

KEMSING PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk's Office, St. Edith Hall, Kemsing, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 6NA, Tel : 01732 762841

E-mail: kemsingpc@tiscali.co.uk

DOWNLAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of an Extra-Ordinary meeting of the Downland Management Committee

held online via Zoom on 23 September 2020 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Mr. D. Bennett (in the Chair)
Mrs. J. Chisholm, Mrs. G. Lloyd, Mrs. R. Wedderburn-Day

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. Y. Tredoux (Clerk)
Co-opted Member Mrs. C. Copleston

1. **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. B. Buttifant and Dr. P. Walker.

2. **MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 August 2020, Reference no DM/02/2020 were approved and duly signed.

3. **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. **KEMSING DOWNS NATURE RESERVE TREE SAFETY WORK**

A tree safety survey carried out in March 2020 included recommended tree work to be done within 4 phases; 3, 6, 12 and 24 months. A quotation for the 3 and 6 monthly work had been accepted in June 2020 to be funded from the Kemsing Downs Nature Reserve budget and the work is expected to take place in November.

It is desirable to complete phases 3 and 4 (12 and 24 month recommended work) before 1 March 2021.

7.32 pm [Ms. Lloyd left the meeting due to poor internet connection].

RESOLVED: "The Committee recommends to the Council to accept a quotation to carry out the 12 and 24 month tree safety work by the end of February 2021 and that the Clerk may agree a price up to £6,000 (VAT included), to be charged to the Reserve Fund allocated for Tree Safety Work".

It is worth noting that one of the trees highlighted in the recommended 3 months' work had deteriorated, was considered dangerous, and has since been felled.

5. **DARENTH VALLEY LIVING LANDSCAPE PARTNERSHIP SCHEME**

The Clerk has signed the agreement subject to clarification from the DVLPS regarding accompanying documents to the agreement. The Committee was pleased that this project is now underway as initial discussions began in 2016.

6. **ASH DIE BACK ACTION PLAN**

The plan is still awaited.

RESOLVED: The Clerk would ask for a progress report.

7. **HLS/ELS AGREEMENT EXTENSION**

The application had been submitted on 15 April 2020. A response from Rural Payments Agency was awaited and it is assumed that delay is attributed to the current pandemic.

8. **COUNTRYSIDE STEWARDSHIP WOODLAND ONLY SCHEME**

The application had been submitted on 1 May 2020. A site meeting took place with the Forestry Commission on 2 September 2020 and a response is awaited.

9. **KEMSING DOWNS NATURE RESERVE ADVISORY GROUP**

Mowing has taken place for which invoices have been received.

7.37 pm [Ms. Lloyd re-joined the meeting].

10. **MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Plan would be circulated in the next two weeks.

11. **FERRETING/RABBIT CONTROL**

There appear to be large numbers of rabbits on Green Hill. This was evidenced from a recent increase in the number of rabbit burrows which could potentially pose a problem for mowing equipment. Although this method had been used by the Committee for years to control the rabbit population on Green Hill, some Members now objected and suggested that an alternative should be considered. It was agreed that the Kemsing Downs Nature Reserve Advisory Group (which membership comprises representatives from Kent Wildlife Trust and a Woodland Consultant), would be asked for their views.

RESOLVED: To defer this item to the next meeting pending views from the Kemsing Downs Nature Reserve Group Members.

12. **REQUEST FOR MEMORIAL SEAT/BENCH**

A request to install a memorial bench on Green Hill was considered and members expressed their sincere sympathy with the family members. However, the Committee's current policy is to not install any more seats/benches on Green Hill and there was no desire to change this policy at this time.

RESOLVED: Clerk to inform the family that the current policy for no additional seats remains in place and therefore the request for an additional memorial bench, was not approved.

13. **INFORMATION REPORT**

There was no report.

14. **REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS /CO-OPTED MEMBERS**

Reptile survey

The monitoring was done during the Summer and the report is awaited.

15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday, 4 November 2020

The meeting closed at 8.03 pm.

Signed by Chairman :

Date: