

Minutes of Kettleburgh Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 13th November 2013

Present: Cllrs J Bater, D Bell, T Chase, D Germain, D Harris (chairman), and T Jessop. Attending: SCC Cllr Bellfield, Heidi Finbow, 4 members of the public and the Clerk. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting which began at 7:30pm.	Minute numbers and Actions
The meeting commenced in open session and a long discussion on the response of various bodies to the St Jude Storm of 28 th October 2013. It was pointed out that if parishioners have a mobile phone they can sign up for text alerts from UK Power Networks for any individual power cut that happens. Cllr Germain volunteered, as part of her Council role as Emergency Planning Officer, to become a central point of contact co-ordinating communications between parishioners and suppliers or authorities in the event of any outages.	K2013052
A parishioner asked if the Council had a view on the revised Sizewell Emergency Plan and the proposal to extend it the second zone to 30km, which would encompass Kettleburgh. The Council did not consider it advantageous to have the extended zone.	K2013053
1. Members' declarations of interests: none.	K2013054
2. Apologies for Absence: Cllr Paddy Bishopp and PCSO Hassler.	K2013055
3. Minutes of the meeting held on 14 th August 2013 were approved and signed.	K2013056
4. Reports from the County and District Councillors and Suffolk Police	
SCC Councillor Peter Bellfield: Regarding Education Cllr Bellfield reported that Ofsted had recently carried out sudden inspections on 33 schools in Suffolk. Education is a primary area of concern within SCC and they are trying for as much action as possible. Statistically, Suffolk education was rated 9% below the national average at 149 th of 151 in 2012 but in 2013 was only 5% below the average at 135 th of 151. When asked how the County's education had become so bad Cllr Bellfield was unable to explain but did state that it was improving each year but that the rest of the country was improving too. Regarding the SCC budget Cllr Bellfield reiterated the target of saving £156m out of the full £580m and the target for this year is £37m saving after having saved £90m in the last 4 years. He reported a £50m (37%) reduction in the central government grant to SCC and a £1.8m (47%) reduction in the central government grant to SCDC. When asked if these reductions were feasible Cllr Bellfield replied that he could not be certain and mentioned some points from a 3 year plan (that the Energy from Waste plant will save £8m/year and that Adult & Community Services should save £6.5m/year) reporting that full details were in the scrutiny committee papers. He gave an example of possible savings being the Children's Centres currently provided are discretionary so SCC could ask the voluntary sector to take them over.	K2013057

A parishioner asked about the planned parking charges being introduced in Framlingham, our local service centre, adding that with the explanation of required savings already mentioned this may be the right course of action. Cllr Bellfield was then questioned about the chain of likely causality the charges would entail: high streets become less frequented as free parking is available at big out of town sites; communities die and shops close; which then reduces the income to SCC. Cllr Bellfield replied that there were some cases when implementing parking charges has proved beneficial, such as when parking is taken long term by workers leaving no space for shoppers.

SCDC Councillor Bob Snell:

Cllr Snell had not sent a report. The Clerk was asked to request a report from Cllr Snell for circulation. Clerk

PCSO Christian Hassler:

PCSO Hassler had sent his apologies and a report stating that there had been one crime (a Burglary other building) in the August to October period. He also asked for the Council's opinion as to when it would be best to time the re-instated Mobile Police Station visits to Kettleburgh. The Clerk was asked to write to PCSO Hassler and express that the Council are aware that the Police have not had a good experience bringing the Mobile Police Station to Kettleburgh; to trial coinciding their visits with the Monthly Coffee Mornings at the Village Hall; and that if after 3 months they have not found it worthwhile to spend their time on other activities. Clerk

5. Planning:

a. 13/2854 – Single-storey extension and alterations, 6 Church Road
There were no objections to this application. The Clerk will inform SCDC. Clerk

b. 13/2835 – Barn conversion, Kettleburgh Hall
After discussion on the thoroughness of the plans and the property as a contribution to Kettleburgh Parishes required housing stock (as an Other Village in the Local Plan) it was pointed out that it has merit as a conversion being good use of an otherwise redundant agricultural building. The Clerk will inform SCDC that the Council has no objections. Clerk

6. To co-opt a new Council member

It was resolved that as Mr Paddy Bishopp had been unable to attend this meeting through illness his signing of a Declaration of Acceptance of Office would be carried forward to the next meeting. Clerk

The Chairman announced that Heidi Finbow was considered an excellent addition to the Council improving the gender balance and the age average as well as representing parents as she has a child herself. Heidi stated that she wanted to be more involved in the village and thought her current work in the construction industry and her parenthood would prove useful to the Parish. Heidi Finbow was co-opted onto the Council and the Chairman said she was most welcome. The Clerk will instigate the required procedures. Clerk

7. Shared secure village asset storage

K2013061

The Clerk reported that the requests for opinions from village organisations had elicited only two replies and both were negative. The subject will not be pursued.

8. Village assistance list

K2013062

Cllr Germain, who is doing the Emergency Planning form, agreed to extend the form to gather a list of items and skills that parishioners would be willing to contribute to village events and hand the gathered information to the Clerk.

Cllr Germain then handed round copies of her draft Emergency Planning form. It was generally accepted as an excellent form for the intended purpose. Cllr Germain asked that Cllrs peruse the form and email any comments to her.

9. Should Parish Council minutes be posted on the notice board?

K2013063

The Chairman explained that there seemed to be no argument against this and asked Jackie Clark (as the previous Parish Clerk) for her opinion. Jackie stated that she had posted approved minutes without any attached reports. The Clerk suggested posting draft minutes. The Council resolved that the Clerk should post draft minutes at the same time as posting them to the village website.

Clerk

10. Parish Pound

K2013064

Ex-Cllr Wheeler-Rowe gave his summary of the current scenario regarding the working party. There had been no feedback at all from parishioners after the Newsletter article asking for comments.

The Chairman, as the person currently looking after the Pound, then gave his view of the situation, including a history of those looking after it and the changes in its maintenance since the Parish Council decided to take maintenance of the Pound on in 2003. He offered to continue maintaining it to the current standard, cut to look like a Parish Pound, at no cost to the Council and to formalise the plan for a signed agreement. The suggestion of adding some bulbs for the spring was discussed with regard to common flooding and the Chairman was thanked for keeping it well now. The Chairman then asked whether the Council would approve of his extending the hedge as far as his gate and it was agreed this would be good as long as the current height was maintained. The Chairman will draft an agreement and circulate it to Cllrs for comment.

DH

11. Finance

K2013065

a) The Financial Statement was approved and initialled.
b) The payments required were approved and initialled.
c) The Clerk read the external audit issues arising report stating that it was considered that the nil value assigned to the village green in the asset register would allow the asset to be forgotten and suggesting a historical or token value be assigned. The Council agreed to assign a value of £1. The external audit was approved and accepted.

Clerk

d) The Chairman proposed moving the budget discussion to the following meeting but the Clerk pointed out the requirement for Precept submission before the end of January so a separate Finance Meeting was set for 29th January.

e) The Clerk was asked to leave the room while a discussion took place. The Chairman will contact SALC for advice on this issue and it will be discussed along with the rest of the Clerk’s remuneration at the agreed finance meeting.

DH

12. Clerk's Matters

K2013066

These matters were postponed for consideration at the next meeting.

13. AOB

K2013067

The occupancy of the affordable housing at number 15 Church Road was questioned as it appears that there is no-one living there and the lights are automated. The Clerk will write to Flagship Housing.

Clerk

The village meeting in Brandeston regarding flooding was mentioned with several Cllrs planning to attend. The Clerk to Brandeston PC had requested support as Anglian Water would be in attendance and the ongoing issues from several years back, when Brandeston Parish Council supported the Council, would be discussed.

The SCC Scrutiny Committee request for information on vandalism was discussed and apart from dog waste signage being defaced, which was thought to have been perpetrated by a specific individual who is no longer within the parish, it was agreed it was not a problem. Litter was agreed to be a problem though and the Clerk will write to that effect.

Clerk

14. Date of Next Meetings: There will be a finance meeting on Wednesday 29th January 2014 at 7:30pm and a Full Council meeting on Wednesday 12th February 2014 at 7:30pm

K2013068

It was pointed out that the date for the next meeting was a clash with the annual pantomime dress rehearsal. The Clerk will check the existing booking.

Clerk

15. Close Meeting: The meeting closed at 9:33pm

Chairman's signature to indicate Council approval: _____

Dated: _____