

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, 16 September 2009 at 8.00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Mr. P. Burfield (in the Chair)
Mr. D. Bennett, Mr. B. Buttifant, Mr. G. Croughton, Mr. P. Eaton,
Mrs. W. Ross, Mr. I. Rungay, Dr. P. Walker, Mr. A. Waters

IN ATTENDANCE: 4 Members of the Public
1 Member of the Press
Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Mrs. M. Cole, Ms. K. Hawker
District Councillor Miss L. Stack

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

1. **MINUTES**

Mr. Burfield proposed:

*"That the Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 August 2009,
Reference KPC/08/09, previously circulated."*

CARRIED 8 in favour, 1 abstention (Mr. Bennett)

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(a) Pedestrian Crossing (Minute 2(a) KPC/08/09)

Both belisha beacons are now connected to the electricity supply. Kent Highway Services (KHS) will carry out the safety audit this week.

(b) Archive Store KHC (Minute 2(b) KPC/08/09)

The Lease has now been signed by both parties and building work will commence on 23 November 2009.

(c) Proposed closure of public conveniences in Kemsing car park (Minute 2(c) KPC/08/09)

Members noted letter from Mrs. R. Banister dated 21 August addressed to the District Councillors. A letter dated 7 September from the Kemsing Evening WI supporting Mrs. Banister's views, was received. A reply from KCC regarding funding availability has not been received.

(d) Park Lane Play Area (Minute 2(d) KPC/08/09)

The land owners were requested to consider extending the period of temporary use for one or two years. A reply is awaited. A member of the Public thanked the Parish Council for pursuing the matter.

(e) Request from PACT meeting to install speed indicator devices - safer roads (Minute 2 (e) KPC/08/09)

It is not known whether the proposed sites meet the relevant criteria. A decision from KHS is awaited.

(f) SDC CCTV in Village Car Park (Minute 2(f) KPC/08/09)

The Report of the Meeting held on 25 August with the Sevenoaks District Council's (SDC) CCTV Manager was noted. There were no recorded crime incidents to support the request for CCTV in the car park and SDC advised that the request could not be progressed. *It was agreed to remove this item from the next Agenda.*

(g) Parish Council land to the rear of 33,35,37,39 Park Lane (Minute 2(g) KPC/08/09)

A letter dated 20 August from the owner of no 37 Park Lane was noted.

Mr. Burfield proposed:

"That the Council gives 3 month's notice of termination to the owner of 39 Park Lane, and draw up a licence with the owner of No 37 Park Lane, to include the land backing on to their property and to replace the existing licence with the owner of 39 Park Lane, to exclude the land backing on to No 37 Park Lane."

CARRIED unanimously

(h) Parking at the junction of West End and St. Edith Road (Minute 2(h) KPC/08/09)

PCSO Harwood advised that there were no records of previous incidents.

It was agreed that this request could not be pursued due to the lack of necessary evidence. PCSO Harwood would be asked to monitor the situation.

(i) Wooden post and rail fencing along West End opposite Library (Minute 2 (i) KPC/07/09)

KHS has been asked to consider replacing the existing post and rail fence and a reply is awaited.

Mr. Burfield proposed:

"That if KHS replaces the existing fence, their Contractors would be asked to extend the fence as previously agreed. The extension would be funded by the Parish Council subject to prior approval of quotations."

CARRIED 8 in favour, 1 abstention (Mr. Bennett)

(j) Parish Councillor vacancy (Minute 2 (l) KPC/08/09)

SDC advised that no requests had been made to fill the casual vacancy by election. The Parish Council could now proceed to fill the vacancy by co-option.

It was agreed to advertise the vacancy in the Local Advertiser, Parish Council website, Parish Council notice boards and the Sevenoaks Chronicle. Deadline for applications would be on 16 October 2009 and candidates would be invited to attend the October Parish Council Meeting.

(k) Pharmacy application from Matrix Primary Healthcare Ltd. (Minute 8 KPC/08/09)

No progress was reported.

(l) Sewerage leakage at School Alley (Minute 9 KPC/08/09)

A reply from Thames Water is awaited. SDC Environmental Health Department has been made aware of the matter.

It was agreed to informally ask the opinion of Kemsing Primary School and report back to the next Meeting.

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 7 September 2009, Reference P/12/2009, previously circulated."

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Downland Management Committee

Mr. Bennett proposed and Mr. Burfield seconded:

"That the Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9 September 2009, Reference DM/03/2009, previously circulated."

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Bennett proposed and Mr. Burfield seconded:

"That the Council writes to SDC to extend the existing Joint Management Committee Agreement for a further four years."

CARRIED unanimously

(c) Report from Chairman

South East Water would carry out construction works starting in October 2009 to the Kemsing Water Treatment Works in Watery Lane, to maintain and improve drinking water supplies. Some advance works to equip the new boreholes started in June this year.

(d) Reports from Councillors

Mr. Rungay reported that the SDC Rangers had informed the Clerk on 24 August that tree coppicing work had commenced in Oxenhill Shaw and that the only extraction route was via the Nightingale Road Recreation Ground. The logs would be stacked on the hard standing surface by the Nightingale Road Recreation Ground, and removed progressively as coppicing work was carried out, which would be for three weeks, from 24 August.

The Clerk alerted Mrs. Cole, Mr. Rungay and Mrs. Ross who expressed concern about the stacking of the wood so close to the play area. Although sympathetic to SDC's dilemma of not having an alternative extraction route, it was reluctantly agreed that the timber could be stored on the hard surface, but with the following conditions:-

1. That the logs be stacked in accordance to Health and Safety guidelines.
2. That the logs are fenced off with strong fencing to prevent someone climbing on the stacks.
3. That SDC indemnifies the Parish Council against public liability.
4. That the wood is removed as the coppicing work progresses.

A number of complaints had been received and the Clerk investigated one report which stated that the fencing had been removed. This was brought to the attention of the Ranger who re-positioned the plastic fence, which was not considered suitable. It was noted that the logs had not been removed as agreed and after enquiring, the Clerk was informed that the vehicle had broken down, delaying the process. SDC was urged to erect proper steel fencing and to put pressure on the Contractor to repair the vehicle, which was reportedly the only suitable vehicle in Kent. SDC asked the Council to consider subsidising £150 per load to enable the Contractor to hire a haulage contractor from outside the area in order to remove the timber quicker. *This request was rejected by the Parish Council.*

Mrs. Ross had seen some of the wood being removed on 16 September.

Mr. Bennett (who is a Member of the Oxenhill Shaw & Meadow Committee), thought that SDC should have had better communication with the Parish Council regarding the project, in particular the extraction of the wood.

Mr. Burfield proposed:

“That, as a result of the issues in extracting and stacking of the timber experienced this year, a 3 month consultation should be held in advance with all the relevant parties to agree the work programme prior to future coppicing work carried out in Oxenhill Shaw and Meadow.”

CARRIED unanimously

The Clerk would inform SDC accordingly.

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

There were no questions from Members of the Public and Press.

5. **DONATIONS & SUBSRIPTIONS**

No requests were received.

6. **KEMSING FESTIVAL**

The Chairman briefly outlined the history of the Kemsing Festival, which would be facilitated by the Parish Council. The Clerk would do some research on how the Festival was organised and report back at the next Meeting. Mr. Burfield warned that there was likely to be a financial requirement to be funded by the Parish Council and that this should be included in the budget for 2010/2011.

Mr. Burfield proposed:

“That the Parish Council agrees in principle to act as facilitator to invite representatives from all the village organisations to an initial Meeting to appoint a Steering Group.”

CARRIED unanimously

7. **BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

The Chairman drew attention to a letter received from the Audit Commission regarding the Annual Return for 2008/09, requesting one minor alteration.

Mr. Burfield proposed:

“That the Council approves and the alteration and that the document be returned to the Audit Commission for finalisation of the accounts.”

CARRIED unanimously

8. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Mr. Burfield proposed:

“That the Council approves the list of payments (Vouchers 128 to 145 and notes the list of receipts (Vouchers 121 to 126).”

CARRIED unanimously

9. **INFORMATION REPORT**

The Information Report was noted.

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

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

21 October 2009.

The Meeting closed at 9.18 p.m.