

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, 17th January 2018 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, Mrs. R. Wedderburn-Day

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)
County Councillor Mr. R. Gough

Mrs. Cole opened the meeting by wishing everyone a happy new year.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence received.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interest received.

3. **DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Mr. Gough's report follows after Minute 6(h).

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 15th November 2017, Ref KPC/11/2017, previously circulated."

CARRIED unanimously

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

(a) Park Lane Nature Reserve Area & Fairfield Close Area (Minute 6(a) KPC/11/2017)

On Monday, 15th January 2018 a meeting had taken place with a Chartered surveyor who would provide more detailed information of how to proceed with identifying potential land usage options.

(b) Interactive speed warning sign at Childsbridge Lane, Kemsing (Minute 6(b) KPC/11/2017)

County Councillor Mr. Gough had agreed to fund the sign and Kent County Council Highway Officers were progressing with the request.

(c) Common Field Recreation Ground Trust (Minute 6(c) KPC/11/2017)

The Trust is required to complete a Tax Residency Self Certification Form (letter and documents circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting). *This was agreed* and Mr. Eaton offered to assist the Clerk with completing the relevant documents.

The Trust's bank is making changes to the bank account terms and conditions and these were noted (details had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting).

(d) Post Office closure (Minute 6(d) KPC/11/2017)

On Monday, 8th January 2018 Mrs. Cole, Mr. Andrews, Mr. Burfield and the Clerk met the Post Office's Network Operations Manager who had agreed to discuss the proposal in more detail with Kent County Council. The Parish Council had achieved its goal in bringing the two interested parties together which would hopefully result in some sort of postal services to be restored in the village in the near future.

- (e) Reform of Data Protection Legislation (Minute 6(e) KPC/11/2017)
Further advice received from the National Association of Local Councils was noted. The Clerk would attend a training course led by Kent Association of Local Councils in a week's time and report back at the next meeting.
- (f) Electricity supply for tennis court car park lights (Minute 6(f) KPC/11/2017)
Mr. Burfield will provide full details of his qualifications to the Clerk who would pass on this information with the request to the Insurance Company.
- (g) West Kent Community Led Housing Hub (Minute 16(d) KPC/11/2017)
A meeting had been arranged for Thursday, 25th January 2018 with the Rural Housing Enabler from Actions with Communities in Rural Kent.
- (h) Kent Police Speed Watch (Minute 7 KPC/11/2017)
The Kent Police Community Speed watch Manager was invited to attend the Parish Council meeting on 21st February 2018.

7.40 p.m. Mr. Gough arrived at the meeting.

Mr. Gough gave the following report:

- Interactive speed sign at Childsbridge Lane – This is being progressed (see Minute 5(a)).
- Buses – KCC will be reducing its bus subsidies by £2m from 2018/19. Alternative options are being investigated, one of which is a community transport scheme whereby smaller vehicles are used in areas where there is a need. Since September last year, the Arriva No 531 bus service, (which includes school journeys to and from Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge) experienced a number of problems, all of which have now been resolved.
- Kent County Council budget – KCC issued a statement on the Local Government Settlement which is quite significant for them. Government grants continue to reduce resulting in a £90m spending gap which has to be filled. There will be an increase in Council Tax to residents in the next financial year. The pilot Business rate retention scheme would probably result in an estimated income of £5.5m.

Mr. Andrews expressed concern after a press article indicated that Kemsing Primary School had performed poorly (compared to other schools in the District) in the recent SATS tests. This was despite having received a "Good" Ofsted rating (dated March 2017). It has to be noted that the results of only one test is just a "snap shot" and not a definitive means to measure the school's quality of teaching overall as there may be many contributing factors to be taken into consideration.

Mr. Gough (Kent County Council's Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education) agreed to make further enquiries through the School Improvement Team and to report back to the Parish Council.

8.09 p.m. Mr. Gough was thanked for his report and he subsequently left the meeting.

7. **CHILDSBRIDGE FARM LAND (OLD CHILDSBRIDGE LANE), BETWEEN M26 AND CASTLE DRIVE, KEMSING**

The Parish Council had received a number of enquiries and complaints about the pedestrian access that had been blocked. Sevenoaks District Council had advised that there is no public right of way across this land. Highways England had put padlocks on their access gates to the road leading to the motorway.

8. **LITTER BIN LOCATED IN FRONT OF NO 39 WEST END, KEMSING**

The Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) owned litter bin had been removed by them, without prior notification to the Parish Council. This was following Kent County Council's removal of the bus stop. An enquiry as to the decision of the bin's removal was made by the Clerk who had been informed by SDC that the bin was no longer needed as the bus stop had been removed and there being sufficient litter bins nearby. The Parish Council noted that SDC owned litterbins had been removed in other parts of the village, without prior notification to the Parish Council.

9. **WORLD WAR 2 – KEMSING HERITAGE CENTRE BOOK “KEMSING HOME FRONT IN WW2”**

The Parish Council approved a request for historic Parish Council minutes to be used in a chapter of the new book.

10. **STANDING ORDERS AMENDMENT**

In accordance with Standing Order No 41 (b), the following recommendation stand adjourned without discussion to the next ordinary meeting of the Council:

“To add an additional item to Standing Order Appendix A No 13(a) – Terms of Reference for the Recreation Grounds Committee:

To conduct periodically a review of the allotments located at Nightingale Road Recreation Ground and to liaise with the Allotment Holder's Association accordingly.”

11. **DONATIONS & SUBSCRIPTIONS**

(a) Kemsing Open Door

Mr. Eaton proposed, seconded by Dr. Walker:

“That the Parish Council makes a financial contribution of £300”.

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Bennett and Mrs. Cole declared non-pecuniary interests as Members of the CPRE.

(b) Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)

Mr. Andrews proposed, seconded by Dr. Walker:

“That the Parish Council renews the annual membership at a cost of £36”.

CARRIED unanimously

(c) London Green Belt Council

Mrs. Cole proposed:

“That the Parish Council renews the annual membership at a cost of £25”.

CARRIED unanimously

(d) Oaks Christmas Lunch Steering Group

A letter of appreciation for the Parish Council's financial contribution towards the Christmas Lunch for elderly residents was noted.

(e) Victim Support

A letter of appreciation for the Parish Council's financial contribution towards the Charity's activities was noted.

12. **ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

(a) Mr. Eaton proposed, seconded by Dr. Walker:

“That the Parish Council approves the payment list (Vouchers 186 – 234) and to note the receipt list (Vouchers 16 to 20), and to approve the list of inter-bank transfers as proposed”.

CARRIED unanimously

13. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) Planning Committee

Mr. Burfield proposed, seconded by Mrs. Cole:

“That the Parish Council notes the minutes of the meeting held on 6th November 2017, Ref No P/20/2017”.

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Andrews proposed, seconded by Mr. Burfield:

"That the Parish Council notes the minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2017, Ref No P/21/2017".

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Andrews proposed, seconded by Mrs. Roberts:

"That the Parish Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2017, Ref No P/22/2017".

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Andrews proposed, seconded by Mr. Burfield:

"That the Parish council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 18th December 2017, Ref No P/23/2017".

CARRIED unanimously

Referring to the Abbeyfield planning application Mr. Andrews was surprised that there had been no representations for or against from local residents. Mr. Andrews wondered whether the residents confused the applicant's public consultation meeting, which was held in the St. Edith Hall, with the Parish Council's Planning Committee meeting.

(b) Downland Management Committee

Mr. Bennett proposed, seconded by Mr. Buttifant:

"That the Parish Council notes the minutes of the meeting held on 1st November 2017, Ref No DM/06/2017".

CARRIED unanimously

(c) Recreation Grounds Committee

Dr. Walker proposed, seconded by Mr. Dillon:

"That the Parish Council notes the minutes of the meeting held on 8th November 2017, Ref No RG/06/2017".

CARRIED unanimously

(d) Finance Committee

Mr. Eaton proposed, seconded by Dr. Walker:

"That the Parish Council notes the minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 2017, Ref No F/02/2017".

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Eaton proposed, seconded by Dr. Walker:

"That the Parish Council notes the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November 2017, Ref No F/03/2017".

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Eaton proposed, seconded by Dr. Walker:

"That the Parish Council approves the following recommendations:

Item 6 : Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Item 8 - Reserve Fund transfers

Item 10 - Appointment of Internal Auditor

Item 11 – Financial Regulations"

CARRIED unanimously

Mr. Eaton proposed, seconded by Dr. Walker

"That the Parish Council approves the Committees' recommendation, Item 7 – Precept – to approve a precept requirement of £119,000 for the 2018/19 financial year".

CARRIED unanimously

8.45 p.m. Under the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press have been excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following item of business as publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Salaries review (Minute 4 (b) & (c)) : The discussion is contained in a separate confidential paper.

8.50 p.m. The meeting was reconvened and opened to the Public and Press.

14. CONSULTATIONS

There were no consultations.

15. INFORMATION REPORTS

(a) Chairman's Report

Civic Service – an invitation to attend the ceremony on 20th March 2018 was noted.

(b) Reports from Councillors

There were no reports from Councillors.

(c) Publications for information

There were no publications for information.

(d) General information reports

Kent Police website update pilot scheme – Crimes and incidents and non-injury road traffic collisions can now be reported online through the Kent Police website.

16. MATTERS TO BE RAISED AT THE NEXT MEETING

(a) Parish Councillor vacancy

The co-option will take place at the next meeting.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 21st February 2018

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

Signed by Chairman : Date: