

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, 20th February 2019 at 7.30 p.m.

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

IN ATTENDANCE: County Councillor Mr. R. Gough
8 Members of the Public
Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. M. Hudson and Dr. P. Walker.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Mrs. Cole, Mr. Eaton and Mrs. Robarts declared non-pecuniary interests in Item 7(f) by virtue of office as Trustees of the St. Edith Hall Management Committee (SEHMC).

3. **DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

County Councillor report:

Some Arriva services affecting Kemsing will cease from 6th April 2019. Another bus company is waiting for approval of their proposal to provide a replacement service.

Kent County Council (KCC) Tax will increase by 5% from 1st April 2019. This is as a result of ongoing essential budget cuts and necessary overall savings.

The pothole "blitz" project is underway and we are urged to report any problems to KCC.

District Councillor reports: There were no reports from the District Councillors.

7.40 p.m. The meeting was adjourned to allow for public participation.

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

On behalf of 250 residents in Greenlands Road and Noah's Ark, a representative was permitted to present a statement in regards to the recent Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) Local Plan consultation. Residents are disappointed and declared a challenge to the Parish Council for its decision not to oppose the proposal for the "Land South of Noah's Ark" which included 22 new properties. Details and examples were given as to why residents vehemently disagreed with the Council's view. Parts of the gardens of some of the properties included in the proposal were deemed as "previously developed sites" (Brown Field sites); a statement which is questioned by the residents, who were also of the opinion that the three sites had been wrongly combined into one proposal. A great deal of criticism was directed to SDC; the residents had communicated their views to the SDC but had not yet received definitive answers. SDC was also questioned about their site assessment procedure. Despite their land being included for development, two residents directly affected by this proposal had not been consulted by the developers at all.

Councillors responded to the statement and comments included the following:

- This was not a planning application; it was the Local Plan consultation with the aim to remove land from Green Belt restrictions.
- The Parish Council could find no grounds to object as to the soundness of the plan in relation to this proposal; the Parish Council trusts SDC had carried out the relevant site assessments prior to its inclusion.
- It is understood that the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England is challenging SDC's definitions of Brown Field sites.

7.55 p.m. Mrs. Cole thanked the residents for their attendance and the meeting was reconvened.

5. **MINUTES**

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Parish Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2019, Ref KPC/01/2019".

CARRIED unanimously

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

(a) Youth services (Minute 6(b) KPC/01/2019)

A further meeting had been arranged with West Kent Communities on Friday, 1st March 2019.

(b) Village car park salt bin (Minute 7(e) KPC/01/2019)

The bin had been filled at a cost of £150 (VAT not included). The Clerk reminded the Council of its responsibility as landowner to maintain safe conditions on its property. Referring to the Parish Council's Insurance Company's guidance note and recommendation that car parks, driveways, interior roadways, etc. should be made safe for the public, the Clerk asked the Council to put in place an established plan of how to deal with snow and ice, including gritting, the village car park. There was no interest to adopt a plan for managing grit, ice and snow in the car park.

7. **NEW MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION**

(a) Parish Council website

The Kemsing Scouts' request to have a link to their website from the Parish Council's website was considered. The majority view was that anyone looking to find the Kemsing Scouts would not search for it via the Parish Council's website.

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Parish Council does not approve the request for a link on the website".

CARRIED unanimously

The Clerk's suggestion to increase the information published on the Parish Council's website, for example, to include Committee meeting minutes and agenda, was deferred.

8.05 p.m. The meeting was adjourned to allow for public participation.

(b) Kemsing Community website

The Parish Council was asked to financially support the creation of a Community website (a group of volunteers are proposing to maintain it) for local societies, events and news.

A representative said that they wished to provide information about village clubs and societies with contact details and event information.

It was noted that an existing list of societies, clubs, etc. can be viewed at the Kemsing Library and details are also published in the Well magazine which is delivered quarterly to every household in Kemsing. Online communication is now the preferred option to make information available. In order for the Council to consider financial support, guidance was conveyed to the representative.

8.10 p.m. The meeting was reconvened.

The Parish Council supported the idea in principle; however, Councils cannot financially support individuals. Only voluntary or community non-profit making organisations with written aims and objectives or formal constitution and a bank account are eligible.

(c) Temporary access arrangement with St. Mary's Church Parochial Church Council (PCC)

The reports of the meetings of the Car Park Working Group were noted.

Mr. Andrews proposed, seconded by Mr. Bennett:

"That the Parish Council approves the draft agreement for temporary access across the village car park for the duration of the construction of the replacement Church Hall".

CARRIED unanimously

It is understood that the Parochial Church Council's Standing Committee referred the draft to the full PCC for consideration at their meeting in March 2019. A response was awaited.

(d) Public conveniences repairs

It is necessary to replace all the taps in the Gents', Ladies' and toilets for the disabled persons. A quotation of £630-85 (VAT not included) has been obtained.

Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Parish Council accepted the quotation of £630-85 (VAT not included) for the replacement taps to be installed".

CARRIED unanimously

(e) Kemsing Heritage Centre (KHC) Lease

The SEHMC asked the Council to arrange for payment of the KHC rent (collected by the Parish Council as Custodian Trustee between July 2011 and July 2018) to the SEHMC. It was suggested to make a slight amendment (agreed by both the Parish Council and the KHC) to enable the rent payment to be made to SEHMC directly.

A copy of a draft lease amendment prepared by Mr. Burfield was tabled at the meeting. Mr. Burfield offered, together with the Clerk, to approach the KHC with a view to discuss and obtain agreement for the lease amendment.

(f) St. Edith Hall kitchen refurbishment

The St. Edith Hall Management Committee (SEHMC) asked the Parish Council for financial support to fund the proposed essential kitchen refurbishment work. An application for external funding to the tune of £14,000 had been made and a decision was awaited. The total project is estimated at £21,000.

Councillors debated how the shortfall should be funded. There were no available funds in the budget and it was agreed that the project would be funded via the Reserve Fund. The Clerk had made enquiries with SDC's Planning Policy Team to establish if this project was eligible to be funded via the Community Infrastructure Levy funds but an answer had not yet been received.

Mr. Andrews proposed, seconded by Mr. Burfield:

"That the Parish Council agrees to fund invoices (made out to the Council) for the hall kitchen refurbishment of up to £7,200 (VAT included), to be paid from the Parish Council's Free Reserve Fund, or, CIL monies, if allowed".

CARRIED 9 in favour {Mrs. Cole and Mrs. Robarts abstained}

(g) Bus services in Kemsing

Please see Minute 3 above.

(h) Great British Spring Clean (22nd March to 23rd April 2019)

Noted – no action agreed.

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) Planning Committee

Mr. Andrews proposed, seconded by Mr. Burfield:

"That the Parish Council notes the minutes of the meetings held on 14th January 2019, Ref No P/02/2019 and 28th January 2019, Ref No P/03/2019".

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Recreation Grounds Committee

Mr. Dillon proposed, seconded by Mr. Burfield:

"That the Parish Council notes the minutes of the meeting held on 30th January 2019, Ref No RG/01/2019".

CARRIED unanimously

9. **CONSULTATIONS**

There were no consultations.

10. **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

(a) Accounts for payments & receipts

Mr. Eaton proposed:

"That the Parish Council approves the list of payments" (Vouchers 221 to 246).

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Donations and Subscriptions

London Green Belt Council – Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Parish Council renews the annual subscription of £25".

CARRIED unanimously

Society of Local Council Clerks – Mrs. Cole proposed:

"That the Parish Council renews the annual subscription of £196".

CARRIED unanimously

Victim Support – Mrs. Cole proposed:

"To provide a financial donation of £50 as this was the maximum amount available for this financial year".

CARRIED unanimously

Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group – Mrs. Cole proposed:

"To provide a financial donation of £50 as this was the maximum amount available for this financial year".

CARRIED unanimously

11. **INFORMATION REPORTS**

(a) Report from Chairman

Mrs. Cole read a thank you note from a resident who referred to the Clerk's report in the latest Well magazine, thanking the Clerk and the Parish Councillors for their hard work.

(b) Reports from Parish Councillors

Chalky Way (Fly-tipping) – Mrs. Wedderburn-Day reported discarded household items noticed in front of the gate leading to the Reservoir, but said she had noticed a report that it had been removed. Mrs. Wedderburn-Day would check the following day.

Fairfield & Park Lane Working Group – Mr. Andrews asked when the group would meet again. The Clerk confirmed that a meeting date had been arranged and a full report would be provided at the March Parish Council meeting.

Dynes Road (garages at the bottom of the road adjacent to the footpath leading to Otford) – Mr. Buttifant had reported to the Clerk that the chain link fence had been removed completely, leaving the area open for vehicles to access Oxenhill Shaw and Meadow. The Clerk had made a report to the Housing Association and it is understood that a works order for the repairs had been raised.

(c) General information

Police Community Support Officers (PCSO) – Correspondence from Kent Police regarding PCSO staffing issues which would be resolved by April/May when more PCSO's would have been employed was noted.

Kent Police – Posters to assist with problems with vehicles being ridden/driven off road on parks and fields would be placed in villages over the next few weeks.

Lord Lieutenant's Annual Civic Service - An invitation to attend the service at All Saints Church in Maidstone on Tuesday 12th March 2019 was received.

Parliamentary inquiry to strengthen Standards regime – The inquiry into ethical standards in local government, published on 30 January 2019, has backed calls from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) for reforms to the current regime aimed at improving behaviour Parish and Town Councils, was noted.

National Association of Local Councils (NALC) – Open letter to Councillors received from Chairman of NALC was noted.

9.02 p.m. Under the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960, the public and representatives of the press were 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.

12. **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Salaries review Reference F/03/2018 (Minute 5 (a) & (b))

The details of the discussion are contained in a separate confidential document.

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

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, 20th March 2019

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

Signed by Chairman : Date: