

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

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DOWNLAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held in the Small Hall, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing on

Wednesday, 5th February 2020 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Mr. D. Bennett (in the Chair)
Councillors Mr. B. Buttifant, Dr. P. Walker

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)
Co-opted Members Mrs. C. Coplestone and Ms. A. Barratt

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs. J. Chisholm and Mrs. R. Wedderburn-Day.

2. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th November 2019, Reference no DM/05/2019 were approved and duly signed.

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

(a) Tree survey for Kemsing Downs Nature Reserve (Minute 3(a) DM/05/2019)

Attempts to obtain three quotations had been unsuccessful. One quotation received, approved and accepted by the Committee totalled £3,564-00 (VAT included) – to be paid from the Kemsing Downs Nature Reserve Group tree survey budget.

(b) Old Chalk New Downs Project (Minute 3(b) DM/05/2019)

Whereas the Parish Council had been led to believe that the work would be entirely funded by the Project and they would fund maintenance of the area for a few years their contract provides that the Parish Council would have to fund 10% of the costs, that they would only pay their share after the project was completed and that they would not fund ongoing maintenance. The KDNRAG recommended that the Committee should not proceed with this project.

RESOLVED: The Committee agreed that we do not proceed with this project.

(c) Contractors' public liability insurance (Minute 3(c) DM/05/2019)

Contact confirmed increased liability insurance was received.

(d) Chalky Way – access gate to Reservoir track (Minute 3(d) DM/05/2019)

South East Water confirmed on 29th October a 'no parking' sign had been ordered but probably been vandalised. Arrangements for a new sign are underway.

4. **THE WELL AREA**

(a) Horse trough wall (Minute 4(a) DM/05/2019)

The work has been completed.

RESOLVED: That a letter of appreciation is sent.

More work is required but will be considered in the new financial year by the Facilities Committee.

(b) Missing tile on wall adjacent to red telephone kiosk (Minute 4(b) DM/05/2019)

It has proved too difficult to source a matching tile.

RESOLVED: That the tile be not replaced at the moment.

5. **JUBILEE GREEN**

The District Council confirmed that they maintain the open space. The matter is now concluded.

6. GREEN HILL

(a) Topograph (Minute 5(d) DM/04/2019)

Mr. Buttifant was unable to obtain further advice from the original designer and it was very likely that this will not be forthcoming in the future either. Although the appearance of the topograph was worn, it was suggested that repairing or refurbishing it at this stage should not be pursued further. There was also no funding allocated for this work.

RESOLVED: That the refurbishment of the topograph not be pursued due to no design improvements to consider as well as lack of funding.

(b) Mowing

It has not yet been possible to mow the grass due to the wet weather conditions.

(c) Ferretting (Minute 7 DM/04/2019)

Arrangements have not been made as the field has not been mowed yet.

7. KEMSING DOWN NATURE RESERVE ADVISORY GROUP (KDNRAG)

The report of the meeting held on Wednesday, 22nd January 2020 was noted.

At the last meeting, the Committee agreed to extend the ELS/HLS agreement for a year and the invitation to extend the agreement had since been received. Mr. Bennett and the Clerk would meet with the Woodland Consultant on Monday, 10th February 2020 to review the details.

8. DARENTH VALLEY LIVING LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

A site meeting with the Project Manager took place on 13th November 2019 and subsequent quotations for the proposed work had been submitted. The Project Manager asked the Council to agree the contract by the end of this week, however, this would not be possible due to the short time scale. Mr. Bennett and the Clerk would endeavour to review the details in due course in order to make a recommendation to the KDNRAG.

9. ASH DIE BACK ACTION PLAN

The Parish Council approved a quotation for the Woodland Consultant to produce an Ash Dieback management plan which would be undertaken in May 2020 when the trees are in leaf.

10. ASH TREES ALREADY IDENTIFIED WITH ASH DIE BACK

This work will be done over four days starting on Monday, 24th February 2020.

11. INFORMATION REPORT

(a) National Forest Inventory – Forest Research

This survey of woodlands and forests is carried out periodically and the information gathered contributes to the National Forest Inventory of Great Britain. The Parish Council is asked to complete a day survey questionnaire in order for the survey to be conducted. The survey will not be invasive and under the Forestry Act (1967) the Forestry Commission has the right to enter land for the purpose of monitoring woodlands.

There was no objection to this survey taking place but Members felt it would be helpful if the surveyors were able to supply the Parish Council with a copy of the result for Kemsing.

The Clerk would ask if this would be possible.

12. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS /CO-OPTED MEMBERS

There were no reports received.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, 1st April 2020

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.

Signed by Chairman : Date: