MINUTES OF MEETING OF KEDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 17 APRIL 2007
HELD AT THE LIBRARY, ARMS LANE, KEDINGTON

Present: Cllr Terry Wheeler – Chairman of Parish Council
Cllr John Cahill – Vice Chair of Parish Council
Cllr Susan Berridge
Cllr Gloria Double
Cllr Peter Donoghue
Cllr John Pelling
Cllr Peter Rowsell

Ms Marion Farrant (Clerk)

In attendance: Borough Councillor Marion Rushbrook; Mr Fred Phillips (Press); Mr Shaun Jarvis (Wildlife Group).

ACTION

1 Parishioners' Question Time and to acknowledge agenda items of interest to members of the public present:
Mr Jarvis said he had an interest in Agenda items 11.1 and 11.2. Mr Jarvis also requested that Agenda item 10.5 (2nd line of paragraph) from the minutes of the last meeting be changed to read that …… he would help if a village clean up took place, but he did not want to co-ordinate this. MF

Open Meeting

2 Welcome and apologies:
The Chairman welcomed all those present to the last meeting of the current Parish Council year. He recorded his thanks to all Parish Councillors who had supported him over the past year. The Chairman also recorded his thanks and best wishes to Councillor Susan Berridge and Councillor John Pelling as they were not standing for re-election; he said their contributions to the Parish Council would be missed and recognised the service they had given to the village.

Cllr Alan Barney was not present at the meeting and no apologies were received.

3 Minutes of last meeting
The minutes of the last meeting (KPC 112-11) held on 20 March 2007 were read and the following changes were necessary:

Agenda item 10.5 – already noted.

Agenda Item 16 – T V Presenter's name should read Heiney. MF

The minutes were then agreed as a true record. Proposed: Cllr Cahill, seconded: Cllr Pelling.

4 To accept members' Declaration of Interests on agenda items:
None.

Close meeting

5 Visitor's Reports:

Borough Councillor Marion Rushbrook reported that she had spoken to Sergeant Vince Williams about the proposed Safer Neighbourhood Teams. Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) will consist of a dedicated team made up of Police Officer, Police Community Support Officers, Special Constables, Volunteers and other organisation. The aim of these teams is for them to work together with local people to improve their quality of life.

Councillor Rushbrook reported that in this scheme, Kedington would come under the area of Bury Rural, but it was not yet clear whether the point of contact would be Clare or Stradishall. The launch of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams was set for 4th June 2007 and Parish Councillors would be welcome to attend.

Cllr Cahill asked for it to be noted that the Parish Council had received no notification from P C Carl Brandwood or Haverhill Police about this proposed scheme.

Open meeting

6 Clerk's Report:

- Slate and membrane has been ordered for the Garden Society who will be working on the back of the Sensory Bed in Silver Street Park. The work will be carried out on Wednesday 18th April 2007. Garden Society report they do not feel the need to plant shrubs to fill gap in hedge on Old School Field where it backs on to Mill Road. The gap seems to be smaller due to natural growth of the hedge. I would like to ask John Pelling to convey thanks to members of the Garden Society for their dedication and hard work they do around the village.

- Report received about a dangerous tree in Dash End Lane. A letter has been sent to the agents who act for the owners of the land and a reply is awaited.

- Road signs for Dash End / Dash End Lane. This will be dealt with under agenda item 12.1.

- Abbeycroft Leisure have not replied to our acceptance of the offer for their Mobile Skate Park to visit the village during the school holidays; this has been chased up.

6.1 Consider further action (on action taken or reports received since last meeting:
None.

7 Finance Committee

7.1 Receive draft minutes and Financial Statements of 10 April 2007:

Cllr Cahill went through minutes of the meeting; he also explained that the Financial Statements were not showing an accurate picture of budget headings at the end of the financial year. This was because of the way the spreadsheets had historically been compiled. Cllr Cahill said that it had been decided at the last Finance Committee meeting that members should meet with the Accountant to revise the way in which the Financial Statement was prepared. He said they would be suggesting that the actual budget left on Page 1 of the statements read actual amounts and not a percentage. Also, when money is taken from Reserves to pay for items purchased, this should be shown in a separate column.

Cllr Cahill confirmed that the Clerk's salary would be increased in the new financial year in line with NALC's recommendations. He also confirmed that the Asset Register could not be completed at the Finance Committee meeting as clarity was still awaited from Lubbock Fine regarding nominal values. A question was raised about Community Assets and whether the War Memorial in the Churchyard came under the jurisdiction of the Parish Council. Cllr Cahill said he would investigate this. JC

Cllr Donoghue said he would be interested to see how Lubbock Fine would value the land that is owned by the Parish Council, as they maintain it, but would never sell it.

7.2 Consider any matters arising from 13 March 2007 minutes:
None.

8 Annual Parish Council Conference
Cllr Cahill attended the Annual Parish Council conference held on 12 April 2007. An information pack will be circulated to all Councillors, but the main highlights were: MF

Suffolk's Pathfinder Bid: This will give more scope for Parishes to get involved directly in decision-making and service design/delivery.

Revised Code of Conduct: New Code of Conduct must be adopted by 1st October 2007.

St Edmundsbury Countryside Forum: Shaun Jarvis may be interested in attending on behalf of the Parish Council.

Launch of Parish News Letter: The Borough Council are now sending out two newsletters to Parish Council; *Community Spirit* and *Rural News*. Cllr Cahill requested these be sent to Kedington Parish Council electronically.

Play Areas and Play Strategy: Parish Council to fill in and return Play Questionnaire. The Chairman requested a copy of the questionnaire be sent to all Councillors for their views. MF

Safer Neighbourhood Teams: Cllr Cahill said he had spoken to Inspector Bacon about the lack of communication for this new initiative. He also noted that the village had no Neighbourhood Watch in operation at the present time. The Chairman acknowledged that there would be a gap between the new scheme getting off the ground and what Police community presence we had in the village due to P C Brandwood being away for two months on a course. Cllr Double said she felt the village had been let down by the Police with regard to setting up Neighbourhood Watch two years ago. The Chairman asked that Neighbourhood Watch be put on the Agenda for the next Parish Council meeting. MF

Public Service Village: Cllr Cahill reported that the Business Plan for the new PSV to be built at Western Way in Bury St Edmunds had been agreed, with Phase 1 commencing mid2007. The new PSV will enable the Borough and County Council offices to be located on one site.

9 Office Accommodation
The Chairman read from a report compiled by the Clerk, contents of which were:

- Discussion has taken place between Clerk and Practice Manager following room plan and hours of work being submitted for consideration.
- The Practice Manager now has concerns about the space the Parish Council will require. Her concerns are based around Health & Safety for the Practice Nurse, i.e. will she have enough space to carry out her work. The Practice Manager confirmed that they would not allow a wall cupboard to be put up for the Nurse to use.
- There are also concerns around infection control and the Surgery has now asked the Primary Care Trust for guidelines, as this could be an issue with the Parish Council using the room. There is no indication as to how long this will take.
- It is increasingly unlikely that the Parish Council will be able to vacate the present office accommodation by beginning of May. The Clerk has spoken to Alan Whiffen to inform him of the situation and he is happy for us to let him know our intentions after the KPC meeting.
- The Direct Debit for rent to Mr Whiffen has not yet been cancelled.

Cllr's Donoghue and Rowsell felt there was nothing wrong with the proposed layout of the room as it gave more than adequate space to the Practice Nurse. Cllr Donoghue requested that a meeting be arranged with the Practice Manager to discuss these issues. MF

Cllr Cahill reported the possibility of a shared room at the Haverhill Golf Club. The Chairman asked the Clerk to investigate this. MF

10 Affordable Housing Scheme

10.1 Update:
Cllr Donoghue reported that a meeting had taken place with the Chairman of the Parish Council, the Landowner and his Agent. The Landowner was interested in developing some other land that he owns to provide sheltered accommodation, affordable housing and a large car park for the school. Cllr Donoghue said the Landowner was warned that a Parish/Public Meeting would need to be held and the Parish Council would have to support the decision of the villagers. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council would facilitate a meeting for the Landowner to put his plans forward to the Parish.

11 Environmental / Grounds Maintenance Matters

11.1 Risbridge Meadow (update):
The Chairman read from an e-mail received from John Smithson which stated:

"The sign hasn't been ordered yet as we thought we needed a phone number on it and we need to decide which is the best number to have. Probably be the Rangers at Haverhill and also the Borough's out of hours number. The kissing gate we are going to replace with a purpose built model, we have it in stock now and just need to arrange the installation over the next few weeks; we are hopeful that highways will be able to tarmac it in place as part of their footpath work they are carrying out at the moment. The new gate will be on the other side of the entrance to the old kissing gate so we don't have a problem with the slope".

Cllr Berridge said she had received comments about the suitability of the steps that had been put in on the slope leading down from the Risbridge Estate.

Close Meeting

Shaun Jarvis said he was involved with the Rangers putting in the steps and could not understand why anyone would think they were not suitable. He said the Rangers were very precise and conscientious when doing this work.

The Chairman requested the Clerk to e-mail John Smithson to see if a ramp was also being put in, to allow access to the Meadow from the slope. MF

Open Meeting

11.2 Any other environmental/grounds maintenance matters:

Kissing Gate adjacent to Cotton Hall:
Cllr Berridge report that the kissing gate adjacent to Cotton Hall has now collapsed. Cllr Donoghue reported that he had written to Kevin Verlander, the Rights of Way Officer at Suffolk County Council. Kevin Verlander has said that they would look at repairing this.

Rubbish in Rectory Road:
Cllr Berridge again voiced her concerns about the rubbish being tipped in Rectory Road; she reported that St Edmundsbury Borough Council are now claiming this is not their responsibility. The Chairman asked the Clerk to find out who is responsible for this, as it needs clearing. For the record, Mr Jarvis pointed out that the original landfill site in Rectory Road has now been turfed over. MF

Herald Contract:
The Chairman reported that an e-mail had been received from Herald asking for permission to spray "round-up" again in the Cemetery. It was proposed by Cllr Berridge and seconded by Cllr Pelling that Herald should not be given permission to spray or strim immediately around the gravestones. This was unanimously agreed by all present.

The Chairman requested the Clerk contact the PCC to facilitate the meeting requested as a matter of urgency. The Chairman also reported that a meeting had been arranged with Mr Farr re grass cutting in the Cemetery. MF TW/JC

12 Highway/Footpath/Street Furniture Matters

12.1 Road Signs (update):
The Chairman read from e-mails between the Clerk and David Lyttle from St Edmundsbury Borough Council regarding signs for Dash End/Dash End Lane. Mr Lyttle had stated he thought it was "overkill" to have two more signs erected as he stated the emergency services have access to a comprehensive mapping system and should not have a problem finding addresses.

The Clerk had replied to this by saying that the comprehensive mapping systems that are supplied to Police, Fire and Ambulance crews could not be that precise if they kept going to the wrong addresses. She pointed out that we should not need to wait before someone dies or is seriously injured before the situation is rectified.

Mr Lyttle replied saying he believed one additional sign would be sufficient to identify the road, but if further problems arose, the situation would be looked at again.

12.2 Proposal for wooden gates on entrance to village:
Cllr Double put forward a proposal to have white wooden gates erected on entrances to the village; she felt this would show drivers they were entering a village and enable them to adjust their speed. Cllr Donoghue asked where the gates would be positioned. After discussion it was agreed they would be put on the Parish Boundaries at all entrances to the village. Proposed by Cllr Berridge and seconded by Cllr Double.

Borough Councillor Marion Rushbrook said she speak to the Borough Council to see it any financial help could be available for this scheme. MR

12.3 Bus Stops (update):
Letters have been received from two bus companies who use the village on a regular basis. One of these (a local company) confirmed that although drivers are advised to use designated bus stops only, in rural areas where Council funding for street furniture and properly equipped bus stops is minimal, drivers will do their utmost to assist passengers by stopping where safe and convenient. The other company stated that drivers should only stop at designated bus stops. They urged that if the situation persists whereby drivers pick up/drop up at places other than designated stops, then residents take down the bus registration number, location, time and date, in order for them to resolve the situation. This information should be passed to the Clerk of the Council who will inform them accordingly.

The Chairman requested that the Clerk reply to the local company, stating quite firmly that Kedington does have designated bus stops and these should be used at all times. MF

12.4 Any other highway/footpath/street furniture matters:
Lay-by on Haverhill Road near White Horse junction:
Cllr Rowsell reported ongoing problems with parking in this area. It was agreed that residents should contact the Police if they encounter severe problems.

Collapsed drains on Church Hill:
Cllr Berridge reported that this work had been done in conjunction with the work providing the footway to link Mill Road with the Risbridge Estate.

13 Housing / Planning

13.1 Applications for discussion at meeting:
None.

13.2 Planning Applications – Observations conveyed by Parish Council:
T P O

Brendon's View, Mill Road:	(i) Re-pollard Lime
	(ii) Horse Chestnut – reduce crown by 1/3
Acceptable	(iii) Horse Chestnut – remove large branch

13.3 Planning Applications – Decisions received from Borough Council:

6 Risbridge Drive:	Erection of extension and conservatory on side
Granted	elevation.
Simms Farm, Simms Lane:	Conversion of barn to residential and erection of cart lodge/store to service barn. Erection of
Refused	store/store to serve Simms Farmhouse.
Stonebridge Paddocks, Hundon Road	Detached bungalow to provide annexe accommodation and cart lodge to serve existing
Refused	dwelling and proposed annexe.

13.4 Any other housing/planning matters:

13.4.1 Development at 5 Mill Road:
Chairman reported that the Clerk had again written to the Enforcement Officer as the conditions of the Planning Application that were due for completion by 31 March 2007 had still not been carried out by the Developer.

Restriction of working times for Planning Applications:
Cllr Double requested that on future Planning Applications for large extensions, etc, the Parish Council request the Borough to restrict times when building work should commence/finish to avoid annoyance to neighbours. Agreed by all.

14 Consultations

A Unitary Council for Ipswich:
The Chairman read from a letter sent by the Chief Executive of Suffolk County Council. This will be passed round to Councillors seeking their views. MF

15 Any other reports (on-going matters)
None.

16 Events

16.1 Nominations:
None.

16.2 Councillor absences (update):
None

17 Any other business (new matters)
None

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 15 May 2007 at 7.40 p.m.

Signed: …….. Date: ……