

Cllr Terry Wheeler – Chairman of Parish Council
Cllr John Cahill – Vice Chairman of Parish Council
Cllr Peter Donoghue
Cllr Gloria Double
Cllr Peter Garner
Cllr Peter Rowsell

In attendance: Borough Councillor Marion Rushbrook; Mr Shaun Jarvis (Wildlife Group); Mr Fred Phillips (Press); Mr G Nicholson and Dr Z Palmer (Parishioners).

1 Parishioners' Question Time and to acknowledge agenda items of interest to members of the public present:

MF

Close Meeting

3

Co-option of Parish Councillors

The Chairman asked each of the candidates to give a brief resume on themselves and why they wanted to become a Parish Councillor:

Zoe Palmer said she had lived in the village since 2002, had a seven-year old son and was a qualified reflexologist. Zoe said she had previously been vice-Chair of the Ketton Early Birds Playgroup. Zoe said she was interested in becoming a Parish Councillor to help organise changes that were for the benefit of the village.

Graham Palmer said he had lived in the village for ten years; his children attended Ketton Early Birds and the local primary school and he was a qualified mechanic. Graham said he was proud of the village and hoped that his professional attitude would give a positive input to the Parish Council, which in turn would provide good services for the village.

The Chairman asked both candidates if they would be prepared to attend training courses run by the Suffolk Association of Local Councils. They both replied they were prepared to do this. Cllr Cahill said that SALC sometimes provided courses locally for new Councillors. The Chairman requested the Clerk to look into this.

MF

Both candidates were then asked to leave the meeting. All Councillors were in favour of co-opting both candidates onto the Parish Council; they thought it would be beneficial to have younger members involved. Unanimous decision.

Candidates were invited to re-join the meeting and the Chairman welcomed them to the Parish Council. Acceptance of Office forms were signed in the presence of the Clerk.

Annex 1 & 2

Open Meeting

4

Minutes of last meeting

Agenda Item 8 – Cllr Cahill queried with Cllr Double if the Police were definite about funding for lighting to the Youth Shelter. Cllr Double replied it was her interpretation they had indicated it might be a possibility.

The minutes of the last meeting KPC 113-06 were then agreed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Double and seconded by Cllr Rowsell.

5

To accept members' Declaration of Interests on agenda items:

The Chairman explained to the new co-opted Councillors about declaring interests. No Declarations were registered by any Councillor.

Close meeting

6

Visitor's Reports:

County Councillor Karen Knight:

In Cllr Knight's absence, the Chairman read from an e-mail sent to say that she had agreed to contribute money from her Locality Budget to the school for installation of CCTV cameras following the spates of vandalism over recent months. She added that she e-mailed the Chief Constable about this, but only received a standard reply thanking her for her concern.

Borough Councillor Marion Rushbrook reported:

School Organisation Review: A meeting had been held in the village on 19th November 2007 and a committee had been set up to review parking facilities, as the school roll would increase by about eighty children. Cllr Rowsell asked if the Parish Council would be involved in any Planning Applications if the school had to be enlarged. The Chairman requested the Clerk contact Suffolk County Council to request, that as a courtesy, the Parish Council be informed about Planning. Cllr Rushbrook said she would also look into this.

MF

Road Safety: Cllr Rushbrook reported she was still waiting to hear from Suffolk County Council.

By-Law for Parks: Cllr Rushbrook reported that if a park belonged to the Parish Council they could set By-Laws. However, if a park is owned by the Borough Council, then it is they who set By-Laws.

Drinking in public: Cllr Nicholson raised a question as to whether a ban on drinking in the village could be introduced. Cllr Rushbrook said she would look into this.

Battery Recycling: Cllr Rushbrook reported that new bags should be attached to wheelie bins when old ones are taken away. If bags are not being replaced, Waste Management at the Borough Offices in Bury should be contacted.

Safer Neighbourhood Team:

Cllr Rushbrook reported that an elderly gentleman in the village was suffering because of youths throwing stones at windows in his home. The event was logged with the SNT, but they were rather aloof about the matter. Cllr Rushbrook said she brought this up at a meeting she attended with local MP Richard Spring, where some of the SNT were also attending. After this meeting, PC Spraggons did visit the gentleman at his home, and this helped him feel more secure.

Fireworks: Cllr Rushbrook reported that she had been made aware of the disturbances caused late at night with fireworks and also that one of the telephone boxes in the village had a large quantity of discarded rockets left in it.

Report sent on behalf of the Safer Neighbourhood Team by Sgt Neil Ireland:

The Chairman requested Cllr Cahill read an e-mail, that had been sent to him by Sgt Ireland, and which he consequently forwarded to the Clerk. The Chairman requested the Clerk contact Sgt Ireland to ask that, in future, all e-mails of reports to be read out at meetings be sent to her. The e-mail read:

MF

"Unfortunately, none of the Neighbourhood Team officers are available to attend the Parish Council meeting, please give my compliments to those attending and my apologies for not being able to be there. Please could the following report be given to the meeting.

Crime: Kedington continues to suffer from mainly criminal damage. We are mounting patrols on Friday and Saturday nights and will continue to do so. We are in contact with other agencies concerning our suspected 'ringleaders' including Probation, St Eds, etc. The problems in Kedington are being addressed at a meeting of the Suffolk Constabulary Area Tasking Group on 20/11/07. I have submitted a bid for extra resources for the village.

Speeding: At a previous meeting, one of the issues was speeding on the Haverhill Road. One of my officers conducted speed checks on this road on three occasions during October, resulting in two Fixed Penalty notices being issued (one for 49mph) and a number of warnings. He has spent over 3 hours on this site during these checks.

The SNT are still doing a lot of work in the background to address the problems and the Team remains committed to cracking these. We are very grateful for the continuing support of villagers and appreciate the excellent contact that we enjoy. Kindest regards to all"

Sgt Neil Ireland

Open meeting

Clerk's Report

- A letter from the Parish Council has been sent to all residents of Numbers 1 – 6 West End Lane. This was in response to a “bogus” letter sent fraudulently in the name of Kedington Parish Council to a Parishioner about parking in the lay-by outside these houses. The “bogus” letter claimed that the lay-by belonged to the residents of Numbers 1 – 6 and that if the person persisted parking vehicles there, they would have to pay £30 towards the upkeep of the lay-by. The official Parish Council letter pointed out that Highways owned the lay-by and the fraudulent use of Kedington Parish Council’s name would not be tolerated. One Parishioner from No 5 West End Lane did telephone the Clerk to inform that they had no knowledge of the “bogus” letter, or of any problems with parking. The Parishioner, to whom the “bogus” letters were sent, did inform the Police.
- Faulty street light in Silver Street Park has been reported to Highways Department.
- E-mail has been sent to John Goodyear in Highways at Ipswich, to ask if the wooden slats on the footbridge in Mill Road will be finished up to the end of the fencing. At present, there are only slats in place on the fencing across the river.
- Quotation has been received from Archer Signs for “No Unauthorised Cars” in Silver Street Park.
- Clerk thanked Cllr Rowsell for replacing the fluorescent tubes in the Parish Office.

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

None.

8**Finance Committee****8.1****Budget Statement effective 31 October 2007:**

- The Chairman went through highlights of the Finance Committee meeting held on 13 November 2007 and budget statements effective 31 October 2007. The financial position was satisfactory with 48.5% of the budget spent to date. A cheque for £150 had been received from HM Revenue & Taxes for on-line filing of accounts.
- In line with recommendations from external auditors the Parish Council will need to increase fidelity guarantee on insurance policy to an amount of £50,000. The additional premium will cost £52.50 per year.
- New furniture to update the Parish Office was agreed at a cost of £396.40, which will be taken from the current year’s budget. Quotations were also being sought for a more efficient outside light for the Parish Office.
- After looking at Clerk’s recorded working hours for the last twelve months, it was recommended that they be increased to 65 per month with effect from 1st April 2008. This had been taken into consideration when setting the precept for 2008/2009.
- Mr Eric Chapman standing down from cutting Calford Green; it was agreed that Mr Chapman would be gifted £100 for his work this year. A new contractor will be sought for next year.
- Grant of £50 awarded to Newstalk.
- An amount of £70 had been agreed to host social gathering after KPC meeting on 18th December 2007

MF

8.2 Consider any matters arising from 11 September 2007 meeting:

None – previously agreed at KPC 113-06.

8.3 Ratify budget recommendation for 2008/2009

Chairman asked Councillors for comments on the budget sheet given out at the meeting.

Cllr Donoghue remarked that the refurbishment of the gazebo in Silver Street Park could be a costly exercise. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact Insurance Company to see if they would pay for the damage.

MF

Cllr Double, with the Chairman's permission, tabled a letter she had received from the Headteacher at Kedington Primary School seeking financial help from the Parish Council with the installation of CCTV, in view of the vandalism at the school over the last six months. Cllr Double proposed that the Parish Council grant £1000 towards the cost.

Close meeting

Cllr Marion Rushbrook reported that the Headteacher had already approached her to seek financial help from the Borough Council.

The Chairman sought comments from other Councillors, pointing out that any money given should come under the budget heading of Grant Aid, which only had £900 left in the budget until the end of the current financial year.

Cllr Double thought that £1000 should be given.

Cllr Rowsell agreed that the school should have a CCTV system in place, but felt that they should be doing a feasibility study to upgrade security as part of Health & Safety legislation, which in turn could perhaps lead to the Education Department funding some or all of this. Cllr Rowsell added he would be in favour of the Parish Council grant aiding £500 if the Education Department could not help the school.

Cllr Palmer said she was aware that the incidences of vandalism over the last few months had been very upsetting for the children.

The Chairman suggested that the School should approach the Police to see if they had any funding available.

Open meeting

It was suggested that the Grant Aid budget for 2008/2009 should be increased by £500 to £2,000 and if the School could not get funding from Education, the Parish Council would look at this again in the next financial year. A vote was taken with six Councillors in favour and one against.

The Chairman informed Councillors that a Reserve Heading of Road Safety had been added to help with road improvements on the B1061 to stop speeding traffic. All Councillors were in favour of this.

Cllr Double asked if some money could be put back in the Neighbourhood Watch budget, as the Police were hoping to start new Neighbourhood Watch meetings. It was proposed by Cllr Cahill and seconded by Cllr Double that £100 should be set under this budget heading. Agreed by all present.

8.4 Consider additional Financial Standing Order

The Chairman requested Councillors to consider an additional Financial Standing Order.

He stated that the Finance Committee would not normally grant aid organisations from outside the village, if it were felt that the grant given would not be of benefit to local people. The Chairman explained that the Finance Committee would possibly grant aid organisations such as St John Ambulance for example, because they would attend local functions, i.e. Meadowlark. Other examples he gave were Victim Support, Air Ambulance, etc, as these were services, which could be of benefit to local people. The Chairman went on to give another example, that the Finance Committee would not grant aid playgroups, pre-schools, etc that were not based in the village, as the money granted would not benefit local people.

The Chairman explained that this would be a new Financial Standing Order and the Parish Council would have the right to over-rule any decisions made by the Finance Committee. After discussion between Councillors, Cllr Cahill proposed with Cllr Garner seconding, that a new Financial Standing Order be made. A vote was taken with seven Councillors in favour and one abstention.

8.5 Ratify social period after December KPC meeting and set budget:

It was agreed that a social gathering should take place after the December meeting, with a maximum budget set of £70. Proposed by Cllr Rowsell and seconded by The Chairman. The Chairman requested the Clerk sent out invitations to people that had worked for and helped the Parish Council over the last year.

MF

9 Safer Neighbourhood Team – Tasking Meeting

Cllr Double reported that she had attended the SNT Tasking Meeting and Kedington was the main item on the agenda. She reported Police were fully aware of who the ringleaders were and were hoping to send Outreach Workers, (which would include the Fire Service) into the village to engage with youths. Cllr Double said the Police were working in a controlled manner to solve the problem's occurring in the village at the present time; they had also increased awareness and put in more patrols. Any Councillors with issues they wished to be raised at Tasking Meetings, should contact the Clerk.

