

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF KEDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2010
HELD AT THE LIBRARY, ARMS LANE, KEDINGTON**

Present: Cllr Terry Wheeler (Chairman)
Cllr Zoe Palmer (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Jennifer Bradnam
Cllr Peter Byron
Cllr Peter Donoghue
Cllr Peter Garner
Cllr Richard Hobbs
Cllr Simon McGuire

Ms Marion Farrant (Parish Clerk)

In attendance: Mrs M Rushbrook (Borough Councillor); Mrs B Surridge (Parishioner); Mr S Jarvis (Wildlife Group).

ACTION

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

Mrs Surridge referred to an article in the Haverhill Weekly News on the Community Governance Review. Clerk reported the Parish Council had replied to the Review, stating that Kedington Parish Council were not in favour of moving the parish boundary between Haverhill and Kedington and also were happy for Kedington Parish Council to stay with a complement of nine Councillors.

Mr Jarvis expressed his concern about disruptions/delays at the previous two Parish Council Meetings.

Open meeting

2 Welcome and apologies

The Chairman welcomed all present. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Gloria Double (Health) and County Councillor Anne Gower (Town Council Meeting).

3 To agree and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 20 July 2010

The Chairman read out an e-mail sent by Cllr Double stating in her opinion, agenda item 3, last paragraph was not factual. This item was discussed and the Clerk offered up to Councillors her written notes, which after inspection showed the minutes were factual and in order; therefore no changes were necessary.

A resolution was proposed by Cllr McGuire to accept the minutes of the meeting on 20 July 2010 as a true record; seconded by Cllr Garner. There were no other resolutions; motion carried unanimously.

4 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)

The Clerk advised any Councillors named in complaints to the Standards Committee Assessment Sub Committee that they should Declare an Interest in agenda item 5,

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 it is resolved that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press will be excluded” for the next agenda item.

Members of the public and Borough Councillor left the meeting.

5 Consider future Parish Council Meeting dates; review and agree Standing Orders

Councillors named in complaints to the Standards Committee Assessment Sub Committee signed the Register of Members' Interests Book.

The Chairman read out a statement, composed by himself and the Clerk.

“At the present time, Kedington Parish Council finds itself in the position of having six Councillors and one ex-Councillor being reported to the Standards Committee, Assessment Sub-Committee of St Edmundsbury Borough Council for allegedly breaching the Code of Conduct. The allegations span three separate complaints. To avoid the risk of collusion this matter cannot be expanded upon and is confidential.

Furthermore, on Friday 17 September 2010, four individual Councillors and Kedington Parish Council & Others received Notice of a Claim from the Employment Tribunals Service at Bury St Edmunds.

These complaints have greatly impacted on the cohesion and democracy of Kedington Parish Council.

Both myself and the Clerk to the Parish Council, feel that the complaints and allegations are making it untenable for Parish Councillors to attend Parish Council meetings, without the risk of further allegations being made against them”.

The Chairman moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Cllr McGuire:

“that, as three statutory meetings of Kedington Parish Council have been held in the current year, further scheduled Parish Council meetings for the Parish of Kedington be suspended until further notice, or at least until proceedings in regard to the complaints alleging breaches of the Code of Conduct and the Notice of a Claim from the Employment Tribunal are concluded.”

There were no other resolutions and the motion was carried unanimously. Councillors asked for it to be noted that all other options had been exhausted before the decision was taken to suspend Parish Council Meetings.

The Chairman stated as Parish Council meetings would be suspended until further notice, the Parish Council needed to delegate powers to enable day to day matters to be carried out.

The Chairman moved the following resolution (in consultation with Standing Orders), which was seconded by Cllr Byron that:

- a) under Standing Orders F1 Section 7, 16 and 16.1 the Parish Council delegates powers to the Finance Committee to carry out all financial obligations that are listed in Financial Standing Order's F1 Sections 1–9 (including sub-headings). Finance Meetings to be convened on scheduled meeting dates for 2010.

- b) all Planning Applications will still be circulated in the normal way to Councillors (Standing Order P1) with the exception of 1(v) whereby Councillors would be contacted via e-mail for comment.
- c) the Clerk has delegated powers to deal with all “day to day” functions on behalf of the Parish Council; seeking advice from the Chairman / Vice Chair on any matters of particular significance.

There were no other resolutions and the motion was carried unanimously.

It was agreed that a Notice informing Parishioners about the suspension of Parish Council Meetings would be placed on all Parish Council Notice Boards.

The meeting concluded at 8.30 p.m.

Signed **Dated**