

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF KEDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2007
HELD AT THE LIBRARY, ARMS LANE, KEDINGTON**

Present: Cllr Terry Wheeler – Chairman of Parish Council
Cllr Ann Desborough
Cllr Peter Donoghue
Cllr Gloria Double
Cllr Peter Garner
Cllr Peter Rowsell

Ms Marion Farrant (Clerk)

In attendance: County Councillor Karen Knight; Borough Councillor Marion Rushbrook; Mr John Pelling (Heritage Project); Mr Shaun Jarvis (Wildlife Group); Mr Fred Phillips (Press); Mr G Nicholson and Mr J Halpin (Parishioners).

Sgt Ireland from the Safer Neighbourhood Team joined the meeting for Agenda Item 5 only.

		ACTION
1	<p>Parishioners' Question Time and to acknowledge agenda items of interest to members of the public present:</p> <p>Mr Nicholson expressed an interest in agenda item 8 and voiced his concerns about recent headlines in the local press about vandalism in Kedington. He also raised an issue about parking in certain parts of the village, with cars parking too close to junctions. Mr Nicholson said that with the present situation on parking, emergency vehicles would have difficulties if called to certain areas because of parked cars. The Chairman reported that parking close to the junction of White Horse Road on Haverhill Road; the same on Kings Hill; the entrance to Westward Deals and the top of Church Walk/West End Lane at school times, had been reported to the Police on several occasions. He added the Parish Council were aware that parking in the areas mentioned was hazardous and dangerous, but unfortunately the Parish Council had no control over the Law and could only keep reporting these matters to the Police and Highways Department. Mr Nicholson said there were also problems with parking in Silver Street when the Fish and Chip van was situated outside the Village Stores. It was suggested that perhaps the Fish and Chip van could relocate to the car park at the Community Centre. The Chairman said the Parish Council could raise this with the Kedington Community Association; he also requested the Clerk write to the Police to request they invoke the issues about parking.</p> <p>Mr Halpin said he wished to raise the issue of dog fouling. He reported that recently his property had the contents of a dog bin emptied onto his front garden. The Chairman said that last year, the Parish Council sent a letter to all houses in the village, appealing to dog owners to be responsible and clean up after their dog(s) had fouled. He added that he would raise the issue again in the next Chairman's Letter. The Chairman said the Parish Council would request some posters from the Dog Warden to put on Notice Boards, which would make it clear that offenders would be liable to prosecution if they did not clear up after their dog had fouled. Mr Jarvis said that the public could report persistent offenders to the Dog Warden and would be able to do this anonymously. The Dog Warden would then visit the offender(s) to warn of the consequences if they did not clean up when their dog(s) fouled.</p> <p>Cllr Donoghue said that some Parishes with the same problem used small flags placed in the dog faeces to alert people when walking and hopefully embarrass the dog owner(s).</p> <p>Open Meeting</p>	<p>MF</p> <p>MF</p>

- 2 **Welcome and apologies:**
The Chairman welcomed everyone present.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr John Cahill (Vice-Chairman) who was attending a Charing Skills course at SALC.

- 3 **Minutes of last meeting**
The minutes of the last meeting KPC 113-05 were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Double and seconded by Cllr Garner.

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

Close meeting

- 5 **Visitor's Reports:**

County Councillor Karen Knight reported:

School Organisation Review: The review is ongoing with Head Teachers taking an active part. Another stakeholder meeting was due to be held on 29th October 2007 with further public consultations scheduled over the next month.

Adult Care and Community Services: Transfer of care meeting (where people are leaving hospital to go home) had been held on 19th September 2007. Councillors from Suffolk County Council considered a collation of evidence received from clients and patients following delays in transfer of care. The evidence revealed the following:

- a) It is difficult to get Carers to work in rural areas.
- b) No clarity about how time is allocated to the person receiving care.
- c) Closure of rehab beds in Residential Homes was causing difficulties.

Cllr Garner commented he was not surprised that it was difficult to get Carers to work in rural area, as they were not being fairly treated on mileage rates.

