MINUTES OF MEETING OF KEDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 19 JUNE 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 Ann Desborough
Cllr Gloria Double
Cllr Peter Donoghue
Cllr Peter Garner
Cllr Peter Rowsell

Ms Marion Farrant (Clerk)

In attendance: Borough Councillor Marion Rushbrook; Mr Fred Phillips (Press); Sergeant Ireland (Suffolk Police); Mr Richard Pound (Parishioner).

ACTION

1 Parishioners' Question Time and to acknowledge agenda items of interest to members of the public present:
Mr Pound registered an interest in agenda item 11.2.

It was noted that technically Mr Pound would not have to leave the meeting for this agenda item, but morally, it would be his decision.

1.1 Resignation of Parish Councillor:
The Chairman read from a letter sent by Mr Brian Cann informing of his resignation from the Parish Council due to work commitments.

Open Meeting

2 Welcome and apologies:
The Chairman welcomed everyone present. Apologies were received from County Councillor Karen Knight.

3 Minutes of last meetings
The minutes of meetings KPC 113-01 and KPC 113-02 were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Double and seconded by Cllr Cahill.

The Chairman asked Councillors if they wished Paragraph 12(2) of the Revised Model Code of Conduct (2007) adopted by the Parish Council to be added to Standing Orders. Proposed by Cllr Cahill and seconded by Cllr Rowsell. Unanimous decision. MF

4 To accept members' Declaration of Interests on agenda items:
Cllr Peter Garner declared an interest in agenda item 11.2.
Cllr Ann Desborough declared an interest in agenda item 9.

Close meeting

5 Visitor's Reports:
Sergeant Neil Ireland from Suffolk Police (based at Horringer) addressed the meeting. Sgt Ireland said he would always try to attend Parish Council meetings wherever possible. He commented on recent crimes in the village, consisting of theft and damage at the Community Centre; serious assault; two burglaries and theft of a cycle. He added that he aimed to get more Police presence in the village with the introduction of SNT's and would be deploying PCSO Beer to patrol the village, specifically in places where crimes are taking place. He said that depending on the shift patterns of his officers, he hoped this would be a minimum of twice per week.

The Chairman asked if Sgt Ireland could deploy an officer near to the school at the beginning and end of the school day. He said it had been reported to him that cars were parking across the entrances to houses near the school at these times, which was not complying with the ban on parking in Mill Road between specific hours. Sgt Ireland agreed to deploy an officer to patrol this area.

Cllr Double asked if the Police were still conducting checks on speeding vehicles in the village, especially along Haverhill Road. Sgt Ireland replied that at present they were compiling a report on speeding for the County Council. He said he would try and deploy an officer to do ½ hour checks and report back to the Parish Council. Cllr Cahill also asked if checks could be carried out on the Hundon Road. Sgt Ireland said he would put a timescale on this of one month and probably bring the matter up at a Tasking Meeting on 1st July 2007. Cllr Garner also reported to Sgt Ireland that Calford Green also had a problem with speeding cars.

Cllr Cahill commented that at the recent SNT Launch, Inspector Bacon had spoken about a shortage of officers; he asked Sgt Ireland what effect this would have locally. Sgt Ireland replied that each SNT should not have more than a 5% distraction per team, i.e. officers taken away for specialist duties.

The Chairman thanked Sgt Ireland for his report and he left the meeting.

Borough Councillor Marion Rushbrook reported a Parishioner had spoken to her after having windows smashed at his residence. The Parishioner reported that the response from the SNT Officers was very good.

Open meeting

6 Clerk's Report:

- Road in Barton Drive closed due to the tarmac lifting, leaving serious holes in the road and some flooding. It appears that a drain, 4 metres down is broken on the south of Barton Drive. Suffolk County Council working on this at the present time but no notification has been given of how long the work will take.

- Burst water main in School Road, causing tarmac to lift was reported to Anglian Water, who responded immediately and carried out the repair.

- Clerk has spoken to Guy Smith from Suffolk County Council, Western Area Highways (in Bury St Edmunds) about flooding that continues to happen outside Rowan House in Calford Green and also about the drains on the green in Westward Deals, just off Barton Drive. These matters were reported in January this year and despite chasing up on several occasions, problems are still ongoing. Mr Smith has promised to look into this matter as soon as possible.

- Clerk has also spoken to Guy Smith about the cost of tarmac for the lay-by in Hundon Road, affectionately known as "Alfie's Parking Bay". Costing was requested from him last October. Also spoke with Kevin Shipp from Highways in Ipswich about this matter; he will chase this up. Kevin spoke about the possibility of having "lining" put down if the lay-by was laid to tarmac, making it more visible to show it was a disabled parking bay.

- Problems with parking near the school have been reported to the Parish Council.. Some drivers have been blocking access to properties when dropping off/picking up children from school. The Safer Neighbourhood Team has been asked to look into this.

- Clerk requested that the Chairman and Parish Council consider a leave application for her to take one week's holiday, from 25th to 29th June 2007. Granted.

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

Cllr Rowsell reported that he and other Parishioners had experienced a problem with raw sewerage coming into gardens during the recent heavy rainfall that had caused some flooding in the village. He said he would be contacting the Borough Council and also Anglian Water about this problem. The Chairman requested he report back to the Clerk on this matter. PR

Cllr Donoghue reported that he had spoken to a resident of Westward Deals, following complaints re parking of several "company" vans in one particular area, thus making parking difficult for residents. It was agreed that the Parish Council would monitor this.

7 Finance Committee

7.1 Receive draft minutes and Financial Statements of 12 June 2007:

Cllr Cahill went through minutes of the meeting. He reported that the Westward Deals maps would be lowered and the map board on the green near the Post Office will be moved forward. Cllr Cahill also reported that the Handyman has been requested to re-seed the area outside the fencing of the new play equipment and that the Notice Board in School Road will have replacement glass put in. Cllr Cahill spoke about the Chairing Skills course and pointed out that any Councillor can make an application to attend; it is not just for the Vice-Chair of the Council.

Amendments to minutes:

Agenda item 13.3, second line to be changed to read: "improved with cutting being up to ½ metre from graves".

Agenda item 15.2, the following to be added at the bottom of paragraph: "It was agreed that the KCA should get two other quotations if the Parish Council are to order on their behalf to save them the VAT. This would then be within Best Value guidelines".

Agenda item 17, clarity required that the new rate of pay for the Village Handyman will be £8.00 per hour and for the Village Cleaner will be £6.00 per hour.

7.2 Consider any matters arising from 08 May 2007 minutes:

None.

8 Safer Neighbourhood Team Launch

Cllr Cahill attended the Safer Neighbourhood Team Launch, which was also attended by Paul Davis and Richard Pound from the village.

An introduction was given by Inspector Adrian Carlton who went through what Safer Neighbourhood Teams were about and how they will work with the community. Inspector Carlton said monthly "tasking" meetings would take place, and would feed through Parish Councils. However, these would be "closed" meetings, which would be "opened" up if specific issues arose. Inspector Carlton said there was debate about having street briefings and a "drop-box" in Post Offices or Libraries.

Cllr Cahill said at the launch, he had spoken with Dianne Townsend, Co-ordinator of Neighbourhood Watch, who confirmed that the Police were aware that Kedington had been neglected over recent months and were keen to put this right. She added that they Police were keen to have a meeting if this was wanted.

The Chairman spoke about letters he had received from Parishioners concerned about the way SNT's had been set up without any consultation with the Parish Council or village as a whole. He suggested that an initial period to let SNT's get established should be given, to see if Police presence in the village makes an improvement. If not, then a Public Meeting could be called. It was agreed by all Councillors that the Chairman and Clerk would respond to the letters received. TW/MF

9 Office Accommodation

Chairman read from a letter received from Practice Manager at Christmas Maltings Surgery, which confirmed the Clerk would not be able to work in the building while the Doctors were in surgery. It was agreed by all present that this was not acceptable and that alternative accommodation would be sought.

Chairman reported that the Landlord of the present office accommodation was happy for the Parish Council to remain as his tenant and he would be happy if the Parish Council wished to improve the current accommodation. It was proposed by Cllr Cahill and seconded by Cllr Rowsell that the Standing Order for rent should be re-instated with effect from 1st July 2007 and a cheque issued for the rent due for June 2007. MF

The purchase of the present office accommodation was discussed, with emphasis being placed on a proper survey being done and clarity as to responsibility for the flat roof, which was also a walkway for residents in the flat above the shops to gain access to their property.

At this point, Cllr Desborough declared an interest, signed the Interests Book and left the room.

Cllr Desborough had offered the Parish Council use of a room available at her property. This was discussed and Councillors gave their views. It was decided that it was not suitable for the Parish Office to be situated in a private dwelling. Cllr Desborough rejoined the meeting, whereby the Chairman informed her of the Council's decision. He thanked her for her offer and outlined why it would not be practical. The possibility of other locations was considered and the Chairman suggested that a Working Party should be set up, to include the Clerk, to look at other alternatives for office accommodation. The Working Party will consist of Cllrs Double, Desborough, Donoghue, Rowsell and the Clerk.

The Chairman requested that the Working Party report back to the Parish Council in September 2007. WP

The Clerk requested permission from the Council to purchase a fly screen for the office. Proposed by Cllr Donoghue and seconded by Cllr Rowsell.

10 Affordable Housing Scheme

10.1 Update:

The Chairman reported that a meeting had been scheduled for 4th July 2007 at the School, which would be attended by himself, School Governors and Rev John Eley to discuss their needs. As part of the scheme being proposed by Bidwells on behalf of the landowner, the school were being offered a large car park. The Chairman reported that the School Governors and Rev Eley were not interested in this and were against the houses and car park being built.

11 Environmental / Grounds Maintenance Matters

11.1 Risbridge Meadow (update):

There was no update from John Smithson. Clerk was requested to contact him to see when the Dog Bins and Litterbins were going to be installed. MF

11.2 Ratify Finance Committee recommendation for Ground Strimming Contract:

At this point Cllr Garner declared an interest, signed the Interests Book and left the room. Mr Pound also left the room.

The Chairman said that two quotations had been received at the Finance Committee meeting. Both quotations had been viewed in line with Best Value guidelines laid down by the Government. He added that both parties had worked for the Parish Council on previous occasions, so were both known. The difference in price between the two quotations was £112. Both quotations and the specification for the contract were passed around Councillors for consideration.

It was proposed by Cllr Double and seconded by Cllr Rowsell that the quotation submitted by Mr Garner be accepted. The Chairman asked if there were any other nominations before a vote was taken; none were offered. Unanimous decision that the contract be awarded to Mr Garner, as being the most competitive on price.

11.3 Discuss principal of changing regime for Autumn Flailing:

Both Cllr Garner and Mr Pound confirmed that the Autumn Flailing work could be done better by not using flailing equipment, albeit that without this equipment, the work is more labour intensive.

Mr Garner confirmed that "flailing" smashed everything to pieces; he added that by using a cycle or cutter gave more control over what was being cut down and did not leave areas looking unsightly. He confirmed that this method could also be applied to the hedge around School Field.

It was proposed by Cllr Donoghue and seconded by the Chairman that the contract should be for Autumn Cutting; agreed by all present. The Chairman said that he and the Vice Chairman would re-schedule the specification and the contract be offered for tender to Mr Pound, Mr Garner, Herald Contract Services and Hutchinson & Son. TW/JC

11.4 Smoke Free Day, 1st July 2007 – Youth Shelter

Cllr Cahill reported that the open spaces on the Youth Shelter are deemed to be less than 50% of the whole building so will need to be a "No Smoking" area. The KCA have ordered sign to be put up.

11.5 Any other environmental/grounds maintenance matters:

Clerk has been sent a Tree Warden Pack from the Borough Council, in hope that a new Tree Warden could be found for the village. It was suggested that the Clerk should approach Peter Byron to see if he would be interested in this role. MF

Chairman reported he had requested the Clerk contact Borough Council to ask them to "raise the canopy" on some of the trees on Westward Deals that were growing over paths, etc.

Cllr Double reported that she and her neighbours had experienced problems with sewerage flowing onto their properties. The Chairman suggested that as private owners they should seek advice from either the Borough or Suffolk County Council.

12 Highway/Footpath/Street Furniture Matters

12.1 Lay-By in Haverhill Road:

Chairman read from a letter sent by Highways seeking to grass the lay-by in Haverhill Road, due to new access for 19 Haverhill Road. It was a unanimous decision that the Parish Council were not in favour of this and a proposal to build a bigger purpose built lay-by, extended as far as possible to the junction with White Horse Road should be submitted to Highways. MF

12.2 Road Signs (update):

Clerk reported that she had spoken to John Goodyear from Suffolk County Council who was surprised to hear that the road signs in Mill Road where the new pavement/footway has been constructed have still not been reinstalled. He will chase this up as a matter of urgency.

New signs have been installed by St Edmundsbury Borough Council in Dash End / Dash End Lane. Dash End now has a sign either side of the entrance and Dash End Lane entrance off Hundon Road has another sign saying Dash End with a right, pointing arrow.

12.3 Wooden Gates (update):

Clerk reported that Peter Ingram – Road Safety Team in Ipswich is the main contact. Assuming there is enough room on the verges by the carriageway where the gates would be installed, the cost would be approximately £1000 per location for white picket style gates. This would include a gate on either side of the road; installation; traffic management while gates are installed and admin costs. As Kedington already has the mileage sign incorporated with the "Kedington – Please Drive Carefully" signs, these could be incorporated in the design and this would reduce the cost. The Chairman asked the Clerk to liaise with Mr Ingram to request written specifications and costings.

It was requested that the Clerk ask County Councillor Karen Knight for help with the cost from her Locality Budget.

Cllr Double said she would also like to see rumble strips at the entrances to the village, perhaps in conjunction with Flashing – Speed-warning lights. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the next meeting.

Guillotine

With the time at 21.45 p.m. the Chairman asked Councillors if they would like to raise the guillotine. It was proposed by Cllr Cahill and seconded by Cllr Garner that the guillotine should be raised by fifteen minutes. Agreed by all present.

12.4 School Crossing (update):

Clerk reported that she had spoken to Kevin Shipp from Suffolk County Council. Mr Shipp was waiting until the end of June to order the works agreed to clean up the signs; put in extra road markings and drop the kerb near the lay-by to aid the crossing point. He explained that he was waiting to hear if he was successful in a bid for extra funding which would enable the dropped kerb to be done. By waiting for the outcome of his funding bid he hoped the works could all be done in one go.

12.5 Any other highway/footpath/street furniture matters:

Flooding by Village Stores: Cllr Cahill reported on flooding by the Village Stores during a recent heavy downpour of rain. He said residents from Silver Street were out trying to persuade drivers to take other routes as cars going through the flooded road were pushing water nearer to houses. The Chairman reported that Highways are the only people who can "close" roads and that there had always been problems with drainage in this area. It was recognised by the Parish Council that a situation like this could be a potential "flashpoint" for disorder.

13 Housing / Planning

13.1 Applications for discussion at meeting:

13.1.1 Ketton Early Birds:

Letter received from St Edmundsbury Borough Council to inform that the application had been withdrawn and would be re-submitted by Suffolk County Council as a Regulation 3 Application at a later date.

13.1.2 Bungalows in White Horse Road:
Clerk reported that there would only be one entrance to the bungalows. The Builder had confirmed that the second entrance was made because he had to wait for EON to move the wooden electricity pole to the front of the site. The present position of the pole made it impossible for deliveries to be made on site. The Builder confirmed that the hedge would be replanted when building work was complete.

13.2 Planning Applications – Observations conveyed by Parish Council:
17 Mill Road: Sub division of existing dwelling to form two dwellings (resubmission).
Acceptable

13.3 Planning Applications – Decisions received from Borough Council:
7 School Road: Erection of conservatory to rear elevation.
Granted

13.4 Any other housing/planning matters:
None.

14 Contact Magazine
The Chairman reported that the Contact Magazine was taken over by the Parish Council about 14 years ago. It was last updated in 2004. Cllr Cahill has now updated this. It was proposed by Cllr Donoghue and seconded by Cllr Cahill that a copy should be distributed with the next Chairman's letter. Agreed by all present. The Clerk suggested via the Chair, that perhaps the Contact Magazine could be put on the website. Cllr Cahill will look into this. JC

15 Consultations

15.1 St Edmundsbury Local Development Framework – Submission Statement of Community Involvement:
This will be passed to Councillors in a reading pack MF

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

17 Events

17.1 Nominations:

17.1.1 Stop Stansted Expansion Picnic in the Wood:
No nominations.

17.2 Councillor absences (update):
None

18 Any other business (new matters)
None

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 17 July 2007 at 7.40 p.m.

The meeting closed at 21.55 p.m.

Signed: …….. Date: ……