

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk's Office, St. Edith Hall

Kemsing

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Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council
held in the Small Hall, St Edith Hall, Kemsing
on Wednesday 15th June 2005 at 8.00 p.m.

- PRESENT:** Councillor M Cole (in the Chair)
Councillors A Andrews, D Bennett, B Buttifant, G Croughton,
B Dawes, P Kendall, W Ross, A Waters
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs Y Tredoux (Clerk)
Miss L Stack (District Councillor)
- APOLOGIES:** Councillors P Burfield, M Williams

1. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18th May 2005, reference KPC/05/05, having been previously circulated, were approved subject to the following amendments:

Item 6 : Mr Bennett declared an interest as being a member of the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

Item 8 (b):

Mr Waters said that the resolution was not minuted correctly. Mr Waters proposed, seconded by Mr Dawes, that the resolution be recorded in full.

"That the Council would in the first instance explore the possibility of sharing a PCSO with Seal Parish Council at 50%. However, in the event of Seal P C not being able to share 50%, the Council would explore the possibility of fully funding a full time PCSO for our village."

CARRIED unanimously

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

(a) Affordable Housing (See Minute 8(a))

The date of the "Village Information Day" had not yet been set. As soon as the date was available, the proposed leaflet would be brought to the Council for approval, prior to distribution.

(b) PCSO - Police Community Support Officer (See Minute 8(b))

The Chairman of KPC and the Chairman of Seal Parish Council met on Monday, 13th June 2005 to discuss the possibility of sharing a PCSO. The Chairman gave a brief report of the meeting. Seal Parish Council was still considering whether their Parish would benefit from a PCSO and have not yet made a decision and they would only wish to participate on the basis of a 25% funding.

Seal Parish Council were concerned that through information they had obtained from the Police Authority from Tonbridge, any PCSO on sick leave would continue to be paid and the Authority would be under no obligation to provide a replacement. The Clerk will be receiving a copy of the Terms of the Kent Police Authority Agreement which had been obtained by Seal.

It was decided that the Clerk would contact Wrotham, Weald and Ightham Parish Councils to establish whether there was any interest in sharing a PCSO.

(c) Village Facilities (See Minute 8(c))

Mr Dawes reported that a small working group had been set up which included Mr Jim McIntyre, The Reverend Nigel Ashworth, Mr Bob Banister and Mr Bob Dawes. The first meeting were scheduled for 30th June 2005 when the aims and objectives of this "working party" would be discussed. Once the aim and objectives have been identified, representatives of all the relevant parties would be invited. Mr Dawes said that the working committee would make a report available for Parishioners.

Mr Dawes asked whether the Parish Council would assist in funding certain meetings of the working group when they were held in the St. Edith Hall.

(d) Land at Childsbridge Lane (See Minute 9)

The Clerk had been in contact with the District Valuer in Tunbridge Wells, who informed the Council that the costs to obtain this valuation would be a minimum of £200-00 and £85-00 (Excl VAT) per hour for the time spent on the valuation.

Councillors were asked to discuss the authorisation of these funds, prior to the obtaining of the valuation.

The Council agreed that a valuation would not be obtained in view of the costs involved.

Mr Andrews proposed and Mr Dawes seconded:

"That the Council, if the opportunity arises to secure the ownership of the land between "old" Childsbridge Lane and "new" Childsbridge Lane 1,78 acres, is prepared to make an offer subject to contract."

CARRIED 8 in favour, 1 against (Mr Bennett)

The Chairman read a letter received from Mr Don Eley dated 18th May 2005. In his letter, Mr Eley asked the Council to make a resolution not to support the "affordable housing" either as "open market" housing or under Local Plan H.9, on the grounds that such development may have a "domino" effect on Green Belt Land to the west of "old" Childsbridge Lane, leading to even further residential developments.

No such resolution was proposed. Mr Eley would be advised of the procedures required to hold a Special Parish Meeting.

3. **BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE**

Public notices of the Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2005 have been displayed.

4. **COMMITTEE & OFFICER REPORTS**

(a) Planning Committee

Mr Bob Dawes proposed and Mr Tony Andrews seconded:

"That the Council approves the Minutes (already circulated) of the Meeting held on 31st May 2005, Ref.No P/8/2005."

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Highways Committee

Mr Brian Buttifant proposed and Mr Bennett seconded:

"That the Council approves the Minutes (already circulated) of the Meeting held on 1st June 2005, Ref No H/03/05."

The Minutes were approved subject to the following amendment:

Item 4 : Correct spelling of *Lenghtsmen*: should be *Lengthsmen*

Item 5: First Paragraph: Mr Bennett requested the following to be included at the end of the first sentence, "Footpath 73."

Item 5: Third Paragraph: Mr Bennett said that it was not a loose plank that was placed on the walkway, but a plank, which forms part of the walkway, that was loose.

CARRIED unanimously

(c) Downland Management Committee

Mr Bennett proposed and Mr Kendall seconded:

"That the Council approves the Minutes (already circulated) of the Meeting held on 26th May 2005, Ref No DM/03/05."

CARRIED unanimously

(d) Recreation Grounds Committee

The Chairman proposed and Mr Waters seconded:

"That the Council approves the Minutes (already circulated) of the Meeting held on 25th May 2005, Ref No RG/17/2005."

CARRIED unanimously

(e) Any other Reports by Officers

Retirement of County Councillor Mr R Norman

The Chairman proposed that the Council send a letter to Mr Ronnie Norman, thanking him for the interest and support which he had given to issues affecting Kemsing over the past 28 years and to wish him a happy retirement.

Kent Association of Parish Councils

The Chairman informed the Council of a letter received from Mr Don Eley, urging the Council to continue to support the County and National Movements.

The Chairman referred to the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18th May 2005 where the Council had asked the Clerk to make a list of all the assistance provided to her by the Kent Association of Parish Councils for this year and to report next year to assess value for money received from this organisation.

Recycling Facilities

The Chairman reported that a response had been received from Sevenoaks District Council. They apologised for the delay and informed us that the containers would be re-positioned as soon as possible.

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Sevenoaks District Council and request a site visit to see if another site for recycling facilities in the village could be identified.

Letter from Mr MA Cursons

The Chairman read a letter received from Mr Cursons. He was the organiser for the St Mary's North Downs Challenge Walk on Saturday 14th May 2005. The field adjacent to the Church Hall had been used in the past for additional parking, and Mr Cursons noted on the day before the Walk that a litterbin had been installed adjacent to the footpath, restricting the access to the field. Mr Cursons wrote to record his appreciation of the speed and manner in which the Clerk dealt with the removal of the bin.

Road Closure

Mr Buttifant informed the Council of the following notice received from Kent Highways Services:
C289 Birch Cross Road, Shoreham and Kemsing, Prohibition of Driving -
Temporary Order 2005. More details could be obtained from the Clerk's office.

Community Safety Strategy & Action Plan 2005 - 2008

The Chairman drew attention to a letter dated 26th May 2005, received from Sevenoaks District Council, giving details of events that form part of the Community Safety Partnership's launch week. The Clerk could be contacted for more details.

Topograph

Mr Buttifant reported that the restoration work on the Topograph, which was vandalised last year, had now been completed by Mr Saunders. Mr Saunders maintained continued interest in the Topograph which he had originally installed and a letter had been sent thanking him for his work.

Noah's Ark - Seat by the duck pond

Mr Buttifant informed the Council of a letter dated 5th June 2005, received from the Noah's Ark Residents' Association. There was a seat situated in a recess near the pond, but very little pathway to protect people from traffic through Noah's Ark. The Association requested the assistance of the Parish Council for bollards to be placed at the duck pond seat to protect young children using this area. Mr Buttifant reported that the request would be sent to the Highways Inspector.

Jubilee Footpath

Mr Andrews reported the following:

Jubilee Footpath is the path that runs between St Edith Road and the footpath that runs from the High Street / Heaverham Road and Seal Chart. A quote from "Kemsing in Kent" by Vic Bowden:

"In 1897, at the time of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, the occupier of St Edith's Farm, applied to the Parish Council for permission to divert a footpath that passed close to his living room windows. He was permitted to make the change on condition that he fenced the new path adequately. This he did, using iron railings with a gate at each end. The Queen's Jubilee was celebrated by the opening of this new path by children marching up and down from end to end, blowing trumpets and banging drums."

Even after more than 100 years quite a lot of the fence remains and could still be seen, particularly at the St Edith Road end and you could still make out the presence of the "kissing gates" at both ends. Unfortunately, during the week commencing 6th June 2005, the remains of the gate and fence at the opposite end of the path from St Edith Road were bulldozed away to facilitate the installation of a new boundary fence for the property known as Ark View. The original line of the path was also obliterated. Mr Andrews contacted the footpaths officer and The Heritage Centre to see if they could assist with the preservation of the fence and gate. They were either unsuccessful or took no action, the fence and the remains of the gate have disappeared forever.

Mr Andrews proposed and Mr Dawes seconded:
"That the Council regret the sad passing of the kissing gate remains."

CARRIED unanimously

Dumping of rubbish - Lower Haffenden Field

Mr Bennett informed the Council that garden rubbish had been "dumped" on Parish Council land at Lower Haffenden.

A draft letter had been sent with the Agenda and Councillors were asked to consider this letter to residents in Pilgrims Way.

After minor amendments were made, the Council agreed that the Clerk would send the letter to residents.

St. Edith Club

Mrs Cole read a letter received from Mr Don Eley dated 5th June 2005 wherein he enquired the result of the negotiations of the legal proceedings between the St. Edith Club, The St. Edith Hall Management Committee and the Parish Council.

The Chairman invited Mr Kendall to inform the Council of the current situation.

Mr Kendall proposed and Mr Andrews seconded:

That the Clerk would inform Mr Eley that at this time there had not yet been a formal agreement between the Parish Council and the St Edith Club and that when an agreement had been reached, and the County Court had been satisfied with the outcome, there would in all probability be a joint press release with the St Edith Club giving the terms of the agreement.

CARRIED unanimously

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

There were no questions from the Public.

6. **INFORMATION REPORT**

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

7. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Mrs Cole proposed from the Chair:

"That the Council approves the list of payments vouchers 64 to 87 and to note receipts vouchers 62 and 63."

CARRIED unanimously

8. **REQUEST FOR DONATION**

Members had been asked to consider a request for donation received from Kent Wildlife Trust. The Trust needed funds for extending the grazing project to work with farmers and landowners to bring more land under conservation management. Councillors agreed that the request would be discussed at the next Finance Committee Meeting.

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

Mrs Cole read an email received from Mr Brian Doe dated 13th June 2005, thanking Mr Andrews for stopping the clearing and burning in Wild Wood. Mr Doe reported in his letter that the orchids have appeared around the perimeter of the burning site.

10. **DATES OF MEETINGS**

22 June 2005: Emergency Services

27 June 2005: Planning

11 July 2005: Planning

20 July 2005: Parish Council

25 July 2005: Planning

8 August 2005: Planning

10 August 2005: Downland Management

17 August 2005: Parish Council

22 August 2005: Planning

31 August 2005: Highways

The meeting closed 9h22 p.m.

Yolanda Tredoux
Clerk to the Council