Highways: Karen said she had spoken to Kevin Shipp from Highways about installing a notification of priority sign for the bridge on the Haverhill Road from Calford Green.

Kedington Library: Karen said she had presented Certificates for the Reading Game to children in Kedington. She reported she was a member of the scrutiny committee for Libraries and Heritage and voiced her concerns about events of vandalism in the last few weeks involving the Library. Karen said she had been speaking to the Police about this, as the scrutiny committee had a Duty of Care for the well being and safety of Library staff and people who used the Library.

Borough Councillor Marion Rushbrook reported:

School Organisation Review: The review was going well and she had been speaking with local parents and children about this.

Road safety: Marion reported that she was waiting to hear from the County Council about the most suitable equipment for slowing speeding traffic entering the village, i.e. whether white gates were the most appropriate.

By-Law for parks: Marion said she had requested information from the Borough Council in response to the issue raised by a Parish Councillor about adults playing football on Old School Field.

Battery Recycling: Since the scheme was introduced, 2 cubic metres of batteries (equivalent to two waste skips) had been collected. Marion said she would find out where Parishioners could obtain replacement bags.

John Pelling reported on the Heritage Project:

The Heritage Project is nearing completion. A presentation evening in early October had been held at the Community Centre to show slides. Mr Pelling reported he has about 600 more slide to edit for the production of the DVD. Mr Pelling asked the Parish Council to consider what they wanted to do with the equipment when the Heritage Project had finished. The equipment consisted of a computer, scanner, printer, digital camera and projector. The Chairman asked Councillors to consider this and requested the Clerk to put this as an agenda item for the next meeting.

MF

Cllr Double proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Pelling for all his hard work on the project, which was endorsed by all Councillors.

Sgt Ireland reported on behalf of the Safer Neighbourhood Team:

Sgt Ireland reported that all incidents of vandalism were now being reported to the SNT and they were engaging with the youths involved. He said he could report the youths all lived in Kedington and were not coming into the village from Haverhill as was previously thought to be the case. Sgt Ireland reported that some names of possible suspects had been put forward and these youths had been visited by CID and uniformed Officers. Scenes of Crime Officers had been called to various crime scenes and forensic samples had been taken. He said the SNT were also working on an Anti Social Behaviour Questionnaire.

Sgt Ireland said that issues in Kedington were being treated as a priority and procedures were in place to deal with the current vandalism, and Police patrols had been increased during daytime and evenings. He went on to report that one youngster had been charged with a public order offence and received an £80 fine.

Sgt Ireland took questions from Councillors and Parishioners present at the meeting. In answer to individual questions he stated that there was no evidence at present to say who the youths are who were involved in acts of vandalism. He recognised criticism of the SNT reporting system for incidents and apologised to anyone who was dissatisfied with the way their call had been dealt with, but went on to say that initial problems were now being overcome. In answer to a question from a Parishioner, Sgt Ireland said that the SNT would be engaging parents with children involved in crime. He said that one Officer on patrol had encountered two youngsters mis-behaving; he took the youngsters back to parents, who were horrified at their behaviour. Sgt Ireland said that when juveniles are involved the Police have a duty to speak to parents; he said the SNT were trying to do their best to resolve crime in the village and assured all present at the meeting that matters were in hand and time being spent to catch the culprits.

One of the Parishioners raised a question about drinking in public, as in Bury St Edmunds it was an offence to drink on the street. He asked if a ban could be put on people drinking alcohol whilst walking around the village. Sgt Ireland said Police have the power to seize alcohol under the Consumption of Alcohol Act if someone is deemed to be under age. He added that he is happy that the Village Stores are not supplying alcohol to people under the age of 18 years. Councillor Rushbrook said she would look into offences of people drinking outside in regard to Kedington with the Borough Council.

Cllr Double asked Sgt Ireland if he was aware of the drug problem in the village. Sgt Ireland replied that he was, and as a generalisation, there were drug problems in many of the towns and villages in Suffolk.

To conclude, Sgt Ireland said the SNT were committed, resources allowing, to helping solve the problems with vandalism in the village.

Open meeting

The Chairman requested that following Sgt Ireland's report, agenda item 8 be brought forward for discussion. Proposed by Cllr Double and seconded by Cllr Garner.

Close meeting

8 Village Vandalism

The Chairman reported that he had lived in the village for 37 years and acknowledged that there had always been problems, but the last month had seen vandalism at it's worst. He said that the SNT were trying to get to grips with the problem and Kedington was seen by the Police to be a priority.

Cllr Double reported she had received a telephone call from a member of the SNT for Kedington, who said that the Police had increased patrols in the village and were tackling the situation in a controlled manner in an attempt to catch the culprits. Cllr Double said she would be attending the Tasking Meeting on 7th November, where issues in Kedington would be a priority. The Police also asked if the Parish Council would consider lighting for the Youth Shelter, which would make it easier to Police. The Chairman stated it would cost thousands of pounds to put electricity to the Youth Shelter and the Parish Council did not have the resources for this. Cllr Double replied that the Police had indicated they might be able to find some funding for this.

A public meeting was discussed, but it was decided not to pursue this until after the next Parish Council meeting. The Chairman requested the Clerk to put Village Vandalism on the agenda for the November KPC meeting.

MF

Cllr Double said she had also attended a meeting of the Kedington Community Association recently. She said that extra lighting around the Community Centre was discussed, as well as installing a fire proof letter box in the Library. She added the Firework Display scheduled for 3rd November 2007 was going ahead and the KCA were employing six security officers and had decided not to have a large bonfire as had been the practice in previous years, but to have a smaller one, which could be easily extinguished at the end of the evening. She also reported that Steve Brown from the KCA had met with the Police and they would be supplying five extra Police Officers to be on duty.

Open Meeting

6 Clerk's Report:

- A repayment cheque for £150 has been received from HM Revenue and Customs for filing Parish Council return on line.
- Dangerous tree in Dash End Lane was satisfactorily felled on 12th October 2007.
- Dangerous tree, off the junction of Dash End Lane with Hundon Road, will now be inspected by Suffolk County Council Highways Department, who will undertake any remedial work necessary. This follows Clerk's consultation with the landowner, who stated the tree was not on his land.
- Two local newspapers have received anonymous letters about the recent spate of vandalism in the village.

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

None.

7 Finance Committee

There was no Finance Committee on 9th October 2007, due to three members tending apologies, which meant the meeting could not be quorate. The Chairman explained that relevant items would be discussed under the following headings.

7.1 Budget Statement effective 30 September 2007:

The budget statement was discussed and all budget headings were satisfactory. The Chairman explained that the cheque for Parish Council Insurance was signed in readiness for payment on 1st October 2007.

7.2 Review salary for Village Cleaner:

The Chairman explained that this was a yearly agenda heading for Finance Committee, but the Village Cleaner had a substantial pay rise in July 2007, therefore his next review would not apply until October 2008.

7.3 Set date for Financial Precept Meeting:

The date for the yearly Precept Meeting was set for 6th November 2007. Cllr Double offered her home as the venue. The Chairman said that as well as the Finance Committee, any Councillor wishing to attend would be welcome.

7.4 Winter Gritting:

In view of the excellent service given by Mr Pound last year, it was proposed by Cllr Donoghue and seconded by Cllr Rowsell that he is asked if he wished to continue with the winter gritting work. Chairman requested the Clerk to write to Mr Pound to see if he is interested and ascertain what his hourly rate would be for this coming winter.

7.5 Consider matters arising from 11 September 2007 minutes:

Minutes were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Double and seconded by Cllr Garner. There were no matters arising.

8 Village Vandalism

Dealt with after Visitors Reports.

9 Office Accommodation (update)

The Chairman reported that a valuation of between £7000 - £9000 had been received for the purchase of the garage from a local estate agent. Mr Whiffen had indicated to the Clerk that he would sell at the lower end of the valuation. The Chairman said he had looked at the Deeds and if the Parish Council decided to go ahead with the purchase, they would need to be looked over by a Solicitor, in view of the access space above the garage to the flat above. After discussion among Councillors, it was decided that the cost to purchase the garage, together with works to bring it in line with Health & Safety legislation, would not make it a viable proposition for the Parish Council, because at the end of the day it would still be a garage.

