

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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Kemsing

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**Minutes of a Meeting of Kemsing Parish Council held in the Large Hall,
St. Edith Hall, Kemsing on Wednesday, 9th March 2005, at 8.00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Councillor AC Andrews (in the chair)
Councillors DV Bennett, P Burfield, BD Buttifant,
GR Croughton, RJ Dawes, PMH Kendall, W Ross,
M Williams

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

APOLOGIES: Councillors MR Cole, AV Waters

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everybody. He advised that Councillor Waters had recently had an operation and wished him a speedy recovery on behalf of the Council.

1. **MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th February 2005, reference **KPC/02/05**, having been previously circulated, were approved subject to the following amendments:

Item 4 (First paragraph, Last line): "enrolling" should be replaced by "commence".

Item 2 b: Mr Bennett proposed and Mr Kendall seconded: "*That the Clerk should write to The Rural Housing Trust to request the Parish Council be present at future meetings between the District Council and The Rural Housing Trust.*"

CARRIED by 7 in favour, 1 against, 1 abstaining

2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(a) Provision of a New Parsonage (See Minute 2(a))

Mr Andrews advised there was nothing further to report at this stage.

(b) Affordable Housing - The Rural Housing Trust (See Minute 2(b))

The Council received a letter from Mr D Eley dated 5th March and the Chairman read the letter to the Council. In his letter, Mr Eley requested the Council to present to the Annual Parish Meeting on 16th March 2005 a plan of the Public Open Space at Nightingale Road with the maximum area of land that the Council is prepared to give The Rural Housing Trust for Affordable Housing designated thereon, the gift being subject to Planning Consent and a Contract between the Council and The Housing Trust.

Several discussions took place and the Chairman again reiterated that no final decision had been made and that a Public Meeting will be held with a Representative from The Rural Housing Trust when the detailed proposal and plans had been received.

Mr Eley addressed the council and stated that it appears that the Council is of the opinion that the land is not part of the Local Plan "Green Wedge". Mr Eley also said that the residents were not informed of the proposed development. A local resident from Cleves Road, Mr I Heddle, addressed the Council and said that he was disappointed to report that he had never been informed of the proposed Affordable Housing Development and that, if it had not been for Mr Eley informing him, he would not have had any knowledge of the proposed Affordable Housing Development at Nightingale Road. Mr Heddle told the Council that he was also surprised to hear that there were two other sites in the Village that were proposed for the Affordable Housing Development. Mr Heddle asked the Council to keep local residents informed of any progress and discussions with The Rural Housing Trust.

The Council agreed to inform residents of any progress made.

(c) Kemsing Heritage Centre (See Minute 2(d))

Mr Burfield informed the Council that several issues are still being discussed between the St. Edith Hall Management Committee and the Kemsing Heritage Centre, and reported that repairs to the heating system were now completed. The Hall Management Committee is waiting for quotations to cover the electrical work to be carried out.

3. **COMMITTEE & OFFICER REPORTS**

(a) Planning Committee

Mr Dawes proposed and Mr Croughton seconded: *That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7th February 2005, Reference No P/3/2005, be approved.*

CARRIED unanimously

Mr Dawes proposed and Mr Croughton seconded: *That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st February 2005, Reference No P/4/2005, be approved.*

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Emergency Services Committee

Mr Burfield proposed and Mr Buttifant seconded: *That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th February 2005, Reference No ES/16/05, be approved.*

CARRIED unanimously

(c) Recreation Ground Committee

Mrs Ross proposed and Mr Andrews seconded: *That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd February 2005, Reference No RG16/2005, be approved.*

CARRIED unanimously

(d) Downland Management Committee

Mr Bennett proposed and Mr Buttifant seconded: *That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd March 2005, Reference No DM/02/05, be approved.*

CARRIED unanimously

(e) Reports from Officers

(i) Mr Andrews reported that two letters dated 7th March 2005 had been received from Mr B Doe regarding his concerns about the undergrowth clearing in "Wild Wood" (small copse N.E corner, Common Field) and erosion on the Pilgrims Way, of the northern bank of the Common Field.

It was decided that the Chairman would respond to Mr Doe's concerns in writing.

(ii) Mr Andrews informed Councillors that a number of invitations had been received for various events.

Councillors were asked to contact the Clerk if they wished to attend any of the events.

4. **CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION**

Members considered The Home Office Research Study 292, (Assessing the impact of CCTV), made available in February 2005, having been previously circulated to Members. Mr Burfield briefly presented a summary of the Report to the Councillors. The Report evaluates 13 Closed Circuit Television Camera projects (comprising 14 separate systems) implemented in a range of contexts, including town centres, city centres, car parks, hospitals and residential areas. The research covered a number of different aspects, such as the technical specification and design as well as implementing and installing the CCTV, Control room operations and assessing the economic impact of each CCTV system. The Report documented several studies and a discussion took place to establish a link between the installation of CCTV and effective crime reduction.

Following discussions it was agreed that the Report would be made available at the Annual Parish Meeting. The Report is also available in the Clerk's Office.

5. **CAMPAIGN FOR THE SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES BILL**

Councillors were asked to review a letter dated 13th February 2005 received from Mrs C Copleston, previously circulated. This letter informed the Council of a public meeting which was held in Pembury and designed to introduce members of the public to the sustainable communities Bill. This Bill may have a profound and beneficial impact on our village communities. More priority will be given to the views and strategies of local councils and citizens groups. "Local Works" is the campaign that aims to change the situation that is known as "Ghost Town Britain". They want local sustainability, which includes thriving local economies, environmental protection, social inclusion and active democratic participation. If made law, the Bill will greatly empower local government and communities. Following discussions, Mr Croughton proposed and Mr Williams seconded: *That the Council supports the Campaign.*

CARRIED by 8 in favour. (Mr Dawes was briefly absent from the Meeting and did not participate in this vote.)

It was further decided that a letter of thanks would be sent to Mrs Copleston for her involvement and for bringing this to the attention of the Parish Council.

6. **DEFRA - CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT BILL**

Councillors were asked to review a letter from the Minister for Rural Affairs and Local Environment Quality, which outlined the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill, formally introduced on 7th December 2004.

The Bill will play a key role in Government's plan to create cleaner, safer, greener communities. It deals with many problems affecting the quality of our local environment, which form a continuum with anti-social behaviour, vandalism, disorder and levels of crime. In particular, the Bill contains new powers for parish councils to issue fixed penalty notices for litter, dog control, graffiti and fly posting.

Following a brief discussion, Mr Bennett proposed and Mr Buttifant seconded: *That members noted the contents of this Bill.*

CARRIED unanimously

7. **THE STANDARDS BOARD FOR ENGLAND - CODE OF CONDUCT**

A letter dated 18th February 2005 was circulated to Councillors. Over the next few months, the Standards Board will be consulting with a wide range of individuals and organisations to gauge opinions on the areas of the Code that would benefit from change and gather ideas about how that change could be best achieved. The deadline for the responses to consultation is 17 June 2005.

Mr Andrews proposed from the chair that Members noted the Code of Conduct.

8. **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

The formal notice for the Annual Parish Meeting has now been published in the KPC newsletter, which has been distributed to Kemsing households.

9. **BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

The Council now has two casual vacancies. The relevant notices have been displayed in various areas of the Village, but no response has been received to date.

It was decided that the Chairman would invite suggestions at the Annual Parish Meeting.

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

There were no questions from members of the public.

11. **INFORMATION REPORT**

The Council received the Information Report, which had been circulated with the Agenda, and the papers referred to, were laid on the table.

12. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Mr Burfield proposed and Mr Croughton seconded: *That the Council approves payment Vouchers 303-311 and to note receipt Vouchers 301,302.*

CARRIED unanimously

Mr Burfield proposed and Mr Bennett seconded:

That the recent work on the St. Edith Hall of £14 437-00 should be included and paid from a new code under Capital Projects.

CARRIED unanimously

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

Calendar Meetings

The Chairman asked members to review the calendar meetings, which will be considered at the next meeting.

14. **DATES OF MEETINGS**

16 March 2005: Annual Parish Meeting

21 March 2005: Planning Meeting

4 April 2005: Planning Meeting

6 April 2005: Highways Meeting

18 April 2005: Planning Meeting

20 April 2005: Parish Council Meeting

YOLANDA TREDoux
Clerk