

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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**Minutes of a Meeting held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing,
on Wednesday, 18 November 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, Ms. K. Hawker [arrived 8.08 p.m.],
Mrs. W. Ross, Mr. I. Rungay, Mr. A. Waters, Mrs. R. Wedderburn

IN ATTENDANCE: 9 Members of the Public {Item 2(h)}
PCSO Sue Harwood & PC Ben Clatworthy
Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)

APOLOGIES: Dr. P. Walker

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

Mrs. Cole welcomed Mrs. Wedderburn to her first Parish Council Meeting as Parish Councillor.

1. MINUTES

Mrs. Cole proposed:

*"That the Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 October 2009, Reference KPC/10/09, previously circulated, subject to the following amendments:-
Page 5, Item 4 : Replace 'Rail Track' with 'Network Rail'
Page 5, Item 5 (c) : Proposal should read : "That the request be declined as the Council already gives a substantial grant to KWT."*

CARRIED unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Pedestrian Crossing (Minute 2(a) KPC/10/09)

The Clerk had asked Kent Highway Services (KHS) on 9 November for a copy of the results in respect of the safety audit. A reply was awaited.

(b) Archive Store KHC (Minute 2(b) KPC/10/09)

Mr. Burfield said that the Kemsing Heritage Centre Association (KHCA) had provided the Council with details of the payment stages in respect of the project. The initial building work up to and including the erection of the external cavity walls would be funded by the KHCA. The Parish Council's agreed contribution of 'up to £30,000', would be used for the roof construction, windows, doors, plaster, joinery, carpentry and electrical work, including the internal decorations and external finishing.

Mr. Burfield said that some level of contingency had been included with the calculations, however he warned that the Council should take into consideration that there could be a probable shortfall and that the Council would have to consider covering this in order to complete the building work at the final stages.

Mr. Burfield proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

"That the Council approves the 'stages' of payment described above."

CARRIED unanimously

- (c) Proposed closure of public conveniences in Kemsing car park (Minute 2(c) KPC/10/09)
A reply from Sevenoaks District Council was awaited.
- (d) Park Lane Play Area (Minute 2(d) KPC/10/09)
The landowners had not responded and it was resolved that this could not be progressed any further. Subsequently this item would be removed from the Agenda.
- (e) Request from PACT meeting to install speed indicator devices - safer roads (Minute 2 (e) KPC/10/09)
Response from KHS was awaited.

PCSO Harwood and our new local Police Constable, Ben Clatworthy, were welcomed by the Chairman. PCSO Harwood was delighted to report that crime figures were very low in Kemsing and that no incidents were reported during Halloween and Bonfire events.

A speed monitoring session was held in Noah's Ark recently and speed checks would also be carried out in St. Edith Road.

- (f) Parish Council land to the rear of 33,35,37,39 Park Lane (Minute 2(f) KPC/10/09)
Members noted correspondence received from Mrs. Hobson as well as a report dated 6 November 2009, prepared by Mr. Burfield. Mr. Croughton had attended a very informative site visit with Mr. Burfield, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Willmore and Mr. & Mrs. Hobson.

Mr. Croughton proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

1. *That the land owned by Kemsing Parish Council (KPC) at the rear of properties 33 to 39 Park Lane, Kemsing, be classified as a Nature Reserve,*
2. *that Mr. Willmore of 39 Park Lane be invited to apply for the position of warden of this nature Reserve, and*
3. *that Mr. & Mrs. Hobson of 37 Park Lane be offered a licence to use the land at the rear of 37 Park Lane for the purpose of composting garden refuse and the lighting of up to four controlled bonfires per annum for a period of 5 years from 18 December 2009, subject to immediate revocation in the event of any misuse including the depositing of anything other than garden refuse on the land."*

CARRIED 11 in favour, 1 abstention

- (g) Pharmacy application from Matrix Primary Healthcare Ltd. (Minute 2(i) KPC/10/09)
The Kent Primary Care Agency advised that the application had been approved at the Pharmaceutical Regulations Committee Meeting on 20 October. The deadline for appeals against this decision to the NHS Litigation Authority is 27 November.

Mr. Waters proposed and Mr. Bennett seconded:

"That the Parish Council appeal against this decision."

3 in favour, 7 against, 2 abstentions

THE PROPOSAL FELL

Mr. Rungay proposed and Mr. Dawes seconded:

"That the Council withdraw its original objection against this proposal."

3 in favour, 6 against, 2 abstentions

THE PROPOSAL FELL

(h) BT's proposal for the Council's adoption of red telephone kiosk (Minute 2(l) KPC/10/09)

The Noah's Ark Residents' Association (NARA) presented the Council with a petition signed by 53 residents, urging the Parish Council to purchase the telephone box in Noah's Ark. NARA also prepared a document giving background information regarding the history of the telephone box and notes on how to 'adopt' a kiosk. It was not clear from the petition papers that residents had been informed that the telephone equipment would be removed.

