

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF KEDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 17 JUNE 2008
HELD AT THE LIBRARY, ARMS LANE, KEDINGTON**

Present: Cllr John Cahill - Chairman
Cllr Terry Wheeler – Vice-Chairman of Parish Council
Cllr Peter Donoghue
Cllr Peter Garner
Cllr Peter Rowsell

Ms Marion Farrant (Clerk)

In attendance: County Councillor Karen Knight; Borough Councillor Mrs Marion Rushbrook; Mr Fred Phillips (Press); Mr Shaun Jarvis (Wildlife Group).

		ACTION
1	<p>Parishioners' Question Time</p> <p>Mr Jarvis expressed an interest in agenda item 10. He also reported the Countryside Forum meeting that was scheduled to take place on 3rd June 2008 had been cancelled. Mr Jarvis asked if the Parish Council were aware that the paths along the Riverside Walks were not being cut properly. The Chairman replied that Herald have been informed about this and asked to rectify the situation. Cllr Donoghue queried the high growth at the sides of the path on Riverside Walks. Cllr Garner explained that nettles, etc would not be cut back until later in the Autumn as this prevented reseeding.</p> <p>Open meeting</p>	
2	<p>Welcome and apologies</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed all present. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Gloria Double (Health), Cllr Zoe Palmer (Maternity Leave); Cllr Graham Nicholson (Health).</p> <p>Cllr Wheeler reported that Cllr Double had been in contact with him to report that following a hospital appointment, doctors thought she had suffered either a mini stroke or mini heart attack, so would be unable to carry out her duties as a Parish Councillor at the present time.</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of last meeting held on 20 May 2008</p> <p>Cllr Donoghue asked for item 12 to be amended to record that he left the meeting after giving his report. The minutes were then agreed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Wheeler and seconded by Cllr Garner.</p>	MF
4	<p>To accept members' Declarations of Interest on agenda items</p> <p>Cllr Donoghue declared an interest in agenda item 12. Cllr Garner declared an interest in agenda item 10.3.</p> <p>Close meeting</p>	
5	<p>Visitor's Reports</p> <p>County Councillor Karen Knight reported:</p> <p>NATS Consultation:</p> <p>Suffolk County Council's Cabinet had put forward opposition to changes to the stacking system, as the reasons given by NATS for not stacking over the North Sea were not good enough. They felt the new proposals would have a detrimental effect on tourism in Suffolk as well as the bloodstock industry in Newmarket and surrounding villages and were sceptical that NATS were</p>	

trying to get their proposals agreed before further expansion of Stansted Airport went ahead. Cllr Knight said that Suffolk County Council would be closely monitoring Uttlesford District Council's objections to Stansted Airport expansions.

The Chairman reported that a demonstration against the NATS proposals was being held in London. Cllr Garner asked if the Parish Council were sending a copy of the "standard" letter that originated from the meeting held in Kirtling, as opposition to the proposals. It was unanimously decided that the Parish Council would send a letter of opposition to the NATS proposals. Clerk confirmed that copies of the "standard" letter had been left in the Post Office and Library for Parishioners to send if they wished.

Boundary Committee:

The Boundary Committee for England (set up by the Government) to review the way local government worked in Norfolk and Suffolk are due to publish their recommendations on 10 July 2008; there are six options for them to look at:

- Option 1: One Suffolk
- Option 2: East and West Suffolk
- Option 3: Ipswich, East and West Suffolk
- Option 4: Greater Ipswich, East and West Suffolk
- Option 5: haven Gateway, East and West Suffolk
- Option 6: Ipswich, East and West Suffolk, "Yartoft"

Suffolk County Council are in favour of a single unitary council covering the whole of Suffolk. St Edmundsbury Borough Council is in favour of an East and West Suffolk unitary. The public and local authorities will be asked for their opinions during August and September 2008; the Boundary Committee will consider feedback during October, November and December 2008 before advising the government of their decision by 31 December 2008. Cllr Knight said that the Government has told local authorities that "no change to the present system is not an option".

Borough Councillor Marion Rushbrook commented that Parish Councils would be consulted before St Edmundsbury Borough Council put their views forward.

School Organisation Review:

Cllr Knight reported on a meeting with County Council's Architects and Cllrs Donoghue and Rowsell at Kedington Primary School. The meeting was to discuss a new access to the school. County Architects could foresee problems with this. Cllr Knight said it was proposed to introduce a "Walking Bus" as part of the Education Department's Travel Plan, whereby children are gathered from various points and walked to school.

Borough Councillor Marion Rushbrook reported:

Planning Matters:

Cllr Rushbrook said she hoped to attend the Development Committee meeting scheduled for 3 July 2008 where the Ketton Chambers Planning Application for retention of modular building would be discussed.

Local Plan – Key Service Centres:

Cllr Rushbrook confirmed she had spoken to Ian Poole at St Edmundsbury Borough Council about whether Kedington would retain its status as a Key Service Centre if proposals to close the G.P. Surgery were granted. Cllr Rushbrook said she would report to the Clerk when she had an answer.

Networking:

Cllr Rushbrook said she had been networking with Hundon Parish Council about the possibility of trying to provide a bus service for young adults to access the new cinema in Haverhill when it opened in the Autumn.

Open meeting

6 Clerk's Report

Road Signs:

Broken road sign located in hedge at bottom of Barton Grove has been reported to St Edmundsbury Borough Council. A request has also been submitted to the Borough Council for a "No Parking" sign to be erected on the grass verge in West End Lane to stop car parking on the grass.

Highways:

Suffolk County Council have resurfaced the road in Kings Hill.

Finance:

Cheque valued at £100 has been received from H M Revenue and Customs for submitting PAYE and National Insurance contributions online. Cheque has been sent to Bank of Ireland for payment into Parish Council account.

Clerk's Training:

Following my report to the Finance Committee, the CiCLA Training due to take place on 17th June was cancelled, due to low numbers. The training booked for 25th June will go ahead but will incorporate both planned sessions. Cost of course will therefore be reduced.

Clerk's Holiday:

Clerk requested permission from Chairman and Councillor's for her to take annual leave on Monday 23 June 2008 and from Monday 30 June to Friday 4th July 2008 inclusive.

Risbridge Meadow:

Clerk reported she walked around Risbridge Meadow on Saturday 14 June 2008 and commented how lovely and well kept it looked, with wild flowers in abundance. The whole area is a credit to the Park Rangers, Wildlife Group and Volunteers who have worked very hard and made Risbridge Meadow an asset to the village. Clerk suggested the Parish Council write to the Portfolio Holder at St Edmundsbury Borough Council who is responsible for Sports & Culture, expressing their gratitude for this project.

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

Chairman and Councillors unanimously agreed Clerk's holiday request and her suggestion to write to the Portfolio Holder at St Edmundsbury Borough Council re Risbridge Meadow.

MF

7 Finance Committee

7.1 Consider any matters arising from 13 May 2008 minutes:

None.

7.2 Receive draft minutes of 10 June 2008:

Cllr Wheeler (Chairman of Finance Committee) went through highlights of the meeting.

- Budget statement satisfactory with £4,944 (12.35%) of the budget spent.
- Stationery order valued at £37.44 plus VAT was ratified.
- Kedington Garden Society had tendered an invoice for £50 to cover the cost of plants for Silver Street Park. They reported that to achieve Best Value one of their members had made a round trip of 80 miles, before purchasing the plants at Sturmer Nurseries. A one off donation of £25 had been agreed, which Garden Society could either pay petrol costs to the member or put in their funds. Garden Society had informed Parish Council that they would spend approximately 50 hours per year free of charge to keep planting beds, etc in Silver Street Park neat and tidy;

Garden Society Members would then quote for any further work in the village that the Parish Council required.

- Two quotations had been received to replace the plaque missing from one of the planting beds in Silver Street Park. Quick Service Shoe Repairs in Haverhill quoted £54 plus VAT for a brass plaque engraved with black infilled border. Coastline Graphics Ltd quoted £60. Cllr Wheeler asked Councillors if they wished to replace the plaque. A unanimous decision was made not to go ahead with a replacement.
- A grant of £100 was awarded to St Peter and St Paul Church Restoration Committee because of the historical significance of the Church. A grant of £75 was awarded to Kedington Primary School towards the cost of a barbeque to mark the finale of a visit by French Guests; local groups as well as children from the school were invited.
- A request for grant funding from Dance East was declined as not being of benefit to local people. A request from the West Suffolk Voluntary Association for the Blind would be reviewed at a later date. A letter had been sent to the Association asking how many people in Kedington were registered with them.
- Five payments and one Direct Debit valued at £1724.91 were approved under proposals by Cllr Cahill and Cllr Garner.

8 Proposed closure of Kedington Surgery (update)

The Chairman read out three letters received, one from the Practice Manager at Christmas Maltings Surgery and two from Samantha Offord, Contractor Services Manager at the Primary Care Trust.

