

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF KEDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 15 APRIL 2008
HELD AT THE LIBRARY, ARMS LANE, KEDINGTON**

Present: Cllr John Cahill – Vice-Chairman of Parish Council
Cllr Peter Donoghue
Cllr Gloria Double
Cllr Graham Nicholson
Cllr Zoe Palmer
Cllr Peter Rowsell

Ms Marion Farrant (Clerk)

In attendance: County Councillor Karen Knight; Mr Fred Phillips (Press); Mr Shaun Jarvis (Wildlife Group); Sgt Neil Ireland from the Safer Neighbourhood Team joined the meeting for Item 5 only.

		ACTION
1	<p>Parishioner's Question Time</p> <p>Mr Jarvis reported a fallen tree on Risbridge Meadow and also of his concerns about the erosion of the bank outside the perimeter of the Church in Mill Road. Clerk was requested to notify Parochial Church Council and Highways Department.</p> <p>Mr Jarvis also queried the paragraph sequence from Item 9 of KPC minutes 113-11, stating that Cllr Donoghue's quotation to draw up and submit plans for a new Parish Office was accepted before a decision was taken to go ahead with the building. He also asked why the cost of drawing up the plans was not included in the minutes and queried whether Cllr Donoghue should have been allowed to take part in discussions about the new office as he had Declared an Interest.</p> <p>With the Chairman's permission, the Clerk replied to Mr Jarvis. She apologised that the cost of Cllr Donoghue's quotation was not included in the minutes and said this was an oversight on her part. She further stated that the paragraph sequence in the minutes was correct as Cllr Donoghue declared his interest, signed the book and left the meeting while quotations were discussed. However, after Cllr Donoghue rejoined the meeting, she recollected that the minutes of KPC 113-10 (Item 9) stated a decision on whether to go ahead with the building of a new Parish Office would be taken at the meeting KPC 113-11. This was pointed out to the Chairman(Cllr Wheeler) who requested the motion on whether to build a new parish office be proposed, seconded and voted upon. This duly happened, hence why the sequence of paragraphs appeared as they did.</p> <p>As a result of Mr Jarvis' concerns, the Chairman (Cllr Cahill) requested the Clerk seek clarity from SALC and the Monitoring Officer as to whether Cllr Donoghue should have taken part in discussions about the building of a new Parish Office after he had Declared an Interest. For the record, it was also noted that the decision to build a new office was unanimous.</p> <p>Open Meeting</p>	<p>MF</p> <p>MF</p>
2	<p>Welcome and apologies:</p> <p>In the absence of The Chairman, Cllr Cahill took the Chair and welcomed everyone present.</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Wheeler (Chairman of Parish Council).</p>	

3 Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 18 March 2008 were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Donoghue and seconded by Cllr Palmer.

4 To accept members' Declaration of Interests on agenda items

None.

Close meeting

5 Visitor's Reports

Safer Neighbourhood Team:

Sgt Ireland reported that for the period from 1st January – 17 March 2008 only six crimes had been reported, compared with sixteen in the same period last year. He acknowledged the terrible crimes that occurred in late Autumn 2007 and issues surrounding catching those responsible, adding that if there were further spates of vandalism the SNT would be proactive, "get in early and nip it in the bud". Sgt Ireland reported that Police Officers had been targeting speeding motorists on the Haverhill Road and issuing tickets. When questioned about the length of time Officers spent on Haverhill Road, Sgt Ireland replied that they are only allowed 30 minutes on one site before they move on to another village. However, he said that bad / dangerous driving can be reported to the Safer Neighbourhood Team if informants are able to give a registration number of the vehicle concerned. Cllr Palmer asked Sgt Ireland if the PCSOs were still patrolling the school area at drop-off and pick-up times as parking was still a problem. Sgt Ireland replied he would look into this again and ensure it is on the list of job when they received their Tasking Sheets. He also confirmed fixed penalty notices would be issued to offenders parking illegally. Cllr Cahill asked if the SNT had received a report of the vandalism on Risbridge Meadow. Sgt Ireland replied he had not, but would be happy to talk to any suspects about this.

County Councillor's Report:

Boundary Committee:

Councillor Knight reported that Suffolk County Council have submitted a concept for a single unitary council for Suffolk, as they feel this would work out the more affordable option. However, Borough Council can dismiss this option and come up with their own ideas if they so wish. Councillor Knight reported that under the Suffolk County Council concept, Parish Councils will get more say in how services are delivered, i.e. planning decisions.

School Organisation Review:

Councillor Knight reported that following Suffolk County Council's Cabinet meeting on 4th March 2008, all recommendations were approved to change to a two-tier system. Statutory Public Notices have been displayed at School and Community Centre informing that the six-week consultation period has now begun and people can register their views in writing on the recommendations approved by the Cabinet. The Chairman requested Councillor Knight to register that Parish Council would like to be kept informed of what changes will be happening in terms of infrastructure.

Open meeting

6 Clerk's Report

Highway matters:

1. Order placed with St Edmundsbury Borough Council for new sign in School Crescent showing location of numbers 8 to 15.

2. Road signs in School Road have been replaced. Sign showing Dash End with a left pointing arrow has disappeared from opposite the junction with West End Lane; sign for Sturmer Road has been knocked off posts by Contractors cutting grass bank by Dane Common, these have been reported to Borough Council.
3. Damaged 30 mph sign in Rectory Road has been reported to Western Area Highways.
4. Highways have been asked for report on when damaged post on Watermill Bridge will be replaced; they have also been asked to review the safety aspect of this.

St Edmundsbury Borough Council:

Parish Council has been informed that Kedington Parish Council details have been added to their new online Consultation Portal powered by Limehouse Software. This will give the opportunity to provide comments on subsequent documents electronically using the internet.

Crime Reduction Partnership:

Crime Reduction Partnership has been sending News Update electronically to Parish Council. A lot of the issues are National Ones, but if there are any that appertain to the local community, Clerk will report them at Parish Council meetings.

- 6.1 Consider further action (on action taken or reports received since last meeting:**
None.

7 Finance Committee

- 7.1 Consider any matters arising from minutes of 11 March 2008:**
None.

- 7.2 Receive draft minutes of 08 April 2008:**
Cllr Cahill went through highlights of the meeting:

- Budget statement was satisfactory with (89.3%) of the budget for 2007/2008 spent, leaving £3,892 in hand. Accountant has informed that accruals are correct, as an accrual is the method used to allocate an estimated expense to the correct financial year.
- Reserves for 2008/2009: £2,000 would be put into Recreation Equipment Reserve and £1,892 would be put into a new heading for Road Safety.
- Clerk will undertake CiLCA training.
- SALC have advised that Clerk's Gratuity should be increased each year in line with inflation.
- Proposed by Cllr Double and seconded by Cllr Garner that Clerk should be paid for 68.25 extra hours worked in 2007/2008 and error in salary (20.50 hours plus underpayment of one month's pay rise) uncovered following consultation with SALC about recording holiday hours on timesheet for the year 2006/2007. Clerk to ensure that her working hours per month do not exceed 65 hours. Unanimously agreed.

- Fire Extinguisher contract to be reviewed before next Financial Year.
- The Baulk – Villagers will be asked to donate suitable species for planting.
- Thank you letter received from Kedington Primary School for grant towards cost of installation of CCTV.
- Grants awarded to Suffolk Family Carers (£50) and Kedington Garden Society (£50).

8. Office Accommodation

Cllr Donoghue reported he had met with Cllr Wheeler and Steve Brown from the KCA to discuss plans. A draft plan was circulated to all Councillors for comment. The plan showed a design with a curved frontage, but Councillors voted by 5 to 2 in favour of a straight frontage. Cllr Donoghue reported that the KCA hoped to convert the existing flat roofs on the Centre to pitched roofs, avoiding costs from long-term maintenance. There were concerns that the footings for the extension might interfere with the Sweet Chestnut Tree outside the Library. As the tree is covered by a Tree Protection Order it was proposed by Cllr Double and seconded by Cllr Palmer that advice be sought from a tree expert. Agreed by all present. Clerk requested to ask Mr Dellar from R.M.S. Tree Services if he would advise the Parish Council on this matter. A proposal to move forward with the new building was made by Cllr Palmer and seconded by Cllr Nicholson. Unanimously agreed by all present.

Clerk reported she had found more sources that the Parish Council could apply to for grant funding to build the new office.

The Chairman stated he would report to the Parish at the Annual Parish Meeting about the new building and requested Cllr Donoghue to submit an article in Ketton Review, so Parishioners would have an insight into the Plans.

9. School Organisation Review (update)

This item had been covered in County Councillor Karen Knight's report to the meeting.

10. Proposed closure of Kedington Surgery

Chairman reported that no reply had been received from Parish Council's letter to the Primary Care Trust about the proposed closure of the Surgery. Borough Councillor Marion Rushbrook had informed the Parish Council that the Primary Care Trust were now in the consultation period, where all views on the proposed closure would be taken into account before any decision was made. It was hoped a decision would be made before the end of June.

11. Environmental / Grounds Maintenance Matters

11.1 Risbridge Meadow (update):

There was no report from John Smithson at St Edmundsbury Borough Council. Chairman read out an e-mail received from Dave Bax, Park Ranger regarding some "mindless" vandalism to nest boxes put up in the Meadow and tree guards being smashed. The two culprits were spoken to accordingly by Colin Jakes, Head Ranger.

Close meeting

Mr Jarvis reported that a working party would be spreading bark around the entrance area on 16th April 2008.

