

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF KEDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 16 JUNE 2009
HELD AT THE LIBRARY, ARMS LANE, KEDINGTON**

Present:

Cllr John Cahill – Chairman of Parish Council
Cllr Terry Wheeler – Vice-Chairman of Parish Council
Cllr Jennifer Bradnam
Cllr Gloria Double
Cllr Peter Donoghue
Cllr Zoe Palmer

Ms Marion Farrant (Clerk)

In attendance: County Councillor Anne Gower; Borough Councillor Marion Rushbrook;
PCSO Alex Foster (Safer Neighbourhood Team Item 5 only); Shaun Jarvis (Wildlife Group).

ACTION

1 Parishioners' Question Time and to acknowledge agenda items of interest to members of the Public present (5 mins)

Mr Jarvis expressed an interest in agenda items 9 and 10.1. The Chairman asked Mr Jarvis if he was interested in attending a Green Infrastructure Strategy meeting on 24 June 2009. Mr Jarvis said he would not be able to attend.

2 Welcome and apologies

The Chairman welcomed all present, especially County Councillor Anne Gower.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Jane Farmer (work commitments); Cllr Peter Garner (prior engagement).

3 Minutes of last meeting held on 19 May 2009

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Double, seconded by Cllr Donoghue and unanimously agreed.

4 To accept members' Declarations of Interest on agenda items

None.

Close meeting

5 Visitor's Reports

County Councillor Anne Gower

County Councillor Anne Gower thanked the Chairman for his warm welcome to her first meeting as elected County Councillor for Kedington. Councillor Gower reported that although she was already a Borough and Town Councillor in Haverhill, the County Council was new to her and said she would do all she could to help the village. Councillor Gower reported she had already attended a County Council group meeting and one training meeting.

Borough Councillor Marion Rushbrook

- Borough Councillor Marion Rushbrook report that the latest issue of Community Spirit (magazine produced by St Edmundsbury Borough Council) was being delivered to all homes in the area.
- Boundary Committee – First steps review after judicial decision expected to take place on 16 July 2009.
- Councillor Rushbrook said she was looking forward to working with Councillor Gower.

Mr Jarvis challenged Councillor Gower on the subject of Councillor's Expenses, stating that he had read 5 out of 15 Councillors claimed internet expenses. Councillor Gower replied that she would be happy to explain about expenses and would contact Mr Jarvis after the meeting. Councillor Rushbrook stated that all Councillors' expenses/allowances are available in the public domain.

AG

PC Alex Foster – Bury Rural Safer Neighbourhood Team:

Crimes since last meeting:

- 1 – Theft from motor vehicle
 - 1 – Theft of a motor vehicle
 - 1 – Criminal damage to building other than house
 - 1 – Criminal damage to motor vehicle
 - 2 – Burglaries with intent (nothing taken)
- CCTV camera at the Community Centre had been vandalised and smashed. Although a picture of the culprit appeared on the CCTV tape, PC Spraggons was having problems viewing it. SNT patrols at Community Centre were now a priority.
 - Fixed penalty notices had been issued for parking at the school. Parking is still being monitored by PC Trish Sinclair, but SNT can only monitor current conditions. Issues to do with road safety; walking bus should be directed to Suffolk County Council.
 - Clerk requested to send copy e-mails to PCSO Foster re proposed works to the school crossing area/Silver Street.
 - PCSO Debs Carroll-Beer should be back with the Clare Team on 25 June 2009.
 - New sergeant for Bury Rural South should be appointed shortly.

Open meeting

6 Clerk's Report

Clerk's Report was read and is attached to these minutes as Annex 1.

Annex 1

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 12 May 2009 minutes:

None.

7.2 Receive draft minutes of 09 June 2009 meeting:

Cllr Wheeler went through highlights of the meeting.

- Cllr Wheeler elected as Chairman of Finance Committee.
- Accounts for 2008 / 2009 were approved. Section 2 – Annual governance statement of Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2009 was completed and signed by the Chairman. Acceptance of Annual Return will be made to Parish Council meeting on 16 June 2009.
- Budget statement effective 31 May 2009 was received. The financial position was satisfactory with £4,997 (12.47%) of the budget spent, leaving a balance of £35,078. Additionally £44,031 is held in Reserves
- E-mail received from H.M. Revenue & Customs to advise that the online tax-free payment of £75 that Parish Council applied for will be sent by cheque.
- Clerk to purchase "The Local Council Clerk's Guide, 2nd Edition". Purchase of a wheeled pilot case for Clerk to transport documents to meetings was also agreed.

- Mr Pound has agreed to do the hedge cutting around Old School Field again this year. His quotation for £150 per cut (same as last year) and £65 per cut for the removal of the arisings was unanimously accepted.
- Clerk reported that Kedington Community Association had received a cheque for £2,500 from the Dulverton Trust towards the cost of the new roof on the Community Centre. Grant application to Suffolk County Council's Regeneration Fund has been submitted in partnership with KCA.
- Eight payments and one Direct Debit totalling £7,028.04 were unanimously approved and cheques signed by Cllr Cahill and Cllr Double.

7.3 Ratify acceptance of accounts for 2008/2009 for External Audit:

A resolution to accept Finance Committee's recommendation for approval of Annual Return for 2008/2009 was unanimously agreed.

8 Receive report from SALC Area Meeting held on 28 May 2009

The Chairman gave a report to the meeting and this is attached to these minutes as Annex 2.

Annex 2

9 Environmental / Grounds Maintenance Matters

9.1 Risbridge Meadow (update):

Clerk reported on an e-mail received from Colin Jakes, Park Ranger, stating that everything on the Meadow seemed okay; wild flowers along the river very colourful. Main grass paths have been cut, but some vegetation encroaching along the wood chipped path will be trimmed back if it gets any worse. Environment Agency still haven't removed the tree fallen into the river. Mr Jakes was advised that a member of the public had complained about falling off the edge of the path. In response to this, Mr Jakes walked all the main paths and found nothing obvious, although he said the comfrey is in full growth on either side of the paths in most areas, so it was not possible to do any more than to check the condition of the main surface. He added that the Rangers will look for any obvious problem if they do cut back the vegetation. Mr Jakes said that hopefully members of the public would not expect quite the same standard as paths in a public park and exercise additional care.

The Chairman reported he had been advised by Simon Collin from St Edmundsbury Borough Council, that a claim had been made from a member of the public who fell down the steps onto Risbridge Meadow from Cordwainer Close. The steps have been closed off for the present time.

Close meeting

In regard to a claim being made, Mr Jarvis said he felt this was disappointing, as it had taken a considerable amount of time to put the steps in to improve access onto the Meadow. Mr Jarvis queried whether the Park Rangers were aware of the claim.

County Councillor Gower stated that if the steps are proven to be a Health and Safety issue, access to them would have to be closed off.

The Chairman asked Borough Councillor Rushbrook to investigate this matter and report back to the Parish Council.

Open meeting

9.2 Any other environmental/grounds maintenance matters:

Cllr Double reported that three Parishioners had complimented the work carried out by the new contractors who do Grounds Contract "A". Clerk reported that weeds in the gutters along Barton Drive/Barton Grove had been reported to Highways Department. It was also noted that the tree in the car park of the White Horse Public House was in danger of obscuring the junction if not cut back.

10 Highway/Footpath/Street Furniture matters

10.1 Proposed new pavement in Silver Street:

Cllrs Palmer, Donoghue and Garner had a site meeting with John Goodyear (in light of the Safety Audit recommendation that the proposed scheme should not go ahead) to see what compromises could be made. The compromises were discussed and it was agreed that current priority systems in the village were not very successful and one-way systems could speed up traffic. Problems in this area are made worse with cars parking on the road near to the garage and at school drop off and pick up times.

Close meeting

Mr Jarvis commented that in his view the scheme would be a waste of money as there had never been a real problem in Silver Street.

County Councillor Gower stated that the introduction of a one-way system would require a Traffic Regulation Order.

Open meeting

A resolution was put forward by Cllr Double and seconded by Cllr Wheeler to call a Public Meeting to see if the majority of Parishioners wanted the scheme. This was unanimously agreed by all Councillors.

MF

10.2 Any other Highway/Footpath/Street Furniture matters:

Cross Scales on play equipment. The Chairman reported that the bump stops and worn chain links on this piece of play equipment had been repaired by himself and the Vice-Chairman. He also reported that the Village Handyman had replaced some missing bolts on the brackets of the fence surrounding the smaller children's play equipment. Clerk recorded her thanks to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman for carrying out the repairs.

11 Parish Plans

Chairman read out a letter received from Suffolk ACRE, asking Parish Council's to formulate a Parish Plan. Suffolk ACRE requested the opportunity to speak at a Public Meeting (organised and financed by the Parish Council) to portray the process and benefits of having a Parish Plan. It was unanimously agreed that the Parish Council would not take up their offer at the present time, but seek views of Parishioners through the Ketton Review or Chairman's Letter.

12 Housing / Planning

12.1 Applications for discussion at meeting:

None.

12.2 Planning Applications – Observations conveyed by Parish Council:

Vine Cottage, Silver St ACCEPTABLE	Listed Building Application (i) Erection of canopy over front door (ii) Change of colour of exterior walls from white to dark pink.
--	---

"Serena" 8 Dash End Lane UNACCEPTABLE	Erection of 2½ storey dwelling with attached garage (revised scheme to that granted under SE/08/0315).
--	--

22 Dash End ACCEPTABLE	Erection of conservatory to rear elevation
----------------------------------	--

12.3 Planning Applications – Decisions received from Borough Council:

Kedington Primary School GRANTED	Raise crowns to 5 metres on five Horse Chestnut trees (1,2,4,5 & 7 on plan) and one Lime Tree (3 on plan) within area A1 on Tree Preservation Order.
--	--

- 12.4 Any other housing / planning matters:**
Land adjacent to Serena, Dash End Lane. Parish Council had been asked by Planning Department to reconsider their decision of finding the revised plans unacceptable. All Councillors were in favour that their original comments should stand.
- 13 Consultations**
None.
- 14 Any other reports (on-going matters)**
- 14.1 KCA Report:**
Cllr Double stated there was no report to give as the last meeting of the KCA was about preparation for Meadowlark.
- 14.2 Press release issued by Stop Stansted Expansion:**
The Chairman reported that a new leaflet had been launched by Stop Stansted Expansion setting out details of how to complain about aircraft noise. The leaflet is designed to help people affected by noise from planes using Stansted Airport to report their concerns in a way which will help lead to improvements to noise management and better track keeping in the future. In some cases it could also lead to fines being imposed on airlines where they break noise and track keeping rules.
- Cllr Wheeler was given permission to raise an item about the plans for the proposed new office accommodation. Cllr Wheeler said that after looking at the revised plans, he was concerned about the division between the office and meeting room, which he thought was to be 50/50. However, according to the revised plans, the office space was considerably smaller than the meeting room. Cllr Wheeler said the principle of having a new office was to provide the Clerk with a nice working environment, but the revised plans showed what he thought to be cramped working conditions at the expense of a larger meeting room. Cllr Wheeler stated approximate costs for the new office were £45,000; he added it was possible that £25,000 of this could come from Parish Council Reserves if enough grants could not be sourced. Cllr Wheeler said he felt a back-up plan should be put in place if the KCA could not find enough funding to do the roof at the same time as the office was built and asked Cllr Donoghue how difficult would it be to face up the back of the office roof if the main roof was not done at the same time.
- Cllr Donoghue said it would need extra work to do it in two halves and changes to the entrance area would have to be left and an outside door put on as a temporary measure.
- A resolution was put forward by the Chairman and seconded by Cllr Wheeler that the office space and meeting room should be 50/50 and work should commence on the office as soon as practicable. This was agreed by all Councillors. Cllr Donoghue did not take part in this resolution.
- 15 Events**
- 15.1 Nominations**
- 15.1.1 West Suffolk Local Strategic Partnership Forum – 19 June 2009:**
Clerk will consider attending.
- 15.1.2 Suffolk Constabulary Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator's Network Meetings (various dates)**
Chairman will attend meeting on 30 June 2009.
- 15.1.3 West Suffolk House –“Open House” Week 6 – 9 July 2009**
None.

15.1.4 East of England Regional Assembly – Community Action on Climate Change 28 July 2009 – Stevenage, Hertfordshire.

None.

15 Councillor absences (update):

Councillor absences were given to the Clerk.

16 Any other business (new matters)

Circulation of documents among Councillors and the importance of moving documents on swiftly was discussed.

Definitive Footpath No 13 in Arms Lane. It was reported that log and stakes had been put across footpath and were causing an obstruction. Clerk to write to stable owners.

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 21 July 2009 at 7.40 p.m. in The Library, Arms Lane, Kedington.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

Signed: Date: