

Minutes of Kettleburgh Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 2 July 2008

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

The Parish Clerk was in attendance. Eight members of the public were present.

The Meeting began at 7:15pm in **Open Session**. The Chairman welcomed the public and Cllr P Bellfield, asking him for his report.

Cllr Bellfield's Report: Local Government Review - draft proposals will be published on 7th July, after which there will be a twelve-week consultation period. HGV Policy Development Panel (PDP) - the final draft is in process and will include a recommendation that Cabinet should consider the downgrading of certain roads within the A140, A12, and A1120 triangle. Of particular interest in this locality is the suggestion that the A1120 should be downgraded to a 'B' road, the reasoning being that HGV traffic could then more easily be persuaded to use the A14/A12 route to the North and East of the county. 'Save Our Rural Roads' has succeeded in preventing further development at Debach, and is making progress at Gressingham Foods, where development has exceeded planning rights. Changes to Air Traffic Holding Stacks - Suffolk County Council has asked that stacking should take place over the North Sea, although this could result in a longer flight path to Stansted, and have an adverse effect on the Suffolk Coasts and Heaths area. Public Involvement at Council meetings - SCC is looking at the possibility of allowing public speaking, or time for questions, at Council meetings. In response to a comment about a recent local accident between a car and a large agricultural vehicle, Cllr Bellfield referred back to the PDP on HGVs, which has the aim of discouraging these vehicles from using minor roads, but admitted that this restriction could not apply to agricultural vehicles.

Cllr Snell's Report: (read by the Clerk)

A Public meeting by British Energy to review the prospect of a Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station will be held at Stratford St Andrew on 16 July.

Local Development Framework (LDF)- Parish Councils should provide their views in the next round of consultation on any change in village status and changes in village boundaries, as these may have a significant impact on future planning decisions. The second round of consultation should begin in the autumn, dealing with site specific proposals which have been received by the Council, including those aimed at providing new building sites and changes to village envelopes. There are two such submissions for Kettleburgh, one for affordable housing in Church Road and one for a physical limits extension north of Lings Field. Anyone can inspect the individual submissions during normal office opening times. The submissions generally contain a map and identify the promoter/agent/owner. Parish Councils should review these proposals and be ready to send their comments when the consultation exercise is launched later this year to be announced in the press and on the Council's web-site).

Proposed changes to air traffic holding stacks - Plans are unlikely to have any significant impact on this district. This consultation by NATS is strictly about the way flights are managed in our region and has nothing to do with any possible expansions of airports or increases in air travel. Suffolk Coastal District Council has been asked for its comments and we contacted our town and parish councils to find out what were their views. Our conclusion is that it is unlikely that the proposed changes will have a significant impact on our district. However, SCDC have pointed out that the changes could have a more significant impact on some rural communities in neighbouring councils, and we have expressed our opposition to the principle that aircraft should be routed away from urban areas to more sparsely populated rural communities as noise from aircraft, although quite low, is more intrusive in the quiet of the countryside than in towns.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty - A new five year management plan was launched today by the Suffolk Coasts & Heaths unit, endorsed by all the contributing councils and other bodies. Details are on the SC&H web site.

Anti Social drinking orders - Following the prescribed consultation process, new orders are being introduced in areas of Saxmundham, Kelsale-cum-Carlton and Wickham Market.

Farnham and Stratford St Andrew Parish Council - Following a request to SCDC that this joint village council (formed in 2004 at the request of both villages) should be split into two councils, SCDC full council decided last Thursday to retain the status quo, but to request the council to seek assistance from SALC to resolve differences apparently caused by personality clashes among members of the Parish Council.

The Chairman introduced **Mr David Williams**, Scoutmaster from Earl Soham, and invited him to speak:

As the Earl Soham Scouts will be using Kettleburgh Village Hall from September, they are keen to become involved in village community activity. The leaders of this Scout troop, the Foresters, are committed to providing outdoor activities: they have already planted trees and hedging in Brandeston. As a youth organisation, they are eligible for funding for planting and managing trees and would very much like to be involved with the proposed scheme for planting on the Village Green. Mr Williams would be able to price the hedging and ongoing care for the Village Green scheme. They would be looking at long-term involvement, providing an engagement with the natural environment for present and future Scouts. They would be able to plant both trees and hedging. The location and situation of the Village Green meets all the requirements to trigger funding. The money could be partly found from Scouts funds. Cllr Weeks will liaise with David Williams, to get a firm proposal drawn up.

Questions from **Mr Derrick Neilson:** Is there going to be a hog roast on the Village Green as advertised? A: No.

Could all the funds from the Coffee Mornings go to the village rather than to charities? A: this comment was noted and will be passed on to the organisers of the Coffee Morning.

The Chairman welcomed **Rev Robin Alderson** to the meeting and invited him to speak: He thanked the Council for the opportunity to attend and meet Councillors and the public, adding that he had been ministering in Kettleburgh for just over six months and that he was thrilled to be here. It was a joy and a privilege to follow the excellent example of Graham Vellacott; Kettleburgh was a village of tremendous spirit where things happen. Open Session was closed and the meeting commenced.

ACTION

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** There were none.
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Tim Chase and Cllr Bob Snell.
3. **MINUTES of the meeting held on 21 May were approved and signed.**

4. **PLANNING:**

PLANNING DECISIONS FROM SCDC

C07/2308 and C07/2308 - Rectory Farm: Restoration and extension of house 2 and link to house 1. **No decision yet**

C08/0747 - 1 Lings Field

Erection of rear and front dormer window. **APPROVED.**

C08/0897 Packway Cottage, Rectory Road.

Erection of a cattery. **APPROVED.**

5. **VILLAGE GREEN:**

a) Report from Robert Marzetti, (Kettleburgh Green Trust) read by the Clerk:

We are pleased to report that the first two pieces of play equipment have been successfully installed on the Green and are now being "discovered". We hope they will give many years of pleasure to succeeding generations of children. The equipment consists of a Pod Swing suitable for all ages where children can discover the joys of swinging together in a group. The other piece of equipment is a Gyrospiral where children can sit and rock or spiral round all at the same time. It is up to the rockers to decide how adventurous they want to be! The Trust's objective is to add more pieces of equipment as and when funding permits. The Green is now looking its seasonal best and is generally in good shape. The meadow area in particular is looking good with the winding pathways surrounded by natural wild flowers and grasses. We would like to mention forthcoming events being organised by The Trust:

13th July Music and Magic at the Mill.

20th September Cheese and Wine with Auction at Sand Pit Cottage.

6th December Village Dance in the Hall to the music of the Fat Band.

b) Provision of lease to KGT. The Chairman has spoken to a solicitor, who agrees that leasing the Village Green to Kettleburgh Green Trust is a good idea with lots of benefits. There will be no cost to Kettleburgh Parish Council, as although the Parish Council would seek its own legal advice, the costs would be borne by KGT. Although originating from an initiative by KGT, the lease would be from the KPC to KGT, with the Parish Council retaining the freehold. A draft document will be presented for discussion at the September Council meeting.

TJ

6. **FINANCE:**

a) The Financial Statement was received and approved.

b) Invoices for payment were approved and signed.

The Clerk gave the Annual Return documents to Cllr Harris for him to check for completeness before they are sent to BDO Stoy Hayward for external audit.

DH

7. **COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITIES:**

Emergency Planning: Nothing to report.

The Pound: The hedge has been trimmed and paths strimmed. The rest of the grass will be cut when the time is right, allowing birds to enjoy the natural environment. Mary Moore is going to produce a design for the sign for the gate, with the following wording: "The Village Pound, or Pinfold, typically dating from Medieval times, was an enclosure for detaining stray or trespassing livestock until they were reclaimed by their owner upon the payment of a fine." The sign will be of A3 size, made of aluminium and painted. The colour scheme is to be left to Mary, who has great experience in such matters.

JB

A long discussion, deferred from the last meeting, followed, engendered by the letter written to Councillors by Cllr Weeks on the subject of the sale of The Pound. This statement from the letter was read out: "that the Parish Council agree in principle that it is worth exploring the opportunity to see what the value of the Pound would be whilst retaining it as Common Land." Points made during the discussion were:

- That although the Parish Council is the owner and guardian, any proposal to sell the Pound needs to be a village issue and not just a decision for the Council.

- That previous Councils have discussed the subject in full, and the resulting opinion has always been not to sell.
- That this piece of land was given to Kettleburgh by Dennington and that even if it were sold, it would always remain as Common Land with free public access.
- That it is an emotive issue which raises strong feelings and the sale would result in a significant change to the village.
- That there is deep interest, in a national sense, with regard to the disposal of Common Land.
- That there should be clear declarations of interest before a debate was conducted.
- That the valuation given for asset purposes was of a nominal amount of £1,000, but that it would be worth far more on the open market, and that if a significant sum were offered, then the subject would be worth discussing.
- That Mr and Mrs Harris, whose land borders The Pound, might or might not be prepared to pay a large sum for it. Cllr Harris stated that whilst, because of its location on the border of their property, he and Mrs Harris considered themselves the major beneficiaries of the Pound, he did not feel that he had any greater interest than others in the village.
- That unless it was a significantly large sum, and there was a specific purpose identified for the money raised, which would benefit the whole village, it was not worth selling.
- That once sold, the Parish Council would lose control of its upkeep.

In conclusion, the Chairman asked Cllr Weeks to provide a clear motion for debate. The Clerk and the Chairman will research the correct procedure and mandate in order to discuss the issue for the next meeting.

GW
TJ/JC

Environment: No report - this is a watching brief, with the emphasis on sustainability and thus linked to the planning brief, also the responsibility of the Chairman.

Community: report given by Cllr Weeks:

It was very sad to have two funerals very recently in St Andrews Church, which were Geoffrey Goddard from Red House, who lived in Kettleburgh all his life and Sarah whose father Miles Benton lived at Bullace Cottage for many years. Also, a memorial service was held by the family of Anthony Fletcher in Brandeston, who had edited the Brandeston & Kettleburgh Parish magazine for many years.

The Clerk continues to provide an events list to keep residents up to date of what is going on in Kettleburgh and some information on surrounding villages. This is posted on the notice board and the website. In order to avoid clashes of dates for village events, villagers should first check with the Clerk.

Cllr Weeks stated that she was unable to update the Community web page successfully due to technical problems with One Suffolk but the Clerk has agreed to assist with this to ensure that the pages are updated.

JC

The Kettleburgh Green Trust Lottery Club will continue at the Coffee Mornings, tickets to be drawn by Trevor Jessop or Derrick Neilson, and results will be announced in the Parish Magazine.

Kettleburgh Café – Cllr Weeks stated that that despite all the obstacles put in their way in the last year this venture has been a great success in bringing the community together. Now that the opportunity has been created, it will continue on the first Friday of each month, as before. It will not be known as the Kettleburgh Café to avoid any issues in the future. It is not clear whether anyone will be reporting to the Parish Council.

The amount raised at the Fete on 14th June has now been finalized at £3426.42. This is just £36 less than last year. It will be divided between the Village Hall and the Church Fabric Fund. Valerie Compton and Pat Bishop have published a small report on the website and have thanked all those involved. The date for next year has already been fixed: Saturday 13th June 2009.

There was a very good attendance at the Strawberry Tea held on 30th June. It was a lovely sunny day, with fresh strawberries and homemade cakes and was a very enjoyable event. All profits went to the Church Fabric Fund.

Footpaths: FP 25 (between Kettleburgh Hall and Mill Lane) has still not been sprayed off, but as the crop will be harvested in a matter of weeks, there is little point in pursuing the matter. It was noted that FP19 (from The Street going towards the church) was very well maintained and that thanks for this should be recorded to Mr Upson and Mr Glason.

Parish Views: It was decided that the only way to gather the views of villagers was by way of a questionnaire. Cllr Garland and Cllr Neilson will use ideas from the Brandeston Parish Plan questionnaire to try and make a meaningful document that is within the budget set aside for this purpose. The Clerk had attended the Brandeston Parish Plan meeting and reported that an excellent effort had been made to garner village views and that the results were presented in a professional and engaging manner. However, as the first impression from the displays was that villagers were in favour of retaining the status quo and that they were worried about traffic in Brandeston, it was questioned whether any new information had actually been gathered.

PG/VN

Planning and Development: The guidance notes relating to planning and development issues are still in process; it is important to have guidance on how we look at planning issues. We must be aware of potential boundary changes in the village and ensure that representations are made at the appropriate time. The

TJ

Council needs a mandate from the village for the correct viewpoint to be put forward - this is an issue that should be included in the questionnaire.

Police Liaison: Cllr Durbin reported that the Highways speed check, due firstly for 9th June, then 16th June, had not in fact taken place due to technical difficulties. He has asked for the results to be sent to him when the check does take place. The speed cameras are located alternately in The Street (outside the Village Hall) and on the Brandeston to Easton road. There are many good ideas for traffic calming and speed reduction on the Suffolk County Council Highways website. Addressing the question of spending our budgeted money of £500 on traffic calming, Cllr Durbin reminded the meeting of the alternatives that had been considered with approximate costings:

- Speedwatch campaign: £2,000 - £3,000
- Sleeping policemen/speed bumps: £1,000 (not a popular solution)
- Flashing light speed indicator: £2,500 - £3,000
- Road narrowing - not considered practical on a 'C' road and also needs street lighting.
- Gates at the side of the road: £1,500 - £2,000

Other options that were suggested included 'homemade' 30m.p.h. repeater signs, as seen in an Essex village, and look-alike 'bodies' placed at the side of the road. It was queried whether the questionnaire should introduce the idea of raising the precept to pay for traffic calming. From the floor of the meeting, Mr Derrick Neilson suggested a £20 levy of all villagers as one way of raising funds for this project. It was suggested that this topic be incorporated into the questionnaire. It was concluded that the three main issues were:

- The financial implications of any solution
- All suggestions are controversial, so that views of villagers need to be sought
- Finding a solution that is consistent with our rural situation

The Chairman drew this topic to a close with the suggestion that a Parish Meeting be held, with Cllr Durbin leading the discussion. The Clerk suggested that the September newsletter could be devoted to Traffic Calming, to be written by Cllr Durbin and to include an invitation to a meeting to be held in November. Any financial implications could then be addressed before the completion of next year's budget.

Referring to the suggestion made at the Annual Parish Meeting, that a traffic survey be carried out to ascertain the number of vehicles that pass through Kettleburgh on their way to Brandeston Hall School, Cllr Durbin outlined some difficulties in taking this approach, but confirmed that he would contact Brandeston School to ask about their policy for encouraging bus travel. It was noted that both Framlingham College and Brandeston Hall School have minibuses which could be used for this purpose.

Mr Derek Neilson was welcomed as our new Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator. He has made contact with PCSO Mary Thompson, who sent her apologies, as she was not able to attend this meeting. He will report to Parish Council meetings when relevant.

Trees: In his absence, a report by Cllr Chase was read out with his views on the Parish Tree Scheme for 2008 –2009. He had received one proposal, from the Kettleburgh Green Trust. This proposal was for a line of hedging alongside the footpath close to the pond, and four trees to complete a boundary line of trees on the North side of the Green. He did not support this scheme for the following reasons:

- The Green has public funding in excess of £60,000 to date and with prudent financial budgeting must have sufficient funding for their trees.
- In the creation of the Green, the site was flattened and cleared of all existing vegetation, trees, etc. Several saplings and small trees were uprooted and destroyed. In fact several fruit trees planted by past residents/allotment holders went the same way.
- Cllr Chase had noticed from a recent walk over the Green that eight newly planted Lime trees are dead or dying through lack of basic care and maintenance.
- Kettleburgh Green Trust made a statement that no Parish money would go for funding the Green.
- The Scout leader, David Williams, hopes to undertake tree planting, propagation and tree care on the Village Green with his Scouts - an opportunity to combine our planting schemes.

His statements were refuted by members of KGT, and will be discussed at the next Council meeting. Cllr Chase's proposal was to continue with the current scheme adjacent to FP11 (to the North of Church Farm). This has been a shared cost project, with over 60% of the costs to date funded by the owner, Mr John Bater. The proposed planting of thirty trees at an approximate cost of £1 each would virtually complete the woodland. It was agreed that the two proposals put forward could not be voted on for the following reasons: the proposal from KGT had no costings and the proposal from Cllr Chase had no plan attached. An alternative solution would be to accept the offer made by Mr Williams, that the Scouts took on the responsibility for planting on the Green. Cllr Weeks will contact Mr Williams, to get costings from the KGT scheme. The Clerk will ask Cllr Chase to provide a plan of his proposal.

PG/VN

RD/JC

RD

GW
JC

8. CLERKS REPORT:

- a) Review of Quality Parish Status: there are some questions about the benefits of becoming a Quality Parish that need addressing. The Clerk will send details of the Council's present position with regard to achieving QPS to Councillors. The Clerk pointed out that to compile the necessary portfolio for submission would take many hours. Gathering evidence has been difficult, as the meeting reports sent to the East Anglian Daily Times have not been saved as requested by the Clerk.
- b) Dissemination of Information: it was agreed that giving out correspondence to Councillors with particular responsibilities, rather than gathering all correspondence together for the correspondence pack, speeded up the response time. In addition, the many documents that are now sent by email can be instantly passed on to members of the Council.
- c) Networking Day report: main topics covered were – the review by the National Association of Local Councils of Standing Orders, the new external audit regime and the requirements for obtaining Quality Parish Status.
- d) Outdoor Playspace Fund: the cleared balance held by Suffolk Coastal District Council now stands at £3,211.12. Kettleburgh Green Trust still has the second half of its payment to claim for the play equipment recently installed on the Village Green.
- e) Now that Nicky and Terry Comer have moved from Kettleburgh, a letter of appreciation has been sent from the Parish Council, thanking them for all that they contributed to the life of our village.
- f) The Clerk gave out a reminder of the Coffee Caravan that will be visiting Kettleburgh on Tuesday 8th July, from 10:00a.m till 12 noon.
- g) The July newsletter was handed out for distribution, with a reminder to all Councillors of their delivery areas.

9. CORRESPONDENCE:

All correspondence was circulated amongst Councillors.

10. REVIEW OF ACTIONS REGISTER:

The Actions Register will be reviewed to bring it up to date.

TJ

11. QUESTIONS TO CHAIRMAN

Matters for the next meeting:

- Confirmation of the Parish Tree Scheme proposals.
- A debate on the future of The Pound, with a clearer motion for debate provided by Cllr Weeks.

GW

A comment was made about the failure by householders to remove some wheelie bins from the roadside after they have been emptied on Wednesdays. Some bins are still by the roadside on Thursdays, and they look unsightly. A polite note will be included in the next newsletter.

JC

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday 10 September 2008 at 7:15p.m. *Agenda items by 29 August please.*

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