

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF KEDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2008
HELD AT THE LIBRARY, ARMS LANE, KEDINGTON**

Present:

Cllr Terry Wheeler – Chairman of Parish Council
Cllr John Cahill – Vice-Chairman of Parish Council
Cllr Gloria Double
Cllr Peter Garner
Cllr Graham Nicholson
Cllr Zoe Palmer
Cllr Peter Rowsell

Ms Marion Farrant (Clerk)

In attendance: Borough Councillor Marion Rushbrook; Mr Fred Phillips (Press); Mr Shaun Jarvis (Wildlife Group); Mr John Pelling (Heritage Group); Mr Shearer (Parishioner).

PCSO Debbie Carroll-Beer (SNT) joined the meeting for a short time, after agenda item 6.1 (to give her report).

	ACTION
<p>1 Parishioner's Question Time Mr Jarvis expressed an interest in agenda item 11 and requested permission to given his report on the last Countryside Forum meeting under agenda item 5. Mr Jarvis also thanked Marion Rushbrook, John Pelling, Peter Garner and Peter Rowsell (and family) for assisting with the tree planting at Risbridge Meadow on 20 January 2008.</p> <p>Mr Pelling expressed an interest in agenda item 5 and requested permission to give his report on the Heritage Project.</p> <p>Cllr Double (speaking as a Parishioner) reported the petition against the proposed closure of the Doctor's Surgery was going well. It was agreed that the petition would be left open until the end of February, whereby Cllr Double would send copies to Mr Richard Spring, M.P. and the Primary Care Trust.</p> <p>Open Meeting</p>	<p></p> <p>GD</p>
<p>2 Welcome and apologies: The Chairman welcomed everyone present.</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Peter Donoghue; County Councillor Karen Knight; Sgt Neil Ireland (SNT)</p>	
<p>3 Minutes of last meeting The minutes of the last meeting held on 15 January 2008 were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Palmer and seconded by Cllr Garner.</p>	
<p>4 To accept members' Declaration of Interests on agenda items Cllr Nicholson declared an interest in agenda item 13.2. Agenda item 13.2 is a report only item, given by Clerk on Planning Applications; therefore Cllr Nicholson would not be required to leave the meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman ensured every Councillor had received a copy of the new Declaration of Interests flowchart. It was noted that Councillors should be aware of declaring interests, especially when they have a family member who works for an organisation connected with the agenda item to be discussed. It was further noted that the Clerk (where possible) would prompt Councillors, to be aware of any agenda item they would not specifically know about, i.e. reports on Planning Applications (as addresses are not listed on agenda).</p> <p>Close meeting</p>	

Visitor's Reports**Borough Councillor Marion Rushbrook reported:****Proposed closure of Doctor's Surgery:**

Marion had a meeting arranged for 20 February 2008, with the Practice Manager at Christmas Maltings Surgery and would present feedback to the Parish Council via the Clerk.

Borough Council's Audit

Marion reported the Audit Commission had recently audited St Edmundsbury Borough Council. She added that St Edmundsbury received 58 points out of a possible 60 for their practice and there was only one other Council in the Country that did better than this.

John Pelling reported:**Heritage Group:**

The Heritage C.D. would be ready at the beginning of March. A copy of the C.D. will go to all households in the village and local schools and libraries would be contacted to see if they would like a copy. Bury Records Office and the Suffolk Local History Association would also be receiving copies.

Shaun Jarvis reported:**Countryside Forum:**

Mr Jarvis reported he attended the Countryside Forum meeting on behalf of the Parish Council on 04 December 2007. Mr Jarvis added the forum meets twice yearly, but he felt nothing much had happened in between meetings. He said evidence of this showed when a question he asked in June about cutting grass verges on straight lanes, had been forgotten by the person who was meant to clarify the reasons for this with Suffolk County Council.

Mr Jarvis reported the meeting contained a presentation from Dedham Vale and Upper Stour Valley Project; a talk on biodiversity; climate change; tourism and affordable housing. Mr Jarvis said he felt issues that were discussed could easily be taken up with the Borough Council separately and it was his "personal opinion" that the Countryside Forum was a "talking shop".

The Chairman thanked Mr Jarvis for attending the meeting and reminded him to claim his expenses. Mr Jarvis said he would not be doing this, as he felt the amount received for attending the first meeting was sufficient to cover for both.

