be funded from the General Contingency Code.

5. **SENIOR CITIZEN - CHRISTMAS DINNER** (See KPC/01/08 Minute 3(d))

Councillors noted a letter dated 26 August from the Oaks Christmas Dinner Steering Group, outlining the selection criteria for people invited to the lunch. The Clerk was asked to thank the Group for setting out the selection criteria.

6. **PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITIES TOGETHER (PACT)** (See KPC/07/08 Minute 5)

Approximately 1700 questionnaires were distributed to households and over 100 have been completed and returned to Sevenoaks District Council. The results were being analysed and a meeting between Kemsing Parish Council (Chairman & Clerk), Sevenoaks District Council (Ms. Webb) and Kent Police (District Chief Inspector Ellis) has been arranged for 7th October to discuss the results. Councillors interested were welcome to attend this meeting.

7. **BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

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

Questions from the Public were taken elsewhere during the Meeting.

9. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Mr. Burfield proposed:

"That the Parish Council approves the payment list (Vouchers 151, 152, 155-165, 167, 169-190) and to note receipt list (Vouchers 149, 150, 153, 154, 166, 168)."

CARRIED unanimously

10. **INFORMATION REPORT**

The information report was noted.

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

Mr. Burfield was aware of an application from the Rochester Diocese to secure access to a proposed new vicarage via Mary Burrows Garden.

Mr. Waters would provide details to the Clerk - to be discussed at the next Meeting when details are available.

Mr. Waters expected that the refurbished WI seat would be installed in the Churchyard soon.

12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

22 October 2008.

The Meeting closed at 9.41 p.m.