

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF KEDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2005
LIBRARY, ARMS LANE, KEDINGTON

Present:

Mr Alan Barney
Mrs Susan Berridge
Mr Peter Byron
Mr Peter Donoghue
Mrs Gloria Double
Mr Peter Maxey (Chairman)
Mr John Pelling
Mr Terry Wheeler

Mrs Susan Rouse (Clerk)

In attendance: Mr F Phillips (Press); Mr S Jarvis (Wildlife Group); Mr & Mrs J P Cahill

1	Welcome/Apologies: The Chairman welcomed those present. Apologies were accepted from Mr P Garner, Borough Councillor G Rushbrook (health) and County Councillor K Knight.	ACTION
2	Minutes of previous meetings: Subject to the following amendments, the minutes of the Council meeting on 18 October 2005 were accepted as a true record. (Proposer: Mr Byron; Seconder: Mr Donoghue). Paragraph 7: Local Plan, second sentence: <i>Mrs Double did not agree with the Chairman's opinion and believes there only to be a prejudicial interest if a Councillor is materially affected to a greater extent than other residents (i.e. price of own property) or directly overlooks a site.</i> Paragraph 10: Broadband, third sentence: <i>Users connected to the aluminium-wiring box have problems.</i>	
3	Visitors' Reports:	
3.1	County Councillor: A written report submitted by the County Councillor concerning Modernising Healthcare in West Suffolk and possible merging of County police force was read to the meeting. (<i>Annex 1</i>). There were no other visitors' reports.	Annex 1
4	Consultations	
4.1	Modernising Healthcare in West Suffolk: It was noted that the consultation period has been extended to 12 December. In the absence of any other comments, it was agreed that the Chairman's comments be adopted and fed back to the NHS.	PM SR
4.2	Suffolk Preservation Society, East of England Plan: This document seeks views on housing densities in rural areas. The SPS view, that these should be locally determined in order to preserve local distinctiveness and character, was supported and a response will be sent to them accordingly.	SR
4.3	Suffolk Preservation Society, "Whose Master's Voice?": This is a campaign aimed at persuading the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to ensure that town and parish councils' views are properly considered both at a strategic level in the emerging regional plans and in ensuring that town and parish councils are treated as statutory consultees for all planning applications. It was agreed that Kedington Parish Council should support SPS's petition.	SR PM
4.4	Parish Plan Funding: Interim Parish Plan funding of £1,500 approximately is available through Suffolk ACRE until March 2006. The grant available is up to 75% of the project costs, 5% of the funding must come through the Parish Council and the remaining 20% can be "in kind", e.g. volunteers' time. In discussing the need for a	

	<p>Parish Plan for Kedington, the following points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To prepare a Parish Plan requires considerable resources. Kedington is a large village and volunteers would be needed to form a group to produce the plan. ▪ The consultation process would give Parishioners the opportunity to say what they really want for the village. This would be a useful planning tool for the Parish Council and other organisations in the village. ▪ May assist in supporting grant applications for village facilities. <p>It was agreed to issue a special "Chairman's Letter" explaining the merits of Parish Plans and seeking volunteers by a definitive date. Posters would be placed on notice boards and in shops.</p> <p>It was also agreed to place an item in the "Ketton Review".</p>	PM/SR
5	Finance Committee – 8 November 2005:	
5.1	<p>Mr Wheeler reported on the highlights of the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Budget: As at 31 October 2005, £17,296 (48%) of the budget had been spent, leaving £18,374 in hand. Additionally, £31,000 was held in Reserves. This was a satisfactory position. £5,000 will be transferred from General Reserves to the Play Equipment Reserve. ▪ Heritage Project: Purchase of a new projector at a cost of £683.18 had been agreed. It had not proved possible to open an account with PC World so provision of a cheque for this sum was agreed. Funding would come from the grant obtained earlier this year. ▪ Street furniture refurbishment: It had been agreed to go ahead with re-painting of three steel benches at a cost of £90 each. Richard Pound is being asked to assist with transportation. ▪ Damage to War Memorial: Remedial work has been carried out to prevent further damage by mowers. ▪ Gift bench: The donor's preference was for this to be located at the School. A letter had been written to the school for their views. ▪ Payments: 12 payments valued at £1,817.05 had been approved for payment. A grant of up to £50 for refreshments after the December Council meeting had been approved. <p>Other items covered at the Finance Committee meeting were:</p>	AB
5.2	<p>Clerk: Review of probationary period, hours and salary: The new Clerk is performing well and her appointment is confirmed. The new pay structure for Clerks recommended by NALC was considered and the adoption of NALC's recommendations in principle was supported. Scale LC2 for a medium-sized council (i.e. budget of £25-250,000, 6-12 meetings a year [KPC has 23].) is considered appropriate. This would mean a significant pay increase for the Clerk and it was acknowledged that this would present too large a change for Council tax payers to accommodate in one go and that the Council should move to this position over three years. Salary increases of £8.45 per hour from 1 November 2005 on satisfactory completion of the probationary period and a further increase to £9.08 from 1 April 2006 (annual review) were proposed. The recommendations of the Finance Committee were unanimously adopted.</p>	SR
5.3	<p>Budget for 2006/07: The draft budget prepared by the Working Group and endorsed by the Finance Committee was recommended to the Council. This represents an increase of 1.7% in the precept from £35,670 to £36,275. After discussion, the budget was unanimously agreed and the precept submission signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.</p>	SR
5.4	Matters arising from 11 October 2005 Finance Committee minutes: None.	
5.5	Receive draft minutes of 8 November 2005: Received.	

6	Emergency Planning/Community Preparedness: After digestion of the draft plan, a meeting of the Emergency Planning working group will be arranged. It was agreed that other members of the community could be involved if any were forthcoming. The matter will be placed on the agenda for the February 2006 meeting.		SB PD SR
7	Housing/Planning		
7.1	Application for discussion at meeting: 1 Mill Villas, Little Wratting: <i>Mr Donoghue declared an interest in this item and left the meeting. The majority deemed this application "acceptable". Mr Donoghue re-joined the meeting.</i>		SR
7.2	Observations conveyed to Borough Council		
7.2.1	Old Village Stores	One and two storey rear extensions; change of use, altered access and parking, re-siting of oil tank	
	<i>Acceptable, subject to screening right-hand side of balcony to protect neighbours' privacy</i>		
7.2.2	1 Barton Grove	Second storey front extension	
	<i>Acceptable</i>		
7.2.3	Brook Cottage, Silver St	Rear extn; change of use of sun room to dog grooming parlour	
	<i>Acceptable; consider trial period for change of use; note flooding susceptibility</i>		
7.3	Decisions received from Borough Council		
7.3.1	16 Barton Grove	Two storey side extension and single storey front and rear extensions; demolition of garage	Refused – too big and not in keeping with area
7.4	<p>Mill Road: Two pairs of semi-detached houses (SE/04/3802P): It had been noted that these houses were being advertised for sale as 3 bedroom properties when the original application had been for 2 bedroom houses. A check with Planning Department at St Edmundsbury has established that amended plans for internal changes (from 2 to 3 bedrooms and additional window in non-restricted wall) were approved on 13 April 2005. The Planning Department cannot oppose these changes. Kedington Parish Council was not advised because of an oversight for which St Edmundsbury apologised.</p> <p>The plans show 4 parking spaces. However, the sales brochure shows 8 spaces. Highways do not have any problems with the number of spaces provided. It was agreed that clarification would be sought on St Edmundsbury's general policy on the provision of parking spaces.</p>		SR
7.5	Affordable Housing: Mr Donoghue and the Clerk will be meeting Louise Wilby, the Rural Housing Enabler for Suffolk ACRE on 18 November 2005 to discuss administration of the Housing Needs Survey.		PD SR
7.6	Local Plan – Omission Sites: Receipt of comments submitted by the Council in August 2005 had been acknowledged by St Edmundsbury. The Inquiry commenced on 4 October and is due to finish on 15 December 2005.		
8	Environmental/Grounds Maintenance Matters		
8.1	Inspection visit – 5 November 2005: Herald would be asked to carry out maintenance work identified as part of their winter contract.		SR
8.2	<p>Dredging of The Cut: The Environment Agency is awaiting permission from a local landowner. It is hoped that the work will be carried out in the next two weeks.</p> <p>In 2001, the Environment Agency had suggested that Black Alders be planted close to the water's edge along The Cut where their shade would reduce the amount of vegetation growing on the sloping faces of the riverbanks. The Council discussed this on several occasions. Planting would be subject to formal planning approval and permission from the landowner (Vestey Estates). Access to the river for the</p>		PB

