

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF KEDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 17 FEBRUARY 2009
HELD AT THE LIBRARY, ARMS LANE, KEDINGTON**

Present: Cllr Terry Wheeler – Vice-Chairman of Parish Council
Cllr Jennifer Bradnam
Cllr Gloria Double
Cllr Peter Donoghue
Cllr Peter Garner

Ms Marion Farrant (Clerk)

In attendance: Borough Councillor Mrs Marion Rushbrook; Mr Fred Phillips (Press); Mr Richard Pound (Parishioner).

	ACTION
<p>1 Parishioners' Question Time None.</p>	
<p>Open meeting</p>	
<p>2 Welcome and apologies In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Wheeler took the Chair.</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from Cllr John Cahill (Chairman of Parish Council) (Health); Cllr Zoe Palmer (family commitments); County Councillor Karen Knight (other commitments); Mr Shaun Jarvis (Wildlife Group).</p>	
<p>3 Minutes of last meeting held on 16 December 2008 The Chairman confirmed no meeting was held in January 2009. The minutes of 16 December 2008 were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Bradnam, seconded by Cllr Donoghue and agreed by all present.</p>	
<p>3.1 Proposed amendment to agreed minutes of 18 November 2008: Cllr Double had proposed an amendment to KPC 114-06, item 16.1, second paragraph. Cllr Double had stated in a telephone call to the Chairman (Cllr Cahill) that the paragraph was incorrectly worded, as no actual vote took place. All Councillors agreed that no vote was taken as Cllr Palmer's words reflected the opinion of all present at the meeting; it was also noted that Cllr Double was present at the said meeting and raised no objection at the time of Cllr Palmer's statement.</p> <p>The Chairman requested the Clerk seek advice from SALC as to whether minutes can be amended once they are agreed. He also requested that an agenda item for the next meeting be a proposed vote of confidence in the Clerk.</p>	MF
<p>4. To accept members' Declarations of Interest on agenda items Cllr Donoghue declared an interest in agenda 11.</p>	
<p>Close meeting</p>	
<p>5. Visitor's Reports</p>	
<p><u>Borough Councillor Marion Rushbrook reported:</u></p>	
<p><u>Visit to Kedington by new CEO at St Edmundsbury Borough Council</u> Geoff Rivers visited Kedington on Wednesday 21 January 2009 and spoke with the Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr John Cahill and Cllr Zoe Palmer. Mr Rivers was impressed with the village and said he would be happy to address the Parish Council on any issues with the Local Development Framework.</p>	

Borough Councillor Rushbrook confirmed that, following discussions at the meeting held in December 2008 about the land south of Kedington School; she had investigated this with Chris Rand, Principal Planning Policy Officer who informed that this land is designated as open amenity space.

Report from County Councillor Karen Knight:

In the absence of County Councillor Knight, the Chairman read out items reported via e-mail.

Boundary Committee

A decision on the Boundary Committee's proposals for Suffolk has been put back to 15 July 2009. A letter from the Boundary Committee's intended course of action will be circulated to all Councillors.

MF

Transport Schemes to Address Local Quality of Life Issues

To be circulated to all Councillors.

MF

Report from PCSO Alex Foster – Safer Neighbourhood Team:

PCSO Alex Foster from the Safer Neighbourhood Team reported that in the period up to 10 February 2009, four incidents were reported. Incidents were:

- 1 – Common Assault
- 1 – Taking a vehicle without consent
- 1 -- Criminal damage to a Barn
- 1 – Theft from a motor vehicle

PCSO Foster reported that general behaviour around the Youth Shelter had been reasonable. Councillors again raised issues with parking around the village. PCSO Foster said she would look into this.

Open meeting

6

Clerk's Report

Highways matters:

Highways have reported that a new 30 mph sign has been ordered to replace the fallen one located just past junction of B1061 with C670 in Calford Green. Highways also confirmed they will clear the verge of fallen branches.

Large potholes in road in West End Lane have been repaired. Clerk has also reported potholes on Westward Deals and in other areas of the village.

Borough Council matters:

New street name sign has been installed at the entrance to Westward Deals. Missing sign showing Dash End (with pointing arrow) has also been replaced. Builders have re-erected sign in White Horse Lane (outside new houses). Street name signs for Dane Common and Haverhill Road that are leaning forwards have also been reported.

Diseased tree in the area of 125/126 and 135/136 Westward Deals has been reported to Parks and Landscapes Department.

Vacancies for two Parish Councillors

The deadline of 13 February 2009, for ten electors to request an Election, has now expired. Clerk awaiting confirmation from Borough Council to go ahead and advertise to fill these vacancies by co-option.

Mobile Police Station

The Safer Neighbourhood Team's Mobile Police Station will be in the Community Centre Car Park on 26 February 2009 between 14.00 and 15.00 hours. Any interested can go and visit.

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

Gazebo in Silver Street Park. Clerk requested to contact A.L. Properties who provided lowest quotation for repair to roof and ask them to carry out the work.

7 Finance Committee

7.1 Consider any matters arising from 09 December 2008 minutes:

None.

7.2 Receive draft minutes of 10 February 2009:

The Chairman went through highlights of the meeting:

- Financial position was satisfactory with £28,712 (71%) of the budget spent and £36,061 held in Reserves.
- Three tons of grit had been used for winter gritting to date. Due to current shortages, County Council unable to supply any more. Concrete in base of Grit Bin has been re-done to provide slope to allow water to run away.
- Bank of Ireland have increased level of protection available under the Irish Deposit Protection Scheme to approximately £90,000 per depositor per institution. This level of depositor protection now exceeds that provided by the FSCS.
- A review of the effectiveness of Internal Audit was carried out and no changes found necessary.
- KCA have grants in place of £12,000 towards the cost of new pitched roof on Community Centre, but still have £28,000 to find.
- Proposed new office accommodation – agenda item 11 for this meeting.
- KCA request for financial support for Firework Night 2009 – agenda item 7.3 for this meeting.
- Eleemosynary Charity – Agreed that this should now be wound up. Meeting to be arranged between Parish Council, Parochial Church Council and Trustees.
- Damaged Notice Board in Haverhill Road to be repaired.
- A grant to Optua (formerly Rethink Disability) was declined.
- Eighteen payments and one Direct Debit totalling £6,305.60 were approved by Cllr Wheeler and Cllr Cahill.

7.3 Consider financial assistance to KCA towards costs of Firework Night 2009:

Cllr Double reported that Haverbury Housing were prepared to contribute £1000 to this event so the Parish Council would not need to give financial assistance. KCA are looking for a new organiser for the event, which could be cancelled if they are unable to find someone suitable.

8 Local Development Framework

Chairman confirmed that Kedington Parish Council did not want Option 3 (Core Strategy Preferred Options and Strategic Sites Issues and Options). The Chairman read out a letter that Cllr Cahill had written to The Chief Executive of St Edmundsbury Borough Council concerning the siting of Option 3 on the consultation document and the need for a possible boundary change if this option was considered. Copy of Cllr Cahill's letter to be circulated to all Councillors.

MF

The Chairman read out a letter sent to the Parish Council by Bidwells re a proposed development on land south of Kedington School. It was agreed no response would be sent to this letter. Councillors opposed the development for the following reasons:

- Environmental grounds - potential for flooding
- Access – traffic congestion
- Current sewerage and drainage system would be unable to cope
- Church Walk – Parish Council does not want this gifted to them
- Perception of cash offer for community improvement and percentage of proceeds

9	<p>Kedington G P Surgery</p> <p>Cllr Double reported that the Surgery was being well used but appeared to being deliberately run down by the Practice. Patients had been asked to go to Haverhill Surgery for routine matters, normally done in Kedington. G P appointments had also been reduced. Agreed that Clerk should write to Primary Care Trust to inform of this.</p>	MF
10	<p>Youth Shelter (update)</p> <p>Chairman read e-mail sent by Simon Pickering confirming the WOS-Up project would be visiting the village on 17 February 2009 between 12 noon and 4 p.m. WOS-Up summer programme will commence in the spring and run through until September, with Kedington being one of the main villages the project will visit. Redecoration of the Youth Shelter will be done in May half-term. Karl Huggins will be working with young people to apply for funding for solar lighting. Next round of funding will be in new financial year.</p>	
11	<p>Office Accommodation (update)</p> <p>Cllr Donoghue declared an interest and gave his report. Cllr Donoghue had met with Steve Brown and Theresa Bailey (Head Librarian) on 16 February 2009. Concerns had been expressed by the Librarian about the Library not having an external entrance under plans for the proposed new office building. Teresa was concerned about reducing the public profile of the Library. The KCA were also concerned as they get funding from Libraries & Heritage and did not want to jeopardise this. Cllr Donoghue went on to report that he met with Cllr Wheeler to discuss changing the plans so that the office would be on the right hand side of the centre entrance. Cllr Donoghue passed around amended drawings and after discussions ensuring the Clerk would have enough space to work in and office security, Councillors agreed to amended drawings. It was further agreed that the Parish Council wished to see a pitched roof throughout the Centre and that this should be incorporated in the new build.</p>	
12	<p>Discuss and agree second phase of play equipment development</p> <p>Agreed that second phase of play equipment development should include a basketball court on the Great Meadow and new equipment for older children on Old School Field. Working party formed and will consist of Cllr Wheeler, Cllr Double and Cllr Bradnam. A meeting will be arranged between parties concerned.</p>	TW
13	<p>Environmental / Grounds Maintenance Matters</p>	
13.1	<p>Review grounds contract specification in readiness for tendering:</p> <p>Agreed to use current specifications for Grounds Contracts "A", "B" and "E". These contracts to be three-year contracts. Grounds Contracts for Strimming, Grounds "C" and "D" to be left as yearly contracts. Modifications to Strimming Contract to read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ "wild flowers in the copse on left of footpath at bottom of Silver Street Park to be left to self seed". ▪ "area around contract plinth on memorial bench along The Cut to be strimmed" ▪ "strim area around timber footbridge in Mill Road" <p>Grounds contract "D" – hedge cutting around Old School Field to be amended to read that the hedge near the play equipment should be lightly trimmed, but mainly left as it is to thicken out. Hedge should not be reduced in height so play equipment remains obscured from houses opposite.</p>	
13.2	<p>Any other environmental / grounds maintenance matters:</p> <p>Cllr Donoghue brought to the attention of Councillors, a brochure showing galvanised steel edging, which could be used in place of the worn out log-roll around beds in Silver Street Park. Concerns were raised about Health & Safety. Clerk requested to contact Parks & Landscapes Department about feasibility. Cllr Donoghue requested to measure up and cost.</p>	MF/PD

14	Highway/Footpath/Street Furniture Matters	
14.1	Review roads in Kedington gritted by Parish Council: Chairman reported that Kedington is the only Parish to his knowledge that gritted it's own roads. He added that Mr Pound provided an excellent service by doing most areas in the village. Councillors agreed that the schedule should be left as it is. It was acknowledged that some areas such as Dane Close experience problems, but it is difficult to manoeuvre the gritting machine in this area. It was suggested that in September 2009, the Parish Council should compile a plan where it wishes the County Council to place grit piles, in order that residents in areas such as Dane Close can put grit down to alleviate problems.	MF
14.2	Parking on grass verges in Kedington: Cllr Double reported problems opposite the British Legion Hall. The Chairman also reported problems on Westward Deals and in West End Lane. It seems that the verges in question belong to the Borough Council. Councillor Rushbrook was asked to look into this to see if the Borough Council would erect no parking signs.	MR
14.3	Road safety in Kedington: Clerk reported that she had liaised with Jon Noble from the Road Safety Engineering Team at Suffolk County Council about the possibility of vehicle actuated 30mph signs being erected in the village. Mr Noble reported that priority is given to sites that have a poor personal injury accident record and as Kedington has a relatively good record, they would not be considered, even if the signs were privately funded.	
14.4	Proposed new footpath in Silver Street (update): Clerk reported that a plan, cost estimate and priority assessment sheet for the scheme had been received from John Goodyear, Project Engineer Rural Pavements at Suffolk County Council; this will be circulated to all Councillors. The scheme will be included in the 2009/10 construction programme.	MF
14.5	Any other highway/footpath/street furniture matters: Cllr Garner reported speeding cars/vans on Arms Lane leading down to the stables. As this is a Public Footpath, Clerk requested to write to Anglian Water and the owners of the stables to request that drivers do not speed in this area. Clerk reported that Highways have said that it is unlikely a review of waiting restrictions in Mill Road (near School) can take place as funding for this has not been set aside. However, minor schemes will be funded in a different manner in the new financial year so it may well be worth the Parish Council highlighting this as part of the "Transport Schemes to Address Local Quality of Life Issues".	MF
15	Housing / Planning	
15.1	Applications for discussion at meeting: None.	
15.2	Planning Applications – Observations conveyed by Parish Council: 5 Barton Grove Retention of porch to front elevation Acceptable 51a Kings Meadow Erection of single storey side extension Acceptable Cottage at Rowans Change of use of barn to form extension to existing Calford Green residential dwelling, including insertion of glazed screen to front; insertion of roof lights; recladding with weather Acceptable boarding; insertion of glazed door & window to ground floor and 3 windows on first floor side elevations. Erection of single storey extension to front elevation.	

	Keepers Cottage Not acceptable	Erection of first floor extension to side of existing cottage supported by oak posts and accessed via a new internal staircase.	
15.3	Planning Applications – Decisions received from Borough Council: 5 Barton Grove Granted	Retention of porch to front elevation	
	51a Kings Meadow Granted	Erection of single storey side extension	
15.4	Any other housing/planning matters: Clerk requested to check with St Edmundsbury Planning Department on two properties in Barton Grove that seem to have alterations done without planning permission.		MF
16	Consultations None.		
17	Any other reports (on-going matters)		
17.1	Report from Kedington Community Association: Cllr Double reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ KCA have agreed for a new CCTV system to be installed. ▪ Finances are low; disputed electricity account reduced from £1500 to £860, which KCA will pay off monthly. ▪ Meadowlark Committee for 2009 will meet on 23 February 2009. ▪ KCA thanked Parish Council for building wheelie bin compound. ▪ Temporary designated spaces for disabled parking bays in car park will soon be put in place Guillotine With the time being 9.45 p.m. it was proposed by Cllr Donoghue, seconded by Cllr Garner and agreed by all present to raise the guillotine by 10 minutes.		
18	Events		
18.1	Nominations: West Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership: Forum Meeting 20 March 2009 No uptake.		
18.2	Councillor absences (update): The Clerk noted absences for Cllr Double.		
19	Any other business (new matters) None.		
The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 17 March 2009 in the Library, Arms Lane, Kedington, commencing at 7.40 p.m.			

The meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

Signed:

Date: