

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF KEDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 15 DECEMBER 2009
HELD AT THE LIBRARY, ARMS LANE, KEDINGTON**

Present:

Cllr Terry Wheeler
Cllr Jennifer Bradnam
Cllr Gloria Double
Cllr Peter Donoghue
Cllr Peter Garner
Cllr Richard Hobbs
Cllr Zoe Palmer

Ms Marion Farrant (Clerk)

In attendance: Mr S Jarvis (Wildlife Group); Mrs. B Surridge (Parishioner); Mr M Upton (Kedington News); PC18 Trish Sinclair (Safer Neighbourhood Team) joined the meeting to report only.

		ACTION
1	<p>Welcome and apologies</p> <p>In the absence of a Chairman, Cllr Wheeler took the Chair. Cllr Wheeler reported that Cllr John Cahill had resigned from his position as Chairman and Parish Councillor with effect from 26 November 2009. Cllr Wheeler asked for it be recorded that the Parish Council wished to thank John Cahill for all the hard work and dedication he gave to the Parish Council in both his roles as Chairman and Councillor.</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Anne Gower (Meeting) and Borough Councillor Marion Rushbrook (Meeting).</p>	
2	<p>Election of new Chairman for 2009/2010</p> <p>Cllr Double nominated Cllr Wheeler; seconded by Cllr Garner. No other nominees. Unanimous vote for Cllr Wheeler, who then signed the Acceptance of Office Form.</p>	Annex 1
3	<p>Election of new Vice-Chairman for 2009/2010</p> <p>Cllr Double nominated Cllr Donoghue, seconded by Cllr Garner. No other nominees. Unanimous vote for Cllr Donoghue.</p>	
4	<p>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)</p> <p>Cllr Palmer declared an interest in agenda item 11.1.</p> <p>Close meeting</p>	
5	<p>Parishioners' Question Time and to acknowledge agenda items of interest to members of the Public present (5 mins)</p> <p>Mr Jarvis said he was interested in agenda items 10 and 11.1. Mr Jarvis enquired as why Cllr Cahill resigned as he felt this was a sad loss to the Parish Council. The Chairman replied that Cllr Cahill felt he had had enough of ongoing, behind the scenes matters, relating to the Parish Council.</p> <p>Mrs Surridge reported she had received a copy of the letter sent to Geoff Rivers, Chief Executive of St Edmundsbury Borough Council and wanted to point out that Calford Green is a "hamlet" and not a "village" as stated in the letter.</p>	

Open meeting		
6	<p>To agree and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2009</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 17 November 2009 were agreed as a true record. Proposed by Cllr Palmer, seconded by Cllr Garner and unanimously agreed by all present. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.</p>	
7	<p>Visitor's Reports</p> <p>The Chairman stated that because of her absence, County Councillor Anne Gower had asked for the following to be reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that a recent Surgery held in Kedington Library with Borough Councillor, Marion Rushbrook only had two attendees, these being a couple who lived in Haverhill £500 had been given from her Locality Budget to pay for the entertainer and presents for the KCA Christmas Party and also for the provision of tickets to families who might not be able to pay. 	
Close meeting		
	<p><u>PC18 Trish Sinclair – Bury Rural South Safer Neighbourhood Team</u></p> <p>The Chairman invited PC18 Trish Sinclair to give her report, which is attached to these minutes as Annex 2. PC Sinclair also informed the meeting that unoccupied premises are being targeted by thieves who break in and remove copper pipes and water tanks Power tools run by petrol are also being targeted in thefts from outbuildings.</p>	Annex 2
Open meeting		
8	<p>Clerk's Report</p> <p>The Clerk read out her report which is attached to these minutes as Annex 3.</p>	Annex 3
8.1	<p>Consider further action (on action taken or reports received since last meeting):</p> <p>Councillors were in agreement that the Parish Council should pursue a grant from the County Councillor's Locality Budget.</p>	MF
9	Finance Committee	
9.1	<p>Consider any matters arising from 10 November 2009 minutes:</p> <p>None.</p>	
9.2	<p>Receive draft minutes of 08 December 2009 meeting and ratify any recommendations if necessary:</p> <p>Cllr Wheeler went through highlights of the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial position as at 30 November 2009 was satisfactory with £22,405 (55.91%) of the budget spent, leaving £17,670 in hand. Additionally £43,191 is held in Reserves. SALC confirmed they were able to facilitate Model Code of Conduct Training on 5th January 2010; all Councillors urged to attend. Richard Pound has informed the Parish Council he will be unable to carry out any necessary gritting of roads from 16 February to 1st April 2010. Any person with suitable vehicle and Public Liability Cover should contact the Clerk if they are interested in covering this period. Nine payments and one Direct Debit totalling £2,594.96 for Supplier Payments as at 30 November 2009 approved on 08 December 2009 and cheques signed by Cllr Wheeler and Cllr Garner. A further cheque for £33.88 was also signed for the purchase of a high visibility jacket for the Crossing Supervisor. 	

