

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF KEDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 15 MAY 2007
LIBRARY, ARMS LANE, KEDINGTON**

Present: Cllr Terry Wheeler - Chairman
Cllr John Cahill
Cllr Gloria Double

Ms Marion Farrant (Clerk)

In attendance: Mr Fred Phillips (Press), County Councillor Karen Knight, Borough Councillor Marion Rushbrook, Mrs Ann Desborough (Parishioner), Mr Peter Donoghue (Parishioner) and Mr Peter Garner (Parishioner).

PC Spraggons from Suffolk Police joined the meeting prior to Agenda item 12.

		ACTION
1	Welcome and Apologies for absence The Chairman welcomed all present to the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Peter Rowsell.	
2	Election of Chairman Cllr Terry Wheeler was proposed by Cllr Double and seconded by Cllr Cahill. There were no other nominations and Cllr Wheeler was unanimously voted in for the post of Chairman, which he duly accepted.	Annex 1
3	Election of Vice-Chairman Cllr John Cahill was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Double. There were no other nominations and Cllr Cahill was unanimously voted in for the post of Vice-Chairman, which he duly accepted. Close meeting	
4	To acknowledge agenda items of interest to members of the public present Mrs Desborough declared an interest in Agenda Item 5 – Co-option of Parish Councillors. Mr Garner also declared an interest in the same agenda item. Open meeting	
5	Co-option of Parish Councillors The Chairman confirmed that at the present time, Kedington Parish Council had five vacancies for Parish Councillors. The Chairman asked each of the candidates to address the meeting: Mrs Ann Desborough confirmed she was resident in Kedington and that her children/ grandchildren also lived in the village. Mrs Desborough said at present she had a complimentary health business in the village, but in the past she had run a Toddlers Group and Social Club. Mrs Desborough said she had concerns that there was no Warden Assisted Housing in the village and was hoping that she would be able to help address this issue by becoming a Parish Councillor. Mrs Desborough confirmed that she would be willing to attend training courses to help her find out more about the role of a Parish Councillor. Mr Peter Garner confirmed that he was resident in Kedington and had been a Parish Councillor some two years ago, but resigned for personal reasons. He said that he now had more free time to perform the role of a Parish Councillor and was willing to attend any necessary training courses.	

	Mr Peter Donoghue stated that he had been a Parish Councillor for the last nine years and he was standing for co-option because he had not returned his nomination papers in time.	
	The Chairman read out a letter received from Mr Brian Cann, which declared his interest in becoming a Parish Councillor. Mr Cann was unable to attend the meeting due to a previously arranged family engagement.	Annex 2
	Cllr Double informed the meeting that Michael Simpkin, who was born in Kedington and had family, still living in the village, had shown an interest in being co-opted onto the Parish Council. However, Mr Simpkin had been short-listed for a position on the Standards Board and this restricted him from putting in an application at the present time. Cllr Double commented that if Mr Simpkin were unsuccessful in obtaining a position on the Standards Board, he would still be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor if there were unfilled vacancies.	
	At this point the candidates were asked to leave the meeting so voting could take place. After discussion, it was agreed by a blanket vote that all the candidates should be co-opted onto the Parish Council. They were asked to re-join the meeting where the Chairman formally welcomed them all to the Parish Council. Acceptance of Office forms were signed and the Chairman requested the Clerk inform Mr Cann of his co-option onto the Parish Council.	Annexes 3, 4, 5
		MF
6	To accept members' Declarations of Interest on agenda items None.	
7	Appointments for the year 2007/2008 Councillor responsibilities for the year were decided.	Annex 6
8	Minutes of previous meeting held on 17 April 2007 Agenda item 8 – Annual Parish Conference: Safer Neighbourhood Teams Cllr Double asked for her comments to be changed as she had said “she felt the village had been let down by the Police with regard to setting up Neighbourhood Watch two years ago”. The minutes were then agreed as a true record; proposed by Cllr Cahill and seconded by Cllr Double. Due to an accident to his hand, the Chairman was unable to initial and sign the minutes, so at his request, and with the consent of Councillors, the Vice Chairman undertook this task. Close Meeting	
9	Visitor's Reports The Chairman congratulated Borough Councillor Marion Rushbrook on her success at the recent local elections. Cllr Rushbrook thanked the Chairman for his comments and gave her report: Safer Neighbourhood Teams Launch: The launch is scheduled to take place on 4 th June 2007 at The Athenaeum in Bury St Edmunds from 2.00 – 3.30 p.m. Cllr Rushbrook said she would try and secure invitations for Cllrs Cahill and Double. White gates at entrance to the village: Cllr Rushbrook confirmed she had made enquiries to see if the Borough Council would fund the purchase of white gates for the village. The Borough Council would not fund this as it was a County Council matter. It was discussed that if the Parish Council put money forward for this venture, then perhaps Suffolk County Council should be approached for some form of grant aid. After discussion it was suggested that the Parish Council should approach Suffolk County Council to ascertain costs, etc. The Chairman thanked Cllr Rushbrook and invited County Councillor Karen Knight to address the meeting. Cllr Knight gave her report:	MF

School Organisational Review: Cllr Knight reported that the second round of the consultation process would begin in September 2007. Schools in Haverhill and Kedington have been selected to be involved in the first phase of changes to the school system, but no children currently at middle school would be affected. County Councillor Rebecca Hopfensberger would be responsible for this.

New houses on Haverhill Road: Cllr Knight said she had investigated complaints from residents about visibility problems when pulling out onto the main road from their properties. She reported that it is illegal to put up mirrors to aid problems such as this, but would be meeting with Kevin Shipp from Suffolk County Council on Thursday and would discuss this issue with him. The Chairman reported to Cllr Knight that the Parish Council raised concerns about access on to the main road when dealing with the Planning Application.

White Gates on entrance to the village: Cllr Knight said that she would speak to Kevin Shipp and would investigate the possibility of help towards the cost from her locality budget. She also confirmed that the KCA would receive £250 from her locality budget to help with the cost of perimeter fencing for the car park at the Community Centre.

Care packages: Cllr Knight reported that difficulties were still being encountered with care packages for people being discharged from hospital. She reiterated her previous plea for Councillors to report to her if they knew of anyone who has or was experiencing difficulties with this.

Open Meeting

10

Clerk's Report

Mobile Skate Park: Abbeycroft Leisure will not be facilitating the Mobile Skate Park during the school holidays for Health & Safety reasons.

Smoke Free Day: This comes into force on 1st July 2007, which will make it an offence to smoke in many public places and buildings. As the Youth Shelter on the Great Meadow is technically a public place/building, the ban on smoking in it might apply. Cllr Cahill offered to seek information on this and obtain clarity as to whether the Youth Shelter is classed as a building.

JC

Graffiti: The 30 mph sign on Sturmer Road and the road narrowing sign on Mill Road bridge have been vandalised with graffiti and reported to Highways Department. The graffiti on the village sign in Sturmer Road has now been removed. Highways Department have also been requested to replace the "RAMP" sign in Arms Lane and attend to the other "RAMP" signs that are listing and obscured from view.

Youth Shelter: The felt on the edge of the roof has been vandalised and needs repairing. It has been suggested that when the felt is repaired, anti-vandal paint be used to prevent more vandalism.

10.1

Consider further action (on action taken or reports received since last meeting:

None.

11

Finance Committee

11.1

Receive draft minutes and Financial Statements of 08 May 2007:

Councillors read the draft minutes. Cllr Cahill reported that the Parish Council had started the new financial year with £31,349 in Reserves.

11.2

Consider any matters arising from 10 April 2007 minutes:

None.

At this point PC Spraggons joined the meeting; the Chairman sought permission from Councillors to close the meeting receive his report.