Open meeting**Clerk's Report**

- Dog Fouling – Louise Davey, Animal Warden with St Edmundsbury Borough Council has requested she comes to Kedington for a meeting with a representative of the Parish Council who could show her where the problem areas are for dog fouling.
- Reply received from Jim Nunn at Western Area Highways Department, about Clerk's request to have something done about potholes at the top of Kings Hill, and also the flooding outside Rowans House in Calford Green, which was reported one year ago. Mr Nunn replied there are numerous roads in the area that require attention, many of which are in a worse condition. The budget for repairs is cash limited, but he has promised to monitor the site and if possible arrange for the potholes to be filled as a temporary measure. Mr Nunn added, Terry Howe who retired last year, was probably investigating the flooding problem outside Rowans House, so he would ask another member of his team to investigate and report back.

- E-mail received from John Goodyear at Environment and Transport Department, Suffolk County Council, informing Parish Council he had received a letter from a resident in Haverhill Road, requesting a new pavement be built. Mr Goodyear stated there is currently a list of about 200 requests from all over the county for requests for pavements. He added, the requested pavement in Haverhill Road was unlikely to be considered for construction for at least three years. Mr Goodyear asked the resident to canvass the Parish Council and County Councillor for formal support. Clerk confirmed no request for support had been received from the resident.
- Clerk has completed a survey questionnaire for Suffolk ACRE relating to rural services, i.e. bus times / frequency; does the village have a Doctor's Surgery? etc.

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

None.

Close meeting

At this point PCSO Carroll-Beer joined the meeting.

PSCO Carroll-Beer apologised for not having a Crime Report to give out. She said that things in the village seem to have quietened down and was a lot better than they had been. However, the SNT were still patrolling the village during the day and evenings.

PSCO Carroll Beer said the only crime reported was a car hitting a fence and garden shed. The driver of the car had his licence revoked for this offence. She added the elderly gentleman in School Crescent had CCTV re-installed after another attack on his home.

Cllr Double reported a speeding motorcyclist going through the village at about 6.00 a.m. in the morning. PCSO Carroll-Beer said if the index number of the motorcycle can be taken and given to the Police, she could ask Haverhill Police to look out for this.

Mr Jarvis asked why nobody had been charged for incidents relating to the spate of vandalism. PCSO Carroll-Beer explained that although the Police knew who the culprits were, they have no concrete proof with which a prosecution could be brought. She added that the ring-leader of the culprits had now moved out of the village.

Cllr Nicholson asked if the SNT/Police could write to offenders about parking to close and obstructing junctions. Examples given were White Horse Road, Haverhill Road and Westward Deals junctions. PCSO Carroll-Beer said warnings would be given, followed up by fixed penalty notices if vehicle owners persisted in parking within 10 metres of junctions.

SNT

The Chairman thanked PCSO Debbie-Beer for her report and she left the meeting.

Open meeting

7 Finance Committee

7.1 Consider any matters arising from minutes of 08 January 2008:

None.

Receive draft minutes of 12 February 2008:

Cllr Cahill went through highlights of the meeting:

- Overall budget satisfactory.
- Grounds budget for Gt. Meadow overspent due to one extra cut being made.
- Precept figure of £40,035 for 2008/2009 confirmed by St Edmundsbury Borough Council.
- The Baulk – Gravel boards installed last year not sufficient to retain dirt; Garden Society have been asked to recommend shade tolerant plants for planting.
- Awards for All – inspection completed on new play equipment and accounts.
- Accounts and Audit Procedures – Parish Council to review internal audit procedures by 31 March 2008.
- External Auditor – Audit Commission have appointed BDO Stoy Hayward LLP as new external auditors from 2007/2008 accounts.
- Office Accommodation – space for use as Parish Office in outbuilding at Rectory House declined.
- Brass plaque on plant bed in Silver Street Park missing. Cost of replacement to be investigated.
- Millennium Oak in Churchyard – Clerk requested to look back in records to find out about official sign Parish Council agreed to provide if the sapling planted survived.
- Prices for Suffolk County Council grass cutting 2008 ratified.
- Thank you letter received from NEWSTALK for grant.
- Grant awarded to Ketton Early Birds for £150.00 towards cost of new computer equipment.

8**New Standing Orders**

Chairman reported that after reviewing current Standing Orders, the Parish Council had a Standing Order that covered Complaints Procedure. However, there were parts of the proposed new Standing Order for Complaints Procedure that needed to be incorporated into the current one. It was agreed by all present that the Chairman and Clerk would review this to make new Standing Order.

TW/MF

9**Office Accommodation (update)**

Clerk reported that Parish Council would be able to apply for £10,000 funding towards the proposed new office building from Award for All in July 2008.

Cllr Double suggested the Parish Council write to the Partners at Christmas Maltings Surgery with a request for them to consider selling their building to the Parish Council at a nominal fee, if the proposed closure went ahead. After discussion, it was decided that a decision on office accommodation would be finalised at the next KPC meeting.

10**Proposed closure of Doctor's Surgery**

Chairman reported that Clerk had been trying to contact Martin Royal at the Primary Care Trust, without success. It was agreed the Clerk should write to Mr Royal to register Parish Council opposition to the closure with a copy letter to Christmas Maltings Surgery. The Chairman requested Cllr Double collate petitions on behalf of the Parish Council and send to Richard Spring, M.P. and the P.C.T. Clerk also requested to contact the Patient's Liaison Officer, Dr Ann Nichols to ask for assistance in rejecting the proposed closure. Cllr Double reported that the Village Stores were proposing to liaise with G.P. Surgery in Haverhill about a prescription delivery service, should the surgery close. It was noted that the Co-Op Pharmacy in Haverhill does a home delivery service for people over 60 years of age.

MF

MF

11 Environmental / Grounds Maintenance Matters

11.1 Risbridge Meadow (update):

Chairman read from an e-mail received from John Smithson at the Borough Council. Mr Smithson reported a good response to the tree-planting day, with most of the 450 trees and shrubs planned for Phase II actually planted.

The path along the river has been resurfaced thanks to the help of a group of seven "New Start" sixteen year olds who were brought along by Kerry Young and worked really hard. New hedge in Risbridge Drive was due to be planted on 13th February and then the new path from this access point will be laid. The chestnut palings will be retained for the present time until the hedging gets underway so when the path is done, an entrance gap will be created.

The Chairman said he was amazed at the improvement down on Risbridge Meadow and added his thanks to everyone involved.

11.2 Countryside Forum:

This item was dealt with under Visitor's Reports.

11.3 Lime and Chestnut Trees in Churchyard:

The Chairman reported on a meeting held between himself, Cllr Cahill and Mr Tony Farr regarding the Cemetery / Churchyard. Mr Farr reported that some Lime and Chestnut Trees at the top end of Church Walk, going towards the Rectory were in need of attention. It was noted that the trees were the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council. The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council could pay to have the trees surveyed and asked for Councillors views. It was agreed that the Parish Council would not pay to have a survey done, but would write to the Parochial Church Council to ask if they were aware of the problem and if they proposed to have remedial work done.

11.4 Community Centre – Car Park Boundary with Arms Lane:

The Chairman read from a letter sent to the Parish Council by Mr Steve Brown, Chairman of the KCA. The letter stated the three old garages and concrete base had been removed from the Car Park, which would allow the KCA to extend the car park as finances became available to tarmac that particular area. The KCA wished to make further enhancements along the frontage to improve visibility and reduce the fear of crime by opening up the boundary along Arms Lane as much as possible. This would include the removal of trees and other plants between the footpath access and main vehicular gate, with the exception of one sycamore tree situated centrally along the boundary. The removed trees would be replaced by a low timber fence either side of the sycamore tree to prevent unauthorised vehicle access and to enhance the general appearance at the front. It was proposed by Cllr Rowsell and seconded by Cllr Nicholson that the Parish Council have no objections to the KCA's proposals to tidy up the area, and as the sycamore tree was of no real benefit, would not object to this being removed as well. Unanimously agreed.

11.5 Any other environmental / grounds maintenance matters:

None.

11.5.1 Tree on Watermill Field:

Chairman reported that the tree on Watermill Field had been felled by agents acting on behalf of Thurlow Estates and that the tree would be replaced with a native British species.

11.5.2 Trees on Riverside Walk owned by Vesty Estates:

Chairman requested volunteers to meet with Assistant Agent of Thurlow Estate to inspect trees on Riverside Walk, as some were in need of attention. Cllr Garner said he would be happy to do this. Mr Jarvis also requested to be involved, which was agreed by all present. Clerk to arrange meeting.

MF

Mr Garner asked if the stinging nettles from Brook Bridge up to the planting area in Silver Street Park could be cut. It was proposed by Cllr Cahill and seconded by Cllr Palmer that this work form part of the Strimming Contract 2008. Unanimously agreed by all.

MF/TW

Cllr Cahill reported the dangerous tree on Hundon Road, just past the junction with Dash End Lane had been taken down.

12 Highway/Footpath/Street Furniture Matters

12.1 Relocation of Fish & Chip Van in Silver Street:

KCA members not in favour of allowing Fish & Chip van to use Community Centre car park. Chairman reported Parish Council would monitor situation.

12.2 Gazebo in Silver Street Park:

Clerk reported she had received comparison costs to replace roof panels in glass. Insurance claim would now be pursued.

MF

12.3 Any other highway/footpath/street furniture matters:

12.3.1 Alfie's Parking Bay:

Clerk reported that she would be asking for money already promised towards the Parking Bay to be "ring-fenced" until next financial year. It was discussed that the Clerk could write to County Councillor Karen Knight and Guy Smith at Suffolk County Council to ask for a commitment that the money would not be lost if it was not used in the current financial year.

MF

13 Housing / Planning

13.1 Applications for discussion at meeting:

None.

13.2 Planning Applications – Observations conveyed by Parish Council:

Land at Stour House,
Unacceptable

Erection of two detached dwellings with off-street parking following demolition of existing dwelling/outbuilding. Construction of replacement vehicular access.

Land between Kirtling Green and Wixoe, Suffolk
Acceptable

New pipeline from Kirtling Green to Wixoe with associated intake and outfall structures and other infrastructure.

7 Barton Grove
Acceptable

Erection of first floor extension to rear & first floor; extension above front porch (revised scheme).

13.3 Planning Applications – Decisions received from Borough Council:

Long Acre, 28 Dash End Lane
Granted

Erection of 1½ storey side extension; porch to front elevation; detached garage (following demolition of existing).

21 Dane Close
Granted

Erection of single storey extension to side elevation.

Suffolk House, Rectory Road
Granted

Alterations associated with the conversion of outhouse for use as cart lodge.

Suffolk House, Rectory Road
Granted

Listed Building Application for above.

56 Kings Meadow
Granted

Erection of: (i) Conservatory to rear elevation (ii) Single storey extension to side elevation following demolition of existing conservatory.

13.4 Any other housing/planning matters:

Stour House, White Horse Road

It was noted that Councillors were concerned about houses being sold off and extra properties being built on the same plot; this added pressure to ancient sewerage systems that already have problems. Councillors were also concerned about infilling. Councillor Rushbrook offered to see if Patsy Dell, Head of Planning & Engineering Services with the Borough Council could attend either a Parish Council Meeting or Annual Parish meeting to talk about issues with planning. Councillors were in favour of this.

MR

The Chairman also read from a letter sent by Cllr Donoghue to Suffolk County Council about the development at Dane Cottage and problems that have arisen since Planning Permission was given, albeit that the Parish Council found the application unacceptable. The letter asked several relevant questions about parking standards and when the concerns of local people would be taken into account.

14 Consultations

14.1 New proposed Parking Charges:

Clerk reported that proposed increased in car parking charges in Haverhill have been reduced or scrapped entirely. St Edmundsbury Borough Council's Cabinet has agreed to keep short stay parking in two Haverhill Car Parks to 20 pence for up to one hour. Fees at the Ehringshausen Way and Sports Centre car parks in Haverhill will rise from 60 pence to 70 pence for up to four hours from April 2008.

15 Any other reports (on-going matters)

None

16 Events

16.1 Nominations:

16.1.1 Calor Village of the Year 2008:

Chairman read from letter about Village of the Year Awards 2008. Parish Council did not wish to put in application to enter. It was decided to ask Parishioners if they wished to take part in the Awards in 2009, via the next Chairman's letter.

16.2 Councillor absences (update):

The Clerk noted these.

17 Any other business (new matters)

None.

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 18 March 2008 in the Library, Arms Lane, Kedington, commencing at 7.40 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Signed:

Date: