

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk's Office, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 6NA, Tel : 01732 762841

E-mail: kemsingpc@tiscali.co.uk

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing, on Wednesday, 15th February 2017 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT: Mrs. M. Cole (in the Chair)
Mr. A. Andrews, Mr. D. Bennett, Mr. P. Burfield, Mr. B. Buttifant, Mr. P. Eaton,
Mr. R. Lang, Mrs. M. Robarts, Dr. P. Walker, Mrs. R. Wedderburn-Day

IN ATTENDANCE: 4 Members of the Public
District Councillor Mr. S. Reay
Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Mr. R. Dawes.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest received.

3. **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

District Councillor Mr. Reay had been asked by Mrs. Cole to speak to County Councillor Mr. N. Chard asking for his support for the reinstatement of the 30mph speed indication device at the junction with Castle Drive and Childsbridge Lane. The sign was removed recently by Kent County Council Highways and Transportation. District Councillor Mr. Reay confirmed that County Councillor Mr. N. Chard would support this project from his Members' Fund.

4. **QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC & PRESS**

There were no questions from the public and press.

5. **PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY** (Minute 2 (e) KPC/01/2017)

Five residents had expressed an interest in becoming Parish Councillors, three of which had attended the meeting whilst two candidates had not been able to attend due to prior commitments. The candidates were invited to introduce themselves and to give a short presentation on their reasons for becoming Parish Councillors.

The meeting was adjourned due to the confidential nature of the business and the Public were excluded.

A secret ballot was held where after the meeting was reconvened.

RESOLVED: That Mr. P. Dillon and Mr. M. Hudson be co-opted.

The remainder of the candidates were thanked for their interest and the Parish Council hoped that they would continue their interests.

Mr. Dillon and Mr. Hudson duly signed their declarations of interests and joined the other Councillors at the table.

6. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th January 2017, Ref KPC/01/2017 was approved subject to changing the time in Item 7(a) from 8.35 p.m. to 7.35 p.m. and 8.40 p.m. to 7.40 p.m.

7. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

- (a) Pilgrims Way Safety Issues and petition to reduce permissible speed limit on Pilgrims Way and Pilgrims Way East to 20mph (See minute 7 (a) KPC/01/2017

Further email correspondence (*in which the Parish Council had been copied*) were circulated to Members and noted.

- (b) Park Lane Nature Reserve Area & Fairfield Close Area (Minute 2(d) KPC/01/2017)
The report of the Working Group meeting held on Monday, 30th January 2017 was received and noted.
- (c) Village parking (Minute 2(e) KPC/01/2017)
The Police Community Support Officer had confirmed that the matters raised would be investigated.
- (d) Defibrillator (Minute 2(f) KPC/01/2017)
A spare pair of electrode pads (which comes with a spare battery) had been ordered at a cost of £74.40. The Sevenoaks First Responders Team's representative had been advised accordingly.
- (e) Kemsing Lawn Tennis Club membership Information Request (Minute 2(h) KPC/01/2017)
The required information (*copied to Councillors*) was received and noted.
It was noted that there had been a decline in the number of Junior Club Members and *the Clerk was instructed to find out what measures the Club was taking to offer membership to Junior players.*
- (f) Cabinet housing the electricity supply and meter for tennis court car park lights (See Minute 2(i) KPC/01/2017)
The matter is ongoing.
- (g) Unauthorised encampment at Nightingale Road Recreation Ground and site security at all Parish Council owned land (Minute 2(k) KPC/01/2017)
Unfortunately the two quotations for installing wooden bollards were not comparable.
Mrs. Cole and the Clerk had attended a site meeting with the KCC's Landscaping Manager to ask if the proposed bollards would present a hindrance for the gang mower. The Parish Council was assured that this would not be a problem. KCC would also be able to provide a quotation for installing bollards. The formal quotation is expected by the end of this week.
In order to expedite the matter it was suggested to appoint a working group.
- *RESOLVED: That the Nightingale Bollard Working Group be formed charged with putting together a recommendation (to include costings), for the full Council to consider.*
- Mr. Buttifant, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Dillon and Dr. Walker offered to sit on the Working Group.
- (h) Common Field Recreation Ground Trust (Minute 13(c) KPC/01/2017)
The annual return had been completed and sent on 26th January 2017. There was no further update with regard to the investments.
- (i) Request for a memorial to SGT Pilot Jack Hammerton (Minute 8(a) KPC/10/2016)
Kent County Council advised the Shoreham Aircraft Museum that the proposed memorial would be subject to planning consent. Unable to meet the planning charges, the Museum asked the Parish Council to make available alternative sites (owned by the Parish Council) and the Well area was proposed.
A suggestion for the Parish Council to formally complete a planning application on behalf of the Museum and furthermore pay the relevant charges was not supported.
- *It was AGREED that the proposed Noah's Ark site was more suitable as opposed to the proposed Well area for this particular memorial.*

During the discussion it was suggested that the Heritage Centre Association might be able to provide further advice.

District Councillor Mr. Reay said that advice was available from the Charities Memorial website and possibly through English Heritage.

8. **INTERACTIVE SPEED WARNING SIGN AT CHILDSBRIDGE LANE, KEMSING**

Kent Highways & Transportation had removed the sign some weeks ago to investigate its poor reliability when it was deemed irreparable due to its age and parts now being obsolete. Facing stringent financial difficulties, KCC had determined that the sign would not be replaced. Mrs. Cole said that the sign had been installed in 2008 as part of improvements when the pedestrian crossing further north along Childsbridge Lane had been installed.

Mr. Buttifant referred to the Parish Council's request some three years ago to improve the "village gateway" when it was proposed to move the existing 30mph speed limit sign further south. Unfortunately this request had not been progressed by KCC and with the removal of the flashing sign the improvements to the gateway was now more essential than ever. Mr. Buttifant's suggestion for the Parish Council to remind County Councillor Mr. Chard about the request was not met with overwhelming support due to KCC's current financial position.

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Parish Council accepts County Councillor Mr. N. Chard's offer to fund a replacement 30mph speed indication device though his KCC Members' Fund."

CARRIED 10 in favour 2 abstentions

9. **BUS STOP LOCATION (WEST END)**

The Council noted comments from a resident concerned about the concealed bus stop located between two driveways at 35-37 West End, in particular issues with the safety of school children whilst waiting for the bus to arrive. This location is deemed unsuitable and dangerous. The Clerk had discussed the issue briefly with the resident and confirmed that whilst the comments would be passed to the Parish Council, the resident should direct his concerns to the bus companies.

- *The Parish Councillors supported the request and concluded that this particular bus stop location was not safe for school children.*

10. **BUS SHELTER – GREENLANDS ROAD, KEMSING**

The wooden bus shelter had been damaged on Tuesday, 24th January 2017. The Parish Council was asked to consider how to proceed with the repairs/replacement of the shelter. The Clerk's written report was considered. The party responsible for the damage had claimed accountability and their insurance confirmed that they would pay for the repairs upon receiving two quotes which they would review and of which one would be accepted if they agree. Upon the insurance Company's confirmation of acceptance of the quotation, the Parish Council would have to arrange, and pay for the repairs whereafter the Parish Council would be reimbursed.

The two quotations were considered but were not comparable as one company advised that the bus shelter could be repaired whilst the other recommended it to be replaced. Some Members were of the opinion that it was not the Parish Council's responsibility to pay for the repairs and that the bus company's insurance company should pay the contractors directly. Other Members felt this would cause further delay in getting the shelter repaired. It was suggested that the Parish Council accepts the quotation for repairing the shelter, pay the costs and then ask for reimbursement from the bus company's insurers.

Referring to the Clerk's report, the Clerk asked the Council to confirm that the contractor's public liability insurance was acceptable, to which the Council **AGREED**.

- *It was AGREED that the Parish Council would not claim through its own insurance.*

Mr. Burfield proposed, seconded by Mrs. Wedderburn-Day:

"That the Parish Council forwards the quotation for repairing the shelter to the insurance company, accepts the quotation for the repairs to be carried out as soon as possible, pay for the completed repairs and asking for the funds to be reimbursed."

CARRIED 6 in favour, 4 against

The meeting was adjourned 8.50 pm to allow a NARA representative to speak.

Copies of an email correspondence received on 9th February from the Noah's Ark Residents' Association (NARA) Secretary was tabled at the meeting. Concern was raised to prevent a similar incident from occurring again. One suggestion was to fit a concrete post on the verge about one metre to the side of the bus shelter to protect the shelter. Concern was also raised about oil on the road leaking from the buses into the drain leading to Guzzle Brook.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.54 p.m.