Annexes
1, 2 & 3

Cllr Wheeler asked if the Primary Care Trust had received the petition signed by Parishioners. Clerk replied this had been sent to them in the post by Recorded Delivery. Cllr Wheeler proposed that the Parish Council should write to the Primary Care Trust, stating opposition to the proposed closure with counter proposals to the letter from Christmas Maltings Surgery. It was unanimously agreed that the Chairman and Clerk should draft a letter to send to the Primary Care Trust.

JC/MF

Close meeting

County Councillor Karen Knight reported that the Doctors Surgery in Linton (whose catchment area included Castle Camps) used their Village Hall to hold a surgery for a couple of hours per week. She suggested that if the proposed closure of the surgery in Kedington was for purely financial reasons, use of the Village Hall/Community Centre for four hours per week could be an alternative and this could be suggested to Christmas Maltings Surgery if Councillors so wished.

Open meeting

9 Office Accommodation (update)

Cllr Donoghue reported the plans were ready but could not be finalised until costs for the roof changes proposed by the KCA were received. He added that once the cost is known, a further meeting would take place with Steve Brown and Cllr Wheeler before submitting plans to the Borough Council.

Clerk reported on an e-mail received from Paul Rounce, Community Funding Officer at St Edmundsbury Borough Council. Mr Rounce informed that at a recent meeting of their Grant Panel, a grant had been rejected because the applicants were not the owners of the building that the grant applied to. He advised as this was a similar situation to that of the owners of the Kedington Community Centre and the Parish Council, he believed that a way around the problem could be the creation of a long-term lease, at a peppercorn rent. By doing this it would give the Parish Council protection from potential problems in the future whereby the Community Centre Committee could give notice to the Parish Council to leave the premises, even though they had paid a great deal of money for their portion of the building.

Councillors were unanimous that the Parish Council should write to Steve Brown and seek a formal agreement from the KCA and agree a peppercorn rent. Clerk was requested to e-mail Paul Rounce to update him.

MF

10 Environmental / Grounds Maintenance Matters

10.1 Risbridge Meadow (update):

The Chairman reported he had received an e-mail forwarded to him by Dave Bax, Park Ranger confirming that PCSO Alex Foster had visited the parents of the two children who were believed to have vandalised the nesting boxes and given strong words of advice that to displace bird's nests is a criminal offence. PCSO Foster said both sets of parents had taken the incident very seriously and have assured that they would not allow a reoccurrence.

Close meeting

Clerk reported she had received an e-mail from John Pelling regarding Bee Orchids growing in the area of Cock Hill and questioning whether a protective barrier should be erected to protect them from being cut down.

Mr Jarvis said he believed the area where the Bee Orchids were growing was not the responsibility of the Parish Council. He added that Bee Orchids were again growing in the middle of Risbridge Meadow and there had been reports about them growing in other parts of the village as well. Mr Jarvis commended Parishioners who brought these matters to the attention of the Parish Council.

Cllr Wheeler asked Mr Jarvis whether the nesting boxes that had been vandalised would be replaced and if so, could they be put higher to ensure they were not easily accessible. Mr Jarvis replied he had spoken to the Park Rangers and the nesting boxes will be replaced next year and would be well hidden and higher than they were this year.

Mr Jarvis requested that when the contract was awarded for cutting the hedge in School Road/Mill Road, the contractor be advised not to disturb any nesting birds.

10.2 Consider tenders for cutting hedge in School Road / Mill Road:

Four tenders were submitted for consideration:

Herald Contract Services	£846 + VAT per cut
R.M.S. Tree Cutting Services	£780 + VAT per cut
Richard Pound	£210 per cut (no VAT)
Greenacre	£300 per cut (no VAT)

The tenders from Herald Contract Services and R.M.S. Tree Cutting Services were eliminated as being too expensive. Councillors considered the other two quotations and a vote was taken, resulting in the contract being awarded to Richard Pound with 3 votes in favour and two abstentions.

10.3 Strimming Contract – consider / review specification

It was agreed that a policy decision was needed for the above contract, following complaints from some Parishioners. Cllr Wheeler reported that himself, the Chairman and Mr Garner had already had a meeting that identified the windows on The Cut will be cut shorter and if this is prevented by wild flowers, the windows will be adjusted accordingly. It had also been agreed that if areas along The Cut need cutting more frequently, this would be done and added to his invoice. There were also areas in Silver Street Park that had been agreed to "thin out".

	<p>Cllr Wheeler said the Parish Council needed to decide whether the specification should be carried out keeping conservation areas in mind or whether it was to be done to look neat and pristine. The Chairman said if the Parish Council decided to modify the contract there would be an element of cost involved. Cllr Wheeler said six years ago Parishioners wanted wild flowers to grow in areas of Silver Street Park and along the riverbanks. This was achieved by identifying suitable environments where they could grow. Cllr Garner said that when carrying out the contract he tried to encourage new things to grow and diversity has increased. He added that in the past an inventory of wild flowers used to be made. Cllr Donoghue said he felt that things should be left to mature. Cllr Wheeler said when conservation areas are trimmed, it would look untidy for a short period of time; he also commented that the wild flowers were brilliant this year. Cllr Wheeler proposed when conservation areas are cut the arisings are taken away, this was agreed by all Councillors. It was also unanimously agreed by Councillors that the memorial bench situated along The Cut should be added to the present Strimming Specification. It was also agreed by all Councillors that the Village Handyman should be asked deal with the weeds growing along the edges of the fences that lead into Silver Street Park from Silver Street.</p>	MF
10.4	<p>Any other environmental / grounds maintenance matters: The Chairman read an e-mail sent to the Parish Clerk by Mrs Berridge informing that the tree behind the memorial bench is dead. Mrs Berridge asked if the Parish Council would consider felling the tree and replacing it. It was agreed by all Councillors that as the tree is on land belonging to the Vestry Estate, this be reported to them.</p>	MF
11	Highway/Footpath/Street Furniture Matters	
11.1	<p>Erosion of bank outside Church in Mill Road: The Chairman read an e-mail received from Highways Department informing the Parish Council that following an inspection of the bank, it appeared that the Highway Boundary ended at the road edge and the bank is the responsibility of the Church. Agreed by all Councillors that the Clerk should send a copy of the e-mail with a covering letter to the Parochial Church Council.</p>	MF
11.2	<p>Any other highway/footpath/street furniture matters: Cllr Garner reported the bad condition of the footpath in Arms Lane leading to Arms Cottage. As the responsibility for this lies with the landowner, Cllr Donoghue said he would speak to Mr Metson about this matter.</p>	
12	Housing / Planning	
12.1	<p>Applications for discussion at meeting: None.</p>	
12.2	<p>Planning Applications – Observations conveyed by Parish Council: 49 Kings Meadow Erection of car port (following demolition of existing car port. Acceptable</p>	
12.3	<p>Planning Applications – Decisions received from Borough Council: 49 Kings Meadow Erection of car port (following demolition of existing car port. Granted</p> <p>“Serena”, 8 Dash End Lane Erection of 2½ storey dwelling with attached garage (ii) provision of vehicular access (revised scheme) Granted</p> <p>28 Risbridge Drive (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. Granted</p>	

12.4	Any other housing/planning matters:	
12.4.1	Planning Matters: The Chairman reported he had attended a recent Planning Committee meeting and found the experience very daunting. He added that he was given three minutes to speak on each application and put forward Parish Council objections, but despite his best effort, both applications were approved unanimously. The Chairman said that if the Borough Council turn down an application and it goes to appeal, they could be sued; it seemed therefore that unless they have a cast iron case against an application, they will give approval. The Chairman proposed the Parish Council invested in some training (from SALC) or a "talk" on planning matters by Patsy Dell from St Edmundsbury Borough Council; it was apparent that the Parish Council were sadly lacking in expertise as how to successfully fight planning applications. The Chairman's proposal was seconded by Cllr Wheeler and agreed by all. Clerk to write to Patsy Dell to invite her to the Parish Council meeting in September.	MF
13	Consultations	
13.1	Rural Deprivation Report: To be circulated to Councillors.	MF
14	Any other reports (on-going matters)	
14.1.	Kedington Community Association Report: As Cllr Double was absent from the meeting, no report was available.	
15	Events	
15.1	Nominations:	
15.1.1	Crime Prevention In The Community – SALC event There were no nominations for this event, which was due to be held at the Ramada Hotel in Bury St Edmunds on 1 st July 2008. Guillotine The time being 9.45 p.m. it was proposed by Cllr Wheeler, seconded by Cllr Donoghue and agreed by all to raise the guillotine for 5 minutes.	
15.2	Councillor absences (update): The Chairman reported he would not be available for Parish Council duties for the whole of July 2008.	
16	Any other business (new matters)	
	The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 15 July 2008 in the Library, Arms Lane, Kedington, commencing at 7.40 p.m.	

The meeting closed at 9.50 p.m.

Signed:

Date: