

Minutes of Kettleburgh Parish Council Meeting held on Thursday 8 September 2005

Present: Cllrs J Bater, R Booth, T Butcher, P Norman (Chair), D Pike, S Scott
J Clark (Parish Clerk) in attendance.

Cllr P Bellfield (County Councillor) and two parishioners were present.

The Meeting began at 7:15pm in Open session. The chairman welcomed members of the public and our County Councillor, and gave him the opportunity to address the meeting.

Cllr Bellfield provided a background to the current firemen's dispute. He reassured the meeting that there was no change in service and that the MOD would be available in any real emergency. He voiced concern over budget consultations for the County, pointing out that the level of government funding was unlikely to remain at this year's level. He responded to a query from the chairman about the police handling of the recent Ramsholt 'rave', suggesting that a lack of manpower prevented more positive police action. He pointed out that the proposal to combine local police forces would, in this case, have made the deployment of supplementary manpower easier and more effective.

Open session was closed and the council meeting commenced.

1. Declarations of Interest: There were no Declarations of Interest arising.

2. Apologies for absence: Cllr E Sargeantson

3. Minutes of Previous Meetings

Minutes of meetings held on 15 June & 26 July were unanimously approved and signed.

4. Clerk's Conditions of Employment. This item was moved to the end of the meeting.

5. Working Parties – Reports

a) Communications

Village website: Cllr Booth reported that pictures from the Village Green BBQ were posted on the website. The email list has not yet been widely used. Cllr Booth will advertise the facility in the Parish magazine.

b) Village Green Sub-committee

i) The chairman reported that the Village Green Trust is now a registered charity, no. 1110467. The Parish Clerk holds a copy of the registration, dated 18 July 2005, together with its objectives. Work is due to commence on site on 12 September. The nominated contractor is Stewart Landscapes Ltd. It was agreed that the Village Green's solicitors, Cross, Ram & Co., should be asked to hold the deeds and land registry documents. Thanks were expressed to all concerned with the successful BBQ held on the Green on Sunday 4 September.

c) Footpaths/bridleways

Cllr Scott referred to the footpath adjacent to the Green, seeking assurance that it would in time be properly reinstated.

d) Community

i) Post box: The clerk has met on site with a Post Office representative to agree the new position of the post box. There will be a delay of 6 weeks, to allow utilities to respond to PO queries, before the box can be moved.

ii) Parish notice board: Cllr. Bater was given authority to spend any money necessary to effect a repair of the board when it is moved.

e) Police Liaison - No report

f) Management of the Pound

The chairman reported back from the working party composed of Cllrs Bater, Norman and Booth. Three options for the future of the Pound were explored. After lengthy and involved discussion, sale and leasing were discounted. The third option, continued maintenance, was agreed. Council accepted the recommendation that a maintenance committee, headed by John Bater, be set up. Mr Patrick Garland has agreed to offer practical help and Mr David Harris is to be asked to join this sub-committee. Cllr Butcher offered to help if required. This sub-committee will report back to council twice yearly. The clerk will provide Cllr Bater with information gathered for maintenance ideas.

g) Trees: No report.

6. Finance

a) The report from the audit commission has not yet arrived.

b) The Financial Statement for 31 August was received and approved. As previously agreed (Minute 5b, 10 May 05) the £192 received by council as licence fees for allotment land will be paid to the Village Green Trust.

The Financial Statement dated 8 September from KVG was also received and approved.

d) (taken before item 6c) The insurance cover was considered and renewal of the present policy with Suffolk ACRE was approved. Although council and village green insurance are paid separately at present, consideration will be given to combining them when work on the green is finished.

c) Invoices for payment: These were approved and signed.

7. Clerk's Report and Correspondence

The clerk requested details of proposed expenditure from working parties in time for budget considerations at the November meeting.

- | | |
|---|--|
| a) SCS Ltd Recycling Credits | £52.14 has been credited to the Village Hall as recycling payment |
| b) Local Works: Campaign for Sustainable Communities Bill | Broadsheet handed out to Councillors, together with ideas for council's response. |
| c) SCC: Road Safety Posters | The Clerk will order and laminate posters, ready for councillors to display. |
| d) SC Local Strategic Partnership: Invitation to Annual Forum | No councillors were able to attend |
| e) LDF criteria for sustainable communities | The chairman stressed the importance of the correct placing of Kettleburgh within the settlement hierarchy. The clerk will obtain the necessary map and send copies of this document to councillors. |

Other correspondence to be circulated amongst Councillors.

8. Response to SCDC Draft Statement of Community Involvement

Councillors supported the efforts made to include 'Hard to Reach' groups, but doubted the efficacy of planning consultations. The clerk will respond to SCDC.

9. Questions to chairman. Cllr Bater informed the meeting that the Village Hall insurance was likely to rise from £400 to £1300, if the replacement value of £238 000 was taken into account. The village hall committee will meet to decide whether to insure for this sum, or a more modest sum of £70 000, the currently insured value of the hall. The clerk will investigate the possibility of combining hall and council insurance.

10. Planning

Planning Decisions: No decisions yet available from SCDC on the following applications:

C05/0694: (Resubmission)

Erection of 6 two bedroomed dwellings (two terraces of 3 dwellings), land between Sandpit Cottage & 1 Constable Court.

C05/1303; C05/1304: THE THATCHED COTTAGE, CHURCH ROAD.

Replace collapsed extension on west facing wall of the cottage. Replace both south and north facing ground floor windows. Remove asbestos roofs from coal shed and W.C. and replace with lead. Remove the new brick wall in the west facing wall of the sitting room. Reposition W.C

4. Clerk's Conditions of Employment. The clerk left the meeting for this item. In her absence, Councillors agreed that she should progress one increment on the SCP scale, backdated to April 2005.

In line with recommendations from the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks, the clerk's hours will be increased to 3 hours per week, starting in October, rising to 4 hours per week in April 2006.

11. Date of next meeting:

Thursday 3 November 2005

12. The meeting closed at 20:35