- *It was AGREED that the Parish Council should write to Arriva, with a copy to the Environment Agency, advising of the concern about the oil leakages onto the road, washing into the road drain and then entering the Guzzle Brook stream.*

11. SEVENOAKS DISTRICT CUB SCOUTS CROSS COUNTRY EVENT AT COMMON FIELD RECREATION GROUND

The Sevenoaks District Cub Scouts is organising a Cross Country event on the Common Field Recreation Ground on 18th March 2017 from 12 noon to 3 pm. Kemsing Cubs would also take part and the scout hut would be used.

- *RESOLVED: The Parish Council had no objection for this event to take place.*

12. DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS

(a) Society of Local Council Clerks

The Parish Council considered renewing the Clerk's annual subscription fee of £200.

- *This was AGREED.*

(b) London Green Belt Council

The Parish Council considered renewing the annual subscription of £25.

- *This was AGREED.*

(c) Action with Communities in Rural Kent

An invitation to subscribe to the service at a cost of £50 was rejected.

13. ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Mr. Eaton proposed, seconded by Dr. Walker:

"That the Parish Council approves the list of payments (Vouchers 196 to 224), notes the list of receipts (Vouchers 17 & 18) and approves the list of bank transfers."

CARRIED 8 in favour 2 abstentions

14. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Planning Committee

Mr. Andrews proposed, seconded by Mrs. Cole:

"That the Parish Council notes the minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2017, Ref No P/01/2017."

CARRIED 8 in favour, 2 abstentions

A discussion ensued in relation to the application for a replacement Church Hall.

- *RESOLVED: The Parish Council would suggest to the St. Mary's Parochial Church Council to consider exploring the possibility of granting a temporary vehicular access for the construction of a church hall with the previous owner of the car park site.*

(b) Recreation Grounds Committee

Mrs. Wedderburn-Day proposed, seconded by Mr. Burfield:

"That the Parish Council notes the minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2017, Ref RG/01/2017."

CARRIED 8 in favour, 2 abstentions

Attention was drawn to Item 2 (a) - Coppicing and boundary line on land between the Church Lane track and Common Field Recreation Ground (Minute 2(a) RG/06/2016) – Boundary posts
Although the reinstatement of the boundary posts had been agreed at the Parish Council meeting on 16th June 2016, at the time, the Council did not specify how the costs would be met. The Recreation Grounds Committee had not been assigned any additional funds to carry out this work.

Mr. Andrews proposed, seconded by Dr. Walker:

“That the Parish Council makes available up to £1,250 from the General Contingency Fund to pay for the reinstatement of the posts.”

CARRIED 8 in favour, 2 abstentions

Mrs. Cole urged the Recreation Grounds Committee to consider the installation of bollards around the corners of the green at Barnfield Crescent before the proposed building at one of the properties commenced to prevent damage to the grass.

15. CONSULTATIONS

(a) Kent County Council's draft Kent Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2017-2022

The consultation which runs until 19th February 2017 was noted.

(b) Kent County Council – Freight Action Plan consultation

The draft Freight Action Plan prepared by Kent County Council was noted.

16. INFORMATION REPORTS

(a) Chairman's Report

- *South East Water quality*
- *Kent Association of Local Councils – Rural Conference to take place on 9th March 2017.*

(b) Reports from Councillors

There were no reports from Parish Councillors.

(c) Publications for information - noted

- * *Kent Association of Local Councils – The Parish News - December 2016*
- * *Clerks & Councils Direct - January 2017 magazine*
- * *Society of Local Council Clerks – Clerk's Magazine – January 2017*
- * *Kent Police Rural Update – attached for Councillors only*

(d) Correspondence for information - noted

- * *Department for Communities and Local Government – response to proposed Council Tax Referendums (circulated to Councillors)*
- * *Speedwatch – Kent Policy have changed their Speedwatch training and procedures (circulated to Councillors)*
- * *Kent Fire and Rescue Services - Information leaflet for Parish Councils to assist with inspection of fire hydrants*
- * *Plunket Rural Community Co-operative programme - Information received via Kent Association of Local Councils*
- * *UK Power Networks – Vulnerable people assistance - Letter received with regards to assisting vulnerable people in the community during a power cut*

(e) Events

- * *Kent Association of Local Councils information event – KALC and the Kent Federation of Amenity Services with support from KCC are holding a free joint Information event on Tuesday, 28th February 2016 about the devolution of powers and services and different models of Local Government at principal authority level.*
- * *Great British Spring Clean - Keep Britain Tidy has launched a litter campaign taking place between 3rd and 5th March 2017.*

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

18. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, 15th March 2017

Wednesday, 22nd March 2017 – Annual Parish Meeting

The meeting closed at 9.26 p.m.

Signed by Chairman : Date: