

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF KEDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2011
HELD AT THE LIBRARY, ARMS LANE, KEDINGTON**

Present:

Cllr Terry Wheeler (Chairman)
Cllr Zoe Palmer (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Peter Byron
Cllr Peter Donoghue
Cllr Peter Garner
Cllr Nathan Loader
Cllr Simon McGuire
Cllr Richard Pound

Ms Marion Farrant (Parish Clerk)

In attendance: Suffolk County Councillor Anne Gower, PC 18 Trish Sinclair (Bury Rural South SNT), Mr S Jarvis, Mr J Brett, Mr C Gurteen, Mr P Owen, Mr M Nield (Parishioners).

		ACTION
1	Parishioners' Question Time and to acknowledge agenda items of interest to members of the Public present Mr Jarvis expressed an interest in agenda item 11. Messrs Gurteen, Nield and Owen expressed an interest in agenda item 9 in relation to Calford Green.	
2	Welcome and apologies The Chairman welcomed everyone present. Apologies for absence were received from Borough Councillor Marion Rushbrook. The Chairman reported the resignation of Cllr Bradnam. Notice of Vacancy from St Edmundsbury Borough Council has been placed on all Notice Boards.	
3	To agree and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2011 A proposal to accept the minutes of 20 September 2011 as a true record was put forward by Cllr Palmer and seconded by Cllr McGuire. There were no other proposals. Unanimously agreed by all present. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.	
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) Cllr Pound declared an interest in agenda item 11.1. Close meeting	
5	Visitor's Reports <u>Suffolk County Councillor:</u> County Councillor Anne Gower reported she had been working with residents on school transport. Councillor Gower also stated she has been working on other issues in the village concerning highways matters. A surgery with Borough Councillor Marion Rushbrook was held at the Library on 1 st October 2011. Suffolk County Council's consultation on budget savings had so far received 1,100 responses. Councillor Gower reported no Suffolk Libraries were planned for closure; report on Mobile Libraries was due in November and would be debated by Cabinet in December 2011, with a full report being published in April 2012.	

<u>Bury Rural South Safer Neighbourhood Team:</u>		
	PC 18 Trish Sinclair gave her report which is attached to these minutes as Annex 1.	Annex 1
	Open meeting	
6	Clerks' Report The Clerk read out her report which is attached to these minutes as Annex 2.	Annex 2
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 13 September 2011 minutes: None.	
7.2	Receive draft minutes of 11 October 2011 meeting: Cllr Palmer (Chair of Finance Committee) went through highlights of the meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minutes of meeting on 13 September 2011 meeting approved and signed. Financial position at 30 September 2011 is that £19,417.05 (44.11%) of the budget had been spent, leaving a balance of £24,602.95. Additionally £27,766.78 is held in Reserves. Annual Return for year ending 31 March 2011; Asset Register for 2010 had been "restated" following request from external auditors. The new figures of £97,850.25 were unanimously agreed. <p><i>A resolution was put forward by Cllr Garner and seconded by Cllr Wheeler that the Parish Council should seek a discount from the external auditor's yearly invoice, for the time it took the clerk to "restate" the figures. There were no other resolutions. Unanimously agreed.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget/Precept meeting date set for 01 November 2011 at 8.00 p.m. Change to budget headings agreed in regard to salaries, crossing supervision and winter gritting, as advised by SALC. <p><i>A resolution was put forward by Cllr Palmer and seconded by Cllr Wheeler that the Parish Council should accept the advice given by SALC in regard to ensuring that salaries for all employees are put under one budget heading and that winter gritting should be moved to the General Parish Requirements heading. There were no other resolutions. Seven votes in favour; one abstention. Motion carried.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rent payable to landlord for office accommodation will be paid from new Nat West Bank account instead of Santander account. Quotation for cleaning the War Memorial received (£1,250.00). As recommendation from the War Memorials Trust is that cleaning should only take place approximately every ten years, it was decided cleaning would be deferred to next financial year. It was also agreed that a new budget heading for War Memorial maintenance would be set up in the budget/precept for 2012/2013. Village "Contact" Magazine has been updated by Clerk. Copies of this will be retained in the Post Office for delivery to new residents. Copies will also be available from the Clerk on request. Clerk to write to Mr Pound to see if he is interesting in carrying out winter gritting again in 2011/2012 and what his hourly rate would be. Notices to be placed on grit bins stating the grit was for use on roads and pavements only and not for private drives and paths. Notice Board at Calford Green repaired. 	MF

- Riverside Walk and Watermill Field Tree Survey tenders received. Contract awarded to A Crouch Tree Services (£400.00). Three other tenders were much higher.
- Silver Street Park – maintenance of flower/shrub beds, inspection to be carried out by Cllr Garner.
- Brook running through Silver Street Park – consider cleaning. Inspection to be carried out by Cllr Wheeler.
- Fence around wooden fort – tender for this work not received. Agreed that Cllrs Wheeler, Palmer, McGuire and clerk would do the necessary work on 16 October 2011 at no cost to Parish Council.

The Chairman took the opportunity to thank the clerk, Cllrs Palmer and McGuire for giving their time to help him remove the wooden fence from around the fort on Old School Field in preparation for the new safety surfacing.

- Grant of £50 awarded to the Soldiers, Sailors, Airman and Families Association (SSAFA) under Sn 137, LGA 1972.
- Nineteen payments totalling £4,551.73 for Supplier Payments as at 30 September 2011 were approved on 11 October 2011 and cheques signed by Cllr Palmer and Cllr Wheeler.

