

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, 18th January 2006 at 8.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mrs. M Cole (in the Chair)
Mr. A Andrews, Mr. D Bennett, Mr. P Burfield,
Mr. B Buttifant, Mr. G Croughton, Mr. R Dawes,
Mr. P Kendall, Mr. I Rungay, Mr. A Waters

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. Y Tredoux (Clerk)
2 Members of the Public

APOLOGIES: Mr. M Williams
The Revd. N Ashworth

Mrs. Cole wished everybody a very happy New Year and congratulated Mr. Buttifant on his birthday.

There were no changes recorded in the Declaration of interest in the Register.

1. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th November 2005, Reference **KPC/11/05**, having been previously circulated, were approved subject to the following amendment:

Mr. P Kendall did attend the Meeting with The Rural Housing Trust on 14th November 2005.

CARRIED unanimously

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(a) Affordable Housing (See Minute 2 (a) KPC/11/05)

Councillors considered correspondence, which had been previously circulated. The Council had always been concerned to retain control in the selection process of prospective occupiers, but the latest information received from the Rural Housing Trust indicated that the Parish Council would not have any influence in this process and that it was not legally possible for the Parish Council to be party to the Section 106.

Mr. Croughton proposed and Mr. Waters seconded:

"That no further action be taken in respect of this project, until after the next general election."

Mr. Dawes then proposed an amendment, seconded by Mr. Andrews, which was as follows:

"That no further action be taken in respect of this project."

The motion as amended was then CARRIED by 8 in favour, 2 abstentions

The Clerk was asked to inform The Rural Housing Trust accordingly.

- (b) PCSO – Police Community Support Officer (See Minute 2 (b) KPC/11/05)
Councillors were asked to note an email dated 14th December 2005 (previously circulated to Councillors), from Kent Police informing that the force had recently put in its bid for the next round of PCSO's, and Sevenoaks District Council reported that a new round of Home Office funding for Police Community Support Officers was likely to be announced soon, but the Police had advised that nothing was confirmed and no time scale was available.

- (c) Recycling Facilities (See Minute 2 (c) KPC/11/05)
The Clerk received one quote and was awaiting another. After consulting with the Recycling Co-ordinator at Sevenoaks District Council to find out if the predictable traffic movements were known, the Clerk was advised that the increase in traffic would not be significant.

The Council agreed to postpone this item to the next meeting in February, pending receipt of a final quotation.

3. **COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS**

(a) Planning Committee

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Andrews seconded:

"That the Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 14th November 2005, Reference P/17/2005."

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Andrews seconded:

"That the Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th November 2005, Reference P/18/2005."

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Waters seconded:

"That the Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th December 2005, Reference P/19/2005."

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Dawes proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:

"That the Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd January 2006, Reference P/1/2006."

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Recreation Grounds Committee

Mrs. Cole proposed, and Mr. Waters seconded:

"That the Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th November 2005, Reference RG/19/2005."

CARRIED unanimously

(c) Finance Committee

Mr. Burfield proposed and Mrs. Cole seconded:

"That the Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th December 2005, Reference F/104/05, and to approve the recommended precept of £75,000 for the financial year 2006/07."

CARRIED unanimously

(d) Downland Management Committee

Mr. Bennett proposed and Mr. Buttifant seconded:

"That the Council approves the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th January 2006, Reference DM/01/06, and that the Council approves the co-option of Ms. Anne Barrett as a Member of the Downland Management Committee."

Mr. Bennett referred to item 7 of DM/01/06 and Mr. Waters said that he would include a note in the "Kemsing Column" of the Sevenoaks Chronicle.

CARRIED unanimously

(e) Christmas Tree & Lights

Mr. Paul Miles and Mr. Sydney Harvey had installed and removed the cabling & lights at Dynes Road and at The Well, and the Chairman was most grateful for their assistance at such short notice. It was drawn to the Council's attention by the electricians, that the present arrangements for the electrical supply no longer met current standards of this type of temporary installation, and if Christmas lights were to continue to be a feature, the installation of a permanent Parish Council power supply for both sites would have to be investigated with EDF Energy, who were the service contractors for this area.

It was agreed that EDF Energy would be contacted to obtain advice on the installation of a power supply for the Christmas Lights.

Mr. Burfield drew attention to the Downland Management Committee Minutes, Reference **DM/01/06**. Investigation was underway to obtain advice on the installation of a water supply at The Well.

(e) Reports from Officers

(i) The Chairman reported that a letter of thanks had been received from Mrs. Mumford, Head Teacher, Kemsing Primary School with regard to the Council's donation towards the cost of the Christmas dinner for the senior citizens.

(ii) The Chairman said that a letter of thanks had been received from the Town Mayor of Sevenoaks for the Council's donation towards the VSU Youth in Action.

(iii) The Chairman reported that Mr. Brian Doe advised her that the roots of the deciduous grey Alder ALNUS CORDATA, could possibly penetrate the Well and recommended that it should be reduced or even removed and replaced with a good sized specimen Japanese Levix Larch. The alder was planted by Hugh Johnson of the Royal Horticultural Society in memory of his father who lived in Kemsing, who would have to be consulted if the tree was replaced.

It was agreed that this item would be referred to the Downland Management Committee to take further action.

- (iv) The Chairman drew attention to the **Annual Parish Meeting**, to be held on **15th March 2006**.
The Council agreed not to publish a News Letter, and Mr. Bennett proposed and Mr. Dawes seconded:
"That the statutory notice of the Annual Parish Meeting should be advertised in the Well magazine, Sevenoaks Chronicle, Seal Advertiser and the Village Notice Boards."
CARRIED 8 in favour, 2 abstentions (Mr. Rungay)
- (v) The Chairman reported on a letter received from The Rural Community Council for Kent & Medway, launching the 2006 Kent Village of the Year Competition.

The Council agreed not to participate in the competition this year.

4. **CRIME AND DISORDER - ST. EDITH'S ROAD**

Councillors were asked to comment on the letter dated 1st January 2006, from Mr. Banister, which had been circulated to all Councillors.
Mr. Andrews asked to note that all correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk of the Council, and not the Chairman, *and requested that a note be included in the Well Magazine, informing residents accordingly.*

Mr. Andrews sympathised with Mr. Banister, but said that in his letter, Mr. Banister referred to the "criminal damage" in the Well. In view thereof, this was a matter for the Police, and the Parish Council could only notify the Police of any incidents.

The Chairman said, as far as she was aware, all the incidents that took place in and around the Well, had been reported to the Police.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Police, with copies to local MP, Mr. Fallon, and County Councillor, Mr. Chard, to inform them of the recent spate of vandalism in the Well and St. Edith Road.

5. **YOUTH WORKER**

Mr. Bennett, Mr. Croughton & Mr. Waters declared interests.

A letter dated 16th December 2005 from St. Mary's Church had been discussed, and the Council agreed that £3,000 had been set-aside in the budget for the Youth Worker for the year 2006/07. Mr. Burfield suggested that a representative of the Council should be included in discussions when the contract of the Youth Worker was to be reviewed in August.

6. **LICENSING APPEAL : THE CHEQUERS INN, HEAVERHAM**

Members were asked to consider a letter dated 2nd December 2005 from Sevenoaks District Council (circulated to all Members).
The Clerk was asked to contact Ms. Stack to obtain her views.

7. **VILLAGE LOGO**

The Chairman welcomed Ms. Sue Evans, who presented the Council with a presentation on a village sign and logo. Ms. Evans said that she had received a good response from local residents when she displayed the presentation recently at the Library.

After Councillors considered the proposed signs, it was agreed that the "Weather Vane", (with a few minor amendments) was the most suitable sign, and Ms. Evans suggested to rearrange the drawing and present the revised option to the Council for consideration.

8. **LEISURE PLOTS, PILGRIMS WAY**

Councillors considered correspondence, which indicated the possibility to transfer another Leisure Plot.

The Clerk was asked to write and express the Council's interest in purchasing the Leisure Plot.

9. **PARISH PLAN - ACTION WITH COMMUNITIES IN RURAL KENT**

The Parish Plan Grant Scheme aimed to involve local people across England by providing funding for rural communities to develop a Parish Plan. Based on consultation, a Parish Plan identifies the community's needs. It includes an action plan that prioritises the issues raised, and sets out how they might be tackled. Parish Plans were an opportunity for Parish Councils and rural citizens to have a say in how their local area and services were managed.

The Council was asked to consider the possibility of producing a Parish plan for which funding was available from DEFRA.

After some discussion, Mr. Burfield proposed and Mr. Rungay seconded:
"That the Council agree to contact interested parties over forming a steering group and apply for a grant from DEFRA to support the extra work involved."

It was agreed that there were no legislative benefits resulting from a Parish Plan, and it was thought that there would be little community involvement, which was essential.

DEFEATED 2 in favour, 7 against, 1 abstention

10. **KENT POLICE AUTHORITY**

Councillors noted the Executive Summary from Kent's Stage 2 submission to the Home Office regarding the force amalgamations, from Kent Policy Authority re Council Tax & Policing Plan Consultation for Financial Year 2006-2007, which Councillors were asked to comment on.

The Council agreed that the Clerk completed the response form with the following comments:

It was decided that a lower tax on ratepayers could be achieved and that the main priorities would be the expansion of Neighbourhood policing and answering phone calls faster.

11. **SPORTS PROVISION BEST VALUE REVIEW**

Councillors discussed a letter dated 15th December, from Sevenoaks Town Council, with regard to a Best Value Review, which was being undertaken into its Sports Provision within the town. KPC was asked whether it would be interested in investigating the possibility of sharing maintenance/services, cost/provision of facilities with other parishes/facilities management or with Sevenoaks Town Council. (This refers to facilities both within this parish and Sevenoaks Town Council's area.)

The Council agreed not to share maintenance costs/facilities and the letter would be passed to the Recreation Grounds Committee to complete the questionnaire.

12. **LOCAL WORKS CAMPAIGN FOR THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES BILL**

Councillors were asked to comment on a letter from Local Works Campaign Co-ordinator, on the problems in our area in terms of Community decline, e.g. local service and facilities closures and knock on effect such as increased traffic and less community involvement.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Local Works and to include a copy of the latest Well Magazine.

13. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC & PRESS**

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

10.28 p.m: The Chairman proposed to extend the Meeting and Councillors agreed.

14. **BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

(a) Holiday entitlement - Staff

Mr Burfield proposed and Mr. Croughton seconded:

"That the Council agrees to give authority for the Clerk to permit the carry forward of a maximum of five days leave entitlement for all employees. If the employee wishes more than five to be carried forward this would need to be referred to Council for consideration."

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Audit of 2005 Annual Return

The Chairman proposed from the Chair:

"That the Council re-approve section 1 of the Annual Return, after a minor amendment."

CARRIED unanimously

(c) Standards Conduct in English Local Government : The Future

Members noted a letter dated 3rd January 2006, (previously circulated to all Members), from the Office of the Deputy of the Prime Minister. Enclosed was a Discussion Paper, which set out its vision for a future comprehensive conduct regime for local authority members and employees. The overall approach to conduct set out in the Paper, involved various principal changes to current arrangements. *"Mr. Bennett requested a copy of this document."*

15. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Mr. Burfield proposed and Mr. Waters seconded:

“That the Council approves the list of payments, Vouchers 249,250,268,269 and 271-293, and to note the list of receipts.”

Mrs. Cole drew attention to the payments for The Bell Public House and Kemsing Newsagents, in respect of electricity supply for the Christmas lights and *the Council asked the Clerk to write letters of thanks to both parties.*

CARRIED unanimously

16. **INFORMATION REPORT**

The Council received the information report, and the papers referred to, were laid on the table.

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

Mr. Dawes said that he would present a report on the Village Asset Group at the next Parish Council Meeting on 15th February. (To be included in the Agenda for the next Parish Council Meeting.)

18. **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:**

26^h January 2006: Highways
30th January 2006: Planning
8th February 2006: Emergency Services
13th February 2006: Planning
15th February 2006: Parish Council
25th February 2006: Recreation Grounds
27th February 2006: Planning

***15th March 2006: ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The Meeting closed at 10h39 p.m.