

Minutes of Kettleburgh Parish Council Meeting held on Wednesday 10 November 2010

Present: Cllrs J Bater, T Chase, R Durbin, P Garland, D Harris (chair), T Jessop.

The Parish Clerk was in attendance. Peter Bellfield (SCC) and one member of the public were present.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting which began in Open Session at 7:15p.m. The recurring problem of verge erosion and consequent road widening was raised. Cllr Peter Bellfield suggested asking Suffolk Highways to pay a site visit to investigate the matter. The Clerk will write to Mr Derek Oldham at the Saxmundham office.

Open Session was closed and the meeting began.

ACTION

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: There were none

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllr D Germain, V Neilson, PCSO Christian Hassler.

3. MINUTES of the meeting held on 8 September 2010 were approved and signed.

4. REPORTS FROM SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL AND SUFFOLK POLICE

SCC Cllr Peter Bellfield: With the 28% reduction in the central government grant, SCC has to make savings of £110million over the next four years. The planned New Strategic Directive will produce most of the required savings in years two, three and four, but in year one savings will have to be made out of expenditure. So far, the only decision made about savings is to close the Bury Road Park & Ride. Other planned savings are likely to be by: the closing, or handing to local groups, of youth clubs, many of which are sparsely attended; the selling of care homes; the reduction of subsidised bus routes; a reduction in the use of older peoples' bus passes to after 9:30a.m (this service is at present administered by SCDC); reduced availability of young peoples' travel cards; the scrapping of six out of seven of the Scrutiny Committees; a halt to all recruiting of staff; letting out office space in Endeavour House. As Suffolk Fire and Police services are already efficiently run, it will be difficult to achieve further savings in these areas. Social services, which accounts for 52% of total expenditure, will have to take a fair share of these reductions. Any pay cuts by the Chief executive will be a personal decision. Cllr Bellfield concluded his report by wishing all present a Merry Christmas.

PCSO Christian Hassler: (*read by the Clerk*):

There were no reported crimes from 8 September to 10 November in Kettleburgh.

5. PLANNING DECISIONS FROM SCDC

C10/1789:Kettleburgh Hall – Conversion of disused barn to holiday let/annex – No decision yet

6. KETTLEBURGH PUMPING STATION

Two representatives from Anglia Water will attend the next Parish Council meeting, when they will give details of their plans to prevent further instances of effluent overflow. There will be time for Councillors and any interested villagers to pose questions. Representatives from Brandeston Parish Council have been invited to this meeting. The Clerk will also invite members from Creetingham Parish Council and the Environment Agency. Cllr Jessop reported that there was more pumping after the recent heavy rain: this was as a response to the alarm that was triggered.

JC

7. PARISH TREE SCHEME

Cllr Chase has made contact with the householder at 14 Church Road: he has no objections to the planting of a tree on the land to the side of his house. The tree to be ordered from the Parish Tree Scheme is a Robinia. Cllr Chase will forward the invoice to the Clerk for payment.

TC

8. TRAFFIC CALMING

Cllr Durbin reported that Peter Bellfield has been very helpful in the struggle to reach the conclusion of our traffic calming measures. The date for completion has been moving progressively backwards, with the contractors still awaiting the delivery of the gates. Cllr Chase will liaise with Cllr Durbin over the costings for the additional gateway on School Hill. The Chairman recommended that Cllr Durbin be awarded the KMP (Kettleburgh Medal for Perseverance) at the Annual Parish Meeting. The suggestion to plant some bulbs by the gateways was approved.

TC/RD

9. VILLAGE GREEN

a) Transfer of licence –7 Church Road: the delay in completing the transfer of the licence has been caused by Natural England's tardy response. We are now waiting for Land Registry to remove the restriction that was mistakenly applied to the land behind 7 & 8 Church Road.

b) Vehicular Access to 11 Church Road: The Deed of Easement is with Ross Coates (solicitors) for execution by their client.

c) Provision of lease to KGT: Natural England has now agreed to the grant and we await a reply on the draft lease from Birketts (solicitors).

10. COMMUNITY EVENTS

Coffee mornings - first Fridays in the month

12 November - Quiz evening IAO St Andrew's Church and the Pakistan Disaster Fund

Salsa classes - Mondays at 8:30p.m

11 December - Christmas Tree lighting outside the Village Hall

10,11,12 February 2011 - Kettleburgh Players pantomime: Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs

The KGT Hallowe'en event was well supported and enjoyed by all who attended.

11. FINANCE

a) The budget proposals for 2011-12 (attached to these minutes) were discussed and will be put forward for agreement at the meeting in January.

b) The Financial Statement was received and approved and accompanies these minutes.

c) Invoices for payment were approved and signed.

12. CLERKS REPORT

a) Cllr Jessop will attend the Local Strategic Partnership forum on 12 November, taking the opportunity to try to raise awareness of the need for maintenance costs, with the particular aim of gaining more interest from young people. He will report on the outcome of this event.

TJ

b) Grit heap volunteer spreaders: Cllr Chase agreed to be a named volunteer for grit spreading in Kettleburgh. The Clerk will advise SCC, also requesting a further grit heap at the brow of the hill on Brandeston Road. This will be named the 'True Grit' campaign.

JC

c) Cllr Jessop and the Clerk attended a Planning Forum. SCDC will hold regular future meetings, in order to make better contact with parishes.

d) In addition to the information about the New Strategic Directive (NSD) provided by Peter Bellfield, Councillors have received papers from SALC and from Unison, outlining concerns about both the proposals and the manner of consultation. It was agreed that the Clerk will compose a letter to SALC making the following points:

- Need for greater transparency and identification of wasteful activities
- Concern about outsourcing – use of experts
- Canvas local opinion/review all activities – what services could we do without?
- Expect to see significant savings without affecting front line services

JC

13. CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence was circulated amongst Councillors

Councillors discussed the email from Chattisham and Hintlesham Parish Council, which requested support for their campaign against over-ground pylons between Bramford and Twinstead. Cllr Jessop is preparing a response.

TJ

14. REVIEW OF ACTIONS REGISTER

- The Clerk will remind Cllr Germain about the A3 posters to advertise council meetings
- Cllr Chase will liaise with Cllr Durbin in order to obtain some quotes for an additional gateway on School Hill.
- The Clerk will write to SCC Highways about the unofficial 'road widening', with a copy to Daniel Poulter MP.

15. A.O.B:

- Cllr Chase presented a letter from Guy Ackers, chairman of the Suffolk Hedgerow Survey, which noted the completion of the survey and thanked all those who helped. It will be retained with Parish records.
- Cllr Bater asked if up to date accounts from Kettleburgh Green Trust could be made available on the Village Green page of the website.
- Cllr Durbin attended the SALC AGM and reported briefly: the grant to SALC from SCC has been substantially reduced, with a result that staff hours have been cut and services reviewed; Suffolk Police costs will be reduced by 20% with staff cuts of 400; he expressed surprise that the following motion was rejected: "SALC should urge NALC to lobby Government to make strenuous efforts to ensure that when local councils and county associations are invited to be consultees in any matter, adequate notice should always be given and full consultation allowed."
- Thanks were expressed to the Clerk for the work involved in preparing the budget report.

DH

- The Clerk thanked Mrs Katie Harris for once again providing refreshments and Cllr Jessop for printing and collating the newsletter.

16. DATE OF NEXT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

Wednesday 12 January at 7:15p.m (*agenda items by 19 December please*)

17. The meeting closed at 8:50p.m.