	EA's machinery would also have to be left. Previously the Wildlife Group had expressed concern that the trees would spoil the natural cover for wildlife and thus reduce the conservation value of the area. It was agreed to ask David Steel, the Parish Tree Warden, for his views and a recommendation on the number and possible location for planting should it be decided to proceed with this idea.	SR
8.3	<p>Grounds Contracts Re-tendering: Contract 'A' for mowing the churchyard, banks, etc. expires on 31 March 2006 and is due for re-tendering. Contract 'E' for the Great Meadow expires on the same date. As agreed at the Finance Committee, an advertisement for potential tenderers has been placed in the local press. The tender list and submission date will be agreed at the December Finance Committee meeting. The specification was discussed and a number of amendments agreed. It was also agreed to add a minimum number of cuts required per year.</p> <p>Consideration was given to making Silver Street Park "neater" given that Risbridge Meadow will provide a "wilder" area. This would incur extra cost and it was decided to await results of the tendering exercise to see whether funds would be available for this idea to be considered further.</p>	SR
8.4	<p>Old School Field play equipment: The Working Party had met and reviewed the plan submitted by Kompan. There was some concern that the central piece of equipment did not have easy enough access for very small children. A full catalogue had been obtained from Kompan for members to review. A second company, Playdale, had been considered initially. Prices were similar to Kompan's. The latter had been pursued as it was felt to offer the most appropriate equipment at a reasonable price. It was suggested that an alternative plan/costing be obtained from Play World Systems on a like-for-like basis without divulging any of the Kompan information. This was agreed. The Chairman will provide Mrs Double with a specification for the equipment, fencing, etc. required. Both submissions would then be considered by a further meeting of the Working Party and a recommendation brought to Council.</p>	PM GD
8.5	Church Walk Trees: A grant application form has been submitted to the Local Heritage Initiative.	
8.6	Flash Flooding, 2002: Following a meeting with Richard Spring, MP in 2004 to discuss this, action was left with St Edmundsbury to follow up on this matter. Despite several reminders, nothing had been forthcoming. It was agreed to pursue the Borough Council verbally.	PD
8.7	Any other environmental matters:	
8.7.1	Risbridge Meadow: St Edmundsbury has written a letter to residents overlooking the site giving details of their proposals. It was confirmed that representatives of St Edmundsbury (Nigel Turnbull and Kirsty Pitwood) would attend the January Council meeting to discuss the site.	
8.7.2	BT telephone boxes: BT has confirmed that the payphone in King's Hill will be converted to a cashless (card) phone. The other boxes in Haverhill Road and Hundon Road will remain as payphones. It was noted that the box in Haverhill Road is in need of attention.	SR
9	Highway/Traffic/Footpath matters	
9.1	Large vehicles using Mill Road: It was noted that large, particularly long, vehicles using Mill Road from the Hundon direction are causing damage to the banks/kerbside. It was agreed to write to Suffolk County Council to see whether a weight restriction can be placed on the road.	SR
Non-agenda item	Guillotine: Under a proposal by Mr Wheeler, seconded by Mr Pelling, it was agreed to life the guillotine on further business for 15 minutes.	
9.2	Parking in Mill Road near junction with Haverhill Road: This is increasingly becoming a problem and will be placed on the agenda for the January Council	SR

	meeting for further discussion	
10	Parish Office Accommodation: It was agreed to defer this item to the next Council meeting.	SR
11	Replacement of School Crossing Supervisor: The current supervisor will be retiring in March 2006. A letter has already been written to the School seeking a replacement. It was agreed that the vacancy should also be advertised in the Ketton Review and on notice boards and in shops.	SR
12	Post people's retirement certificates: A draft was approved. Certificates will be prepared for presentation after the December Council meeting.	SR
13	Any other reports (on-going matters): None.	
14	Events:	
14.1	2006 meeting dates: It was agreed to stay with the same format for 2006. A list of dates will be distributed with the December agenda.	SR
15	Any other business:	
15.1	Next meeting: Tuesday, 20 December 2005. Refreshments will be provided after this meeting. Individuals who had served the Parish during the year will be invited to attend.	SR
15.2	Lighting near the Post Office: The possibility of providing further lighting in this area would be investigated.	PD
15.3	Lighting near gate at Community Centre: Light on the telegraph pole is not working.	SR

Signed:

Date: