

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF KEDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 18 JULY 2006
LIBRARY, ARMS LANE, KEDINGTON**

Present: Mrs Susan Berridge
Mr Peter Byron
Mr John Cahill
Mr Peter Donoghue
Mrs Gloria Double
Mr John Pelling
Mr Terry Wheeler (Chairman)

Mr Alan Barney joined the meeting after it had commenced

Ms Marion Farrant (Clerk)

In attendance: Mrs M Rushbrook (Borough Councillor); PC Carl Brandwood (Community Police); Mr F Phillips (Press); Mr S Jarvis (Wildlife Group); Mr A Cooper (Item 3); Mrs & Mrs Morse (Parishioners – Item 15); Mr J Halpin (Parishioner – Item 12.2).

		ACTION
1	Parishioners' Question Time and to acknowledge agenda items of interest to members of the public present: Trees on Risbridge Meadow Dog Fouling; petition Youth Shelter Members of the public gave their views on the above subjects. Open Meeting	Clerk
2	Welcome and apologies: Apologies were accepted from County Councillor Knight (health). Close Meeting	
3	Co-option of New Councillor The Chairman welcomed Mr Cooper and said he would be reading a letter received from Mr Rowsell who was unable to attend as his wife was in hospital. The Chairman invited Mr Cooper to address the meeting. Mr Cooper said he was now retired after working for major oil companies over the past 30 – 40 years. Mr Cooper said he had moved to Kedington two years ago and intended to make his roots in the village. He had a keen interest to participate in village life and would have time to fulfil duties as a Parish Councillor if he was co-opted. The Chairman invited questions from other Parish Councillors to Mr Cooper, which he answered to their satisfaction. The Chairman read the letter received from Mr Rowsell outlining why he wanted to become a Parish Councillor. <i>The Chairman asked Mr Cooper to leave the meeting while discussion and voting took place.</i> The Chairman asked each Councillor for his or her comments on each candidate before a vote took place. The voting in favour of Mr Rowsell was four to one; with two abstentions. <i>The Chairman asked Mr Cooper to rejoin the meeting.</i>	Annex 1 Annex 2

The Chairman told Mr Cooper that the vote was in favour of Mr Rowsell being the new co-opted Councillor. He said the decision had been a difficult one and hoped Mr Cooper would consider standing for election in May next year. Mr Cooper then left the meeting.

Open Meeting

4 Minutes of previous meeting:

The minutes from KPC 112-02 was accepted as a true record.
(Proposer: Cllr Cahill; Seconder: Cllr Pelling).

5 To accept members' Declaration of Interests on agenda items:

There were no declarations of interest in respect of agenda items.

Close Meeting

At this juncture, the Chairman explained that that following advice sought from SALC, unlike previous occasions when Visitor's make their reports, the meeting would be closed and then re-opened when reports have finished. Members of the public and Parish Councillors are able to put questions to visitors while the meeting is closed.

6 Visitors' Reports:

Councillor Marion Rushbrook was welcomed to her first meeting of the Parish Council in her capacity as Borough Councillor.

Cllr Rushbrook reported on the meeting she attended with Cllr Byron and Nigel Turnbull re the felling on trees at Risbridge Meadow. She said she would make representation to the Borough Council about the lack of consultation prior to the trees being felled and also the time of year the work was carried out. However, she said that she was satisfied with the work that had been done and Nigel Turnbull's explanation as to what would be happening on the meadow in the future.

Mr Jarvis reported that when he went to the site during the felling of the trees he asked the contractors "how do you know where the birds are nesting". A contractor replied to him "can't tell you, you would have to pay me money".

All present at the meeting felt that, following previous meetings with the Borough Council about Risbridge Meadow, it would have been good PR to have more consultation with the Parish Council before the work commenced. It was suggested that Nigel Turnbull be invited to the KPC meeting in September to update on the work.

Cllr Cahill asked Cllr Rushbrook about the Omission Sights (three sights have a "no" against them) in the Inspectors Report on the Replacement St Edmundsbury Borough Local Plan 2016. Cllr Rushbrook said she would speak to Patsy Dell about this and report to the Clerk before the next meeting.

Open Meeting

7 There was no Agenda Item 7.

8 Clerk's Report:

- CRB Clearance for School Crossing Supervisor is being progressed.
- Noted that there are still problems with the lock on the KPC Notice Board in School Road.
- Handyman has completed relaying slabs on War Memorial.
- Letter received from Mrs Ward and Mr Knight expressing gratitude for works done to ensure grave was in reasonable condition for Thomas Knight's anniversary of passing.
- Problems with e-mail on office computer.

MF

9 Finance Committee

9.1 Draft minutes of 11 July 2006 received. Cllr Cahill went through highlights of the meeting not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

- Financial position satisfactory.
- Comments received from Heelis and Ledge (Internal Auditors) was pleasing.
- Clerk will use new system for calculating Petty Cash.
- Cllr Double and Clerk will be attending training session on Risk Assessments for Parish Councils on 10 October 2006.
- Permission granted for Clerk to purchase a shredder for use in Parish Council office. Clerk to also open a stationery account with STP Stationery.
- Herald Contract to be discussed at KPC meeting
- Play equipment had been ordered. New "Awards for All" application sent off asking for £10,000 instead of £5000.
- Grants: Uptakes – Thank you letters received from Suffolk Family Carers and Church in the Field.

9.2 Consider any matters arising from minutes of 11 July 2006

Cllr Berridge asked for an amendment to be made to Item 10.4; to omit the wording about the tree obscuring the streetlight, as she stated this was a separate conversation to that reported in the minutes.

9.3 Purchase of new computer for Parish Council Office

Agreed in principle that a new computer should be purchased. Recommended that Cllr Cahill and the Clerk speak to Cllr Pelling about purchasing a new computer from Dell Products Ltd.

All Councillors agreed to the purchase of a new computer and printer. Proposed by Cllr Wheeler; Seconded by Cllr Berridge.

At this point PC Carl Brandwood joined the meeting.

Close Meeting

PC Brandwood gave apologies for his late arrival. The Chairman invited him to make a report to the meeting.

PC Brandwood reported:

- There had been very little crime in the village of late; one vehicle stolen from Stonebridge Farm; damage to a satellite dish on Westward Deals; fields set alight at Little Wrattling.
- Speeding: Laser gun in for calibration but Traffic Officers will still be coming out to the village.
- Beat Surgery still ongoing.
- He would let Clerk know date of next Neighbourhood Watch meeting so she can notify Councillors accordingly. Suggestion made that people who do Neighbourhood Watch could be used as emergency contacts if they were agreeable.

Open Meeting

10 Standing Orders

10.1 **Suggestion for new Standing Order (i.e. when Council are making difficult decisions, ensure Councillors are given sight of any correspondence before it is sent out).**

Cllr Double addressed the meeting, stating that she felt strongly that Kedington Parish Council should have a new Standing Order that made it necessary for any

JC/JP/MF

documents or correspondence of an important nature, i.e. major alterations to the village structure, including any new major housing developments, be seen by every Councillor before it is actually sent out. Cllr Double's reason for this was to prevent a repeat of what occurred in 2003.

The Chairman opened this to all Councillors to give their views individually. After hearing all the views put forward, the Chairman requested that all Councillors give this matter some thought and write their views down, so that they could bring these to the September meeting.

10.2 Amendment (KPC 112-02 Item 10)

The Chairman read out e-mail from SALC. SALC advises that Standing Order (10.2) should be reviewed and raised to read £10,000 to reflect the principles of Best Value. Proposed: Cllr Wheeler; Seconded: Cllr Pelling.

Annex 3
MF

11 New Play Equipment

11.1 Update

- Revised application to Awards to All has been sent off. Grant application is now for £10,000. Applications take approximately eight weeks to process, so we would be looking to hear of the outcome by early September.
- St Edmundsbury Borough Council has awarded £8,500 in grants towards the cost of the new play equipment.
- Playworld Systems have been contacted. Main Scheme equipment price held at £24,835.00 and Scales Refurbishment at a cost of £840. Approximate delivery time is 6 weeks from date of order with 1 – 2 weeks for installation. Tic-Tac-Toe will not be ordered at present time, only if full grant is received from Awards for All.
- Telephone call from has been received from Parishioner in Mill Road requesting that it was fed back to the Parish Council that she thinks it is “absolutely disgraceful that the work has taken so long”.

11.2 Consider quotations for re-location of Fort

Quotations were received from four builders and passed to Councillors for consideration. Two of the quotations were deemed to be excessive, with the other two being very competitive.

After discussion it was decided that the work should be offered to Case Construction Ltd. Proposed by Cllr Byron; Seconded: Cllr Double. The Clerk was requested to place an order for this work. It was agreed that a site meeting with the builder, Cllrs Byron, Double and Donoghue was to take place before commencement of the work.

11.3 Choose colours for new equipment

Colours for the new play equipment were decided by consultation with the plan for the new play equipment provided by the supplier. Decisions were:

Scales:	(Hand Painted)	Yellow
Swings:	Larger swings	Forest Green
	Smaller swings	Tangerine
Platforms:		Yellow
Uprights:	Main Area	Red; Blue; Green

Seven Councillors agreed these colours; two Councillors abstained from choosing.

12 Environmental / Grounds Maintenance Matters

12.1 Dog Bins

The Chairman reported that the posts are in his garage and will be cut at the weekend. Cllr Donoghue reported that the Handyman was happy to put them in. The location for the new bins was discussed and agreed that one should be installed on the footpath in Mill Road near the pathway leading to School Crescent.

	<p>The Chairman suggested permission to site the dog bin be sought from whoever was responsible for the footpath.</p> <p>Cllr Berridge said she had received a request for a Dog Bin to be situated on the footpath in Haverhill Road by Dane House. It was pointed out that there is already a bin in this location on the left hand side of the road, past the Mill Road junction. However, this suggestion would be kept in reserve for the location of the third Dog Bin.</p>	MF
12.1.1	<p>Refurbishment Programme</p> <p>The Handyman will carry out the refurbishment programme. The two new dog bins will be put in first. The dog bin at Barton Grove will be replaced with a new one and the old one will be refurbished.</p>	
12.1.2	<p>New Dog Bins (update)</p> <p>Covered in Agenda item 12.1 and 12.1.1.</p>	
12.2	<p>Dog Fouling: Petition (review and consideration)</p> <p>Cllr Berridge reported that dog owners must by law pick up any mess made by their dogs. If owners fail to do so, they have not complied with the law and could be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice if caught. The fine attached to a Fixed Penalty Notice is £50. Owners who do not pay the FPN are likely to be prosecuted and fined £1000 if found guilty in Court.</p> <p>Sharon Poole is the Animal Warden for St Edmundsbury Borough Council. The Borough Council are the enforcing authority for the Clean Neighbourhood Act, which covered dog fouling.</p> <p>Cllr Berridge reported that Sharon Poole could be contacted if any person had information to pass on about people who allow their dogs to foul. She said this information could be given in strict confidence. The Animal Warden would then visit the home of the offender to warn them of the consequences of what would happen if they were caught</p> <p>It was agreed that the Letter and Petition sent to the Parish Council would be forwarded to the Animal Warden and the Parish Council would initiate a letter to be sent to every house in the Parish warning about allowing dogs to foul.</p>	MF
12.3	<p>Strimming</p> <p>Cllr Byron reported that he had spoken to Richard Pound and will be observing to ensure that improvements are made.</p>	
12.4	<p>Herald (update)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Clerk read out a letter from Herald received after the meeting held in the Churchyard. They stated that after speaking to their operators and checking their records, their opinion was that the gravestone in question had in fact been laying down for a number of years and did not show any machine damage to it. The reply sent to Herald from the Parish Council was also read, stating that the Parish Council did not accept that Herald's operators were not responsible and would be seeking further advice from other parties. The Chairman read an e-mail received from SALC. The advice was that Herald would have insurance to cover any damage his employees have done, but it may be difficult to prove that they were responsible. If the Parish Council withheld payment then they could be in breach of contract and they could be taken to Court. Another consideration could be to end the contract if confidence has been lost in the contractor, but there could be a penalty to pay. 	

- Cllr Byron felt that there was no point trying to pursue this legally as the Parish Council had a three-year contract with Herald. It was suggested that Herald's work is monitored closely and that a letter be sought from the Parochial Church Council for permission to spray "round-up" around the graves before the next cut is due.

12.5 Any other environmental / grounds maintenance matters

Letter requested to Mr & Mrs Lee asking them to prune the red tree obscuring the priority sign for traffic coming down from the Church onto Mill Road Bridge.

MF

Non Agenda Item - Guillotine

The time being 9.45 p.m. it was agreed under a proposal from Cllr Pelling and seconded by Cllr Byron to lift the guillotine and continue the meeting for a further fifteen minutes

13 Housing / Planning

13.2 Observations conveyed to Borough Council

4 Risbridge Drive	Erection of conservatory to side elevation
<i>Acceptable</i>	
Eastcotts Nursing Home	New wing to provide additional bedrooms and day space
<i>Unacceptable: Over-development / loss of amenity / view / light</i>	

13.3 Decisions received from Borough Council

Land adjacent to 34 School Road	New dwelling, vehicle access and three car ports	Granted
Land to rear of Stonebridge Paddocks and Stonebridge Farm, Hundon Road	Erection of single dwelling on paddock land	Refused

14.4 Felling of trees on Risbridge Meadow

Cllr Cahill read an e-mail from Nigel Turnbull re the felling of the trees on Risbridge Meadow and concerns raised about the timing of the works relative to the bird-l nesting season. Nigel Turnbull said many of the trees had been identified as hazardous earlier in the year and as the person responsible for the safety of users of the site had already agreed the necessity for the present works with the Parish Council. The e-mail referred to the English Nature website which stated that this sort of work should be avoided during the bird breeding/nesting season, which is generally between March and June; although it was acknowledged that there would be exceptions when certain early or late breeding species are known to be present. Nigel Turnbull went on to say that based on this, he arranged the work after the majority of birds had finished nesting, but at a time when the surface will suffer least damage from the machinery, and with regard to the necessity to complete the work fairly promptly due to the health and safety issues.

It was agreed that a strongly worded e-mail be sent as soon as possible to Nigel Turnbull to give the Parish Council's opposition to this work.

MF

Cllr Byron reported that he had spoken to Nigel Turnbull and arranged a site meeting at 17.45 p.m. on 24 July 2006.

15 Youth Shelter

Bricklayers were needed to do the block-work on the shelter. Cllr Byron said he could recommend two bricklayers who had quoted him £260 to do the block-work and could do the work within the next week. It was agreed that Cllr Byron should arrange for this work to be done.

PB

Cllr Berridge asked if the overall spend on the project would stay within the £1500 that was voted on. Cllrs Wheeler and Byron felt it would not.

The Chairman reported on a telephone conversation he had with Mr Morse from Ketton Thatch. A letter from Mr Morse was circulated for Councillors to read.

It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to Brian Cann and Steve Brown for the hard work that they were doing on this project.

The time being 10.00 p.m. it was agreed that the meeting should be closed and all outstanding agenda items be transferred to the next KPC meeting.

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 19 September 2006 at 7.40 p.m.

Annex 4

MF

Signed:

Date: