

Minutes of Kettleburgh Annual Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 15th May 2013

Present: Cllrs J Bater, D Bell, T Chase, R Durbin, D Germain and D Harris (chair). The Parish Clerk was in attendance. Four members of the public were present. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting which began at 7:30pm.	Minute numbers and Actions K2013026
1. Election of Chairman and Vice-chairman: For Chairman, Cllr Harris was proposed by Cllr Germain and seconded by Cllr Bell. Cllr Harris had confirmed with Cllr Jessop that he was willing to stand for Vice-chairman who was then proposed by Cllr Bater and seconded by Cllr Durbin. Both were elected.	K2013027
2. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed by the new Chairman	K2013028
3. DPI declarations: There were none.	K2013029
4. Apologies for Absence: Cllrs T Jessop and A Wheeler-Rowe, SCDC Cllr Snell	K2013030
5. Minutes of the meetings held on 13 th March and 10 th April were approved and signed.	K2013031
6. Reports from the County and District Councillors and Suffolk Police	K2013032

SCC Councillor Peter Bellfield:

Cllr Bellfield had nothing more to report since his report to the Kettleburgh Annual Parish Meeting of the previous week (see below).

SCDC Councillor Bob Snell:

Cllr Snell had sent his apologies and had nothing more to report since his report to the Kettleburgh Annual Parish Meeting of the previous week (see below).

PCSO Christian Hassler:

PCSO Hassler reported that there had been no crimes reported since the Kettleburgh Annual Parish Meeting of the previous week and in reply to the question which was asked at that meeting reported that all 9 crimes (reported from May 2012 to May 2013) were as yet 'undetected', which means that the crimes are not forgotten but there is no individual charged.

PCSO Hassler then answered the other point raised at Kettleburgh Annual Parish Meeting about the mobile police station by stating that it had been withdrawn from service but that the driver had joined at Framlingham Police Station so there is now another local police officer. As a replacement service PCSO Hassler can book appointments to consult with individuals should they wish.

Questions:

1) There were 2 break-ins at the Chequers and it is understood that there is someone being held for these crimes. Why are those crimes still 'undetected'? PCSO Hassler explained that if a suspect is being held for an array of crimes or has not been charged or sentenced the system he gets his reports from may not have been changed.

2) A recent theft of garden equipment from Brandeston Priory was mentioned. PCSO Hassler was not specifically aware of this crime but was aware of the trend of increasing garden equipment thefts from sheds and outbuildings this year but someone has been caught and there have been less such thefts since. The Chairman suggested that those with such equipment should be warned and PCSO Hassler mentioned the Police Direct service and various specific services such as Horse Watch, Pub Watch and Marine Watch.

3) If one finds someone on your premises what can one do? If they are doing something wrong ring the police emergency number. Otherwise it is Civil Trespass and you must ask them to leave, then if they refuse you should ring the police.

4) Is it possible that if PCSO Hassler is unable to attend Parish Council meetings we could have an alternate police representative? PCSO Hassler replied that this does not normally happen and was asked to pass on to the other staff that their presence is requested if they are free.

7. Planning

The application for replacement of fencing surrounding the tennis court at Brunswick Farm, Rectory Road, Kettleburgh (C13/0688/) was discussed. The Council has no objections. The Clerk will inform SCDC.

K2013033

Clerk

8. Reduction in Parish Council Meetings

The chair outlined the choice available, between keeping to 6 scheduled Full Council Meetings each year or reducing the number to 4. There was general agreement that Planning and Extraordinary Meetings would be called as required so it was resolved to schedule 4 meetings for the forthcoming year. The Clerk set 14th August, 13th November, 12th February and 14th May.

K2013034

9. Emergency Planning

Cllr Germain had done some research and found a form used by Clopton Parish Council asking parishioners for their details, skills and equipment that they could contribute and whether they would be willing to assist in emergency situations; suggested creating a list of vulnerable parishioners who would need assistance; and suggested also asking if parishioners would be willing to help at village events. It was resolved that Cllr Germain would be the Parish Council's Emergency Planning Officer; would produce a form and ask the Clerk to distribute it through Cllrs; would collect the forms as Cllrs received them; and that the data should be kept by the Clerk.

K2013035

DG

Clerk

10. Bus Shelter Cleaning

The Clerk explained the current situation which Cllr Chase said seemed expensive. It was resolved that the shelter windows should only be cleaned 4 times each year and that the Clerk should obtain further quotes. Cllr Chase will forward details of his window cleaner.

K2013036

TC

11. Parish Pound

The chair explained that a poplar tree had been cut down for safety reasons but that a new tree had grown from that stump and offered to cut it down at no cost to the Parish Council and replace it with a Black Alder, which is a rare and appropriate tree, also at no cost of the PC. The planned Maintenance Plan for The Pound has not yet been produced. The Clerk will remind Cllr Wheeler-Rowe of this task (K2012009).

K2013037

Clerk

12. Finance

K2013038

- a) The Financial Statement was approved and initialled.
- b) The payments required were approved and initialled.
- c) The Standing Order to pay the annual Village Sign Land Rental fee was approved and signed.
- d) The accounts for the year ended 31st March 2013 were approved and signed by the chairman who also signed the Annual Return Accounting Statements.
- e) The Annual Return Statement of Assurance was completed and signed by the chairman.

13. AOB

K2013038

The chairman stated that Cllr Durbin had notified the Council of his resignation with effect from the end of the current meeting; that he was very sorry that Cllr Durbin was leaving; that Cllr Durbin had done a stunning job on the Village Gateways; and thanked Cllr Durbin for all of his work for the Council. The Clerk explained the procedure for replacing a councillor. The chairman stated that it was safe to assume co-option would be required and confirmed the general agreement that younger Council members would be beneficial. It was resolved that various Cllrs should approach various parishioners and email the responses to the chairman.

DB, TJ, DH

The Clerk asked if Cllr Chase was willing to continue as signatory on the Parish Council bank accounts and he confirmed he was. The Clerk then pointed out that a replacement for Cllr Durbin as signatory was required and Cllr Bell volunteered. The Clerk will arrange the necessary paperwork.

Clerk

Cllr Durbin asked about the status of the tree near the bus shelter. Cllr Chase agreed to replant in the autumn this year. Cllr Bell suggested that the new family on the corner near the tree may be approached to keep it watered.

TC

Mr D Upson pointed out that an earlier mention of emailing planning applications around the Councillors for a decision would not result in a legal decision.

Mrs K Harris mentioned a chap who had been to the occupier of one of their holiday cottages and volunteered to remove a dishwasher that was in a garage area. He was turned away but residents should be warned that he could not have seen the item from outside the property and therefore his actions can only be taken as scouting for possible nefarious opportunities.

The current infrequency of the Parish Council Newsletter was discussed. It was resolved to produce one for distribution at each of the four scheduled meetings. The Clerk will contact all committees in the village for articles, events and event reports. The chairman and the Clerk will meet to discuss content.

Clerk

Clerk, DH

14. Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday 14th August 2013 at 7:30pm

15. Close Meeting: The meeting closed at 8:30pm

2012/2013 County Councillor Report for the Carlford Division

Leaders of the County Council

After the turmoil regarding the political and executive leadership of the council during 2011/2012 I am pleased that the choice of Mark Bee as political leader of the council and Debora Cadman as the executive leader has proved highly successful. Although we were not successful, we were nominated for the position of the most improved council in the country

Budget

We are again on track to achieve the savings aim for last year of £25 million and the budget for this financial year is to repeat this figure. This means that over a four year period that we will have saved almost £100 million from total expenditure, excluding schools which is ring-fenced, of a little short of £600 million with only a minor adverse effect on front line services.

Council Tax

As you will know for the third year running the council has announced that the council tax will remain unchanged. Additionally, during the Budget debate the Leader of the Council stated that, if this administration is returned at the May election, the council tax will remain unchanged for the following four years.

Libraries

All 44 of Suffolk's libraries were transferred to an Industrial and Provident Society together with the mobile, school and prison library services last August. This is a first in the country. This enabled the council to make the savings necessary, about £3 million, with out any reduction in the front line service.

Education

The council has launched an ambitious project, known as "Raising the Bar", to drive up educational standards across the county. Although academic standards are rising in Suffolk they have fallen behind, except at A level, the national average and this project is aimed to correct this position. Additionally schools in the first phase of the move from three to two tier system saw a substantial improvement in writing (12%) and maths (6%) at key stage 2, this is double the rate seen in the rest of Suffolk. Mean while good news is that 97.4% of the 7,427 students who applied for secondary school places for this September were offered their first choice school, this is well above the national average.

Residential Care Homes

During the year the County transferred its existing 16 residential homes to a company called Care UK in return for which they undertook to invest £60 million in building 10 new state of the art homes, some on existing sites. The number of beds will rise by about 150 to 680, most of which will be specialist dementia beds.

Broadband

Last September it was announced that the county council would be working in partnership with BT to deliver superfast coverage to 85% of Suffolk and a guaranteed speed of at least 2 megabits per second to the whole county by 2015. To achieve this, one of the first counties in the country, the council invested over £11 million in the partnership.

Energy from Waste

In May last year construction got underway of an energy from waste facility for Suffolk. The site will start operating at the end of 2014, diverting 252,000 tons of waste a year from environmentally damaging and expensive landfill sites. The waste will generate enough electricity for 30,000 homes or, maybe, the largest tomato greenhouse in the country.

Fire and Rescue Service

Recently the council consulted with the county regarding the merger of the Suffolk Fire Service with that of Cambridgeshire, but before the findings were collated it became obvious that any merger would result in Suffolk subsidising Cambridgeshire. For that reason mainly the talks were terminated and any thought of a merger is dead. The mutual control room will continue and other means of cooperation will be explored.

Future Back Office Requirements

At October's Cabinet meeting it was agreed that the partnership between BT, the County and Mid-Suffolk D.C. to run back office services like finance, ICT and HR should not be extended or renegotiated after it ends in 2014. We are, therefore, now looking for other outside organisations to perform these functions at a lower cost because the BT contract has escalated significantly more than originally anticipated.

Records and Heritage functions

It has become clear that it is necessary for the county to reorganise and re-site its records and heritage functions and we are currently investigating the options available. They include merging the three Record Office sites into either Ipswich or Stowmarket.

Major Construction Sites Proposed

I have recently taken a very active interest in the three major construction sites which are likely to have a significant effect on the Carlford Division, namely Offshore One Wind farm electric cables laying, Ipswich Northern Fringe housing development and Sizewell C power station. In particular I have expressed concern about the lack of evidence that every effort is being made to minimise the adverse effect upon the inadequate highways structure.

Peter Bellfield

April 2013.

Suffolk Coastal District Council

Councillor Bob Snell's annual report to Parish Councils in the Earl Soham ward, May 2013

1. Financial efficiency

- Council Tax frozen by SCDC for third successive year with no borrowing but charges from the Police and most parishes have risen again. In 2012/13, 98.4% of tax was collected (target 98.3%).
- Number of councillors recommended to the Boundary Committee to be cut from 55 to 43; number of Committees and frequency of their meetings (including full Council) reduced in the year to lower costs.

2. Housing/Planning

- LDF long awaited Core Strategy was subject to review by an Independent Inspector; we await the Inspector's reaction the consultation exercise on "Major Alterations", completed recently.
- SCDC/Waveney continue to work with other agencies to bring empty homes back into use and to avoid homelessness, bucking the national trend. Since April 2012, 42 properties have been removed from the long-term empty property list as a result of the intervention of the Private Sector Housing Team; only 9 families needed to be placed into short term temporary accommodation in the year.
- 64 affordable homes were completed during the year. We now work with 7 active housing associations and the number of new affordable homes set to be built now stands at some 328 units, with more than 1200 foreseen over the next 10 years.
- Rendlesham began preparing the first of the District's Neighbourhood Plans to set out a clear vision for the needs and aspirations of the local community, as a consideration in local planning decisions. Many parishes now considering doing the same, including Debach, Boulge and Clopton in a combined plan, possibly to include Burgh. Easton PC are investigating.
- The Council has updated website Communities Guidelines related to the Localism Act, including Neighbourhood Planning; Right to Challenge, Build; and Right to Bid. The Active Communities Team is acting as gateway to nominations across both Waveney and SCDC.
- Planning Appeals successfully challenged in 50% of cases in Q4, compared with 80% in Q3 (national target 70%); full year at 61%, apparently reflecting the Inspectorate's positive support for proposals in sustainable locations in accordance with the NPPF. It is hoped that the potential adoption of the Core Strategy in the next quarter will lead to a more straightforward consideration of applications by officers and committee members.
- Targets for turning round planning decisions continue to be missed, especially for major applications (six out of 27, or 22%), maybe calling into question the realism of the targets.

3. The local economy

- SCDC is working with SCC on an Economic Growth Strategy for the County – the first step in a joint programme to promote a more prosperous Suffolk.
- Campse Ashe Station house to be let by SCC to a local Provident Society at peppercorn rent for community use.
- Joint SCDC/SCC's consultation response on Sizewell C issued on 5 Feb, designed to encourage long term investment that protects local interests. Sizewell Task Group continues to help look after local interests – your ward member is a member of this group.
- Tourism value in Suffolk Coastal estimated in 2012 at £284m, employing about 10% of employment.
- Move of Woodbridge TIC from Station to Library completed.
- Heritage Coast Market Town Initiative held successful Business Exhibition at Fram College on 26 March 2013.

4. Environment

- More than 56.9% of household waste recycled in the year (target 58%). Recent new advice on types of plastic expected to increase this level.
- The recycling of street sweepings was restarted in November and 177 tonnes were diverted from landfill in Q3.

5. Community Well-Being

- Total recorded crime year in Qs 1-3 in the Framlingham & Saxmundham Safer Neighbourhood Team area was down 2.6%, representing 15 fewer crimes. The trend was down in all Suffolk Coastal areas, though rural crime (mainly theft) seems to be a growing problem.