

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF KEDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 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 Peter Garner
Cllr Zoe Palmer

Ms Marion Farrant (Clerk)

In attendance: Borough Councillor Marion Rushbrook; Mr S Jarvis (Wildlife Group); Mr R Hobbs, Mrs B Surridge, Mr M Surridge, Mr N Loader, (Parishioners), Mr M Upton (Kedington on-line News); Mr N Rumsey (Carisbrooke Investments Ltd); Mr P Sutton (Cheffins).

		ACTION
1	<p>Parishioners' Question Time and to acknowledge agenda items of interest to members of the Public present (5 mins)</p> <p>Mr Jarvis expressed an interest in agenda item 12. Mr Hobbs expressed an interest in agenda item 3. Mrs Surridge stated that she wished to speak to the meeting about the legal status of Calford Green (statement attached to these minutes as Annex 1).</p> <p>In reply to Mrs Surridge's statement, the Chairman confirmed the response sent to St Edmundsbury Borough Council in response to the Local Development Framework Consultation, included Calford Green. The Chairman added that he would not want residents in Calford Green to think they are ignored by the Parish Council. Cllr Palmer reported that during a recent walkabout with Haverhill Town Clerk, Gordon Mussett, Calford Green was included in conversations/discussions about where the buffer zone between Haverhill and Kedington would be if Option 3 in the Local Development Framework went ahead.</p> <p>Cllr Double reported she had been consulting with Highways about the missing road markings following resurfacing of the B1061 at Calford Green. Mrs Surridge said she had also written to Kevin Shipp at Highways about this matter and would forward his reply letter to the Clerk.</p> <p>The Chairman stated that he would get the Clerk to write to the Borough Council to reinforce that Calford Green is part of the Parish of Kedington and served by Kedington Parish Council.</p> <p>Borough Councillor Marion Rushbrook said she could confirm that Calford Green is recognised by St Edmundsbury Borough Council as being part of Kedington.</p> <p>Open meeting</p>	<p>Annex 1</p> <p>MF</p>
2	<p>Welcome and apologies</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed all present. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Jane Farmer (work commitments); County Council Anne Gower (cabinet meeting at Suffolk County Council).</p>	

Close meeting

3 Co-option of new Parish Councillor

Mr Hobbs introduced himself to the meeting, stating he had lived in Kedington since 1996 and his wife was born in the village. Mr Hobbs said if co-opted he would like to take an active and impartial role in matters relating to Kedington/Calford Green, which would help to maintain village life. Mr Hobbs was asked to leave the meeting while Councillors discussed his co-option. All Councillors were unanimous in co-opting Mr Hobbs as a Parish Councillor. Mr Hobbs re-joined the meeting, signed the Acceptance of Office form and was welcomed as a member of the Parish Council by the Chairman.

Annex 2

Open meeting

4 Minutes of last meeting held on 15 September 2009

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

5 To receive members' Declarations of Interest on agenda items in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct (and section 106 of the LGFA 1992)

Cllr Palmer declared an interest in agenda item 13.1 and signed the Interests Book.

Close meeting

6 Local Development Framework

6.1 Mr Nik Rumsey from Carisbrooke Developments to report to Parish Council:

Mr Rumsey said his Company were the owners/developers of Haverhill Business Park, adding they were the owner/potential developer of employment land at Hanchett End in Haverhill. Mr Rumsey had attended the Public Meeting in Kedington where the Local Development Framework was discussed and had requested an opportunity to address the Parish Council regarding the Borough Council's preferred option, Option 3. Mr Rumsey stated his Company had reservations about Option 3 and although representations had to be made by 7th October 2009, St Edmundsbury Borough Council was still listening to views being voiced. Mr Rumsey stated that his Company would like to see the Core Strategy split into different sites; his Company would be voicing their opposition to the Core Strategy preferred option in 2010. Mr Rumsey suggested the Parish Council could link up with Carisbrooke to oppose Option 3 if they so wished.

Mr Rumsey then introduced Mr Paul Sutton, Head of Planning with Cheffins in Cambridge. Mr Sutton addressed the meeting and a summary of his representation is attached to these minutes as Annex 3, together with a map handed out to Councillors. The dark red area on the map shows areas in Haverhill that will be developed; the pink area shows an area already developed.

Annex 3

The Chairman thanked Mr Rumsey and Mr Sutton for their presentation and discussion with Councillors. Mr Rumsey and Mr Sutton then left the meeting.

Open meeting

Councillors agreed that the presentation and views put forward were very interesting; however, it was noted that the Parish Council should be cautious about how Carisbrooke Investments are perceived before linking in with their proposals, in order for the Parish Council to maintain an independent voice. It was agreed that at present no Working Party would be formed, but Parish Councillors were requested to research information on Carisbrooke Investments and feed information to the Clerk for presentation at next meeting.

Close meeting

7 Visitor's Reports

Borough Councillor Marion Rushbrook said she had nothing specific to report but asked if the Parish Council had received any further information on the proposed closure of Stourmead. Cllr Double replied that the Trust had said they would report back to her after the meeting held on 9th October 2009.

A report from the Safer Neighbourhood Team and a Bury Rural Sector Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter are attached to these minutes as Annex 4. The Chairman reported he had attended the SNT Tasking Meeting and Kedington received no mention at all. Cllr Hobbs commented it was not acceptable that representatives from the SNT did not always attend Parish Council meetings, he felt this was poor management and not unreasonable to expect members from the SNT to make representation at certain times. The Chairman reported that PCSO Debs Carroll-Beer had been moved to another team.

Annex 4

Open meeting

8 Clerk's Report

There was no Clerk's Report.

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

None.

9 Finance Committee

9.1 Consider any matters arising from 08 September 2009 minutes:

None.

9.2 Receive draft minutes of 13 October 2009 meeting:

Cllr Wheeler went through highlights of the meeting.

- Financial position as at 30 September 2009 was satisfactory with £16,277 (40.62%) of the budget spent, leaving £23,798 in hand. Additionally £43,191 is held in Reserves. Cllr Double raised a concern about some of the budget headings.
- Annual Return for year ended 31 March 2009 had been received from External Auditors. The only issues raised were that Parish Council did not undertake a risk assessment during the year ended 31 March 2009 and that the fidelity guarantee cover still appeared to be insufficient in light of bank balances held at 31 March 2009.
- Petty Cash Imprest of £50 agreed.
- Clerk awarded pay increase, backdated to 01 April 2009 in accordance with NALC Pay Briefing.
- Revised NALC holiday scales give employees with less than 5 years service an extra day holiday (pro rata for part time employees).
- Date for precept meeting agreed.
- Play equipment: defects on safety surface around cross-scales and trip hazard at entrance to play area.
- Model Code of Conduct Training for all Councillors.
- Winter Gritting – Richard Pound to be asked to do this again this year.
- Bench in Dash End – stainless steel ends ordered. Handyman has refurbished slats.
- Grant of £55 to Royal British Legion for purchase of wreath for Remembrance Sunday with balance to Poppy Appeal 2009.
- Payments for Parish Council Insurance and purchase of Water/Sewerage maps ratified.

Annex 5

- Set of NALC Legal Topic Notes ordered at a cost of £37.
- Councillor Courses available at SALC. KPC pay travelling expenses.
- Twenty two payments and one Direct Debit totalling £3,892.17 for payments as at 30 September 2009 were unanimously approved and cheques signed by Cllr Wheeler and Cllr Cahill. Cllr Double signed cheque for Antique Restorations.
- Mail drop for Public Meeting in September was done by Clerk due to exceptional circumstances. Total hours for delivery were twelve. Clerk to be paid £80 less deductions of tax and national insurance.

Cllr Donoghue commented that £80 did not seem a sufficient payment for twelve hours work (eight on a Sunday and four on a Monday), given that the Clerk had no choice but to do the mail-drop, otherwise the meeting would not have gone ahead.

At this point the Clerk left the meeting while the matter was discussed. The Chairman took over taking notes, attached to these minutes as Annex 6.

Annex 6

After twenty five minutes the Clerk rejoined the meeting and resumed taking notes.

9.3 Receive quotations for late summer mowing along The Cut and award contract:

Two quotations had been received:

M D Landscapes (Anglia) Ltd - £1,750 plus vat

Suffolk County Council - £2,262 plus vat (this amount included £650 to take away arisings)

A resolution was put forward to cut and leave arisings; vote 6 for; 1 against. Clerk requested to ask Contractors to re-submit quotations.

MF

Close meeting

Mr Jarvis stated that at the recent Countryside Forum meeting, Penny Hemphill from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust had reported about new legislation which protected river banks and the cutting of them. Clerk requested to check if contractors are aware of new legislation.

MF

Open meeting

10 S76 Local Government Public Involvement in Health Act 2007

10.1 Receive report on Controversial Provision Delayed:

Reading from a SALC LAIS information sheet, the Chairman gave clarity that Section 76 of the Act, which stated only elected Councillors can take the office of Chairman and Vice-Chairman and, required five elected Councillors in order for a Council to operate and be quorate, has been held in abeyance. The delay in implementation of Section 76 might be until after the next ordinary elections in 2011, but confirmation of this is awaited.

11 Training for Parish Councillors

Model Code of Conduct Training for Parish Councillors. Date agreed Tuesday 5th January 2010. Clerk to liaise with SALC.

MF

12 Environmental / Grounds Maintenance Matters

12.1 Receive report from Countryside Forum Meeting:

Deferred to next meeting.

12.2 Any other environmental/grounds maintenance matters:

Clerk was requested to write to owners of the stables in Arms Lane about the log that had been placed across the footpath. Cllr Double also asked if the Clerk could remind stable owners that it is illegal for horses to foul on footpaths; this followed an incident where a horse had fouled the footpath in Haverhill Road.

MF

Guillotine

With the time at 9.45 p.m. the Chairman sought Councillors permission to raise the guillotine by 30 minutes. Proposed by Cllr Wheeler, seconded by Cllr Donoghue and agreed by all present.

It was agreed to receive KCA Report and then discuss the matter raised in 13.1.1. The Chairman said this agenda item would be heard without members of the public/press being present, as the subject matter contained data protection issues and would remain confidential.

14 Any other reports (on-going matters)

Cllr Double gave a report which is attached to these minutes as Annex 7. Cllr Wheeler asked Cllr Double to remind the KCA Chairman at their Annual General Meeting, that the Parish Council, as Trustees of the KCA, requires a copy of their accounts for the last financial year.

Annex 7

At this point, the Chairman asked members of the public and press to leave the meeting in order that agenda item 13.1.1. could be discussed.

13 Highway/Footpath/Street Furniture matters

13.1 Proposed new pavement in Silver Street:

13.1.1 Receive and discuss letter from Parishioner:

The Chairman read out an e-mail and letter from a Parishioner. The Parishioner asked for the letter to be put before the Parish Council to answer six questions raised. The questions related to an identifiable person, which meant under the Data Protection Act, this agenda item would be heard in closed session. The Chairman went through points 1 – 6 of the letter; each point was answered individually and the Clerk took notes, which formed part of a response letter sent to the Parishioner from the Parish Council. The letter, notes and response letter remain confidential so will not form part of these minutes.

13.1.2 Receive correspondence from John Goodyear, Suffolk County Council:

At this point Cllr Palmer declared an interest but remained in the meeting. The Chairman stated an e-mail had been received asking for the Parish Council to make a firm decision as to whether they wanted the proposed new footpath in Silver Street to go ahead. The Chairman put forward a resolution, in light of the fact that only one compromise had been received from Parishioners, "that the Parish Council abandons the original proposal in accordance with wishes of Parishioners at the Public Meeting; if a compromise solution is put forward, the scheme would be revisited in the future". A vote took place with seven Councillors in favour of the resolution. Cllr Palmer did not take place in the vote.

With the time at 10.35 p.m. the meeting was called to a close. All agenda items not heard were deferred.

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 17 November 2009, commencing at 7.40 p.m.in The Library, Arms Lane, Kedington.

Signed **Date.....**