10 Environmental / Grounds Maintenance Matters

10.1 Risbridge Meadow (Update):

The Chairman read out a letter received from the Parks Manager at St Edmundsbury Borough Council concerning the closure of the access point into Risbridge Meadow, located at 5 and 16 Cordwainer Close, following an insurance claim received by them earlier in the year from someone who allegedly fell down the flight of steps leading into Risbridge Meadow. The letter pointed out that the wooden steps are located on Borough Council owned land and were installed by the Park Rangers with help from local volunteers in late 2007. Investigations into the claim identified the fact that the narrow strip of land at the top of the steps, between the public highway and Risbridge Meadow is privately owned by a resident in Cordwainer Close. The Borough Council have liaised with the land owner to either enter into some form of agreement or sell the strip of land to the Borough Council so that the access point can be legitimately opened once more. The land owner has recently confirmed he is not willing to negotiate further on the issue and has requested the access point be closed off and the wooden steps removed; the Parks Manager has been advised that this decision has been prompted by the attitude of one or two local dog walkers who have apparently disregarded the current closure of the access point and when challenged, verbally abused the land owner's wife.

The letter concluded there are two alternative access points into Risbridge Meadow, one on the residential estate adjacent to 8 Risbridge Drive and the other from Mill Road. To resolve the issue, the Parks Manager proposes to:

- 1) Progress the removal of the steps and access point.
- 2) Ring fence some of the Park's Budget, in the new financial year, to enhance the access point in Risbridge Drive, which is currently rather uninviting.

Close meeting

Mr Jarvis reported that he and his wife had recently cleaned thirteen Nest Boxes put up in Risbridge Meadow and at least nine of these were being used.

Open meeting

10.2 Receive e-mail from Thurlow Estate regarding Riverside Walk (The Cut):

The Chairman read out an e-mail from John Frank, Thurlow Estate Manager regarding liabilities for Riverside Walk. The only agreement between Thurlow Estate and the Parish Council was made in November 1972 and this did not address liability. Clerk has liaised with Parish Council Insurers and Parish Council has Public Liability Cover for up to £10 million pounds for all property the Parish Council own or are responsible for; this covers all actions the Parish Council undertake on this land, but Insurers state that Thurlow Estate should also have Public Liability Cover to protect them from any potential claim that the Parish Council cannot be held responsible for. Insurers recommend an agreement is drawn up between the two parties concerned. Clerk to liaise with Thurlow Estate.

MF

10.3 Any other environmental/grounds maintenance matters:

Cllr Double requested her proposal to have drainage / sewage in the village put on the agenda for January 2010 be postponed to February 2010.

MF

Cllr Hobbs asked if anything was happening about the tree branches that were getting embedded into power lines on the edge of Watermill Field. Clerk said she had reported the matter to Thurlow Estate and they were looking into it.

Cllr Hobbs asked about the trip hazard at the entrance to Old School Field. Cllr Garner said he would be obtain estimates and find out about suitable materials to use to rectify the problem of the plastic mesh rising about the grass. In the meantime Cllr Garner said he would do weekly inspections.

	Cllr Bradnam asked when the new "Give Way" sign would be erected in Coupals Road. Clerk said she would speak to Kevin Shipp from Environment and Transport about this.	MF
11	Highway/Footpath/Street Furniture matters	
11.1	<p>Receive letter from Parishioner in reply to Parish Council letter about Silver Street:</p> <p>At this point Cllr Palmer Declared an Interest and signed the Interest's Book. Cllr Palmer did not take part in discussions about this matter.</p> <p>The Chairman read out a letter from a Parishioner sent in reply to the letter sent by the Parish Council following her first complaint letter. The letter stated that it was hoped the Parish Council's understood the point in the first letter sent, "in that there was an opinion in the village that a member of the Parish Council had a personal interest in the provision of a footpath along Silver Street". The letter went on to say that regardless of advice given to the Parish Council by SALC, it did not alter this fact, correct or false, and the Parish Council's response did not put her mind at rest that the Parish Council understood this point or realised that they needed to address it.</p> <p>The Chairman read out points from the Parish Council's reply letter and said that as far as he was concerned the matter had been dealt with; a folder had been put together with all correspondence to and from Suffolk County Council, which proved they were instigators of the proposed path and not the Councillor in question. The Councillor had declared an interest when the matter came up at Parish Council meetings and had followed the Code of Conduct. Cllr Double said she did not agree with the letter sent and that several residents had been to her to complain about this matter and she advised them to contact the Clerk or Chairman. Cllr Hobbs asked if any other complaint letters had been received. The Clerk replied no; to which Cllr Hobbs replied that surely this meant there was no case to answer. Cllr Bradnam suggested that if other situations similar to this arise and Parish Councillors are approached, that they do not comment or act improperly, but tell the Parishioner they should contact the Chairman or Clerk in the first instance.</p> <p>The Chairman again put forward the point that the Parish Council had dealt with this matter properly and suggested they should write back to the Parishioner re-iterating this point. All Councillors, with the exception of Cllr Double agreed this should be done.</p>	MF
11.2	<p>Any other highway/footpath/street furniture matters:</p> <p>Missing street name sign in Dash End. Clerk has reported this to Borough Council and will chase up.</p>	MF
12	Any other reports (on-going matters)	
12.1	<p>Local Development Framework:</p> <p>Chairman reported that an e-mail had been sent to Cllr Hobbs by Paul Sutton from Cheffins, setting out the main thrust of the representations that Carrisbrooke had made to the Borough Council on the Strategic Sites in Haverhill – St Edmundsbury Borough Council Core Strategy Submission Document, which had included a map showing their suggested "solution". It was agreed that Mr Rumsey and Mr Sutton be invited to the January meeting to update the Parish Council and discuss any further developments.</p>	MF
12.2	<p>Receive report from Boundary Committee on Local Government Review:</p> <p>The Chairman read from a press release dated 2 December 2009 "that the Court of Appeal has recognised that the process the Committee followed in formulating its draft proposals in Suffolk Was lawful and consistent with the guidance that the Secretary of State issued". The Chairman said the documents were lengthy and would be sent round in a reading pack.</p>	MF

- 12.3 KCA Report:**
There was no KCA report.
- 13 Housing/Planning**
- 13.1 Applications for discussion at meeting:**
None.
- 13.2 Planning Applications – Observations conveyed by Parish Council:**
68 Westward Deals Erection of single storey rear extension and internal alterations.
ACCEPTABLE
- 13.3 Planning Applications – Decisions received from Borough Council:**
Calford Green Cottage Erection of (i) two storey side extension; (ii) single Storey rear extension (following part demolition of existing extension).
GRANTED
- 22 School Road Erection of two storey dwelling (following demolition of existing single storey side extension).
GRANTED
- 68 Westward Deals Erection of single storey rear extension and internal alterations.
GRANTED
- 13.4 Any other housing / planning matters:**
None.
- 14 Consultations**
None.
- 15 Events**
None.
- 15.1 Nominations:**
None.
- 15.2 Councillor absences (update)**
The Chairman requested Councillors update the Clerk with any planned absences.
- 16 Any other business (new matters)**
None.
- 17 Receive meeting dates for Parish Council Meetings 2010**
Meeting dates for 2010 were given to all Councillors.
- The Chairman concluded the meeting by wishing all present the compliments of the season and thanking the Clerk for all her hard work during the year. He also extended his thanks to the Clerk for arranging the Social Gathering that would follow the meeting.
- Meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.
- The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 19 January 2010, commencing at 7.40 p.m.in The Library, Arms Lane, Kedington.

Signed Date.....

