

**Minutes of the KETTLEBURGH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
Held in the Village Hall on 9 May 2012 at 7:30pm**

Present: 18 parishioners, District Councillor. Following refreshments, kindly provided by Mrs Katie Harris which were served from 7:00pm, the meeting began at 7:30pm.

Apologies for absence: Cllr Peter Bellfield (SCC), Cllr. Rod Durbin, Cllr Angus Wheeler-Rowe.

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr David Harris, welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologising that it was only permitted to serve soft drinks. He invited those representatives present from local and district organisations to give their reports, allowing time for questions following each report.

Suffolk County Council

Leaders of the County Council

The past year has been eventful, to say the least, for both the political leadership and the executive leadership of the Council. Last spring Councillor Jeremy Pembroke stood down as leader of the Conservative Group and the Council and while we went through the process of choosing a new leader Jeremy's deputy, Councillor Jane Storey, did an outstanding job at a very difficult time. Three fellow Councillors put their names forward for election and Councillor Mark Bee was elected on the first ballot. Under Mark the Council's strategy has not changed: we still have to save around £120 million in four years, but the consequences have been approached in a more understanding way. Closer working with, and explaining to, the media has also ensured the Council no longer hits the headlines for all the wrong reasons. One of the first problems Jane had to face when she took over the interim reins as leader was whistleblower complaints about Andrea Hill, the Chief Executive, while on holiday. It was mutually decided that she would not return to work while an investigation into the complaints was carried out. Although she was eventually exonerated, it was agreed that it would be preferable if she accepted a year's salary and did not return to the Council's employment. We were then without a Chief Executive for almost six months while we went through the process of appointing a successor. Deborah Cadman started work the week before Christmas on a salary of £155,000 and no bonus. She has had 28 years of public sector experience, six of which as Chief Executive of St Edmundsbury Borough Council and more recently as the head of the East of England Development Agency.

Budget

We achieved the £42.5 million of savings required under last year's budget; indeed we exceeded it by £5 million, with only minor adverse effect on front line services. Around 1,400 staff have left the Council including a significant number of directors and senior staff. Additionally others will be transferred to new organisations that are taking over some Council services like the libraries and traded services (catering, cleaning etc.). We are looking to save a further £26 million in each of the next two years and we consulted widely on our proposals in the latter half of the year. The majority of the savings will continue to come from reduced management and back office costs with all departments contributing 1.5% of their budgets. During 2012/2013 we anticipate that a further 2,660 staff currently employed in Adult and Community Services Directorate will be transferred to new or existing organisations which will take over services currently run directly by the Council. There will be only three redundancies which are all voluntary.

Council Tax

As you will know for the second year running the Council has announced that the council tax will remain unchanged.

Libraries

Last autumn we confirmed that all libraries would remain open with the management of them being taken over by an Industrial and Provident Society supported by the Council. This will reduce the cost to the Council of running the service by 28% to around £6 million per year. A final decision has yet to be made on mobile libraries which currently cost £7.70 per visitor, but it is likely that it will be change from a two weekly service to every four weeks.

Broadband

During the year we announced that we were contributing £10 million towards the delivery of a better broadband coverage in Suffolk; this secured a £11 million grant from central government. It is hoped that we will be in a position to select a company to deliver the coverage before the end of the summer. Meanwhile, more than 12,000 households have signed up to the better Broadband campaign.

Property rationalisation

The Council is actively trying to rationalise its property portfolio together with that of other government bodies in the County. It is moving into Landmark House (near Asda) with the police in July with staff vacating several buildings throughout the County. The Council owns or occupies 360 sites in Ipswich alone and a total of 2,500 throughout the County. This project is estimated to save the Council and the police £500,000 per year. Also the police are, or have, moved into four fire stations at Framlingham, Debenham, Ixworth and Elmswell. This will save the fire service over £400,000 with savings for the police as well. Another area of co-operation is the police with SCDC. Upon the closure of Woodbridge police station, the Community Support Officers will be based in spare accommodation at Melton Hill.

Fire and Rescue Service

The combined control centre with Cambridge has now been working for six months and operationally has been a great success, and equally importantly it is saving each fire service £400,000 per year.

Country Parks

The County Council has been working with local community groups, district/borough and town and parish councils so that they can take over these countryside sites. Most have now been transferred and only in Clare have we yet to agree a sustainable arrangement.

Local Government 'Oscar'

Judges at the Local Government Chronicle have given the Council one of their most prestigious awards for the building of the energy-from-waste facility at Great Blakenham, siting it as the best example in the country of a council and a business working together for the benefit of residents.

