

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
TUESDAY 28th APRIL 2026
HELD AT THE BRITISH LEGION HALL, KEDINGTON**

In the Chair:	Mrs Ann Naylor	Chair of Kedington Parish Council
Present:	Mr Jeffery Potter	Vice-Chair of Kedington Parish Council
	Mrs Jeanette Kilpatrick	Kedington Parish Councillor
	Mrs Ann Bellamy	Kedington Parish Councillor
	Mr Nick Clarke	West Suffolk Councillor
	Mr Derek Raine	Parishioner
	Mr Steve Brown	Parishioner
	Ms Marion Farrant	Parishioner
	Mr Simon Gent	Parishioner
	Graeme	Parishioner
	Mrs Diane Potter	Parishioner
	Mr David Kilpatrick	Parishioner
	Mrs Lynda Woodward	Parishioner
	Mr Colin Jenkinson	Parishioner
	Mrs Hazel Jenkinson	Parishioner
	Mr Luke Stannett	Parishioner
	Mr David Cianciola	Parishioner
	Mrs Karen Cianciola	Parishioner
	Mr Tony Farr	Parishioner
	Mrs Lol Farr	Parishioner
	Mr John Boxall	Parish Clerk

1. Welcome and introductions.

The Chair of Kedington Parish Council, Ann Naylor, welcomed all present and thanked everybody for attending.

Clerk advised that the Parish Council, members of the public and press may audio record, film, photograph or broadcast the meeting and the Parish Council cannot control 3rd party recordings. The Parish Council will audio record the meeting and the recording will be deleted following approval of the minutes at the next Annual Parish meeting.

Chair advised that Parish Meetings are an opportunity for those present to discuss anything they think is relevant to the parish or of importance to them or anything they want to bring to the attention of the Parish Council. This meeting is not a meeting of the Parish Council; no decisions are made at this meeting. Any actions from this meeting are discussed at future meetings of the Parish Council.

2. To approve the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 13th May 2025.

Clerk confirmed that the draft minutes had been emailed to all Parish Councillors and attending parishioners on 18th June 2025 and have been available on the Parish Council's website since then also.

Chair confirmed that Councillors who were present had read the draft minutes.

A resolution was put forward by Cllr Naylor and seconded by Cllr Potter to agree the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 13th May 2025 at which they were both present, as a true record. The resolution was unanimously agreed. The Chair signed the minutes outside the meeting.

3. Report of Parish Council Chair: Ann Naylor.

The Chair presented her report (ANNEX 1).

4. Parish Council financial report 2025-2026: Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer John Boxall.

The Clerk presented his report (ANNEX 2).

5. Report of County Councillor: Cllr David Roach.

Cllr Clarke presented Cllr Roach's annual report (ANNEX 3).

6. Report of West Suffolk District Councillors.

Cllr Clarke presented the report (ANNEX 4)

Cllr Clarke advised that the Local Plan was due to be adopted this year. The Plan says how many houses are needed and where they could be built and what industrial land do we need to promote business. The Secretary Of State has advised there needs to be 30% more housing than in the original plan. Cllr Clarke advised these Plans take a number of years to produce and evidence and so they are almost back to square one.

Cllr Clarke advised that the Local Government Reorganisation is ongoing. The Government has decided that Suffolk will be comprised of three Unitary Councils.

Cllr Clarke advised that the boundaries have all changed so our new County Councillor will also cover the Thurlows, the Bradleys and the Wrattings, as well as Kedington, Hundon and Barnardiston. He currently covers Clare also.

Cllr Clarke advised that the proposed Forest City development is a ridiculous idea that even at this stage is causing significant harm, for instance properties can't be sold. This proposal is being fought against by both himself and Nick Timothy MP.

Cllr Clarke advised that the Essex Waste Ltd planning application has been discussed by the Parish Council. Cllr Clarke advised he has lodged an objection to the application and advised that anyone can lodge their concerns too.

Chair advised the Parish Council's comments regarding the Essex Waste Ltd planning application will be submitted in due course.

7. Reports from Village Organisations.

On behalf of the Church, Ms Farrant thanked the Parish Council for its support and for the grant it gave to the Church this financial year. Ms Farrant advised that there is always ongoing maintenance and repair work.

On behalf of the Kedington Community Association, Mr Raine thanked the Parish Council for its support and for the grant it gave to the Association this financial year. Mr Raine advised that there is always ongoing maintenance and repair work. Mr Raine thanked all the numerous volunteers that help with the events throughout the year and keep the Community Centre running. Mr Raine advised that work continues to raise funding for the regeneration of the Community Centre.

On behalf of the Royal British Legion, Mr Brown thanked the Parish Council for its continued support and for its current work to renew the registration of the Legion Hall as an Asset of Community Value. Mr Brown also thanked the Parish Council, West Suffolk Council and County Council for its continued support of Remembrance Day. Mr Brown advised the roof of the Hall needs replacing and funds raising to do so.

8. Questions.

There were no questions.

9. Refreshments.

The chair thanked everyone who attended the meeting. Light refreshments were offered and the meeting was formally closed at 1945 hrs.

Signed.....

Date.....

ANNEX 1

The village continues to make steady progress with day-to-day maintenance, and I want to thank everyone who has reported issues or supported the work over the past year. We have been working through repairs methodically, prioritising safety, accessibility and areas most used by residents. Routine tasks such as verge cutting, footpath clearance, bin replacements and minor surface repairs have been completed as needed, and we continue to liaise with West Suffolk and Suffolk Highways where works fall under their responsibility.

Overall, the village is in a good position: essential maintenance is being kept up, grant funding is supporting local priorities, and we remain focused on keeping the environment safe, tidy and welcoming for residents.

Kedington Parish Council has worked hard over the past year. We continue to implement new policies and procedures.

Compliments to John Boxall our Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer, who has again worked extremely hard this year, his commitment and professionalism is second to none.

We are pleased to confirm that we received an excellent report from our Internal Auditor in May 2025. Well done John.

Budget year 1st April 2025 – 31st March 2026, £5,991.77 was paid out in grants under Section 137, Local Government Act 1972 as being of benefit to local people. Grants were awarded to:

Kedington Community Association
Citizens Advice Bureau
St Peter and St Paul Church
Suffolk Accident Rescue
Mothers and Toddlers
1st Kedington Rainbows
Kedington Guides
Kedington Squirrels
Kedington Sea Scout
Haverhill Santa
Kedington Brownies
2nd Kedington Rangers
Friendship Club
Gardening Club

The Parish Council continues to view, discuss and comment where appropriate, on planning applications from West Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council

Kedington Parish Council has continued to keep the village maintained to an extremely high standard. MD Landscapes Ltd cut and trim most of the grassed areas in the Parish, including the Churchyard, Great Meadow, Silver Street Park, the Old School Playing Field, Calford Green and several smaller green spaces around the village. Other areas are maintained by West Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council, and we remain grateful for their ongoing commitment.

Mr Dennis Brownlow, our village cleaner, continues to keep the Parish clean and tidy, carrying out regular litter-picking and helping to maintain the welcoming appearance of our public spaces. Many thanks to all of them, they work extremely hard to keep our Parish beautiful.

Kevin Betts has also undertaken work for the Parish Council this year, assisting with a number of practical maintenance tasks and responding quickly when issues have arisen. His reliability and willingness to help have been greatly appreciated.

The Centenary Kedington Village plaque has also been fully refurbished and will soon be returned to its original setting at the Rectory Road / Silver Street junction once the necessary remedial brickwork has been completed.

The old site of the Risbridge Hospital was once the Risbridge Union Workhouse Poor institution, dating from 1834, and an NHS Mental isolation hospital, dating from 1948.

From further investigation of public records, the Kedington Church researchers have identified at least 250 residents from Kedington, Thurlow, Hundon, Haverhill, Gt Bradley and Clare, basically the whole of the surrounding parishes, men, women and children who have been buried within the churchyard of Kedington Church in Paupers graves, multiple graves and unmarked graves.

They are still working through records and potentially there could be in excess of 500 residents.

Families are able to visit the Memorial which has been placed at the Church. Families of loved ones have some where to visit.

During this summer school holidays, Kedington Parish Councillors have planned another Kedington Sports Camp at the community centre. Prestige Sports will host this event with the help of Councillors. Sports will include football, cricket, rounders, and of course, a bouncy castle. We are able to accommodate up to 48 children and we are usually oversubscribed. Children residing within the parish of Kedington will take priority. I have no doubt this will be another tremendous success.

December 2025 the Parish Council and Kedington Community Association will hopefully host another visit from Haverhill Santa, raising money for local charities, REACH, Joshua Tarrant Trust, and Kedington Community HUB. Last year was a remarkable success

Thank you to fellow Councillors, volunteers from Haverhill Santa plus others who worked alongside us to make the event enjoyable for the children of our Parish and surrounding communities.

My personal thanks the Royal British Legion, Kedington Community Association and Kedington Church for all their support throughout the year. We will continue to work in collaboration to ensure that we maintain the momentum in achieving the absolute best for our community.

Thank you to my fellow Councillors for their support and their continued hard work, and of course our Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer, John, who keeps us all in check. My genuine thanks extend to our District Councillors Marion Rushbrook, Karen Richardson and Nick Clarke and our County Councillor David Roach. We have received unconditional support from them all.

Finally, my genuine gratitude and thanks to all our many volunteers and parishioners that support Kedington Parish Council

We have a great team.

Ann Naylor – Chair Kedington Parish Council

ANNEX 2

Kedington Annual Parish Meeting Kedington Parish Council Finance Report 2025/2026

Cash in hand at year end on 31st March 2026 amounted to £87,457.46.

The Parish Council's Barclays account that holds the Precept had a balance of £1,740.74.

The Parish Council's NatWest account that holds both the General Reserves and the Earmarked Reserves had a balance of £85,716.72.

The Parish Council requested an increase in the Precept for the financial year 2026/2027 to £91,704.00. This was an increase of 20.1%. There were increases of 3% levied by West Suffolk Council, 5% by Suffolk County Council and 5.2% by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Internal Audit for Kedington Parish Council will take place on 8th May 2026. The relevant Annual Governance and Accountability Return forms for 2025/2026 will be on the agenda for approval and signing at the Annual Meeting of Kedington Parish Council on 19th May 2026 and will then be sent to the external auditors, PKF Littlejohn LLP.

The Parish Council's financial documents and the minutes of its meetings can be found on its website at kedingtonpc.org.uk

ANNEX 3

COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT TO KEDINGTON PARISH ANNUAL MEETING

Councillor David Roach

Firstly apologies for not being here as this clashes with my attendance at Haverhill Town council tonight. I hope that I may get away in time to join you later. In my absence I have asked Cllr Nick Clarke to present this to you.

This is my last parish annual meeting as your county councillor and it has been my pleasure and privilege to serve. I am stepping down due to family issues.

My thanks go to everyone who voted for me to be their councillor and I hope that I have been up to the task for you. There have been many things that I have been able to help with over the last 9 years from saving the school bus to getting roads resurfaced and potholes fixed (still more I know - never ending task)

My main thought however is that Kedington has a really brilliant parish council with dedicated members looking after their community. Membership of the council has changed but the ethos has not.

I have enjoyed being involved in some of the events that take place in Kedington and at the top is judging Meadowlark each year. It is such a great event the brings everyone out despite some years getting very wet. I also view the duty of being part of the Remembrance Parade each year as an important part of my role. There is always something going on.

The village has a thriving sense of community that runs throughout it and I have been lucky enough to help many groups through my locality fund. I did see in the last couple of years that pot reduce but it still is enough to help when needed.

I have looked back at my spend and for Kedington alone (KPC and then projects and groups) in summary in excess of 40 groups and around £37k in funds spent within Kedington.

Full results are in this table:-

Year	No of grants	£
2017/18	3	5500
2018/19	3	4500
2019/20	2	2002
2020/21	4	5585
2021/22	3	3127
2022/23	6	4579
2023/24	7	4650
2024/25	6	3916
2025/26	8	3020
TOTAL	42	36679

I am also really proud to have been able to secure the new recycling centre for Haverhill Kedington and the surrounding villages. It was hard work to secure agreement and funding and at times I thought it may not get over the line. It has and has been a huge success.

We are now in the middle of local government change which will happen over the next couple of years which will fundamentally change how we work for our communities. I am hopeful that it will deliver a model which is easier for all our residents to navigate to get the help and services they need and I am even more hopeful it will help keep council tax down.

I am going to sign off now. I wish you all well for the future and hope that your new councillor will continue to serve as you would wish.

I am not going far so would still be happy to help and support when I can.

Regards

David

ANNEX 4

EWL

We are backing the parish council with the comments re the above's planning application. EWL planning department employee spoke now keep the firm where to work with its ne ghours and yet has not made any effort to communicate with parish council, district councillors or county council. Part of the plan no is the will turn right as they leave the Little Wyming premises – why do they not start that immediately as they know is is what residents would prefer. They could start to clean the road as they say they will if they receive the planning permission. Again start now and not just put "mud on the road" warning triangles up!

Forest City

We, like a lot of Suffolk residents thought the above was no real and just thoughts put together – now we are hearing the people behind this are talking to the Government. Sadly, they have talked talk to Anglian Water or UK Power Network, 2 main partner who need to be involved from the start. Albion City Development Corporation have held one public meeting and cancelled a second one. Very little interaction with residents currently living in the area not being listened to. Their plan is to build from Newmarket to Haverhill – it would be just across the road from our village. If they got their wish we would be living on the edge of a city the size of Birmingham.

Local plan

The Government have made changes for local governments going forward on this. Usually West Suffolk Council would have 5 years to put together this important work – 30 months is the new deadline. The government have also increased the number of houses West Suffolk have to build – no consultation.

Locality budget

We have once again spent all our locality budget between Kedington and our other town and 7 villages. If we do not spend the funds they are out ask to a west Suffolk wide fund. We are pleased to have supported many Kedington groups.

Unitary

We have finally heard the government's decision on Unitary. They have said the county will now be divided into three: West Suffolk
East Suffolk
South Suffolk and Ipswich

Elections for the new shadow authorities are being held on 7 May. With the new councils formally taking over responsibilities from May 2026. This transition period will enable detailed work for reorganisation to take place, and services will be delivered as usual throughout the process.

Additionally, each new authority would be responsible for the delivery of the services previously undertaken by the County Council in their specific area. The new councils would have responsibility for delivering services including waste collection, planning, adult social care, children's services, highways and more.

West Suffolk Council would cease to exist in May 2026.