MINUTES OF A MEETING OF KEDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2012
HELD AT THE LIBRARY, ARMS LANE, KEDINGTON

Present: Cllr Terry Wheeler (Chairman)
Cllr Zoe Palmer (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Peter Donoghue
Cllr Peter Garner
Cllr Nathan Loader
Cllr Simon McGuire
Cllr Peter Rowsell

In attendance: Ms Marion Farrant (Parish Clerk)

Also in attendance: Mr Richard Hobbs (Parishioner);

ACTION

1 Parishioners' Question Time and to acknowledge agenda items of interest to members of the Public present
Mr Hobbs expressed an interest in agenda item 12.

Open Meeting

2 Welcome and apologies
The Chairman welcomed all present. Apologies for absence were received from Suffolk County Councillor Anne Gower (Borough Council Meeting); Borough Councillor Marion Rushbrook (Borough Council Meeting); Mr Alaric Pugh (Borough Council Meeting); Mr Shaun Jarvis and Mrs Barbara Surridge.

3 To receive members' declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Local Non-Pecuniary Interests in accordance with the Suffolk Code of Conduct
None.

4 To agree and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2012
A resolution to agree the minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2012 was put forward by Cllr Palmer and seconded by Cllr Loader. There were no other resolutions. Resolution carried. The Chairman duly signed the minutes.

5 Councillor's Responsibilities
A proposal was put forward by Cllr Rowsell, seconded by Cllr McGuire that Cllr Loader should undertake the role of Parish Council Representative on the Kedington Community Association Committee. There were no other nominations; unanimously agreed.

Close meeting

6 Visitor's Reports.

Bury Rural South, Safer Neighbourhood Team

- A report from the Bury Rural South, Safer Neighbourhood Team is attached to these minutes as Annex1 and has been e-mailed to all Councillors. Annex 1

Open meeting

7 Clerks' Report

Clerk's report is attached to these minutes as Annex 2. Annex 2

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

Clerk requested to reply to the letter from Clare Town Council, stating Kedington Parish Council shared the concerns expressed about the number and size of HGVs using local roads, but would be unable to supply a specific contact to become involved in a more concerted action plan. Clerk was requested to put forward her e-mail address to be used for information sharing.

8 Finance Committee

8.1 Consider any matters arising from 13 November 2012 minutes:

None.

8.2 Receive draft minutes of 11 December 2012 meeting:

Cllr Palmer (Chair of Finance Committee) went through highlights of the meeting:

- Financial position at 30 November 2012 satisfactory with £27,291.92 (56.88%) of the budget had been spent, leaving a balance of £20,693.08. Additionally £21,005.35 is held in Reserves.
- Parish Council telephone calls diverted to Clerk's personal mobile. It was agreed the Parish Council would reimburse the Clerk for calls made on behalf of the Parish Council.
- Formal notice given to Landlord for the former office at the garage on Westward Deals with effect from 31 December 2012.
- Direct Debit mandate sent to British Telecom.
- No contractor appointed for Winter Gritting as the quotation received was for £80 per hour. Finance Committee set a ceiling of £40 per hour for the contract and will continue to source a contractor.
- Notice Board on Westward Deals to be replaced.
- Grants – Thank you letters received from Kedington Community Association and Kedington Primary School.
- Grants – Applications: Stop Stansted Expansion. This was declined as not being of benefit to enough local people under Sn 137, LGA 1972.
- Clerk requested to write to CQ-Kedington to ascertain whether the group was still in operation and if not, to ask what had happened to the equipment purchased with the £400 grant given by the Parish Council.
- Thirteen payments totalling £4,131.580 for supplier payments as at 30 November 2012 approved on 11 December 2012 and cheques signed by Cllr Palmer and Cllr Garner

After Cllr Palmer had finished reviewing highlights of the meeting, the Chair and Clerk signed the Precept Application for 2013-2014, which is attached to these minutes as Annex 3. Annex 3

9 New Office Accommodation

9.1 Receive update from Chairman of Parish Council

The Chairman reported he and the Clerk had attended an Emergency Meeting of the KCA Committee as concerns had been raised by them about the windows and the way the project was being managed. The KCA were concerned that the Parish Council would not honour the verbal agreement made three years ago to use Advantage Windows as supplier of the windows and doors and were preparing to use another supplier. It was noted that when the building work started in September 2012, the KCA did not send any written correspondence to remind the Parish Council about using Advantage Windows as these were on the KCA's preferred Supplier List. It was agreed that the Parish Council could do nothing but honour the agreement and use Advantage Windows, but in future instances should ask for stipulations on any project to be in writing.

The Chairman reported he had advised the KCA that, weather permitting, it was hoped to have the roof on the building and the windows installed by the end of January 2013. The KCA indicated, when asked, that they would not be in favour of the Parish Council installing shutters on the windows. A resolution was then put forward by Cllr Loader, seconded by the Chair, that the sealed units in the windows for the office should have 8mm toughened outer and 6.8mm laminated inner for security purposes. There were no other resolutions, unanimously agreed.

The Chairman further reported that KCA and Parish Council representatives will hold a meeting early in 2013 to discuss a Service Agreement and Lease for the new building; a meeting once every six months was also suggested to discuss any issues that may arise. A meeting will also be arranged with the KCA to discuss and agree plans for the second phase of the project (new entrance to the Community Centre).

9.2 Approve any further orders required:

A resolution was put forward by Cllr Donoghue, seconded by Cllr McGuire that Paul Trinder Building Services be allowed to carry out any extra minor works required as the project progressed. There were no other resolutions, unanimously agreed.

Close meeting

At this point PC Ryan Wilson from Bury Rural South, Safer Neighbourhood Team joined the meeting. PC Wilson reported parking in Silver Street when the mobile fish and chip van was in the village on a Friday evening was set as a Priority at the latest Tasking Meeting on 11th December. PC Wilson asked in the run up to Christmas, people did not leave presents on show under Christmas Trees and also destroyed boxes that have contained large electrical items and not leave them on show near to rubbish bins.

Open meeting

10 Proposed development at Stourmead Close in Kedington (receive update from Exhibition)

The Chairman read from an e-mail sent to the Parish Council from the agents of the developer (Bloor Homes). Seventy six people attended the exhibition with 23 returning feedback forms to the agent.

Comments received on the proposed development were:

- Do not like access into Mill Road
- Concerns over the sewage system in the village
- Kedington Primary School is over-subscribed
- Pleased that there will be an access road to the site off Mill Road instead of Risbridge Drive
- Concerns about the density of the development
- Like to see some larger bungalows as part of the development
- Concerns over increased traffic movements
- Concerns over access to the man-hole cover at 1 Haverhill Road
- The development is much needed for the village
- Pleased that there will be parking provisions for the new residents
- The layout and proposed plans look very good and it will be nice to have the area used again
- Please keep the development in keeping with the surrounding area

Councillors agreed that Jamie Wragg from Bloor Homes should be invited to address the Parish Council meeting in January 2013. MF

11 Sewage/drainage problems in Kedington

Cllr Rowsell reported further problems with sewage in the village. He said Anglian Water had been called out to problems on the B1061 near junction with Dane Close down to the White Horse Road junction. Cllr Rowsell reported that when the pipes were flushed through, his home had raw sewage come up through toilets, both upstairs and downstairs; fortunately the toilet seats were down, but he said the smell was rancid. Anglian Water operatives were very supportive to residents and offered to clear up any mess. Cllr Rowsell reported that in the last twelve months there had been a significant increase in call outs to Anglian Water to clear out pipes/drains, etc. in the village. Chairman requested Clerk to write to Anglian Water about this problem and ask them to do a survey to see if the present system in the village can accommodate another 65 homes. MF

Cllr Loader also requested the Parish Council ask if Anglian Water have a "back up plan" for when there is a power failure in the village, as recent events of power failure in Arms Lane showed it knocked out the sewage works.

12 Employment Tribunal Proceedings

Chairman read out the Consent Order issued on 5th November 2012.

Close meeting

Mr Hobbs raised an objection that he was not consulted on the day of the Case Management Discussion at the Employment Tribunal in Bury St Edmunds to ask whether he was in agreement with the Claimant's proposal to drop the case against the Parish Council. The Chairman apologised to Mr Hobbs, but said the Clerk had contacted both him and the Vice-Chair to seek advice as to whether the Parish Council should agree with the Claimant's proposal. He added, advice was taken on the day from the Barrister acting for the Parish Council.

Open meeting

12.1 Suffolk Hate Crime Service:

Cllr Garner voiced his opinions about the Advocate (Mrs Charles) from Suffolk Hate Crime Service and her motives and professionalism during both the Standards Committee investigation and Employment Tribunal Proceedings.

A resolution was put forward by Cllr Garner, seconded by Cllr Palmer that the Parish Council should seek to put in a complaint against Mrs Charles. There were no other resolutions, motion carried by six votes with one abstention. A meeting will be convened early in 2013 to discuss the way forward with this matter.

13 Environment / Grounds Maintenance Matters

13.1 Any other environmental/grounds maintenance matters:

None.

14 Highway/Footpath/Street Furniture matters

14.1 Any other Highway/Footpath/Street Furniture matters:

Faulty street light opposite junction with White Horse Road and pot holes in Silver Street and West End Lane reported to Suffolk County Council.

15 Any other reports (on-going matters)

None.

16 Housing/Planning

16.1 Applications for discussion at meeting:

None.

16.2 Planning Applications – Observations conveyed by Parish Council:
None.

16.3 Planning Applications – Decisions received from Borough Council:
None.

16.4 Any other housing / planning matters:
None.

17 Consultations

17.1 Forest Heath & St Edmundsbury Local – Joint Development Policies Submission Document (October 2012):
Clerk reported Parish Council response to this document had been submitted by the closing date. Clerk thanked Cllr Loader for his in-depth response to the consultation; this view was echoed by the Chairman and other Councillors.

18 Events

18.1 Nominations:
None.

18.2 Councillor absences (update):
The Chairman requested Councillors update the Clerk with any planned absences.

19 Any other business (new matters for discussion only)
None.

The meeting closed at 9.20 p.m. The date of the next meeting will be **Tuesday 15 January 2013** commencing at 7.40 p.m.in The Library, Arms Lane, Kedington.

Signed …… Dated ……...