

Minutes of Kettleburgh Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 16 January 2008

Present: Cllrs J Bater, T Chase, R Durbin, P Garland, T Jessop (chair), V Neilson, G Weeks.

The Parish Clerk was in attendance. Nine parishioners, Cllr Peter Bellfield and Cllr Bob Snell were present.

The Meeting began at 7:20pm in **Open Session**. The Chairman welcomed the public and our County and District Councillors and asked for their reports.

Cllr Bellfield's report: School reorganisation - there has been extensive consultation with parents, governors and staff in the first two areas to change to the two tier system. Waste incineration plant - the location of this new facility is to be announced on 17 January. Budget - the predicted savings will be less severe than predicted following the announcement of a larger than anticipated Central Government grant. Ipswich Unitary bid - the last minute U-turn means that Ipswich will not become a unitary authority; the Boundary Committee's report, expected by the end of 2008, will present guidelines to possible reorganisation of the structure of local councils in Suffolk and Norfolk. Debach airfield planning application - this controversial application, which would have resulted in a great increase in HGVs in the locality, has been withdrawn. Cllr Bellfield ended his report by wishing all present a very happy and healthy new year.

Cllr Snell's report: Unitary status - the District Council is making no assumption that there will be changes in the future and is pursuing the sharing of expertise and cost cutting measures. Local boundary review - this is now complete and there will be no change for Kettleburgh. Post Office closures - the proposed closure at Cretingham is now on hold, while Postwatch examines the 'outreach' scheme. Planning issues - the indoor stud at Easton Farm Park has been approved. On a personal note, Cllr Snell informed the meeting that, contrary to his previous statement, he was pleased to report that he does have local connections, with the discovery of a grandfather and a great grandfather who lived in Woodbridge.

The Chairman asked for any questions or further comments from the floor. There being none, Open Session was closed and the meeting began.

ACTION

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Chase and Cllr Weeks: item 4 - planning application C07/2276; Cllr Weeks and Cllr Jessop: item 5b & 5c - Village Green; Cllr Bater: Item 6 - Parish Tree scheme.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr. D Harris.

3. **MINUTES of the meetings held on 14 and 29 November were approved and signed.**

4. **PLANNING:**

PLANNING DECISIONS FROM SCDC

C07/2127 Kettleburgh Lodge Bungalows: Erection of one dwelling (existing to be demolished).

WITHDRAWN

PLANNING APPLICATION

C07/2276 – Part side garden, 1 Lings Field – Erection of one dwelling and garage and construction of new vehicular access. The Chairman reminded Councillors of the type of comments relevant to planning application discussions, and then asked each Councillor for his/her view on the proposal. Views expressed by Cllr Harris and copies of three letters written by villagers to SCDC were also read out. Whilst considerations included a change in the building line, the possible over development of a small site, extra car parking in Lings Field and whether there would be adequate sewage provision, when asked to vote, **the majority of Councillors supported the application.** The Clerk will inform SCDC of this decision, at the same time asking that the applicants should be required to make good any damage to surroundings during the construction phase.

JC

5. **VILLAGE GREEN:**

a) Report from Ms Helen Kay (Kettleburgh Green Trust) Thanks were expressed to Darran Frost for the excellent standard of maintenance work which is keeping the Green in good condition even through the winter months. Eighteen new trees have been planted, some donated by Trust members. With regard to safety issues, KGT would like to see tarmac at The Street end of the footpath, following the line of the adjacent footway, and for there to be a safety gate or barrier installed at this point. Now that the Parish Council has obtained amended planning permission for the revised layout of the Green, the grant from the Playspace fund, which is in total just over £5,000, and a generous donation from Mr Derek Hill can together be used for the purchase of the first piece of play equipment. Delivery is expected within six to eight weeks of ordering. A fund raising event for the opening is planned. The next village breakfast will take place on Sunday 20th January: Mr Maurice Scott will kindly provide eggs. Other planned fund raising events include an Easter event and a musical occasion at Watermill House in June. Mr Robert Marzetti has completed his video record of the Village Green; once edited, this will be available for purchase.

b) Land Registry Change of Title. Correspondence from Land Registry confirms that Mr Glason wishes to continue with his application to register a small portion of land in his title on the northern boundary of the Village Green at present registered to the Parish Council. The Chairman led a discussion on the merits of contesting or withdrawing from this claim to title, asking each Councillor for their views. It was firstly

agreed that the Clerk should obtain an extension until the end of January for the Council's reply to Land Registry. After a full discussion, **it was agreed that the Parish Council would be prepared to withdraw the above objection, providing that Mr Glason gave a written guarantee that we would not be required to move any fencing or hedges on the Green.** JC

c) Vehicular Access from Church Road. The Chairman read out a draft Deed of Grant document, prepared by Cross Ram & Co., to grant a right of way at all times across the strip of land owned by Mr Glason which lies between Church Road and the entrance to the Village Green. Once it has been ascertained that the wording "at all times" does in fact mean a "permanent" right of way, the Clerk will send the Deed of Grant to Mr Glason. JC

d) Provision of lease to KGT. This matter is being dealt with at the KGT meeting on 23rd January.

6. COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITIES:

Emergency Planning: Cllr Bater received only one response from the newsletter insert giving information about residents who have generators. He will pursue this matter, and suggested approaching villagers at the village breakfast, or at Kettleburgh Café. JB

The Pound: Councillors agreed that Cllr Bater and Cllr Garland should proceed with the fixing of a name sign to the gate of the Pound, remaining within the budget set for the Pound for any costs. Further information giving background history and information could be posted on the Parish Council website and in the newsletter. JB/PG

Environment: no report

Community: Cllr Weeks reported that the last two Kettleburgh Cafés have been less well attended. However, the sum of £83.75 was donated to St Elizabeth Hospice from the December event, and £56.40 to East Anglian Children's Hospice from the January Café. Countdown to Christmas, organised by the Village Hall Committee was a successful community occasion. The Rev. Robin Alderson conducted the countdown to the turning on of the Christmas tree lights, and mulled wine and mince pies were enjoyed by all. The Good Neighbour Scheme is being considered, possibly in conjunction with other nearby villages, and a presentation on this idea is planned for the Annual Parish Meeting in May, to be given by Gavin Hodge from Suffolk ACRE.

Footpaths: There is no budget available for the reinstatement of the footway by the village sign. With regard to the planned gate or barrier at the roadside of the Village Green footpath, Cllr Neilson reported that she had tried to arrange a site visit with Mike Carter from SCC, and will continue with her efforts. Councillors agreed that a gate with its opening recessed into the fence would be the best solution. It was suggested that Cllr Bellfield be approached for funding from his locality budget. VN

Parish Views: With the Clerk's help, Cllr Garland has compiled a population list of the village. He has counted 210 people, with 20% under 18. He is working with Cllr Weeks to promote the Good Neighbour Scheme. He added that recent house sales have brought two new households to the village. The Clerk will deliver Welcome packs. PG
JC

Planning and Development: The Chairman is in the process of producing guidance notes relating to planning and development issues as they are relevant to the village.

Police Liaison: Cllr Durbin reported that a Speed Indicator Device (SID) camera was used in Kettleburgh on 13th January. The results, over a two hour late morning period, showed that 60 vehicles had passed along The Street, and that 10 were travelling at a speed over 30m.p.h. He will investigate the possibility of linking with neighbouring villages to join the Speedwatch campaign. This venture costs over £2,000 to set up, so its usefulness and viability will need to be carefully considered. The Clerk suggested that the mobile Police unit should be asked if it is possible for them to make their visits to Kettleburgh on a first Friday, instead of a second Thursday, to coordinate with Kettleburgh Café. Cllr Durbin will investigate. The Clerk reported that our Safer Neighbourhoods Team leader, CPO Trudie Beckwith, has been replaced by CPO Mark Bryant. RD
RD

Trees: The Parish Tree Scheme, which has been in operation for at least thirty years, is administered in each parish by a tree warden, who is responsible for the siting, planting and maintenance of trees within the scheme. Cllr Chase has been our tree warden for the last eight or nine years. Cllr Weeks asked why the scheme was not promoted and why the cost was £24 last year and £240 this year. Cllr Chase offered one reason for the increase: each year the funding from SCDC has to be divided between all the applicants, and this year the money was spread more thinly. He admitted that he had been caught unaware on costs this year. Cllr Chase referred back to the Parish Council meeting on 12 September 2007, when an invitation was given for the placing of trees and/or hedging for the current year's scheme. He added that a request from the Village Green for trees had been made after this year's deadline, thus no action could be taken. The current scheme, agreed with SCDC, is planned over three years to create a hedged spinney by footpath 11 to the north of Church Farm. This is on private land, as are most of the trees planted within the scheme, because that is the nature of most of the land in our village. Cllr Chase will produce a plan, showing where trees in this scheme have been planted. Cllr Weeks asked to have it minuted that she disagreed with spending £240 of the precept on trees without having had the opportunity to discuss further. At this point, the Chairman intervened, reminding Cllr Weeks that this sum was agreed at the Parish Council meeting on 29 November, from which she was absent. He suggested that an informed debate would be a better way forward, with this item to appear on the next agenda. Cllr Chase was asked to present a background to the Parish Tree Scheme TC
TC

at the next meeting. Cllr Bater, on whose land the spinney is to be created, stated that this area was well used by the public, adding that many dog walkers and caravanners made good use of the footpath and that the area was easily accessible to all, with a footpath on three of its sides.

7. FINANCE:

- a) **The precept for the year 2008 -2009 was set at £3400, an increase of £200.**
- b) **The Financial Statement for the end of December 2007 was received and approved.**
- c) **Invoices for payment were approved and signed.**

8. CLERK'S REPORT:

- a) In line with Quality Parish Status requirements, Parish Council meeting reports are published in the East Anglian Daily Times. The Clerk asked Cllr Weeks to save these articles for the QPS portfolio of evidence.
- b) The BT telephone box in The Street has had its moneybox removed, leaving dangerous metal protuberances. There has as yet been no response to this being reported to BT.
- c) The bus stop sign and the timetable entry wrongly state 'Kettleburgh Village Stores' as the bus stopping place for the village. After contacting SCC Highways, this will be rectified at some stage.
- d) The Clerk suggested that this year the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting should be held separately. Dates were fixed: 14th May - APM, 21st May – APCM.
- e) After many problems, telephone-banking arrangements with Barclays have now been restored. The resultant overdraft in the current account has incurred no bank charges.
- f) A report has been sent to SCC Highways to note that the 30m.p.h. roundels in the Street are becoming illegible and need replacing.
- g) There is an opportunity for new Councillor training by SALC at a venue in Rendlesham. The Clerk will circulate details.

9. CORRESPONDENCE:

All correspondence circulated amongst Councillors

10. QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN:

Cllr Weeks requested that the items 'a gate for the footpath' and 'Village Green Access' be added to the next agenda.

Cllr Garland suggested a better form of management of Action Points was needed.

The Chairman wishes to discuss the power to raise bye-laws (with particular regard to dog fouling) at the next meeting.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday 12 March 2008 at 7:15p.m. *Agenda items by 28 February please*

12. The meeting closed at 9:40p.m