8.35 p.m. The Chairman suspended the Meeting and invited Mr. Derek Mildenhall (representing NARA), to ask questions to the Council.

Mr. Mildenhall said that NARA offered to make a financial contribution towards insurance, etc. if required, and Members of NARA were also prepared to assist with the maintenance of the structure. Electricity in the kiosk was not needed. Mr. Mildenhall stated that residents had been made aware verbally, that the equipment would be removed.

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

One particular condition by BT to adopt the kiosk was that the Council would be required to 'take over' the existing electricity supply by applying for an 'unmetered' supply. If electricity was not needed, the Council would have to pay for disconnecting the electricity. The costs involved were not known at this stage.

Mr. Bennett proposed and Mr. Eaton seconded:

"That the Council agrees in principle to adopt the kiosk and to express an interest accordingly, however, BT would be asked to confirm that they would disconnect the electricity supply at their expense."

CARRIED 10 in favour, 2 against

3. **COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS**

(a) Recreation Grounds Committee

Mr. Burfield proposed and Mr. Waters seconded:

"That the Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 November 2009, Reference RG/34/09, previously circulated."

Mr. Burfield drew attention to the following:

Item 2(b) – Litter bins

The Council was asked to consider the following recommendation:

"The Parish Council to approve the installation of three additional litter bins on the Common Field at a cost of approximately £400 per bin."

Item 2(e) – Upgrading of play areas

KCC had been awarded Government funding to develop play spaces for 8 – 13 year olds under the 'Playbuilder Funding Scheme'. Mr. Burfield had attended a workshop for Parish Councils, organised by KCC, to assist Parish Councils with the application process. The deadline for the initial applications is 11 December 2009. The initial applications would not need to be a finished design, but the Council must demonstrate that the community had been consulted.

Screening of applications will then take place and the three strongest applications from each District will be selected by January 2010. The final applications must be sent in by mid February 2010 and successful schemes must be completed by 31 March 2011.

Mr. Burfield said that the workshop had been attended by representatives of some 50 Parish/Town Councils, however, he was confident that this Council is in a favourable position having already conducted a public consultation, something which other Councils might not yet have done.

Mr. Burfield proposed and Mr. Waters seconded:

“That the Council agree to apply for the Play builder Funding Scheme and that the Recreation Grounds Committee hold a ‘special’ Meeting to discuss this in more detail.”

Item 2(h) – SEAT FROM BUS SHELTER

The Recreation Grounds Committee did not feel that more seats were needed on the Common Field. A few suggested locations were briefly discussed, which included Barnfield Crescent and Nightingale Road Recreation Ground.

The Council resolved to refer this item back to the Recreation Grounds Committee to find an appropriate site to install the seat.

Mr. Rungay reported that Mr. Mark Perrin of the Kemsing Utd Football Club had approached the Football Foundation for a grant of up to 50% towards the cost of new goal posts. As part of the application the Club had to provide evidence that they had an agreement with the Parish Council to use the football pitches on the Common Field.

The Council resolved to renew the existing agreement dated 2004, which should be renewed annually, in August. The Clerk was authorised to prepare and sign an updated agreement with the Club on behalf of the Council.

CARRIED 11 in favour, 1 abstention

9.10 p.m. [Mr. Rungay left the Meeting.]

(b) Report from Chairman

Kemsing Primary School – Councillors are invited to the School Assembly on Friday, 20 November, when the Science and Technology Club will be presenting their project on drink driving. Mrs. Cole and Mr. Burfield will represent the Council on this occasion.

Oaks Christmas Dinner Steering Group – A letter of appreciation was noted thanking the Parish Council for the financial contribution.

(c) Reports from Councillors

Local Bus Services Renewal – *Mr. Croughton gave the following verbal report:* Kent County Council (KCC) had notified the Parish Council that a number of bus services would be due for renewal of their contracts with KCC at the end of March 2010. This includes three journeys each way between Kemsing and Sevenoaks on Mondays to Fridays. KCC indicated that they hoped to maintain existing levels of service wherever possible but the final outcome would depend upon the results of the tenders and their budget settlement for next year. It was agreed to reply to KCC urging them to keep the six journeys the subject of this particular contract.

Strategy for Transport Consultation – *Report from Mr. Croughton:*

KCC and Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) had asked for the Parish Council's views on a draft strategy document titled “The Sevenoaks District Strategy for Transport 2009 – 2026”. This document had been discussed at a recent meeting of the Sevenoaks Area Committee of the Kent Association of Local Councils.

The document was very wide ranging but surprisingly only included one very brief reference to the suggested east facing slip roads at Junction 5 of the M25 motorway.

The criteria by which various initiatives would be ranked included improved accessibility, tackling congestion, improving safety, improving air quality.

The single most important point related to the need to improve bus services to local railway stations and to Pembury Hospital. Most districts in Kent had already established Quality Bus Partnerships in conjunction with the County Council and principal bus operators. The meeting urged that a similar partnership be established for Sevenoaks district as soon as possible and that this should be concentrated on the urgent need to establish dedicated commuter bus services to Sevenoaks, Otford and other local railway stations. Such services would meet all of the four objectives and additionally would avoid the need to construct further car parks in the vicinity of Sevenoaks railway station.

It was agreed to write to KCC and SDC urging them to develop such services at the earliest possible convenience.

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

Proposed footpath diversion (SD284) – Report by Mr. Buttifant:

KCC received a revised application to divert part of Public Footpath SD284 at West Kingsdown. Mr. Buttifant attended a meeting with the landowner and other representatives more than 12 months ago when this proposal was discussed. *The Parish Council supported the proposed diversion.*

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

M26 motorway resurfacing – Mr. Buttifant reported that MP Michael Fallon confirmed that he would continue to press for the completion of the works on the remaining part of the M26 motorway.

4. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC & PRESS

Questions from Members of the Public were taken elsewhere during the Meeting at the Chairman's discretion.

5. DONATIONS & SUBSRIPTIONS

(a) Kemsing Over 60's Club

Mr. Croughton proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

"That the Council donates £200 towards the Kemsing Over 60's Club."

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Sevenoaks & Swanley Citizens Advice Bureau

Mr. Croughton proposed and Mr. Waters seconded:

"That the Council gives a financial contribution of £600 towards the Sevenoaks & Swanley Citizens Advice Bureau."

Mr. Burfield proposed and Mr. Eaton seconded:

"To amend the proposal to reduce the contribution to £500."

CARRIED 7 in favour, 3 against, 1 abstention [Mr. Bennett made it clear that he was not in favour of using rate payer's money to support institutions operating in the wider areas and not just in Kemsing.]

Mr. Burfield proposed and Mr. Eaton seconded:

"That the Council gives a financial contribution of £500 towards the Sevenoaks & Swanley Citizens Advice Bureau."

CARRIED 8 in favour, 3 against

(c) Victim Support

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Council decline the request for a financial contribution."

CARRIED 9 in favour, 2 abstentions

6. **MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

Mrs. Wedderburn was appointed to be a Member of the Downland Management Committee and the Recreation Grounds Committee.

7. **ST. EDITH HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Committee had consulted Kent Conservation & Restoration Ltd., who restored the St. Edith Club porch, to advise on preservation work to all external oak and maintenance of cast iron gutters. The Council was asked to consider the funding of this project in the Spring of 2010 which would be in the region of £7,000.

Mr. Burfield proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

"That the Council approve this expenditure to be included in the budget calculations for 2010/11."

CARRIED unanimously

8. **BTCV - KENT HERITAGE TREES PROJECT**

BTCV is applying to the Heritage Lottery Fund for funding to run a 5 year Kent Heritage Trees Project and are looking for volunteers to become involved with the project. The Parish Council resolved to support the proposed project which would help to promote, protect and conserve heritage trees within Kent.

Mr. Burfield said that a previous donation of £100 had not been received by BTCV (cheque was lost in the post) and it was agreed that this donation would be re-issued.

9. **30 MPH SPEED LIMITS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES**

An email from Mr. Reg Oakley giving his opinion that 30mph speed limits in small rural areas are too high, was noted.

10. **CHANGES TO PREMISES LICENCE - ST. EDITH CLUB**

The Council considered proposed changes to premises licence to extend hours of opening the day preceding a Bank Holiday and Bank Holidays until 01:30 a.m. and for live indoor music (live bands, karaoke and dancing) on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 a.m. the following day.

Mr. Burfield proposed and Mr. Bennett seconded:

"That the Parish Council objects to this application and that the closing time should be the same as the existing approved times for the two local Public Houses in Kemsing."

CARRIED unanimously

11. **KENT INTERNATIONAL GATEWAY**

Kent Association of Local Councils asked Parish Councils to support the Joint Parish Group (consisting of 14 Parish Councils) who are opposing the proposed international freight/rail warehouse application close to Junction 8 of the M20 motorway.

Mr. Bennett proposed and Mr. Dawes seconded:

"That the Parish Council takes no action."

CARRIED unanimously

12. **BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

There were no items to be discussed.

13. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Mr. Burfield proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:

“That the Council approves the payment list (Vouchers 182-190, 192-203) and to note receipt list (Vouchers 178-181 & 191).”

CARRIED unanimously

14. **INFORMATION REPORT**

The Information Report was noted.

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

Mr. Dawes considered that the plaques on the War Memorial and the statue of St. Edith at the St. Edith Hall, should be cleaned.

16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

20 January 2010.

The Meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.