A personal note

I am pleased that I have been able to help several projects in my Division over the last year through my "Quality of Life Budget" (minor road improvements) and "Locality Grant", the most notable being a new pavement at Half Moon corner in Grundisburgh. Regrettably I have only £17,000 from the two budgets which does not go very far between 26 parishes.

In addition to the normal responsibility's as a back-bench Councillor I am chairman of the Pension Fund Committee which takes up a considerable amount of time with the known difficulties that all pension funds have at present. I also serve on the five man/woman Audit Committee that has important overseeing functions to perform. *(Report presented prior to the meeting)*

Peter Bellfield

Suffolk County Councillor

Suffolk Coastal District Council

Financial efficiency

Excellent audit report praised SCDC's "strong leadership".

Both SCDC and Waveney have new business plans sharing common concerns but still focusing on local priorities.

Lost over 500 posts since 2003 with one-third fewer senior managers now serving both Councils.

Review under way on more ways to modernise the Council. Number of councillors to be cut; number of Committees and frequency of their meetings already reduced.

Council Tax frozen by SCDC for second successive year with no borrowing but charges from the Police and most parishes will rise. (SCDC 10% of tax collected; SCC 75.6%; police 11.1% and average parish 3.3%).

Partnership savings projected for next 4 years have increased from previous £4.5m to £6.4m, of which £1.5m will be in the current year (previously forecast at £900K).

Without the savings planned over the in next 12 months we would have had a budget gap of £2.8m by 2015, largely because of the cut in Govt grant of 30%. Funding is only going to get tougher in the years ahead.

Latest merger (of planning and building control services) now under way, with improved on-line information on planning application on its way.

SCDC/Waveney model for partnership working being adopted by LAs in other counties, with encouragement of government.

Housing

Working in partnership with other agencies to bring empty homes back into use and to avoid homelessness before it happens - the joint SCDC/Waveney Housing Options team was recently cited by the Government

as an example of best practice for its efforts in helping people manage their mortgage arrears so they could avoid the danger of having their home repossessed.

LDF long awaited Core Strategy to bring the homes and jobs the District needs has been sent to the Independent Inspector for review on 8 May. The Site Specific exercise will begin thereafter (2013).

NPPF effective 27 March designed to help economic growth through “sustainable development” – in particular house building.

Rendlesham the first in District to receive £20K government “Front Runner” grant to set up Neighbourhood Plan for a clear vision of the needs and aspirations of the local community.

Approved affordable homes slow to be delivered, with more than 600 approved units awaiting build.

The local economy

Economic Development Support Fund has helped 20 community-led schemes

£2m LABGI funding from central government to support jobs and economic growth

First joint holiday guide with Waveney promoting the Suffolk Coast

90% food businesses rated in top 2 levels for hygiene

Bid with Waveney for £800k scheme offering rural businesses advice and grants to cut energy use

Sizewell Task Group formed to help look after local interests (to include your own ward member).

Environment

In top 10 councils in the country for recycling: almost 60% of household waste.

Ranked 8th of 358 councils for least rubbish per household put into landfill.

Completed the main part of central Felixstowe coastal defence project (with £10m funding from the Environment Agency). Latest phase just beginning.

Thorpeness coastal protection works completed, with £431K EA funding, working with the local community which invested £137K.

Our contractor Suffolk Coastal Services collections proceeded without significant problems or delays over the bad weather last year and the Christmas holidays; also operated on normal collection days over Easter and the recent bank holiday.

Community Well-Being

Top 20% for low crime – crime rate 26 crimes per 1,000 population (down 7% from 2009/10 and lowest in County); safest Community Safety Partnership in Suffolk.

All leisure centres “Highly Commended” for customer service and facilities in national scheme.

Suffolk Coastal Resource Network gained over £500k for local projects

Over 400 community groups supported through Suffolk Coastal Resource Network’s newsletters, website, networking events and funding surgeries.

Bob Snell

Suffolk Coastal District Councillor

Suffolk Police

Annual Crime report: from 09/05/2011 to 09/05/2012 there have been 3 reported crimes and from the same period last year there were 5 reported crimes.

Crime reduction advice: in light of the recent Burglaries to out buildings that have occurred in near by villages the Police are urging householders to keep their property locked and secured where possible. Do not leave anything out on display to make you an easy target for any would be opportunist thefts. Some easy deterrents are to lock doors and windows; don’t leave any unattended items in view from a window; move rubbish bins away from garden gates so that you are not providing easy access in to your garden; if you own a dog no matter how big or small it is or even if you don’t own a dog put up signs stating ‘beware of the dog’ or signs saying ‘this area is covered by CCTV’. There are also signs from house alarm companies for purchase that can be put up. These are just a few suggestions that are available to you which are not guaranteed to stop you being a victim of crime but just may make someone think twice about breaking into your property.

For non emergencies dial 101 or for Emergencies as before dial 999. *(Report presented prior to the meeting)*

Christian Hassler

PCSO 3034 Framlingham SNT

St Andrew's Church

The Annual Report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council of St Andrew's Church, Kettleburgh is available on the Kettleburgh Village Web Site. It is a comprehensive report on a busy year, of which this summary can provide the briefest of overviews.

Valerie Upson and John Bater have continued to serve as Churchwardens during the year. Thanks are due to them. Thanks are also due to Persephone Booth who, having been our treasurer for two years, will hand over to her successor in the coming year, and to Mrs Vickie Neilson, who having been our PCC Secretary for almost three years, has already handed over to Dinah Reed.

The accustomed pattern of worship has continued in Kettleburgh Church, Sunday by Sunday throughout the year, and for the great festivals of the Christian Year. Our Elders, Valerie Upson and Jackie Clark, have continued to share the leadership of services, and I would like to thank them for the quality and the depth of their contribution to the worship and prayer life of the Church.

The Choir, reinforced at times by singers from neighbouring Church choirs, has continued to lead the singing of Choral Evensong each month, and our traditional service of nine lessons and carols on Christmas Eve. Anne Bater, our organist, has played for all our services throughout the year, and we owe her a debt of thanks.

During 2011 our services included a celebration of the 400th anniversary of King James' Bible. On a regular basis we have joined Brandeston and Easton churches, and the wider group of parishes of which Kettleburgh is now a part, for united services, for various groups and courses and other celebrations. This has made us increasingly aware of our relationships with the other Churches of the Deanery, and of the significance of the new Deanery Plan, which sets out the course for the future of churches throughout the Loes Deanery based on five "marks of mission", or priorities that we will seek to embody and implement during the next few years.

The fabric of Kettleburgh Church is well maintained. We have continued to work with our Architect on the proposals for improving access to our Church building and enhancing its facilities. We hope that this project will be completed by the end of 2012, and will prove a fitting commemoration of the Queens Diamond Jubilee.

Details of the fund raising activities and of the Church's accounts are set out in the Annual Report. We have continued to meet our financial obligations and have supported the work of a number of charitable organisations. Our accounts show a small excess of income over expenditure, with a further increase in funds available for future work on the fabric. An independent examiner has found our finances to be in a healthy state. This is due to the support which the Church has received both to the fundraising efforts of its members, and to the generosity of other village organisations from whom substantial donations have been received. As I said last year, the Parish Church relies on this support to maintain the fabric of the oldest building in the Parish and enable this beautiful building to be a place of worship each week, to provide a sacred space for Kettleburgh people and to meet their needs for baptisms, weddings, and funerals.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to say thank you to all those people in Kettleburgh who responded to the Church's appeal in March this year (2012) to provide food for homeless people in Ipswich through the Umbrella Trust. The Trust works to provide shelter and a means of survival for homeless people who are going through the most difficult times and when all the normal support in their lives has fallen away. Our appeal for gifts of specific items which the Umbrella Trust had asked for met with a wonderfully open-handed and open hearted response. A door-to-door collection, coordinated with a collection in Brandeston, resulted in two ample bootfuls of sorted boxes being taken to Ipswich, to which the Trust's response was "Wow!" There are so many people to whom thanks are due; the Councillors who delivered the flyers; the small but keen team of collectors who went door-to-door, and all who gave so generously, including those who were out during the collection and left their tins out or who delivered them to various collection points. So, thank you to all those of you who have provided real help to people who, invariably through no fault of their own, are having to rebuild their lives.

Robin Alderson

Assistant Priest for Brandeston, Kettleburgh and Easton Church

Kettleburgh Green Trust

It was another busy year of events and fund raising for the Kettleburgh Green Trust. The monthly lottery draw continues to be well supported, whilst the second annual Family Fun Day built on the success of the first, and thankfully enjoyed slightly better weather.

Following the success of the September Race Night, we ran a second event in March, which attracted some new faces along with some of our regular Race goers. It was pleasing to see so many villagers, young and old, brave a chilly October evening to enjoy some mulled wine, hot chocolate, baked potatoes, bangers and burgers. The carved pumpkins were again very impressive, as were the costumes worn by many of the people attending. It was decided to run this as a free event as a thank you to the community for their support through the year, and this will be continued moving forward.

This year also saw the lease pass to the Trustees following a long legal process, and the costs to the KGT and the Parish Council were met by a generous donation. This enabled KGT to finish the year in a comfortable financial position, with assets of £4770.28, which includes a £1500 donation towards the cost of a slide for the play area.

KGT is currently obtaining quotes from three suppliers for the slide. As per the previous year the KGT accounts will be available on the Charity Commission website, and will be placed on the new Kettleburgh Green Trust website.

Through 2012 to 2013 KGT is supporting the Diamond Jubilee celebrations, and we will also be adding the fun dog show, Strut your Mutt in July, and a Suffolk Evening in November, along with the usual Family Fun Day, Race Night and Hallowe'en annual events.

The committee would like to thank the many volunteers who continue to help us to run our events, and all the villagers, friends and family who support us by attending them.

Richard Baker

Treasurer, Kettleburgh Green Trust

Kettleburgh Town Estate Charity

This is a parish charity which can make small grants to first year students in higher education who live in Kettleburgh. In 2011 one grant of £60 was made.

Valerie Upson

Village Hall

As anticipated in my last annual report, the committee felt it would be sensible to complete the hall refurbishment programme by concentrating on the outside fabric. Accordingly during 2011 £4,000 was spent on some major external works that included replacing the complete front entrance section with two new doors and surrounding frame and side windows. The weather boarding to the south gable end was replaced together with new fascia boards and roof cappings to both ends of the roof and a new fascia board over the rear kitchen door. Other rotten areas were repaired. The hall continues to run its own fund raising events and we have had another successful year; raising money from Snow White, our third Panto, the Harvest Hop and monthly Coffee Mornings. Between them £1,819 was profit to help pay our way. Equally important is the donation of half the proceeds from the annual village fete of £1,415 for which we are once again most grateful. I would like to take the opportunity of thanking all the members of the committee for all their support and hard work during the year and also to thank Persephone Booth for once again preparing our annual Accounts. *(Report presented prior to the meeting)*

Robert Marzetti

Chairman – Village Hall Management Committee

Kettleburgh Village Produce Association

The Kettleburgh Flower and Produce Show has been a fixture of village life for over 50 years and is run by a group of enthusiastic volunteers from both Brandeston and Kettleburgh known as the Kettleburgh Village Produce Association. We pay an affiliation fee to the Suffolk Horticultural and Produce Association (SHAPA) who provide us with our insurance cover and supply judges for a fee.

Shows are currently held on the first Saturday in September, with sections for vegetables, flowers, fruit, cookery, wine, photographs and children's classes. Classes are open to all wherever they live although some cups and trophies are only awarded to Kettleburgh residents.

Last year's show held on 2nd September had a very good range of entries. The chocolate cake (men only) is a very popular class as was the fruit gin class introduced last year for the first time. We include a class for Suffolk rusks to try and promote the baking of this local speciality. Vegetable classes are always very well supported and we hope they will continue to be so as vegetable growing becomes more and more popular.

This year's show will be held on Saturday 1st September 2012. We would particularly welcome ideas for children's classes which have not been well supported in recent years and also suggestions for cookery classes some of which change each year.

We are very grateful to all those who help on show day or with the setting up and clearing away and all offers of help are welcome. If you can assist in any way I would be pleased to hear from you. *(Report presented prior to the meeting)*

Claire Norman

Secretary, Kettleburgh VPA

Kettleburgh Parish Council

You have heard several reports about major village activities and together, they confirm that this has been another good year for Kettleburgh.

Yet again, the fete was a great success, the improvements to the village hall have continued and as you heard, our wonderful Village Green is providing a tremendous amenity for our village and many visitors and will provide a marvelous venue for the Jubilee celebrations to come.

Every year, in addition to all our traditional activities, something new is happening. Good examples are the excellent pantomimes we have all enjoyed in the Village Hall and we now have our very own Petanque team, which had a successful first year in the local league. Anyone who is interested in this rapidly growing sport should contact Richard Baker.

On a personal note I am always delighted when I walk the Village Green to see the use made of it by people of all ages and particularly the young children for whom there were previously no facilities.

I have also been greatly heartened by the willingness to support the village shown by newer members of our community and they are certainly making a difference to all our activities by bringing new energy, new skills and new ideas. I do, of course, remain deeply grateful to those, who year in and year out give their time and effort to all our institutions and events.

For anyone not currently involved in village activities I can only say that it is very worthwhile and our small community depends on people being active.

There is however, a matter of great concern, which I must bring to your attention. A short while ago a team arrived from the Highways Department to investigate the condition of Kettleburgh Bridge. We had been notified in advance and offered our help.

When the work was in progress Katie and I went to talk to the team and it transpired that the intention is to strengthen the bridge so that it can be used by vehicles up to 54 tonnes, against the current restriction of 13 tonnes. I told the team leader that it was very regrettable that we had not been given warning of this in any of our previous discussions.

We all know that Mill Lane is only wide enough for single traffic although two cars can pass with care on some sections. It is never wide enough for a car and a large commercial or farm vehicle and absolutely not for two large vehicles. There was a recent accident when the driver of a van being driven carefully had to make the choice between colliding with the large commercial vehicle coming towards him or the oak tree. He chose the latter, suffered minor injury and his vehicle was written off.

It transpired that the bridges both up and down stream are not being similarly strengthened and it therefore follows that large vehicles, all of which have satellite navigation, will be directed towards Kettleburgh. These vehicles are very unsuitable for all of our country roads and if they are using The Street it will potentially create a severe hazard.

Councillor Peter Bellfield has been extremely helpful and, on his advice, I have written to the Executive Head of Highways and the County Councillor with specific responsibility expressing our grave concerns. I have yet to receive a reply but I will be staying on the case and keep you informed.

I look forward to seeing you all at the Jubilee celebrations and hopefully at the many other events we put on in our small village – which is a wonderful achievement.

David Harris

Chairman KPC

Update on the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

Back in 2011 it became clear that the residents of Kettleburgh wanted to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee, so we decided to put a committee together to arrange a weekend of events for the whole parish to enjoy.

The committee thought about different ideas and finally settled on the following:

11am: Old-fashioned school races for all to enjoy and the church bells will be rung. Liz Marzetti has kindly agreed to dress as the Queen to present prizes. Allister Compton will be the compère for the day.

1pm: The Big Lunch - we have confirmed 190 people attending and reminiscing with music from the past. We will use local produce wherever possible. The menu has been distributed to villagers to make their choice. There will be a toast to the Queen.

3pm: The Village Hall will be serving high tea amongst a 1950 style living room and an audio and visual history of Kettleburgh in the 50's.

6:30pm: St Andrew's church will be having a celebration service.

8pm: We have hired a marquee and a dance floor in the garden for live music at the Chequers. Children and adults alike can dance the evening away.

Monday 4th June: we have been selected to host a Beacon to celebrate Her Majesty's 60 years on the throne. The building of the beacon has started at Easton Green Cottage. Charles and Juliet Dearlove have also helped arrange a 40-piece choir to help entertain us. There will be a 'walking bus' setting off from the Chequers at around 8:00p.m, with the beacon lighting set for 10:16p.m.

We felt that the events over the weekend should be free to everyone. So we started to look for ways to fund the events. We applied for funding, and also had several residents who agreed to underwrite the entire weekend if needed. However we managed to secure all the funding required. Thank you to everyone who was willing to underwrite the event.

There will be a choice of a commemorative mug or a £5 Diamond Jubilee coin for all 44 children of Kettleburgh. Villagers are encouraged to display bunting outside their houses – this is available from Deborah.

We are in full swing with the preparations so let's have a party to remember.

Deborah Bell

Chairman, Diamond Jubilee Committee

Comment: thanks to Deborah and the Diamond Jubilee Committee for obtaining funding ad thus relieving village organisations from fundraising for the event.

Question Time

Q: Why is there no report from the Lord of the Manor Fund and who are its trustees?

A: The Fund contributed £500 towards the Diamond Jubilee costs, but as the grants will provide sufficient funding, it was decided by the Diamond Jubilee Committee that this money should be returned to the Fund. The secretary to St. Andrew's PCC informed the meeting that she was investigating the status of the trustees.

The Clerk gave an update on the project to restore the lettering on the War Memorial to legibility: a grant has been applied for from the War Memorial Trust. If successful, this will provide 50% of approximately £900 needed to reblack the lead lettering, the remainder to be requested as donations from villagers. It was suggested that the Lord of the Manor Fund could be approached if there is a shortfall.

CLlr Harris marked the retirement of Mrs Jackie Clark as Parish Clerk by presenting a bouquet to her, thanking her for her eight years in this role.

The Parish Clerk thanked Mrs Harris for providing the excellent refreshments.

The meeting closed at 8:25p.m