The Chairman suggested the Parish Council ask Ketton Early Birds if a room could be rented in the new building they are proposing. Some Councillors were not in favour of this. The Chairman asked the Clerk for her views. She said if some minor improvements were made to the present office, she would be happy with this until a more suitable office became available.

It was acknowledged that there were quite a lot of Parish Councils in the region that had their own independent offices. The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council ask the KCA for their views on the Parish Council building a small office, attached to the Community Centre; adding that once a suitable site had been found the Working Party could put together some costings, to see if the idea would be viable.

10 Affordable Housing Scheme (update)

Peter Donoghue said that the owner of the suggested site was still being evasive as to whether he would sell the land for affordable housing.

11 Environmental / Grounds Maintenance Matters

11.1 Risbridge Meadow (update):

John Smithson had sent an e-mail to the Clerk outlining works carried out.

1. Wild flower section to the left of the entrance in Mill Road had been strimmed and grass raked up.
2. The Bee Orchid area had been strimmed and grass raked up.
3. Two thirds of the main meadow had been flail cut, leaving two areas uncut to retain different wildlife habitat. Flail cut area would be planted next with young trees. Hoped to start the next section of woodland planting soon, ideally getting all the plants in before Christmas.
4. Wood chip path had been sprayed.
5. New metal disabled access gate had been installed and tarmac laid. Rangers were liaising with Waste Management to provide and install two litterbins.
6. Most of the Ragwort had been pulled up.

The Chairman also read from an e-mail received from Colin Jakes, Park Ranger which stated:

"We have been contacted by Mr John Wilding regarding the removal of some chestnut paling fencing on the boundary of the recently mown wildflower area. I understand from Mr Wilding that this section of fencing was put in place by the tree officer in the Parks Dept whilst some remedial safety tree work was carried out, and never meant to be retained. Mr Wilding advises that there was always intended to be open access to the meadow at this point, and this would mean that children would not need to go along the road to use the main entrance to the meadow. We are quite happy to remove the fencing altogether, replace with more permanent post and rail, or plant a native hedge, together with a footpath access from Risbridge Drive".

It was decided that the fencing should be removed and for either of the options given to be instigated.

MF

11.2 Cemetery / Churchyard:

The Chairman reported that Cllr Cahill had seen the revised cutting work and all seemed to be in order. There had been no further complaints received.

11.3 Herald Contract Services – Winter Work:

The Chairman asked for Councillors to inform the Clerk if there was any Winter Work they thought needed doing.

All Cllr's

11.4 Any other environmental/grounds maintenance matters:

Tree Warden: The Chairman read from an e-mail sent to the Clerk from Susan Berridge. Mrs Berridge thanked the Parish Council for considering her to take on the role, but stated she did not feel she had the expertise to take on the task as was performed by Dr David Steel. Mrs Berridge asked that before she made a decision, the Parish Council thought a bit about the role and responsibilities of the position, as present day regulations about delegation and performance of volunteer positions are quite rigorous. Mrs Berridge said she would still report any grounds matters that the Parish Council needed to know about.

The Chairman questioned whether the village needed a designated Tree Warden. Cllr Garner said he knew someone who may be interested and would approach them and report back.

PG

	<p>Copse in Silver Street Park: Cllr Garner asked if the Borough Council would look at some of the trees in this area, as he felt that some of them needed remedial work. The Chairman requested the Clerk write to John Smithson at the Borough Council Parks Department.</p>	MF
	<p>New footbridge in Mill Road: Cllr Donoghue reported that the area around the telegraph pole near Risbridge Meadow before the bridge looked very untidy. It was suggested that Highways should be contacted about this, to see if the area could be grassed or laid to tarmac.</p>	MF
12	Highway/Footpath/Street Furniture Matters	
12.1	<p>Street name signs in School Crescent: Cllr Double reported on a telephone call she received from a resident in School Crescent. The Ambulance Service had been called to the resident's home at night and they could not find the property. Clerk to write to the Borough Council asking for a sign showing the location of numbers 8 – 15 School Crescent.</p>	MF
12.2	<p>School Crossing (update): Kevin Shipp from Suffolk County Council has informed that the order for the dropped kerb at the school crossing and road lining works would be given to the contractor by 19th October 2007. The Crossing Supervisor had reported further problems with cars, mainly people carriers and 4 x 4's, parking near to the crossing area. The Chairman asked the Clerk to contact Kevin Shipp about this problem.</p>	MF
	<p>Clerk has contacted Archer Safety Signs who could supply a "lollipop" with wording on it, "SLOW DOWN, CHILDREN", at a cost of £165 plus vat. It was proposed by Cllr Rowsell and seconded by Cllr Garner that this should be purchased. Unanimously agreed.</p>	MF
12.3	<p>Gazebo in Silver Street Park: Chairman reported that 4 panes of glass had now been broken in the roof of the gazebo and he was proposing the removal of the glass in favour of something that could not be broken.</p>	
	<p>Cllr Donoghue suggested the use of fibre cement board. The Chairman requested Cllr Donoghue make enquiries about this and report back to the next meeting with costings, etc.</p>	PD
12.4	<p>Any other highway/footpath/street furniture matters: Chairman reported that Cllr Cahill had asked for the priority sign sited before the bridge in Silver Street (from Kings Hill) to be relocated. Cllr Cahill felt the present sign was not seen soon enough by cars before having to give way. All Councillors present thought the present sign was located correctly.</p>	
	<p>Cllr Garner reported that some tree roots were lifting the paths. Clerk to contract Highways about this.</p>	MF
	<p>Grit heaps: Chairman reminded Councillors about giving their suggestions to the Clerk for sites of grit heaps in the village. Chairman also reported that the block wall around the grit bank in the Community Centre car park had been knocked down. Clerk was requested to write to the Handyman to ask him to repair this, in readiness for the main grit delivery at the end of November.</p>	MF
13	Housing / Planning	
13.1	Applications for discussion at meeting:	
13.1.1	<p>5 Mill Road: Chairman read from a letter received from Borough Council stating that the Developer had sent in amended drawings showing landscaping and fencing details. These drawings were acceptable to the Borough Council and the work should be carried out by the end of November 2007.</p>	

13.2 Planning Applications – Observations conveyed by Parish Council:

None.

13.3 Planning Applications – Decisions received from Borough Council:

Land adjacent to “Serena” Erection of 2½ storey dwelling. Creation of
Dash End Lane new vehicular access and landscaping
Refused following demolition of sheds.

Land adjacent to “Wishing Well” Erection of two storey dwelling and alteration
Sturmer Road to vehicular access following demolition of
Granted garage.

It was noted that if the Parish Council should send a representative to Planning Meetings, where it is felt that a planning application is unacceptable and detrimental to the infrastructure of the village.

13.4 Any other housing/planning matters:

13.4.1 Correspondence from Suffolk Preservation Society:

The Chairman read from an e-mail sent from David Rees, Chairman of the Suffolk Preservation Society, about planning applications in Kedington. It stated that SPS like to keep an eye on planning applications in St Edmundsbury and need a “watch dog” to advise them on the local, parish implications of such documents. They asked for a contact for them to consult with on problem planning applications. Cllr Donoghue put his name forward for this.

PD

14 Consultations

14.1 Safer Neighbourhoods / Police Direct:

This will be circulated to Councillors.

MF

15 Any other reports (on-going matters)

None.

16 Events

16.1 Nominations:

16.1.1 Parish Council Representative to lay wreath at RBL Remembrance Parade:

Cllr Double put her name forward for this. Agreed by all present.

16.2 Councillor absences (update):

These were noted by Clerk.

17 Any other business (new matters)

None

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 20 November 2007 in the Library, Arms Lane, Kedington, commencing at 7.40 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.40 p.m.

Signed:

Date: