

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of a Meeting held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing,
on Wednesday, 21 October 2009 at 8.00 p.m.**

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

IN ATTENDANCE: 4 Members of the Public
3 candidates for the vacant position of Parish Councillor
[Mrs. Sally Dickinson, Mrs. Frances Hobson and Mrs. Rosemary
Wedderburn]

APOLOGIES: Ms. K. Hawker

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

1. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16 September 2009, Reference KPC/09/09, previously circulated, were approved.

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

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

Kent Highway Services (KHS) had not yet produced the results of the safety audit.

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

Mr. Burfield reported that the yew trees had been cut back and building work would commence on 23 November. The St. Edith Hall Management Committee was dealing with a matter relating to the insurance for the Contractors.

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

Members were disappointed by Kent County Council's lack of ability to assist with part-funding in order to retain the public conveniences.

Mr. Burfield proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:

"That the Parish Council offers a financial contribution of £4,000 each year for the next three years to Sevenoaks District Council to keep the public conveniences open. Situation to be reviewed after the third year."

CARRIED 8 in favour, 2 against, 1 abstaining

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

The landowners had not responded to the Parish Council's letter of 2 September.

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

A response from KHS was awaited.

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

Members noted a letter from the owner of No 39 Park Lane responding to the Parish Council's termination notice.

8.10 p.m. [The Chairman suspended the Meeting for Public speaking.]
Mr. Roy Willmore said that he had maintained this land on behalf of the Parish Council for several years in which he had planted trees and made the area favourable for wildlife. Mr. Willmore was in favour to enter into negotiations to amicably come to an agreement to which all interested parties agreed and suggested that the four plots be split in half. Mr. Willmore was very happy to look after the first two plots if Mrs. Frances Hobson wished to maintain the other two plots. Mr. Willmore urged Councillors unfamiliar with the site to arrange to visit him any time.

Mrs. Hobson said that she was only interested in receiving a licence for the land adjoining her property as per the previous licence issued in 1999 (revoked on 1 June 2008), and that she did not wish to maintain or look after the rest of the Parish Council's land.

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

Mr. Burfield explained that, following receipt of Mrs. Hobson's letter dated 18 June 2009 asking to re-instate her licence, the first action of the Council was to give Mr. Willmore notice to terminate his licence. The Council had hoped to enter into negotiations with the interested parties to agree a scheme that would be acceptable to all.

Mr. Croughton, Mr. Dawes and Dr. Walker would attend a site meeting and report back to the next Parish Council Meeting.

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

The Clerk was disputing KHS' claim that this fence was the Parish Council's responsibility. The footpath is on land owned by Kent Highways, which is subject to their regulations in terms of work carried out on their land. Any Contractors employed by KHS are required to be in possession of specific accreditations to enable them to carry out work on public footpaths and roads. It proved difficult to find a Contractor with the necessary accreditations.

Mr. Croughton proposed and Mr. Bennett seconded:
"That the Council does not pursue this matter any further."
CARRIED 5 in favour, 4 against, 2 abstentions

8.30 p.m. [The Chairman adjourned the Meeting and invited the three candidates to give a presentation on why they would like to become a Parish Councillor.]

(h) Parish Councillor vacancy (Minute 2 (j) KPC/09/09)

The Parish Council received a presentation from Mrs. Sally Dickinson where after Mrs. Frances Hobson was invited to give her presentation. Mrs. Hobson expressed her dissatisfaction with the Council's action on Item 2(f) and withdrew her application and left the Meeting. The Council received a further presentation from Mrs. Rosemary Wedderburn and the Public were excluded from the Meeting, owing to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

8.45 p.m. [The Public was invited back and the Chairman re-convened the Meeting.]

Mrs. Rosemary Wedderburn was welcomed as the new co-opted Councillor and the unsuccessful candidate, Mrs. Dickinson, was thanked for her interest.

- (i) Pharmacy application from Matrix Primary Healthcare Ltd. (Minute 2(k) KPC/09/09)
There was no progress to report and *it was agreed to remove this item from the Agenda.*
- (j) Sewerage leakage at School Alley (Minute 2(l) KPC/09/09)
Thames Water would carry out a 'sewer clean' which would hopefully resolve the problem.
- (k) Kemsing September 2011 Festival (Minute 6 KPC/09/09)
A report prepared by the Clerk was noted. The Festival would be held between 11 & 25 September 2011, St. Edith Day on 16 September 2011 and the Church service and procession to The Well on 18 September 2011.

Invitations to all the village organisations would be sent out during the last week in November 2009, inviting representatives to attend the inaugural meeting on Wednesday, 3 February 2010 at St. Edith Hall, when the following would be considered:-

- Appoint a Steering Group
- Discuss financial requirements
- Draw up a draft timetable of events

The Post-Offices, local traders, Public Houses and the businesses at the Chaucer Business Estate would be invited to the initial Meeting.

- (l) BT's proposal for the Council's adoption of red telephone kiosk (Minute 7 KPC/08/09)
Noah's Ark Residents' Association (NARA) advised that it would be interested to keep the kiosk. The Parish Council would be responsible for insuring the building against structural damage, resulting in an additional insurance premium. Mr. Burfield had investigated the 'adopt' a kiosk option on the BT website prior to the Meeting, and warned the Council that it was not only insurance, but other constraints (in particular electricity issues) that should be considered. The building could also be subject to various planning restrictions. Mr. Burfield asked NARA to prepare a business plan to support its interest to keep the kiosk.

Mr. Dawes was of the opinion that a business plan was not needed and that the kiosk's heritage value was an adequate reason to 'adopt' the structure.

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting, to give Councillors the opportunity to investigate the 'adopt a kiosk' option in full.

3. COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS

(a) Finance Committee

Mr. Burfield proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:

"That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 October 2009, Reference F/116/09, previously circulated, be approved, subject to the following amendment:

*Page 2, Item 6, 2nd paragraph (replace **extensive** with **expensive**)."*

CARRIED unanimously

Mrs. Cole drew attention to Item 5 : Recommendation from the Finance Committee:

"That the Finance Committee recommend that, in light of the termination of the Parish Council's involvement in selling environmental sacks, the profit derived thereof should be utilised in contributing to an appropriate project for the environment for Kemsing village."

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the proceeds be used on a joint project by the Downland Management Committee and the Kemsing Gardeners' Society to improve the Well area and flower beds."

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Burfield drew attention to Item 9 and proposed:

"To close the 30 day notice account held with Alliance & Leicester and transfer the funds to a new Scottish Widows 7 day notice account." Seconded by Mr. Croughton.

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Report from Chairman

Kent County Council advised that the **Kent Alcohol Strategy** consultation had now been completed.

West Kent Extra reported that the **Play Days** held in August were a great success. 178 Children attended the four days. The funding from the Big Lottery Fund has come to an end.

The Parish Council was invited to meet the new **Rural Officer for Action for Communities in Rural Kent**, who assists Parish Councils to produce Parish Plans. The North Kent Crime Prevention Panel is looking for nominees for the **Reg Stapley Award**, which is for volunteers involved with community safety projects across the District.

9.15 p.m. [Mr. Dawes briefly left the Meeting.]

The Parish Council was invited to comment on the **Sevenoaks District Council's Young People's Action Plan**. This was forwarded to Play Place for its comments. *Members wished to express their appreciation for the good job done by Mr. Chris Hennis and his team.*

Mrs. Cole will arrange for a **Christmas tree** to be purchased and installed on the Well Green space.

Noah's Ark Residents' Association asked the Parish Council to include its **Christmas tree event** in the Parish Council's Public Liability Insurance, which was agreed.

A **Policing Kent 2010/13 Survey**, received on 20 October, was noted. The Parish Council is invited to complete the survey (deadline 9 November). The Clerk was asked to complete the form on behalf of the Parish Council.

9.20 p.m. [Mr. Dawes returned to the Meeting.]

A request to include details and photographs of the Kemsing War Memorial on the **War Memorials Trust Grant Showcase** website was approved.

(c) Reports from Councillors

Mr. Buttifant was pleased to report that the section of the **M26** motorway recently resurfaced with the low-noise material, was thought to be effective. *MP Michael Fallon would be thanked for his continued support* and the Parish Council was looking forward to the completion of the works on the remaining part of the M26 motorway.

Mr. Buttifant regretted to inform the Council that, despite many requests by the Clerk to Kent Highways to include **Castle Drive** in a future resurfacing scheme, it had advised that the road did not meet intervention levels and that only minor repair work would be carried out. This was most unsatisfactory, particularly in light of a recent accident where a resident suffered serious injuries when he fell from his pushbike, which was a direct result of the badly broken road surface. *It was agreed that County Councillor Mr. Nick Chard would be invited to attend a site meeting with the Highways Inspector to address this issue.*

Mr. Buttifant drew attention to the **broken wooden fingerposts in Childsbridge Lane and Pilgrims Way**, which had been reported to KHS over a year ago and had not been replaced yet.

A formal complaint was lodged with KHS' Director, but the Parish Council had not received an explanation, which was extremely disappointing.

Mr. Buttifant said that a request from a resident to re-instate the **white road markings at the junction with Castle Drive and Knavewood Road** would be put forward to KHS.

Mrs. Ross said that the **white lining in the village car park** to identify the parking bays were almost non-existent. *The Clerk would report this to Sevenoaks District Council.*

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

Mr. Brian Izzard thanked the Clerk for her help in getting Rail Track to cut back the extremely overgrown hedges and trees along the fence in Honey Pot Lane. The work had been carried out most satisfactorily.

Fly-tipping (vegetation debris) on the grass verges near the station, *would be reported to Sevenoaks District Council.* The debris included tree branches, which sticks out from the very narrow grass verge onto the road, and is particularly dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists.

5. **DONATIONS & SUBSRIPTIONS**

(a) Senior Citizen - Christmas Dinner 2009

Dr. Walker proposed and Mr. Rumgay seconded:

"That a donation of £400 be made to Kemsing Primary School towards the Senior Citizen Christmas Dinner."

CARRIED 9 in favour, 2 abstentions

(b) Kemsing Open Door

Mr. Croughton declared a prejudicial interest as Mrs. Croughton is a Member of the Organising Committee.

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Rumgay seconded:

"That the Parish Council makes a financial contribution of £200 to the Kemsing Open Door."

CARRIED 9 in favour, 2 abstentions {Mr. Croughton and Mr. Waters}

(c) Kent Wildlife Trust

Mr. Bennett declared a personal interest as being a Member of the Kent Wildlife Trust.

Members considered a request for financial contribution towards the major restoration programme at the Sevenoaks Wildlife Reserve.

Mr. Bennett proposed and Mr. Burfield seconded:

"That the request be declined."

CARRIED unanimously

(d) Local Works (Campaigning to implement the Sustainable Communities Act)

A request for a donation was rejected.

6. **TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES IN ST. EDITH ROAD, KEMSING**

Members acknowledged, with sympathy, a request from a concerned resident regarding speeding along St. Edith Road. A suggestion to install a 'slow' sign before the bend was thought to be advantageous. *PCSO Sue Harwood would be asked to carry out speed checks on St. Edith Road in addition to plans to monitor Noah's Ark Road.*

7. **REMEMBRANCE DAY - Sunday 8 November 2009**

The Church service would commence at 9.45 a.m. and the service at the War Memorial would start at 10.45 am. All Councillors were invited to attend. The road between the High Street and Church Lane would be temporarily closed between 10.30 and 11.15 am. Councillors were also invited to the Church Hall after the ceremony for tea.

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Parish Council makes a donation of £60 towards the wreath."

CARRIED unanimously

8. **BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

No business was discussed.

9. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Mr. Burfield proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:

"That the Parish Council approve the payment list (Vouchers 147-160, 166-177) and note the receipts list (Vouchers 146, 161-165)."

CARRIED unanimously

10. **INFORMATION REPORT**

The Information Report was noted.

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

Mr. Rungay said that the ball wall had been erected and was well used.

The Church received a generous donation from Mr. Hennis (Play Place) for using the Church Hall for the Monday Youth Club.

12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

18 November 2009

Meeting closed at 10.05 p.m.