Open meeting

11.2	<p>New Tree on Watermill Field: The Chairman reported that Thurlow Estate had planted a Black Poplar on Watermill Field to replace the felled tree. Thanks were extended to Susan Berridge for her liaison with Thurlow Estate on this matter.</p>	
11.3	<p>Any other environmental / grounds maintenance matters: Lime Trees in Churchyard: Cllr Garner handed a report to the Clerk from R.M.S. Tree Services. This would be sent to the Parochial Church Council with a covering letter.</p> <p>Fort – Old School Field: Cllr Double reported thistles and nettles growing inside the Fort. Cllr Garner said he would attend to this matter free of charge and re-spread the bark as necessary.</p> <p>River: Cllr Double reported a bike had been thrown into the river. Cllr Garner said he would retrieve this when undertaking his Strimming Contract.</p> <p>Close meeting Mr Jarvis asked if a date had been set with Thurlow Estate to survey the trees along Riverside Walk. Clerk replied she had chased the matter, but to date had not received a reply.</p> <p>Open meeting</p>	<p>MF</p> <p>PG</p> <p>PG</p>
12	Highway/Footpath/Street Furniture Matters	
12.1	<p>Community Speedwatch: Cllr Nicholson reported he attended a meeting on 2nd April 2008. Training for volunteers to be part of Community Speedwatch was free, but each volunteer would have to provide their own “high-viz” jacket. The cost for one speed gun would be £2,200 and the Bury Rural Co-operative were looking to enlist one Parish Councillor from each village to take part in the scheme. It was noted that the Parish Council had stated on a previous occasion, they would not be interested in joining the scheme and it was felt by all present that Cllr Nicholson’s report ratified this.</p>	
12.2	<p>Any other highway/footpath/street furniture matters: Gazebo Roof – Silver Street Park: Cllr Donoghue reported that the Builder had taken off two panels in the roof and had informed him they were not glazed in the normal way, as aluminium framing had been bolted around the glass. Although this would make the Builder’s work simpler when installing the plywood/stainless steel panels, it would mean more preparatory work, which would add a further £1,200 to the total cost of replacing the roof panels.</p> <p>Cllr Double requested a new dog bin be sited along in the middle of The Cut. This matter was debated and found not necessary, as there are already dog bins at either end of The Cut.</p> <p>Cllr Palmer requested Clerk to chase re-installation of Public Footpath sign at the bottom of Church Walk. Cllr Palmer also reported that a metal post had been installed at the bottom of Church Walk. Clerk will write to Mr Kiddy to see if he has knowledge of this.</p> <p>Guillotine With the time at 9.45 p.m. it was proposed by Cllr Palmer and seconded by Cllr Garner to raise the guillotine by 15 minutes.</p>	<p>MF</p>

13 Housing / Planning

13.1 Applications for discussion at meeting:

13.1.1 Development at The Limes:

Cllr Donoghue reported he had received a telephone call from Mr Brett about the development concerned that the Greenhouse had been demolished. Cllr Donoghue confirmed that the Greenhouse did not have a protection order on it.

13.1.2 28 Risbridge Drive:

Application discussed as Borough Council had asked Councillors to review this application again. Councillors discussed and decision remained unacceptable.

13.2 Planning Applications – Observations conveyed by Parish Council:

Land adjacent to 34 School Road Unacceptable	Erection of (i) Two storey detached dwelling and detached cart lodge (ii) alterations to existing access.
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Land at Stour House Still unacceptable	Amendments to original proposals.
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Serena, 8 Dash End Lane Still unacceptable	Erection of: (i) 2½ storey dwelling with attached garage (ii) provision of vehicular access
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28 Risbridge Drive Unacceptable	(i) Infill of car port to form garage; (ii) Single storey rear link extension between existing car port and garage; (iii) Conversion of garage to study and garden store.
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154a Westward Deals Acceptable	Erection of single storey side extension.
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Kedington Primary School Acceptable	Regulation 3 Application. Retention of 1 no. 0.37 transmission dish.
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13.3 Planning Applications – Decisions received from Borough Council:

Lowfields, West End Lane Granted	Erection of detached double garage (following demolition of existing single garage (revised scheme).
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13.4 Any other housing/planning matters:

Chairman read letter from St Edmundsbury Borough Council on the Adoption of the St Edmundsbury Statement of Community Involvement.

14 Consultations

14.1 Planning for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation in the East of England:

Chairman read letter from East of England Regional Assembly. Noted Parish Council have already responded to St Edmundsbury consultation on Gypsy and Traveller sites.

15 Any other reports (on-going matters)

15.1. Kedington Community Association Report:

Cllr Double gave a brief report on last KCA meeting. A wooden fence will be erected on the boundary of the car park; the sycamore tree will be left in place. Meadowlark plans are well under way. Noah's Ark will be open all day on Thursdays. Stour Valley Project will be involved in tree planting on edge of Great Meadow.

16 Events

16.1 Nominations:

16.1.1 Meeting called by Lidgate & Ousden Parish Councils to discuss proposals by National Air Traffic Service (NATS) for new flight stack for Stansted Airport, Thursday 8th May 2008 at Kirtling Village Hall.
Chairman to attend.

16.1.2 St Eds Rural SNTs Neighbourhood Watch/Community Forum 12th May 2008:
Any interested Councillors requested to inform Clerk.

16.1.3 Campaign to Protect Rural England Seminar: 2026 A Vision for the Countryside:
Any interested Councillors requested to inform Clerk.

16.2 Councillor absences (update):
None.

17 Any other business (new matters)
None.

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 20 May 2008 in the Library, Arms Lane, Kedington, commencing at 7.40 p.m.

The meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

Signed:

Date: