

Minutes of Kettleburgh Annual Parish Meeting
held on Wednesday 6th May 2015

Present: Cllr D Harris (Chairman), PCC Tim Passmore, the Parish Clerk and 22 parishioners.
The meeting began at 7:30pm.

1. Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence: PCSO C Hassler, Rev. Deidre West (PCC), Caroline Wheeler-Rowe (KGT), Claire Norman (KVPA)

3. Minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting held on 7th May 2014 were approved and signed.

4. PCC Tim Passmore

Mr Passmore thanked the parish for inviting him, said it was a pleasure to be here and that if anyone had any questions they should feel free to ask them.

The key role of the PCC, he explained, is to hold the constabulary to account on behalf of the public. This role is better carried out by an elected post holder because the Police Authority (the previous system) were unknown to the public. The Police Service is very important and therefore so is its accountability. The Chief Constable has complete operational independence but the PCC acts to look after the public interest, not least because the Constabulary operates on a budget of public money and so needs to be run in a more business-like way.

Recorded crime has reduced by 2% but Mr Passmore is aware that's not the whole story and may be partially due to a changing pattern of crime. Suffolk now has a Cyber Crime Unit that also deals with child sexual abuse and human trafficking. The internet is a wonderful thing but organised criminals take advantage with 21 gangs operating within Suffolk and over 500 in the UK.

The needs of Suffolk differ from other areas. Despite receiving no extra funding for the various special places here Suffolk Constabulary has the third lowest cost per head in the country. Crime and unemployment are linked and the PCC can help using procurement strategies which also mitigates the knock-on effects of alcohol abuse etc. With a budget of only £24 million and debt burdens and austerity measures the Constabulary needs to be as efficient as possible but without a well-functioning police force the confidence of society is lost and that damages the area.

The PCC sets the precept and for two years froze it. Currently police get 65p mileage allowance when the standard across the country is 45p. They also received unfair housing allowance and pension contributions. These things are being reformed now but should have been reformed before.

The PCC has taken money from reserves to implement evidence based policing. Suffolk now has an excellent police force but they are still looking to improve. One example is that they force spend a third of their time dealing with mental health, which should not be their role, and they should not be running an ambulance service. The county needs to work together on these issues. Integrated Offender Management has been implemented before which the probation service did nothing for those with sentences of less than a year.

The recent precept increase of 1% amounts to £400,000 across the county. 80% of respondents to the survey supported the increase. It will be used to provide more traffic officers and support the cybercrime unit. A rigorous budget analysis is expected to find 9-10% savings with better technology and other services taking some of the load. In the past the budget has been used as an excuse and police numbers in the county will probably drop to 1100, but the current 3.8% of the force on sick leave is too high. The Chief Constable and the PCC need to work on this.

The Police and Crime Plan is available on <http://www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk/about-us/police-and-crime-plan-2013-17>.

Questions:

1) After reporting crime, why would there be no response from the police?

Answer: PCC will report this concern to the Chief Constable. This is an example of the PCC holding the service to account.

2) Is the bobby on the beat a thing of the past? The bobby knew everybody well and had their “finger on the pulse” and it’s not possible to be as effective relying on technology.

Answer: The bobby must not go completely. The Safer Neighbourhood Teams will stay and this is written into the Police and Crime Plan.

3) After calling about a neighbours alarm going off the parishioner was asked to check the property herself.

Answer: This is completely unacceptable. Anyone not getting satisfactory service from the Suffolk Police service should contact the PCC and he will take the matter up.

The Clerk was asked to distribute the Police and Crime Commissioner’s contact details.

5. Reports

a) County Councillor Peter Bellfield

Cllr Bellfield summarised his report, which will be filed with these minutes, and adding under the section on Education that SCC are also assessing head teachers.

Questions:

1) There is free public transport for student up to age 16 but some cannot then afford to get to school to do A-levels with public transport costing around £260/term and not running at suitable times anyway.

Answer: Central government has reduced grants for these services and SCC do subsidise bus services, currently for £2 million each year, but Cllr Bellfield agreed that this transport should be available. Changing contracts to get better times is possible but currently timings are the bus operators’ decision. Cllr Bellfield recommended reporting on possible timing improvements through the Passenger Transport Unit of SCC and himself. As always, giving specific examples will produce better results.

b) District Councillor Bob Snell

Cllr Snell’s gave highlights of his report, which will be filed with these minutes.

Questions:

1) Having attended a public consultation meeting in Framlingham it has become clear that there is far too much development planned for the town and if it goes ahead Framlingham will cease to be the Framlingham people know, losing its ambiance and feel forever.

Answer: Cllr Snell could only give his personal view: Both of the largest applications have been rejected and appealed. Cllr Snell shares the concern over the lack of infrastructure to cope with the scale of these developments but the major problem is the total change of the ambiance of this ancient market town.

c) Suffolk Police

PCSO Hassler had apologised for being unable to attend but the alternate police representative was not in attendance and had not apologised. PCC Tim Passmore noted this and suggested this was not right. The accidental and historical forwarding of an email not meant for Kettleburgh

Parish Councillors was mentioned as a possible reason for PCSO Hassler's lack of attendance but it was also mentioned that PCSO Hassler does not work on Wednesdays. PCSO Hassler's report, which will be filed with these minutes, was read to the meeting.

d) Parochial Church Council

Bill Clark, lay chairman of the PCC, after noting that the report was written before the sad and sudden death of Valarie Upson, read the PCC report, which will be filed with these minutes, to the meeting.

e) Village Hall

Village Hall Chairman Graham Mooney read his report, which will be filed with these minutes.

Questions:

1) Is the Village Hall's charity registration complete?

Answer: Yes.

f) Kettleburgh Green Trust

KGT Trustee Heidi Finbow read the report, which will be filed with these minutes. The Chairman noted that raising £17,000 was a great achievement.

g) Kettleburgh Village Produce Association

Mrs Jackie Clerk, committee member of the Kettleburgh VPA, read a report, which will be filed with these minutes.

h) Kettleburgh Town Estate Charity

John Bater read a report, which will be filed with these minutes, and added that the charity has approximately £70/year income.

Questions:

1) Are there enough funds for the charity's purposes or are they looking for donations?

Answer: Funds are currently sufficient.

i) Kettleburgh Petanque Team

Richard Baker read a report, which will be filed with these minutes. The Chairman congratulated the team on doing so well and there was a round of applause.

j) Kettleburgh Cribbage Team

Andrew Patterson, team captain, explained that there are 16 teams in the cribbage league, from Laxfield to Eastbridge, and that the league has been around since the late '60s. The Kettleburgh Chequers team moved from Brandeston in 2007 and present a team of eight players each Tuesday evening of the season. The team fights for 12 trophies each season, all of which apart from the wooden spoon have been won during his time as captain. In the 2014/15 season the Kettleburgh Chequers team came 5th in the league. The team are always looking for players and always trying to encourage younger players into the game. Anyone interested should contact the Parish Clerk.

k) Parish Council Chairman

Cllr Harris read a report, which will be filed with these minutes.

6. Question Time: There were no further questions raised.

7. Close Meeting: The Chairman thanked everyone in attendance and closed the meeting at 9:05pm.