Cllr Cahill reported that he also was in attendance at the Tasking Meeting, having been invited by Inspector Calton; he said that no real timescale had been put on sending outreach workers into the village.

9.1 Village Vandalism:

The Chairman reported he, like many others in the village, had to tolerate fireworks being let off until 03.00 a.m. on Friday 16th November. He added that he had also been subjected to vandalism at his home, with the front wall outside his house being demolished. The Chairman said his wife reported this to the SNT, mentioning that her husband was Chairman of the Parish Council; within ½ an hour, a Police Constable arrived to investigate the reported damage. Following on from this, the Chairman reported he had a telephone call from Inspector Ady Calton, which subsequently led to a meeting at the Chairman's home. Inspector Calton said he was not in favour of calling a public meeting about the vandalism, as meetings tended to get out of control, and he did not want villagers to take things into their own hands. However, he agreed to write in the next Chairman's Letter about the vandalism in the village.

The Chairman reported that he was aware Parishioners feel the Police are not dealing with the vandalism, but added they were, with the Parish Council being given proof of this, but asked to act with discretion. He said the Police were putting measures in place to curtail the persons involved and Inspector Calton did not rule out the use of ASBO's on guilty parties if necessary.

The Chairman said the Parish Council now had a closer working partnership with the Safer Neighbourhood Team, but problems were still being encountered with people not reporting incidents to the SNT, because they feel nothing will happen.

The Chairman sought Councillor's ideas as to how the Parish Council could assist the SNT to catch those responsible for the vandalism.

Cllr Nicholson suggested a questionnaire asking for Parishioner's ideas, or naming culprits anonymously.

Cllr Palmer suggested more publicising of the SNT number.

Close meeting

Mr Jarvis asked if the Police knew who were the main culprits and what action was being taken.

The Chairman replied that Police have been to see the culprits and their parents, and one culprit was due to appear in Court. Mr Jarvis asked if there were any signs that the vandalism was dropping off. The Chairman said that the arson attacks seem to have abated.

Mr Jarvis stated that most people hoped that building the Youth Shelter would act as a catalyst to stop vandalism and anti-social behaviour in the village. He added a lot of money was used for this project, but the vandalism was still going on and Parishioners want it stopped.

The Chairman replied that some young people were creating havoc in the village and added he had stressed the importance of getting the culprits into Court to Inspector Calton. He said that he had liaised with PC Bailey about the incident with his front wall, and PC Bailey told him about problems, similar to those in Kedington, in another village. PC Bailey said that the problem was stamped on in a similar way as was happening in Kedington and the vandalism diminished.

Open meeting

10 Office Accommodation (update)

The Chairman reported that new furniture was being ordered for the Parish Office and new fluorescent tubes had been fitted. He said that the Parish Council could look at putting in a new window and carpet, but the window would need Building Regulations approval.

The Chairman asked Councillors on their views of having a new Parish Council office built on to the side of the Community Centre if the KCA gave their approval. He added that obviously, the Parish Council would have to pay for this by sourcing grants, etc. Cllr Cahill suggested the Clerk contact Suffolk Acre about this.

MF

Councillors were all in favour of the new building; the Chairman said he would be meeting with Steve Brown from the KCA and would speak to him about this suggestion.

TW

11 Affordable Housing Scheme (update)

Peter Donoghue reported Orwell Housing had suggested the Parish Council look for other sites, as the landowner of the possible identified site was not very forthcoming.

12 Heritage Project Equipment

The Chairman asked if Councillors had brought suggestions. Clerk asked if the two small filing cabinets could remain for Parish Council use. No other suggestions were tabled so it was suggested the Clerk write to the History Group and Ketton Early Birds to ask if they would be interested. The Chairman also asked Councillors to think again and bring suggestions to next meeting.

MF

13	Environmental / Grounds Maintenance Matters	
13.1	Risbridge Meadow (update): No updates received.	
13.2	Moles in Cemetery / Churchyard: Handyman to be asked to “rake down” molehills on a weekly basis.	MF
13.3	Herald Contract Services – Winter Work: Winter work to include removing basal shoots on trees in Church Walk and clearing weeds from both side of the path leading into Silver Street Park.	MF
13.4	Any other environmental/grounds maintenance matters: Clearing winter leaves: Cllr Rowsell asked if the Parish Council were legally responsible for clearing leaves. The Chairman said that it was normal practice (as a goodwill gesture) for the Parish Handyman to clear leaves. Cllr Donoghue said he had applied for funding again from the Parish Paths Partnership. The Chairman requested the Clerk to speak to SALC about legal responsibility. Suffolk Hedgerow Survey: Chairman read out a letter received from St Edmundsbury Parks Development Manager. Clerk to reply to this.	MF MF
14	Highway/Footpath/Street Furniture Matters	
14.1	Winter Gritting Clerk reported that Mr Pound will do winter gritting work again this year. Steve Brown from the KCA and the Village Handyman will remove the grit that has been contaminated with broken glass. Chairman reported that the grit storage area will have to be rebuilt and he would be speaking to Steve Brown about this. Chairman also reported that grit heaps have been placed around the village in accordance with locations provided to Suffolk County Council by the Parish Council. Guillotine With the time at 9.45 p.m. it was agreed to raise the guillotine by fifteen minutes. Proposed by Cllr Cahill; seconded by Cllr Donoghue.	
14.2	School Crossing (update): Clerk reported start date for works still awaited. “Lollipop” for Crossing Supervisor has been ordered.	
14.3	Gazebo in Silver Street Park: Cllr Donoghue reported that the option of fibre cement boards would not be suitable. His suggestion was to use one-inch plywood, faced top and bottom with matt stainless steel so it would not reflect on neighbouring properties. Cllr Donoghue estimated the cost for this would be in the region of £4,500 - £5,000. The Chairman requested Cllr Donoghue to get an official estimate from builders. He also requested Clerk to find out whether the Parish Council insurance would cover the cost of this work.	MF
14.4	Any other highway/footpath/street furniture matters:	
14.4.1	Suffolk County Council proposed “stopping up” at Mill Road Chairman read a letter from Suffolk County Council. Letter to be sent round to Councillors in a reading pack.	MF
14.4.2	War Memorial Letter received from Royal British Legion to be sent round to Councillors in a reading pack.	

15 Housing / Planning

15.1 Applications for discussion at meeting:

Cllr Double requested that the Parish Council write to the Enforcement Officer as the builder had not carried out works to put in fencing and move back hedgerow. The Chairman replied that the builder had been given until 30th November 2007 in which to carry out these works; this deadline had not expired. The Chairman told Cllr Double that there was nothing further the Parish Council could do on this issue; they had previously written to the Enforcement Officer with comments and the matter would now be left for them to enforce,

15.2 Planning Applications – Observations conveyed by Parish Council:

10 Risbridge Drive	Erection of conservatory to rear elevation
Acceptable	

Dane House	Erection of single storey extension to east elevation (amended application)
Acceptable	

Keepers Cottage	Erection of first floor extension
Acceptable	

25 Westward Deals	Erection to conservatory to rear elevation following demolition of existing conservatory
Acceptable	

15.3 Planning Applications – Decisions received from Borough Council:

10 Risbridge Drive	Erection of conservatory to rear elevation
Granted	

15.4 Any other housing/planning matters:

None.

16 Consultations

With the Guillotine near to expiry, the Chairman requested the Clerk send out all consultations on agenda to Councillors asking for their comments.

MF

17 Any other reports (on-going matters)

None.

18 Events

18.1 Nominations:

18.1.1 Kedington Community Association AGM 26th November 2007:

Cllr Double to attend.

18.1.2 Western Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership Annual Conference:

No nominations.

18.2 Councillor absences (update):

These were noted by Clerk.

19 Any other business (new matters)

None.

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 18 December 2007 in the Library, Arms Lane, Kedington, commencing at 7.40 p.m.

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

Signed:

Date: