

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of a Meeting of the Parish Council
held in the Small Hall, St Edith Hall, Kemsing
on Wednesday 10th March 2004 at 8.00 pm

PRESENT: Mr A C Andrews (in the Chair)
D V Bennett, P R Burfield B D Buttifant,
G R Croughton, A M Davies, R J Dawes, P M H Kendall,
A V Waters, M Williams

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr V Pearson, Clerk to the Council

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mrs M R Cole, Mrs W Ross.

Chairman's Announcements:

The Chairmen reported that Mr Vincent Pearson had taken up his appointment on 1st March and welcomed him to his first meeting of the full Council. He also wished to place on record his thanks on behalf of the Council and himself to Sharon Palmer for accepting the post of Acting Clerk, with the responsibilities that this involved, following the departure of Mrs Drage.

This was a difficult time for the council but with the later help of our previous Clerk, Mrs Rosemary Banister, the Council was able to function in an efficient manner until the New Clerk took up his appointment. I know that all Councillors will join with me in these sentiments.

Declarations of Interest in the Register::

No new declarations were made

1. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th February 2004, Ref KPC/02/04, having been previously circulated, were approved and signed as a true record of the meeting subject to the following amendment:

Page 4 (first line) to read '4(c) continued' instead of '2(c) continued'

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(a) **St Edith's Road/West End**

It was noted that no response had, as yet, been received from SDC

(b) **Memorandum dated 12th February 2004 from Mr A M Davies**

Mr Davies restated the purpose and policy, as he understood it, with regard to the Capital and Reserve Fund. Mr Dawes reminded the meeting of the history

of the Fund and advised that the original principles of the Fund should be adhered to. The Chairman suggested that projects not covered by the precept could be considered whilst Mr Waters was concerned that the surplus interest be used to support the work of local organisations. All members contributed to a lengthy debate and it was finally agreed that the matter be referred to the Finance Committee who are asked make proposals with regard to:

- (i) a revue of the policy of the Fund
- (ii) projects that may be funded from the Fund
- (iii) all other funds held by the Council

(c) **Proposed Train Service Changes**

Mr Croughton reported that he had attended a meeting of the Kent-Maidstone Local Board (KCC, Maidstone D.C and other interested parties) which considered the reduced train services now being proposed by the Strategic Rail Authority. All parties were united in their opposition to the proposals. It was reported that the KCC Cabinet is to consider the matter.

(d) **Adventure Playground, Kemsing Primary School -Grant**

The Chairman read a letter he had received from Mrs Mumford expressing the school's gratitude for the donation. Mr Waters reported that he had received a letter in a similar vein.

(e) **Burial Law and Policy in the 21st Century**

It was noted that the members concerned were not yet in a position to report to the Council on this matter.

(f) **St Edith Hall**

Mr Burfield reported on a meeting with three Club representatives when it was decided that the question of whether or not a lease exists would be finally decided on 6th April when the matter goes to court.

(g) **Affordable Housing**

Members were advised that a meeting with the Rural Housing Trust would take place on 26th April. The Chairman encouraged as many members as possible to attend.

3. **BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

There was no Business Required by Statute to consider

4. **COMMITTEE & OFFICER REPORTS**

(a) **Planning Committee**

The Council approved the minutes of the Meeting held 16th February 2004 (Ref. P/3/04).

(b) **Recreation Grounds Committee**

The Council approved the minutes of the Meeting held 25^h February 2004 (Ref. RG/11/04).

5. **LEISURE PLOTS**

The Meeting considered the offer, received from solicitors representing the owners of two plots of land at Lower Haffenden, to sell the plots to the Council. Mr Bennett

reported that the Downland Committee had recommended to the Council that an offer of £200 per plot plus legal costs should be made. The Council agreed to this proposal and instructed that a formal offer be made to the owners.

6. **THE STANDARD BOARD FOR ENGLAND - THE OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER**

Two Consultation Documents received from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and The Standards Board for England concerning amendments to the Regulations relating to the determining of misconduct allegations and to changes to the Guidance to Monitoring Officers on Local Investigations respectively have been received. The Council decided not to submit comments on any of the proposals.

7. **REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS**

The Council confirmed the donations given to the following organisations

	£
Kemsing Evergreen Club	200
Open Door	200
Kemsing Joint Archives Group	100
Citizens Advice Bureau	100
Victim Support West Kent	100

The Council also now agreed that donations be made to the following organisations:

	£
League of Friends	100
Hospice on the Weald	250

8. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

No members of the public were present

9. **INFORMATION REPORT**

The Council received the Information Report, already distributed.

10. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

The Council approved:

- (a) Accounts already settled - voucher nos. 320 - 329

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

- (a) Mr Croughton noted that the Lower Haffenden fencing works which started at 08.00 hrs on 1st March was making good progress and that all comments by members of the public had been positive.

- (b) Six-month Reviews of Public Information on the work of the Council

12. **DATES OF MEETINGS**

17th March	ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
29th March	Planning Committee
7th April	Highways Committee
13th April (Tues)	Planning Committee
14th April	PARISH COUNCIL

13. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- (a) Mr G Croughton commented that it would soon be the season when coach loads of children (some coaches had already been seen) and walkers and ramblers would be visiting the village. He urged that the public conveniences be repaired and brought into use.
- (b) The Chairman commented upon the fact that the format for the Annual Parish Meeting would be different this year and encouraged members to attempt to 'log' the names of any members of the public they talked with.

The Meeting finished at 21.34

Vincent Pearson
Clerk to the Council