

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 Main Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing, on
Wednesday, 8th March 2006 at 8.00 p.m.**

- PRESENT: Councillor M. Cole (in the Chair)
Councillors A. Andrews, D. Bennett, P. Burfield, B. Buttifant,

G. Croughton, R. Dawes, P. Kendall, I. Rumgay, A. Waters,
M. Williams
- IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. Y. Tredoux, Clerk

10 Members of the Public
- APOLOGIES: Councillor W. Ross
District Councillor Ms. L Stack

There were no changes in the Declaration of interest in the register.

1. **MINUTES**
The Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th February 2006, Reference **KPC/02/06**, were approved.
CARRIED unanimously
2. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**
 - (a) PCSO – Police Community Support Officer (See Minute 2 (a) KPC/02/06)
Further information was awaited regarding the Partnership Agreement.
 - (b) Recycling Facilities (See Minute 2 (b) KPC/02/06)
The Clerk had written to the Recycling Co-ordinator and a reply was awaited.
 - (c) Annual Parish Meeting (See Minute 3 (c) KPC/02/06)
Notices had been placed on the Notice Boards.
 - (d) Christmas Lights (See Minute 3(d) KPC/02/06)
The Clerk had written to EDF Energy requesting a site visit to discuss the feasibility and cost of installing a power supply in the Well area. A reply was awaited.
 - (e) Village Logo (See Minute 2 (f) KPC/02/06)
There was nothing further to report.
 - (f) Leisure Plots, Pilgrims Way (See Minute 2 (g) KPC/02/06)
The Clerk wrote and expressed the Council's interest in acquiring the Leisure Plot. To date no response had been received.

(g) Relocation of bus shelter (See Minute 4 KPC/02/06)

Mr. Anderson had supplied details for the relocation of the bus shelter and provided the Council with a site plan. Mr. Buttifant reported that he had been unable to contact Mrs. M. Parker, the relevant officer at Kent Highway Services to arrange a site meeting to obtain their views, but was actively pursuing the matter. Mrs Cole asked that the Clerk reply to Mr. Anderson advising him of the current situation.

Mr. Croughton referred to a memo from Mr. Burfield, wherein he had indicated that there had been no decision on this matter by full Council. Mr. Croughton disagreed and referred to the decision at the Council Meeting on the 16th November 2005, when the Highways Committee Minutes were approved. At the Parish Council Meeting on the 15th February 2006 Mr. Anderson asked for further clarification, and the Council agreed that he should provide a site plan and details for the relocation, and that the Highways Committee would consult with Kent Highway Services and refer back to the Council.

(h) Village Asset Group (See Minute 5 KPC/02/06)

Council Members considered the letter dated 16th February 2006 from Mr. Don Eley, urging the Council to adopt a positive stance on the Group's Report.

Mr. Andrews was puzzled by Mr. Eley's comments and said that the Council had indeed adopted a positive attitude towards the maintenance of the St. Edith Hall. Mr. Bennett reminded Members that the Council had always reacted positively when the St. Edith Hall Management Committee (HMC) had requested funds. Mr. Croughton referred to the memorandum sent to Councillors from the HMC Secretary in which she estimated the Council's contribution for property maintenance for 10 years from 1996 to 2005, to be £4,000 p.a. The 2006/07 Precept provides for £6,000 to be available to the HMC and the Council has agreed that until 2008, it would assist in the payment of bills of £1,000 and over (excl. VAT), for improvements and property maintenance. The Council also makes an annual contribution of £600 for insurance and heating.

Members noted that notices had been placed on Notice Boards, advising residents that copies of the Report were available from the Clerk's Office.

3. **COMMITTEE AND OFFICER REPORTS**

(a) Emergency Services Committee

Mr. Burfield proposed and Mr. Buttifant seconded:

"That the Council notes the report of the Meeting held on 8th February 2006, Reference ES/22/06.

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Reports from Chairman

(i) Hospice in the Weald

A letter had been received from Hospice in the Weald, thanking the Council for the donation in memory of Mrs. Doris Dew.

- (ii) **Vandalism in the Well, St. Edith Road**
Mr. M. Fallon wrote to the Council informing that he had a response from chief Superintendent Mark Salisbury, the new Area Commander at West Kent Police, informing that he had asked DCI Martin Very to investigate.
- (iii) **Invitation: Community Plan & Local Development Framework Workshop**
The Chairman suggested that Councillors should advise the Clerk if they wished to attend the workshop, to be held at Sevenoaks District Council, Council Chamber on Thursday, 6th April 2006.

4. Notices : Green Hill

The Public Rights of Way Officer for Sevenoaks apologised that the Council did not receive the advisory letter from Kent County Council, which informed all landowners of the notices. He confirmed that all access land had some kind of informative notice as to let the general public know where they can and cannot go. Mr. Bennett said that he had no objection to the notices being placed.

The Downland Management Committee would also look at the current state of the Byelaw signs, which probably needed replacement.

5. St. Edith Hall Management Committee - Funding of Meeting Room

Mr. Kendall explained that the St. Edith Hall Management Committee (HMC), had been working to find solutions to the problems surrounding the Hall complex and the Meeting room in particular - its physical state, financing and use. The HMC had initiated a whole series of actions to try to secure a better financial base, which included ongoing negotiations with the St. Edith Club, promotion of the Hall complex, and preparing a Condition Survey of the whole premises in order that a financial plan could be drawn up and presented to the Council. Mrs. Cole advised that there was nothing major in the Surveyor's Report, which was available for Councillors to read.

Mr. Bennett sought reassurance from the Councillors on the HMC that they were confident that the investment of £20,000 in restoring the former billiard room would increase the revenue. Their opinion was that the room would become an asset to the facilities at the hall, allowing more flexibility with the prospect of attracting new hirers. Mr. Water quoted the phrase that "one has to speculate to accumulate", and that time would have to be the judge.

[8.36 p.m. Mr. Rumgay arrived]

Mr. Burfield explained that the HMC were looking to obtain funds from other sources as well. Following discussions, Mr. Kendall proposed and Mr. Burfield seconded:

"That the Council authorise the St. Edith Hall Management Committee to spend up to £20,000 from Parish Council Capital Reserve Funds on bringing the Meeting Room up to a minimum standard so that it can be safely let out to certain minimum-needs user groups."

CARRIED by 10 in favour, 1 abstention (Mr. Andrews), 0 against.

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

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

7. **BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

(a) Annual Audit for the Year Ending 31st March 2005

Members noted that Notification of the Completion of the Annual Audit had been received by the Clerk on 28th February 2006.

The Notice of Conclusion of Audit and right to inspect the Annual Return would be placed on the Notice Boards, as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2003.

Mr. Burfield noted that a bill for £411 had been received from the Audit Commission in respect of the audit carried out for the year ending 31st March 2005.

8. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Mr. Burfield proposed, and Mr. Croughton seconded:

That the Council approves the list of payments Vouchers 325 - 347, and to note the list of receipts Vouchers 326 - 329.

CARRIED by 10 in favour

(Mr. Dawes was briefly absent from the Meeting)

9. **INFORMATION REPORT**

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

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

Mr. Croughton drew attention to information received from Sevenoaks District Council that Senior Citizens would benefit from free bus travel from 1st April 2006, on any public bus throughout Kent. The scheme would continue to offer the option of a rail warrant, which could be used towards the cost of a Senior Citizen Railcard or Disabled Persons Railcard.

Mr. Waters said that the possibility to replace the Village Sign should be addressed and this item would be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Andrews complimented the Clerk on the colourful appearance of the notices advertising the Parish Council Meetings, which had been placed on the Notice Boards.

11. **DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS:**

13th March 2006: Planning

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

27th March 2006: Planning

5th April 2006: Highways

10th April 2006: Planning

19th April 2006: Parish Council

24th April 2006: Planning

Yolanda Tredoux
Clerk to the Council