Close Meeting

PC 411 Spraggons introduced himself, confirming he would be part of the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) responsible for Kedington. PC Carl Brandwood would no longer be Beat Officer for Kedington, as officers from the SNT would cover his role. PC Spraggons reported that Kedington would be part of the Bury Rural South area, which would be covered by a team working from Clare Police Station. The team will consist of PC 704 Ruth Horton and PC 608 Brendan McKenna working as Neighbourhood Officers; PC Spraggons and PC 1067 Hollands working as Response Officers and a Community Support Officer, Debbie Carroll-Beer. PC Spraggons said that they were switching to a new shift pattern by the end of May, which would ensure there is always a member of the team on duty. Sergeants for the Bury North, South and Central SNT's would be based at Ickworth. He reiterated that calls to the SNT should be made through the Central Switchboard on 01284 774100 to log an event. PC Spraggons also gave e-mail addresses to the Clerk.

Reporting on events in the village for the period 15th April – 15th May 2007, PC Spraggons said there were four offences committed; two for drink/driving (drivers caught within the Kedington boundary, but not necessarily from Kedington); one offence of indecent assault that was still being investigated and one theft of a child's pedal cycle.

The Chairman thanked PC Spraggons for his report. Cllr Cahill asked PC Spraggons why Kedington Parish Council had received no literature or communication about the launch of the SNT's? PC Spraggons said he could not answer this question, but it could possibly have been because Carl Brandwood had been on a course for the best part of the last two months and this may have been why we had not received any information. All councillors present were in agreement that this was very lapse on the part of the Police and it was requested that the Clerk write to the Inspector about the lack of consultation.

MF

Open Meeting

12 Office Accommodation (update)

Cllr Donoghue reported on a meeting with the Practice Manager and her Deputy at the Surgery in Kedington; the Clerk was also in attendance. Practice Manager had concerns about whether the Nurse would have enough space to work when sharing the Treatment Room with the Parish Council. Cllr Donoghue informed the meeting that he and the Clerk re-arranged the furniture to, prove that the layout plan (already presented to the Practice Manager) would accommodate both parties satisfactorily. The Practice Manager also confirmed she had issues around the Clerk's working hours, saying she felt it would be better for the Clerk not to work while surgery was in progress, as there could be issues with patient confidentiality. She said she would speak to the Partners and report back to the Parish Council within the week. After discussion it was agreed that, while Councillors understood issues around confidentiality, they could not expect the Clerk to curtail her hours. It was agreed that the Clerk would speak/write to the Landlord of the present office and withdraw notice if this was acceptable to him.

MF

13 Affordable Housing (update)

Cllr Donoghue said there were no further developments to report. The Chairman reported that he had received communication from Bidwells in Cambridge, on behalf of a client, about the possibility of a scheme to build a development in the heart of the village, which would incorporate extra parking space at the school, affordable housing and sheltered accommodation, if planning permission were obtained.

14 Environmental/Grounds Maintenance Matters

14.1 Risbridge Meadow (update)

Clerk confirmed no monthly report had been received from John Smithson.

14.2 Herald Contract: Churchyard / Cemetery

The Chairman reported that he and Cllr Cahill had attended a meeting with Rev Eley and some members of the PCC at the Churchyard. It had been agreed that the current contract for the Old Churchyard would remain unchanged. However, in the New Churchyard, Herald would be requested to trim within ½ metre around graves and that no spraying with “round-up” would be permitted. This motion was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Cllr Cahill and unanimously agreed by all present. Chairman requested Clerk to write to Herald to inform them of the changes.

MF

14.3 Any other environmental/grounds maintenance matters:

Chairman reported that the contract for strimming was not awarded at the Finance Committee as clarity was needed on pricing. Clerk to request both parties to re-tender.

MF

15 Highway/Footpath/Street Furniture Matters

15.1 Road Signs (update):

Clerk reported that despite chasing the Borough Council, she had received no reply from David Lyttle as to when the new sign for Dash End/Dash End Lane would be installed.

15.2 Proposal for wooden gates on entrance to village:

It was agreed that the Clerk should obtain costs for wooden gates. When these have been received, it was also agreed that the Parish Council should ask for help with costs from County Councillor Karen Knight's locality budget. Clerk to also see if grants can be obtained towards help with cost.

MF

15.3 Any other highway/footpath/street furniture matters:

Cllr Cahill reported pothole in Mill Road near Risbridge Drive. It was decided that no action needed to be taken as this was an adverse camber in the road surface and had the effect of slowing down traffic.

16 Housing / Planning

16.1 Applications for discussion at meeting:

Acle Cottage: It was noted that to the knowledge of the Parish Council, a Planning Application for the erection of a conservatory had not been lodged with the Borough Council.

16.2 Planning Applications – Observations conveyed by Parish Council:

ClayCot, Sturmer Road Acceptable	Erection of conservatory to rear and detached double garage.
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16.3 Planning Applications – Decisions received from Borough Council:

TPO

Brendon's View, Mill Road:

- (i) Re-pollard Lime
- (ii) Horse Chestnut – reduce crown by 1/3
- (iii) Horse Chestnut – remove large branch

Granted

ClayCot, Sturmer Road Granted	Erection of conservatory to rear and detached double garage.
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16.4 Any other housing/planning matters:

17 Mill Road, Kedington – Planning Application for conversion of existing dwelling into two dwellings has been withdrawn.

Heatherset, White Horse Road, Kedington – Certificate of Lawfulness for proposed development. Erection of single storey detached garden/games room. Application has been withdrawn.

Eastcotts Nursing Home: Appeal against refusal to grant Planning Permission for erection of new wing to provide additional bedrooms and day space.

	<p>5 Mill Road: No reply received as yet from Enforcement Officer at St Edmundsbury Borough Council.</p> <p>Bungalows to the rear of 4,5 and 6 School Crescent: No reply received from Enforcement Officer over Parish Council concerns re entrance to site.</p> <p>Stables at the end of Arms Lane: It was reported that conifer trees had been planted around the stables, possibly on the public footpath. Clerk was requested to contact Debden Vale to see who is responsible for footpath.</p>	MF
17	Consultations	
17.1	<p>Suffolk Constabulary – Western Area Plan 2007/2008: To be passed around in Reading Pack.</p>	
17.2	<p>Safer Neighbourhood Teams: Already discussed.</p>	
18	<p>Any other reports (on-going matters) None.</p>	
19	Events	
19.1	Nominations	
19.1.1	<p>Regional Gypsy and Traveller Public Engagement Event: None.</p>	
19.1.2	<p>Suffolk Preservation Society AGM 2007: None.</p>	
19.2	<p>Councillor absences (update): Cllr Double gave dates and the Clerk noted these.</p> <p>Guillotine</p> <p>The time being 9.45 p.m. it was agreed to raise the guillotine for a further fifteen minutes to allow for Agenda item 20. Proposed by Cllr Cahill and seconded by Cllr Garner.</p>	
20	<p>Any other business (new matters) KCA: The Chairman reported that the KCA had given notification of a Special General Meeting on 25th June 2007 called to amend the Constitution in respect of quorums at General Meetings. The Chairman read out the proposal that Rule 13 (b) be amended.</p> <p>The Chairman informed the meeting that as this item was a new matter, only a provisional decision could be taken. It was decided that the Parish Council had no objection in principle.</p> <p>New Model Code of Conduct: In order to avoid advertising costs, the Parish Council would need to adopt the new code by 25th May 2007. By doing this, they could be included in bulk advertising of Parish Councils adopting the new code facilitated by the Borough Council. It was agreed by all present that a one agenda item meeting to debate the new Code of Conduct should be held in the Parish Office on Monday 21st May 2007 at 7.30 p.m.</p> <p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.</p> <p>The date of the next meeting Parish Council meeting will be Tuesday 19th June 2007 at 7.40 p.m.</p>	<p>Annex 7</p> <p>MF</p>

Signed:

Date: