

## 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, 21<sup>st</sup> June 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. Dillon,  
Mr. P. Eaton, Mr. M. Hudson, Mr. R. Lang, Mrs. M. Robarts, Dr. P. Walker,  
Mrs. R. Wedderburn-Day

IN ATTENDANCE: District Councillor Mr. S. Reay  
Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)

Mrs. Cole reported the sudden passing of Mr. David Craker, who had been a Co-opted Member on the Highways Committee and a Parish Councillor some years ago.

#### 1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology of absence was received from County Councillor Mr. R. Gough.

#### 2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Mr. Bennett declared having a non-pecuniary interest relating to Item 13(a) as being a Member of the Kent Wildlife Trust.

#### 3. **DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS**

Mr. Reay reported that the District Council had confirmed that the maximum allowance of proposed properties included in the "Call for Sites" for the land opposite the Kemsing Library, would be 45.

It would now seem that there are currently no offers from local businesses to take over the post-office services.

Planning enforcement notices had been served on 5A Noah's Ark for non-compliance to planning conditions imposed. A notice had also been served on 70 Dynes Road. No further planning enforcement action could be taken on the reported "untidy site" at 23 Dynes Road as it was still a building site.

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

There were no questions from the public or press.

#### 5. **MINUTES**

Mrs. Cole proposed:

*"That the Parish Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017, Ref KPC/05/2017, copy attached".*

*CARRIED* unanimously

#### 6. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES**

##### (a) Park Lane Nature Reserve Area & Fairfield Close Area (Minute 12(a) KPC/05/2017)

The Clerk confirmed that the matter would be progressed with a view to arrange a meeting with Sheffords before the next Parish Council meeting.

##### (b) Fencing at Nightingale Road Recreation Ground (Minute 12(c) KPC/05/2017)

The Working Group Members had attended a site visit with the fencing contractor and the Kent Highways Drainage Engineer and had established the location of water pipes and drains. The Clerk had attempted to check if any BT services/cables were present on the Parish Council's land but this information was subject to a charge. It was concluded that the presence of any BT infrastructure would be highly unlikely.

The fencing contractor had also confirmed that he would check the area using testing equipment suitable for detecting any cables, etc. prior to starting the work (which would commence on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017).

District Councillor Mr. Reay suggested the Parish Council investigates whether there were any wayleave payments payable. Mr. Burfield thought it would be unlikely as the previous landowner (Kent County Council) would have received the wayleave payments years ago, possibly as a lump sum.

- (c) Interactive speed warning sign at Childsbridge Lane, Kemsing (Minute 12(e) KPC/05/2017)  
This matter would be referred to Kent County Councillor Mr. Gough who confirmed that he would endeavour to attend a future Parish Council meeting.
- (d) Small Business Rate Relief (Minute 12(f) KPC/05/2017)  
Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) had approved the Parish Council's application for small business rate relief on the village car park but not on the public toilets. According to the Business Rates Manager with whom the Clerk had spoken on two separate occasions, only one application per business can be considered for business rate relief. The total payment of £1,010-81 would be reimbursed electronically following receipt of the completed refund claim form. Contrary to SDC's advice given to the Clerk, Mr. Dillon's understanding was that applications for small business rate relief could be made on more than one business premises.  
*District Councillor Mr. Reay offered to take up the matter again with SDC on the Parish Council's behalf. The Clerk was asked to supply Mr. Reay with the relevant details.*
- (e) 20mph Speed Limit request (Minute 12(g) KPC/05/2017)  
The report of the working group meeting held on Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017, was noted. Formal responses were awaited from Kent County Council, Kent Police and Sevenoaks District Council.
- (f) Bus time table changes (Minute 12(h) KPC/05/2017)  
County Councillor Mr. Gough advised that the KCC Head of Transport confirmed that both operators were commercially run services in which KCC had no power to intervene.
- (g) Village notice board at Heaverham (Minute 12(j) KPC/05/2017)  
Mrs. Cole reported that the St. Clere Estate had offered to sponsor a replacement notice board which would include removal and disposal of the existing one with no charge to the Parish Council. The Parish Council welcomed the offer.  
*In light of the above it was AGREED that the Clerk should cancel arrangements for the removal of the existing notice board.*
- (h) Land to the rear of four properties at Fairfield Close, Kemsing (Minute 14 KPC/05/2017)  
In response to the Parish Council's previous reply, the Sevenoaks District Council's Environmental Officer advised that the land would now be subject to an inspection. The Parish Council should note that it is the landowner's responsibility to take measures to treat vermin infestations.  
  
Mr. Buttifant, who did not attend the last meeting, expressed his disappointment with the Parish Council's statement "*that vermin was present everywhere*".
- (i) Request for a memorial seat at the junction with The Landway and West End in memory of the late Mr. and Mrs. Lott (Minute 8(b) KPC/10/2016)  
Comments from the daughter of the late Mr. Lott were noted. The results of a HM Land Registry search indicated that the land had no registered owner. In these circumstances the applicant asked for the Parish Council's written confirmation that arrangements for the replacement seat could resume. It was noted that the area is being mowed and maintained by KCC.

Mr. Burfield reminded Councillors that as non-landowners of the land, the Parish Council does not formally have any authority over it.

*RESOLVED: It was AGREED to respond to the applicant that the Parish Council, as non-owners of the land, is unable to give the required permission and that it had no further comments to its previous letter. Although the land had been mowed and maintained by Kent County Council it is possible that Highway land would not necessarily be registered.*

(j) Common Field Recreation Ground Trust (Minute 19(f) KPC/05/2017)

The Parish Council was surprised to have received a letter dated May 2017 from the stock brokers advising that an inactivity fee was payable on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017 as they had been given instruction to issue certificates for both holdings. The Clerk confirmed that one certificate had been received and the second was awaited.

*The Clerk was instructed to write back to confirm that the inactivity charge does not apply and to enquire as to when the second certificate could be expected.*

(k) Dynes Road Post Office (Minute 9 KPC/05/2017)

Post Office Limited advised in a letter dated 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017 that the post office services would terminate on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2017. Potential retail partners interested in running the post office services were invited to submit applications. The Parish Council was disappointed with receiving this news as many residents rely on the Post Office for a variety of services.

During the discussion, Kemsing Library was identified as a suitable location. The Parish Council was keen to retain the services for Kemsing residents and *it was AGREED that the Clerk should write to the Head of Kent Libraries at KCC to suggest this option.*

7. **DAMAGED BUS SHELTER AT GREENLANDS ROAD**

The structure sustained minor damage resulting in the base fittings becoming loose. The Clerk had already made arrangements for the repairs which had been done last week but it was not known who was responsible for the damage.

8. **PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE**

Comments received from a resident complaining about the Parish Council's website were noted.

9. **REQUEST TO PLACING ADVERTISEMENT BOARD IN THE VILLAGE CAR PARK**

A request from the "Kemsing Deli" to place an A advertising board in the village car park was considered.

*It was AGREED that permission for an A board in the car park (which is located in a Conservation area) could not be given.*

10. **VILLAGE CAR PARK**

A request from a development company interested in purchasing the village car park to be used for potential development was discussed.

Mrs. Cole read an email correspondence from the District Council, asking if the Parish Council still wished for the car park to remain on the current "Call for Sites" list. It was placed on the list by the previous owner in 2015 as part of the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment. It has to be noted that the car park had been identified as a Community Asset in 2012, and should remain as such.

Mr. Bennett proposed, seconded by Dr. Walker:

*"That the Parish Council asks SDC to remove the village car park from the "Call for Sites" list and that the Clerk responds to the developer that the Parish Council has no intention of selling the car park".*

*CARRIED 11 in favour, 1 abstention*

8.21 p.m. District Councillor Mr. Reay leaf the meeting.

11. **PENSIONS REGULATOR**

The Parish Council was asked to confirm its declaration of compliance before 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017.  
*The Clerk would complete the declaration.*

12. **PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE EQUIPMENT**

The Parish Council authorised the Clerk to dispose of the old office equipment.

13. **DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS**

(a) Kent Wildlife Trust

Mrs. Cole proposed:

*“That the Parish Council renews the annual subscription of £50”.*

*CARRIED unanimously*

14. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

Mr. Eaton proposed, seconded by Dr. Walker:

*“That the Parish Council approves the list of payments (Vouchers 36 to 61)”.*

*CARRIED unanimously*

15. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) Planning Committee

Mr. Andrews proposed, seconded by Mrs. Cole,

*“That the Parish Council notes the minutes of the meetings held on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2017, Ref No P/08/2017 and 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017, Ref No P/09/2017”.*

*CARRIED unanimously*

16. **CONSULTATIONS**

(a) Department for Communities and Local Government’s “Park Run” consultation.

The DCLG’s consultation on proposals to “legislate to put it beyond doubt that local authorities, including Parish Councils, cannot charge parkrun or junior parkrun for the use of public parks”, was noted.

17. **INFORMATION REPORTS**

(a) Chairman’s Report

There was no report.

(b) Reports from Councillors

- *Bylaw sign attached to fence at Kemsing Lawn Tennis Court fence*

Mrs. Wedderburn-Day asked if the bylaws were still enforceable. The sign seemed very old and out of date. It was confirmed that the bylaws were still in place.

(c) Publications for information

Clerks and Councils Direct – May 2017 Magazine

Kent Police Open Day, 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2017 – The open day will take place at Kent Police College.

18. **MATTERS TO BE RAISED AT THE NEXT MEETING**

There were no matters raised.

19. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2017

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

Signed by Chairman : ..... Date: .....