8 Parish Plans

Clerk reported Annette Gray, Consultation and Community Support Officer at Suffolk ACRE would be attending the Parish Council meeting schedules for 15 November 2011 to give a presentation about Parish and Neighbourhood Plans.

Cllr Loader reported he had prepared a Village Consultation document and this was shared with councillors for their consideration in advance of Annette Gray's presentation in November 2011.

9 Haverhill North East Expansion – receive letter from Principal Planning Policy Officer

The Chairman read out a letter received from Chris Rand, Principal Planning Policy Officer with St Edmundsbury Borough Council. The letter was in response to a letter sent by the Parish Council requesting information regarding the proposed positioning of Haverhill housing in relation to the boundary of the Parish of Kedington. Mr Rand's reply stated that although the draft Core Strategy identified the potential for a North-East relief road, there was insufficient evidence to support its need and in the face of significant local objection, it was removed by the Inspector in his report into the examination of the Core Strategy (paragraph 14.10). The letter went on to request the Parish Council provide underlying evidence to support their recommendation that a minimum separation distance of 750m be maintained between the edge of any new development and the hamlet of Calford Green and whether this distance related to the centre of Calford Green; the nearest property in Calford Green or the nearest property curtilage (the letter noted the nearest property curtilage in Calford Green is already less than 750m from the nearest properties in Antonia Close, Haverhill). Mr Rand acknowledged the request in the Parish Council's letter for sustainable pedestrian/cycle links between Kedington and Haverhill and stated these will need to be addressed in both the Haverhill and the Rural Area Action Plans.

Close meeting

The Chairman stated he felt the minimum distance should be from where Calford Green starts. Mr Owen said he was concerned that Haverhill Town Council can move the boundary; plans showed the proposed development going within 250m of Calford Green with houses less than 200m from the B1061.

	Mr Owen requested the Parish Council contact Bidwells for clarification about the North-East expansion of Haverhill as it encroached on Kedington Parish and is not part of the Rural Action Plan.	PC
	Both Mr Jarvis and Cllr Palmer suggested the Parish Council should contact the local Member of Parliament, Matthew Hancock.	
	Open meeting	
10	H M Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations 2012 Kedington Community Association had informed the Parish Council they were not planning any specific events as the jubilee fell in Meadowlark week. There was agreement the Parish Council should try and plan an event. Councillors were asked to bring their suggestions to the November meeting.	
11	Environment / Grounds Maintenance Matters	
11.1	Maintenance of Riverside Walk (The Cut) consider / approve walk required: Cllr Pound declared an interest and signed the Interest's Book. It was reported the river appears to be getting clogged. As responsibility for clearing rests with the Environment Agency, it was agreed that the Clerk should contact them to arrange a site meeting so they could advise (meeting preferably at a weekend if possible). Councillors to participate in a site meeting agreed as the Chairman, Cllrs Palmer, Garner and Pound. Mr Jarvis will also attend.	MF
11.2	Any other environmental/grounds maintenance matters: Cllr Garner reported on the raised flower/shrub bed in Silver Street Park. His recommendation was that as the bed was in a shady site, it should be stripped back and some new plants put in. Cllr Garner recommended some plants that could be used, in accordance with the Parish Council's wishes to keep the bed, low maintenance and a "sensory" area. The Chairman asked Cllr Garner if he could source the plants and obtain prices as there was only £100 left in the Silver Street Park budget. Some Parish Councillors and the clerk volunteered to carry out any necessary work at no cost to the Parish Council.	PG
	Close meeting Mr Jarvis reported the Wildlife Group had been disbanded.	
	Open meeting	
12	Highway/Footpath/Street Furniture matters	
12.1	Any other Highway/Footpath/Street Furniture matters: Cllr McGuire declared an interest and signed the Interest's Book. The Chairman read out a letter from a resident who lived in Dane Common. The letter stated the steps leading down from Dane Common to Haverhill Road were dangerous at night because the trees on the nearby bank were so high, they obscured the street lighting. It was agreed the Clerk should write to Highways about this matter. Cllr McGuire reported the dead tree on the green at the top of Dane Close had been removed. Cllr Loader reported dog fouling on the Great Meadow. Cllr Garner reported the sign	MF

13 Any other reports (on-going matters)

The Chairman read out an update on Local Libraries in Suffolk received from Suffolk County Council. The update reported SCC had begun work with a selection of groups to develop pilot schemes across the county to test a variety of approaches to local governance of frontline libraries. To further support this, SCC is developing a Scheme of Responsibility that would allow groups to take on as much responsibility as they are comfortable with. The update confirmed no libraries are planned for closure.

14 Housing/Planning

14.1 Applications for discussion at meeting:

None.

14.2 Planning Applications – Observations conveyed by Parish Council:

None.

14.3 Planning Applications – Decisions received from Borough Council:

None.

14.4 Any other housing / planning matters:

None.

15 Consultations

15.1 Suffolk County Council Consultation: The Budget Challenge

The Chairman read out a letter received from Cllr Mark Bee, Leader of Suffolk County Council regarding consultation on budget cuts.

16 Events

16.1 Nominations:

16.1.1 SALC AGM – Monday 7th November 2011, 7.00 – 9.30 p.m.
Henley Community Centre. No uptake.

16.2 Councillor absences (update):

The Chairman requested Councillors update the Clerk with any planned absences.

17 Any other business (new matters)

None.

The meeting closed at 9.45 p.m.

The date of the next meeting will be **Tuesday 15 November 2011** commencing at 7.40 p.m. in The Library, Arms Lane, Kedington.

Signed

Dated