MINUTES OF A MEETING OF KEDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 30 JUNE 2015
HELD IN THE MEETING ROOM, PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE, ARMS LANE, KEDINGTON

***Present**:*

Cllr Simon McGuire (Chairman)
Cllr Peter Donoghue
Cllr Kate Kendrick
Cllr Nathan Loader
Cllr Zoe Palmer
Cllr Peter Rowsell

In attendance: Ms Marion Farrant – Parish Clerk

Also in attendance: Mr K Betts, Mr R Hobbs, Mrs B Hobbs, Mrs E Oliver, Mr J Halpin, Mr D Adkin (Parishioners/members of Kedington Action Group).

ACTION

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

Mr Betts addressed the meeting on behalf of the Kedington Action Group against the proposed development of North East Haverhill. Mr Betts stated that they had done a leaflet drop within the Parish to campaign against the proposed development and to gain support from Parishioners; he said there were currently seven members in the Kedington Action Group. Mr Hobbs stated the group were hoping to engage the services of an expert planner to help try and find possible flaws in the consultation process and give advice to the action group. Mr Hobbs asked if the action group could have a copy of the Parish Council response to the Beattie Communications consultation on the proposed development; Mr Hobbs also asked the Parish Council to oppose any boundary changes. The action group hoped they could work together with the Parish Council to help fight the development and limit its impact on Kedington and surrounding villages. It was agreed that the Parish Council would arrange to hire premises to facilitate a meeting with Matthew Hancock MP on 17 July 2015. The group also asked for the Parish Council to seek assurances from St Edmundsbury Borough Council that the land left between Kedington Parish and the new development would be retained as "open space" and not used to "infill" with housing in years to come.

Open meeting

2 Welcome and apologies

The Chairman welcomed all present. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Debbie Plummer (Personal), Cllr Marion Rushbrook (Holiday), Cllr Wheeler (Holiday) and Borough Councillor Karen Richardson. Councillors unanimously agreed to accept Parish Councillor's apologies.

3 To receive members' declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Local Non-Pecuniary Interests in accordance with the revised Suffolk Code of Conduct and applications for dispensations on agenda items

Councillor Donoghue declared a Non-Pecuniary interest in agenda item 13.2.

4 To agree and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Kedington Parish Council held on 26 May 2015
Deferred to July meeting.

Close meeting

5 Receive Visitor's Reports

St Edmundsbury Borough Councillor Karen Richardson:

- Borough Councillor Karen Richardson has emailed the Parish Clerk to inform that Chris Rand, Senior Planning Officer at St Edmundsbury Borough Council has offered Kedington Parish Council a meeting at West Suffolk House, Bury St Edmunds to discuss any issues regarding the Haverhill North East Development.

Bury Rural South Safer Neighbourhood Team:
In the absence of a representative from Bury Rural South Safer Neighbourhood Team, the Chairman read out the following on their behalf:

- There have been two crimes of note in Kedington during the period 26/05/15 to 30/06/15, these being house burglaries. One house, with no sign of forced entry had a laptop stolen and the other (whilst owners were on holiday) had some medical equipment taken valued at £500. The SNT reported burglaries are occurring in most areas of Suffolk and surrounding counties; Suffolk Police have various operations in place to catch offenders, which is producing some good results.

Open meeting

6 Clerks' Report
Clerk had no matters to report.

6.1 Consider further action (on action taken or reports received since last meeting:
None.

7 Finance Committee

7.1 Ratify payments made for May 2015 (note no Finance Committee meeting in June 2015):
Supplier Invoice statements as at 31 May 2015 were handed to all Councillors present. Thirteen payments (including one credit and one direct debit) totalling £3,835.83 and one bank transfer of £5,000.00 were ratified under a resolution put forward by Cllr Palmer, seconded by Cllr Rowsell and unanimously agreed. It was noted that the grant cheque for £50.00 had been returned by Kedington Community Association as the Inter-Village Sports has been cancelled.

7.2 Ratify bank transfer of £5,000.00 from deposit account to finance account:
A bank transfer of £5,000.00 dated 11 June 2015 was ratified under a resolution put forward by Cllr Rowsell, seconded by Cllr Palmer and unanimously agreed.

7.3 Receive Internal Audit Report for the financial year 2014/2015:
The Internal Audit Report for the financial year 2014/2015 had previously been emailed to all Councillors for consideration. A copy of the Internal Audit Report is attached to these minutes as Annex 1. Annex 1

7.4 Agree and Sign Annual Return for the financial year 2014/2015:
Under a resolution put forward by Cllr Loader, seconded by Cllr Rowsell the Annual Return for the financial year 2014/2015 was agreed. There were no other resolutions; unanimously agreed. The Clerk and Chairman duly signed the Annual Return which will be sent to External Auditors, BDO LLP before 30 June 2015.

8 Request for a single issue review to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at St Edmundsbury Borough Council of the effectiveness of the Development Control Committee as an appropriate mechanism for determining complex planning applications

Councillor Loader addressed the meeting regarding The Orchard Development (formerly The Limes site) in Mill Road, Kedington and sought permission from Councillors to agree to a letter being sent to the Portfolio Holder for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at St Edmundsbury Borough Council calling for a review of the effectiveness of the Development Control Committee as an appropriate mechanism for determining complex planning applications. Councillor Loader spoke about the failure of the Development Control Committee to look at the faceted issues put before them regarding The Orchard Development and how their decision to grant Outline Planning Permission for up to 40 houses was democratically justified. Councillor Loader said it appeared the Planning Officer assigned to the case failed in his duty when presenting information to the Development Control Committee and it appeared their decision was based on fear of the Borough Council being fined if the application went to appeal. Councillor Loader stated he would like to know how the Outline Planning Application accord with Planning Policy. It was unanimously agreed that Cllr Loader and the Clerk should draft a letter to call for a single issue review to dispute how the decision on the outline planning application was made. MF

9 Securing Affordable Housing in Kedington

Councillor Loader informed the meeting that before the Planning Application for The Orchard Development in Mill Road goes before the Planning Department, the Parish Council needs to ensure that St Edmundsbury Borough Council has understood local social housing needs so that the planning application includes the appropriate levels of affordable housing. This was one point that the Planning Officer assigned to the development was stressing needed to be right. Proposals for affordable housing are based on the evidence of need and the type of affordable housing is discussed at the pre-application stage. The exact number, type and size of houses will be based on an assessment of need which includes information on the most up to date Strategic Housing Market Assessment; current information on Housing Registers; existing affordable housing provision; local housing market and current priorities. Councillor Loader added, the site at The Orchard Development is designated as a greenfield site whereas the site at the old Stourmead Close development is a brownfield site, where the affordable housing requirement was reduced when the developer pleaded it was not commercially viable to deliver. Councillor Donoghue told the meeting a Housing Needs Survey was carried out for the Parish Council some years ago and is now, probably out of date. Councillor Loader stated it is important to ensure any meaningful data on needs in Kedington have been identified and communicated to the Planning Department in time for them to be considered a priority before the application goes in; he added that the Parish Council should ask for a copy of the document which the Borough Council are using as an assessment of need. NL

10 Play Equipment

10.1 Receive update on defect report(s) if any:

At time of meeting, no report had been received from St Edmundsbury Borough Council Parks Department. Metcraft Engineering have agreed to provide metal frames (free of charge), which can be attached to the goal posts to facilitate permanent nets being installed. Clerk requested to send a thank you letter to Mr Fisher at Metcraft Engineering. MF

Wicksteed Playgrounds have provided a new quotation regarding the installation of safety surfacing around the “Rockscape”, should the Parish Council wish to keep the Fort Climbing Frame. By adjusting the discount element from the original quotation to incorporate the price of safety surfacing, the total price had only increased by £15.00.

Clerk was requested to speak to Damien Parker at St Edmundsbury Borough Council regarding the s106 money and when release of funds is expected. MF

11 Environmental / Grounds Maintenance Matters

11.1 New edging around lower plant bed in Silver Street Park:
The Chairman reported that a site meeting had taken place with Mr Fisher from Metcraft Engineering. Mr Fisher said his company could provide strips of galvanised sheeting which could go around the edge of the lower plant bed and plants would be able to overhang these. Tarmac could then be laid up to the metal strips which would form a neat border. Mr Fisher said his company would be prepared to provide the galvanised sheeting strips free of charge. Clerk requested to send a thank you letter to Mr Fisher at Metcraft Engineering. MF

11.2 Any other environmental/grounds maintenance matters:
Clerk reported a fallen tree in Silver Street Park had been removed.

12 Highway/Footpath/Street Furniture matters

12.1 VAS Signs
Deferred to next meeting.

12.2 Any other Highway/Footpath/Street Furniture matters:
Councillors reported:

- Waiting Restriction Sign opposite the Church in Mill Road has become lose.
- Benches for Watermill Field – agreed as an agenda item for next meeting.
- 30 mph sign on B1061 Sturmer Road still not been replaced. Clerk to chase this up.
- Lorries using the B1061 through Kedington.

13 Any other reports (on-going matters)

13.1 Receive report from Kedington Community Association, Community Council Meeting:
Councillor Loader presented a report:

- Stour Valley AONB volunteers will be helping the KCA with a clean up day on 4th November 2015; any other volunteers welcome.
- KCA are to install a Textiles/Clothing Bank behind the bottle bank store in the Car Park at the Community Centre.
- Community Garden – funding towards this project has been granted by Suffolk Community Action
- Meadowlark 2015 raised £4,000.00.
- Committee are in favour of proposed plans for the new frontage of the Library/Community Centre.
- The Great Meadow has now been registered with The Land Registry.

13.2 New frontage to Community Centre:

Councillor Donoghue declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest but remained in the meeting to report only.

Councillor Donoghue reported he had sent a letter to the Chairman of the KCA together with new drawings which incorporated the Library entrance. Councillor Donoghue estimated the cost to extend the new frontage across the Library would be in the region of £3,500.00. The new plans showed a pitched roof. Councillors were in agreement that the Parish Council could not pay for a new entrance to the Library. Councillor Donoghue said it was hoped that the Library would be able to use some s.106 money that has been allocated to them and a meeting had been scheduled for 8th July 2015 to discuss this.

14 Housing/Planning

14.1 Applications for discussion at meeting:
DC/15/0634/FUL
Clerk reported that the Planning Application for extensions to NISA Village Stores in Silver Street has been referred to Development Control Committee.

14.2 Planning Applications – Observations conveyed by Parish Council:

DC/15/0786/TPO–Bloor Homes Site (formerly Stourmead Close), Kedington, CB9 7PA
TPO55(2014)1 – Tree Preservation Order
NO OBJECTIONS

DC/15/00926/LB – Ruth Cottage, Rectory Road, Kedington, CB9 7QL
Listed Building Consent – Proposed replacement of porch
NO OBJECTIONS

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

14.4 Any other housing / planning matters:
None.

15 Consultations
None.

16 Events

16.1 None.

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

17 Any new matters (for discussion only)

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

The date of the next meeting of Kedington Parish Council will be **Tuesday 21 July 201**5 commencing at 7.40 p.m. in The Meeting Room, Parish Council Office, Arms Lane, Kedington.

Signed …… Dated ……...