

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of a meeting of Kemsing Parish Council in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, High Street, Kemsing on Wednesday, 16th October 2019 at 7.33 p.m.

PRESENT: Mr. D. Bennett (in the Chair)
Mr. M. Bell, Mr. B. Buttifant, Mrs. J. Chisholm, Mr. C. Connelly, Mr. P. Dillon,
Mr. P. Eaton, Mrs. M. Robarts, Dr. P. Walker, Mrs. R. Wedderburn-Day

IN ATTENDANCE: 2 Member of the Public
District Councillors Mrs. D. Morris and Mr. S. Reay
Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)

7.15 p.m. Prior to the start of the meeting Mr. Bennett welcomed the Sevenoaks District Council's (SDC) Planning Enforcement Officer who gave a brief outline of the District Council's role in investigating alleged planning breaches. SDC had appointed the Enforcement Officer some seven months ago for a period of twelve months. A short progress report on four unresolved planning enforcement investigations in Kemsing was received.

7.33 p.m. – Mr. Bennett thanked the Enforcement Officer for the very informative presentation and formally declared the meeting open.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mr. A. Andrews and Mr. M. Hudson and also County Councillor Mr. R. Gough.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest received.

3. DISTRICT & COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Mr. Reay thanked the Planning Enforcement Officer for his hard work over the past few months during which time some 900 planning enforcement referrals had been made. District Councillors are appealing to SDC to make this post permanent.

Mr. Reay gave a brief update on the Local Plan Hearings which were still underway.

Mrs. Morris commended the Enforcement Officer for the dedication in which enforcement issues are being dealt with and echoed the anticipation for the contracted post to become permanent.

Mrs. Morris reported that the planning application for three new bungalows at Church Lane would be considered at the SDC Development Control Committee meeting on 14th November 2019 and that she had registered to make a representation to support a local resident's objection to the proposal.

Mr. Reay said that, as a Member of the SDC Development Committee, he was unable to speak on the matter but assured that all representations made during the consultation period, and those made at the Development Control Committee meeting would be considered in full.

Mr. Bell was grateful for Mr. Reay's assurance that the application would be considered with due diligence.

4. PUBLIC SESSION

A resident reported that Seal Parish Council had requested, via their Highways Improvement Plan (HIP), to relocate the boundary and speed limit indicator signs to improve pedestrian safety on the railway bridge, that Otford Parish Council is reviewing, through their HIP, the speed limits throughout their village.

5. **MINUTES**

Mr. Bennett proposed:

“That the Parish Council approves the minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2019, Ref KPC/08/2019”.

CARRIED unanimously

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

(a) Nightingale Road Recreation Ground boundary fence gaps (Minute 6(a) KPC/08/2019)

Work is awaited.

(b) Village car park notice board (Minute 6(b) KPC/08/2019)

Work is awaited.

(c) Defibrillator appeal for Sevenoaks Parish Councils (Minute 6(e) KPC/08/2019)

A response from Kent County Council (KCC) is awaited.

(d) Communications Working Party (Minute 6(i) KPC/08/2019)

Arrangements for a meeting had been made.

(e) Kemsing Allotments (Minute 6(k) KPC/08/2019)

Mr. Bennett proposed:

“That, subject to a few minor amendments, the draft agreements are approved”.

CARRIED unanimously

(f) Parish Councillor vacancy (Minute 7(d) KPC/08/2019)

The statutory notice to call for an election to fill the casual vacancy had been displayed. SDC had received no requests for an election and the Parish Council may now proceed with advertising the vacancy. The Clerk will see to this in due course. The deadline for applications was set at 31st January 2020 with a view for co-option to take place at the February 2020 Parish Council meeting.

(g) Downland Management Committee – Ash Trees (Minute 8(c) KPC/08/2019)

Mr. Bennett proposed:

“That the Parish Council authorises acceptance of a quotation totalling £3,640 plus VAT to fell infected trees on Shorehill Wood and Whiteleaf Down, and that the Kemsing Downs Nature Reserve Group would consider, at its meeting on 30th October, whether or not one large mature ash tree on the North side of Haffenden Field near the foot of the steps up to Whiteleaf Down, should now be felled and if so, whether the timber should be removed off site.”

CARRIED unanimously

Concern was raised regarding the proposal to spreading the chippings of ash trees with the ash die back disease on the site, however the Clerk and Mr. Bennett had reviewed the Forestry Commission’s guidance note which did not indicate that removal of the timber of site was a requirement, but the Clerk did offer to corroborate this understanding.

The Clerk would verify this advice.

(h) Property at junction with Pilgrims Way/Childsbridge Lane (West side of Childsbridge Lane) (Minute 11(b)(i))

SDC’s Enforcement Team had concluded that this is not a planning breach. The Parking Engineer further confirmed that parking enforcement action is unlikely given the absence of parking restrictions in the adjacent carriageway. It was suggested that KCC Highways and Transportation be asked to take remedial action to restore the grass verge.

The Clerk to make a report to KCC Highways and Transportation accordingly.

7. NEW MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

(a) Village notice boards

It was agreed to transfer of responsibility for village notice boards to Facilities Committee.

(b) Notice board at Noah's Ark

The decayed notice board and post had been removed due to safety concerns. A quotation for a replacement had been requested.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Planning Committee

Mr. Bell proposed, seconded by Mrs. Robarts:

"That the Parish Council notes the minutes of the meetings held on 9th September 2019, Ref No P/18/2019 and 23rd September 2019, Ref No P/19/2019".

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Recreation Grounds Committee

Dr. Walker proposed, seconded by Mrs. Wedderburn-Day:

"That the Parish Council notes the minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2019, Ref No RG/05/2019 and to approve the Committee's recommendation to release £1,000 from the Council's General Contingency Fund to allow for both play area gates to be replaced".

CARRIED unanimously

A misunderstanding over the exact location of a property arose during the Council's discussion of the Committee's second recommendation. The recommendation was for the Parish Council to make available £1,000 from its Contingency Fund for fence repairs and vegetation clearance to the boundary of a property adjoining the Common Field Recreation Ground. The two locations were identified as a property in Church Lane and a property adjacent to the Common Field Recreation Ground's North West corner.

Mr. Bennett proposed:

"That the Parish Council makes available £1,000 for fence repairs and vegetation clearance to the property located on the North West corner of the Common Field Recreation Ground and that the alleged damage to the hedge adjacent to the properties at Church Lane be investigated and that the request for further financial support, if required, be deferred to the next Parish Council meeting for consideration".

CARRIED unanimously

9. CONSULTATIONS

There were no consultations.

10. FINANCIAL MATTERS

(a) Accounts for payments & receipts

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

"That the Parish Council approves the list of payments (Vouchers 135 to 158) and notes the list of receipts (Vouchers 7 and 8)."

CARRIED unanimously

(b) Donations and Subscriptions

There were no requests for donations or subscriptions.

11. INFORMATION REPORTS

(a) Report from Chairman

There was no report from the Chairman.

(b) Reports from Parish Councillors

(i) Kemsing Downs Nature Reserve (request for steps) – Mrs. Wedderburn-Day had been asked by a number of residents if steps could be created at a very slippery location on the Reserve, but it transpired at the meeting that the location identified was not on Parish Council owned land.

- (ii) Planning Committee – Mr. Bell was disappointed at the Parish Council’s discussion at the last meeting regarding the timings of the Planning Committee meetings. The reason for the change in the timings (to start earlier) was an attempt to attract Councillors’ interest to volunteer to be a member of the Planning Committee, i.e. to increase the current memberships comprising only four members as it is almost impossible to run the Committee effectively as it stands. Mr. Bell urged Councillors to considering putting their names forward.
- (c) General information
There was none.

12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
Wednesday, 20th November 2019

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

Signed by Chairman : Date: