

Minutes of Kettleburgh Parish Council Meeting
held on Wednesday 11th February 2015

Present: Cllrs J Bater, T Chase, H Finbow, D Germain and D Harris (chairman). Minute numbers and Actions
Attending: 5 members of the public, SCC Cllr Bellfield, SCDC Cllr Snell and the Clerk.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting which began at 7:30pm. The meeting was opened in Open Session and no points were raised. The meeting then continued in Closed Session.

1. Members' declarations of interests: none. K2015001

2. Apologies for Absence: Cllrs D Bell, N Hulme and T Jessop, PCSO C Hassler. K2015002

3. Minutes of the scheduled meeting held on 12th November 2014 were approved and signed. K2015003

4. Reports from the County and District Councillors and Suffolk Police

Suffolk Police: K2015004

The Clerk reported that PCSO Hassler had apologised for not being able to attend the meeting and sent a report (which had been circulated) stating that there had been no reported crimes between 1st November 2014 and 31st January 2015.

SCC Councillor Peter Bellfield: K2015005

Cllr Bellfield apologised for having been unable to attend recent meetings. The Chairman replied that no apologies were necessary and the Council is glad to hear he has received the all clear.

Cllr Bellfield then went on to report that:

- SCC taking CSD partnership services back in house in spring 2014 has proven successful with some reports even indicating improvements in service.
- The award of the Highways contract to KierMG has gone severely wrong and many SCC Cllrs are raising the issue with Cllr Graham Newman (roads and transport portfolio holder). KierMG however are catching up with their contractual duties, at no cost to SCC.
- Members of the public can now report highways issues (pot holes etc.) through a new tool on the SCC website, giving a location on a map and uploading photos. The report will be assessed by Highways and dealt with quickly if urgent. In response to a question Cllr Bellfield stated that if someone submitting a report does not agree with a non-urgent assessment they can re-report the issue to customer services via email or phone.
- SCC are again expecting not to increase Council Tax after having had the government grant reduced by £27m and inflation having increased costs by £17m. Savings of £38.2m have been made to accommodate these.
- The Youth Employment Centre in Ipswich, focussing on training 16-24 year olds in job hunting skills, has been used by over 500 young adults in the first month.

- Children's Centres are closing and inevitably some users are upset at having to change sites. In almost every case there is a near alternative. Only underused or expensive centres are being closed. Cllr Bellfield was asked about a centre in Felixstowe which was recently redecorated and is now being closed, wasting that expense. The Cllr replied that if true that was indeed unfortunate.

Cllr Bellfield then mentioned his letter to Cllr Graham Newman proposing a 40mph speed limited area, which was to be discussed under agenda item 9. It was discussed at this point but is minuted below, under item 9.

SCDC Councillor Bob Snell:

K2015006

Cllr Snell mentioned several items from his report (attached below) and his item 2 gave rise to a discussion on developments in Framlingham. Hopkins Homes are expected to send a new planning application for their site along Station Road. The Chairman has been contacted by the Framlingham Residents Association who feel that Framlingham residents' views are not being represented by the Town Council and they are campaigning against the Fairfield Road and Mount Pleasant developments. Views mentioned in response were:

- Framlingham is a treasure and the large developments will overwhelm it.
- Framlingham is growing too fast. This happened in Buckingham which used to be a lovely market town and is now a horrible place.
- The large developments will house too many for local jobs so the majority of new residents will commute in the direction of Ipswich with the attendant environmental impact and increased disruption of more rural locations between the two.
- There are also a significant number of smaller developments planned for the town which are not causing as much consternation but should be considered as part of the cumulative extra development.
- The cheaper homes will often be bought as second homes, defeating the intent of affordable housing requirements and reducing the sense of community in the town.
- The existing utilities and road won't cope with the extra demand.
- The Robert Hitcham primary school and the doctors' surgery in Framlingham are already acknowledged to be at breaking point and clearly could not cope with any influx of new residents.
- The proposed large developments will add a third to the size of Framlingham without the required increase in services.
- Kettleburgh Parish Council were almost unanimously against the developments apart from a single councillor who did not know enough about the proposals to comment.
- Local Cllrs do not have the freedom to oppose the development as they would wish to because the government has mandated that the presumption in favour of sustainable development applies.

Cllrs agreed that the Chairman should forward these opinions to the Framlingham Residents Association.

DH

Cllr Snell then continued highlighting points from his report, adding for item 7 that the SCDC budget meeting was to be held the following week and in response to a

question is was explained that the budget for selling Cedar House and moving into the new premises indicates breaking even on a capital basis.

The Chairman asked Cllr Snell about the small increase in the Police Precept that PCC Tim Passmore had suggested. Cllr Bellfield mentioned that Suffolk Police is the only force that has increased numbers of Highways Police in the last 12 months. Cllr Snell said that Suffolk Police have increased their precept by the SCC or SCDC for each of the last 5 years.

5. Planning: DC/14/4213/FUL & DC/14/4287/LBC - Proposed extension to existing cottage - Brook Cottage

K2015007

The Chairman invited Nick Grimwood to briefly comment upon the plans before the council. The council were asked to go beyond their powers but the limits of those powers were explained. The Council found no reason to object to the development and the Clerk will report this to SCDC.

Clerk

6. Defibrillator:

K2015008

The First Responders representative had not responded to a reminder and was not in attendance. The item will be moved to the next meeting.

Clerk

7. Emergency Planning:

K2015009

Cllr Germain handed round a proposed survey form which was generally accepted by the Council (a copy will be filed with the minutes). She proposed that:

- the form be emailed to Cllrs who will print it and distribute it with the newsletter
- those Cllrs delivering to specific properties take responsibility for collecting completed forms those same properties
- the Emergency Planning Co-ordinator be invited to talk to the village at the Annual Parish Meeting

Cllrs

Cllrs

DG

The council approved these proposals.

Cllr Germain further explained that although she would not be standing as a councillor for the next term of office she would willingly continue as Emergency Planning Co-ordinator for the parish. The Council expressed gratitude for this offer.

An emergency was defined as when the parish is cut off and emergency services cannot help, or when there is a major incident outside the parish where the emergency services are stretched.

8. Welcome Packs:

K2015010

The Clerk does not have the contacts that the previous Clerk had and therefore Cllrs will all inform the Clerk of any new residents they are aware of. Cllrs listed recent new residents so that the Clerk could check Welcome Packs have been delivered.

Cllrs

Clerk

9. Speed Limits:

K2015011

Cllr Bellfield referred to his letter to Cllr Graham Newman (portfolio holder for roads and transport) proposing a 40mph speed limit area, explaining that in the area of and around his ward there have been many accidents, some of which have been fatal, the majority of which have been due to inappropriate speed. The proposed area is bounded by (but not including) the A140, the A1120, the A12 and either Ipswich or the A1214 to the south. Cllr Bellfield said that most of the roads within that area are

not safe at speeds above 40mph. There are some stretches that are safe at national speed limits but on one such stretch, near Ashbocking, there was a fatal accident before Christmas. The proposal is not to have lots of extra signage or repeater signs along all of the roads but rather to employ judicious use of roundels on the road just to remind drivers of the limit. The proposal includes allowing Community Speedwatch groups to monitor the area. These groups can only monitor limits up to 30mph under current rules.

When Cllr Bellfield mentioned similar areas already operating across Dartmoor and in the area of the rural Surrey Sussex border, it was suggested that the traffic volumes are not comparable and therefore the scheme would not be helpful with Suffolk traffic levels.

It was then suggested that the current limit of 70mph is too low for modern cars on motorways and dual carriageways, whereas very narrow lanes like Kettleburgh's Mill Lane allow cars to travel legally at 60mph, which is far too fast. Appropriate speed limits are an important feature of road safety, but the police prosecuting dangerous or negligent driving would be even more effective. Another major problem on country roads is agricultural or commercial vehicles taking up the whole of the road which, on blind corners, present an unavoidable and potentially lethal obstacle. Such vehicles should be severely restricted.

Cllr Bellfield pointed out that there are pedestrians and horse riders unwilling to use country roads because they consider them too dangerous.

The lack of enforcement was raised, leading to the conclusion that there is little point in creating more limits without increasing enforcement.

The established negative Council view of Community Speedwatch schemes was discussed and Cllr Bellfield pointed out that Easton are about to get their camera for their scheme and that all of their volunteers have now been trained.

10. Banking regulation changes:

K2015012

The Clerk's proposal was discussed, especially with regard to the openness of confirming that approved electronic payments were the only payments made. It was agreed that bank statements and approved payments lists would be viewed at successive meetings. The Clerk will draft adjustments to council documents, to formalise the process, for approval at the next meeting.

Clerk

11. Revised Suffolk Code:

K2015013

The Council adopted the revised Suffolk Code of Conduct noting that the Clerk will, as always, guide Cllrs should relevant situations arise.

12. Reporting on Council Meetings:

K2015014

After a long discussion, during which it was highlighted that it will still be the Chairman's responsibility to maintain order, the proposed policy and procedures were adopted. The Clerk will make necessary changes to the council documents and seek council approval or publish as appropriate.

Clerk

13. Elections:

K2015015

Two current councillors have said they will not stand for the new term and the council agreed that they had both played a significant part so would be missed.

The remaining councillors agreed to stimulate interest in becoming a councillor, and positively pursue new talent, because a wide representation serves the parish better.

The Clerk explained that:

- nomination forms should be with the Clerk in early March
- everyone standing for the council needs to fill in a form
- the nomination period is between 23rd March and 4pm 9th April
- there will be an appointments system for submitting nomination papers

Cllrs agreed to get forms to the Clerk by 27th March for submission on 28th March.

Cllrs

Cllrs

Clerk
Cllrs

K2015016

14. Finance:

a) The Financial Statement was approved.

b) The payments required were approved and initialled.

15. AOB:

The matter of the sewage improvement work being carried out by Anglian Water (AW) was raised. Issues discussed were:

- That the diversion signage has effectively cut off Kettleburgh leading to lost deliveries (incurring extra costs), lost custom and missing school buses despite signage apparently being approved by SCC Highways
- AW had promised to notify all residents of the parish well in advance of the work but at this time not all residents had been informed
- Schools in the area had not been notified of the closures to allow them to plan adjusted school bus routes

K2015017

The Clerk will draft a letter to AW (copying in SCC Highways, all Kettleburgh Parish Council Cllrs and some AW higher management (details to be researched)) stating that whilst the council do appreciate that the work is essential the council are extremely unhappy with the road signage currently in place because the village appears to be isolated (which is not so), explaining the school bus issue and asking for assurance that all residents have been informed of the effects of the works. This letter is to be posted on Friday 13th.

Clerk

The council decided to invite PCC Time Passmore to the Annual Parish Meeting in order to explain how he would implement the proposals he proposes in his survey on a 6p/week increase in the Suffolk Police precept.

K2015018

Clerk

The council resolved, as usual, to ask all village organisations to give a brief report (maximum of five minutes) on the year for their organisation.

K2015019
Clerk

16. Date of Next Meeting: The next Parish Council Meeting will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting and will be held on Wednesday 13th May 2015 at 7:30pm in the Village Hall.

K2015020

The Annual Parish Meeting will be on Wednesday the 6th of May 2015 in the Village Hall, starting at 7:30pm.

17. Close Meeting: The meeting closed at 9:48pm

K2015021

Chairman's signature to indicate Council approval: _____

Dated: _____

Chairman's initial: _____

Suffolk Coastal District Council

Cllr Bob Snell's report to Kettleburgh Parish Council 11 February 2015

1. Planning – Site specific allocations consultation update

As forecast in my report to the PC on 12 November, SCDC launched on 15 December its consultation 'Issues and Options' on two key Local Plan documents – the Site Allocations and Area Specific Policies Development Plan, and Felixstowe Peninsula Area Action Plan. Letters have been sent out to encourage responses from town and parish councils, residents associations, businesses, land owners, service providers and other stakeholders.

The Site Allocations and Area Specific Policies document covers the whole of Suffolk Coastal, except for communities within the Felixstowe Peninsula which will be covered by the Area Action Plan. Comments on the Issues and Options documents can be made during the eleven weeks' consultation – which ends on Friday, 27 February 2015. Drop in sessions to discuss the plans have been held in 7 locations over the past three weeks.

2. DCLG measures to unlock smaller development sites

Changes in legislation have been promoted by the DCLG in relation to section 106 agreements and smaller scale sites i.e. 10 dwellings or less and development of less than 1000 square metres.

It sets out new measures to support small-scale developers by changing the circumstances when planning obligations can be sought. These measures came immediately into force for any development proposals determined on or after 25 November 2014. The written statement confirms that *'for sites of 10 units or less, and which have a maximum combined gross floor space of 1,000 square metres, affordable housing and tariff system contributions should not be sought'*.

There is a lower threshold of 5 units or less on designated rural areas (such as Rural Exception Sites and AONB) if authorities choose to implement it. In these circumstances, affordable housing or tariff contributions can still be sought on developments below 5 units, in which case payment of affordable housing and tariff contributions should be commuted until completion of the units. The statement also includes the provision of a financial credit for vacant buildings brought back into lawful use or demolished for re-development. This credit should be deducted the calculation of affordable housing contributions, but will not apply to vacant buildings which have been abandoned.

The provisions will need to be applied to any decision which were issued after 28th November 2014 and any appeals lodged which could be determined after this date. This may have twin effects of refunding and not pursuing or in some cases refunding play space or education contributions on smaller sites and not being able to pursue affordable housing on the smaller schemes, including those which have already been determined since that date.

These measures will not affect those sites which make their infrastructure contributions via Community infrastructure Levy (CIL) expected in SCDC from 1 April 2015. The S106 announcement can be seen at the following link:

<http://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-vote-office/November%202014/28%20Nov%202014/2.%20DCLG-SupportForSmallScaleDevelopersCustomAndSelf-Builders.pdf>

Two applications for schemes previously approved in Brandeston and one for Earl Soham to remove the affordable houses obligation are in the system already (those in Brandeston will be determined by the north sub-committee next Monday, 16 February).

3. NANT legal action

The appeal by NANT, which is holding up progress on our Local Plan, was finally heard in the Court of Appeal in London on 22 Jan: judgement is awaited.

4. Half-a-million for Suffolk Coast tourism

The DCLG announced on 27 Jan that Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Councils have been awarded £490,000 from the Coastal Communities Fund to help boost tourism in the area.

The funding is to support 'Developing prospects on the Suffolk Coast: Economy, People, Environment', which aims to reinforce and expand the tourism economy along the Suffolk Coast. It will focus on developing key assets, delivering events and expanding activities to attract visitors, especially during the 'shoulder' and off-season periods. Its aim is to create and safeguard jobs by enhancing the tourism offer in East Suffolk, encouraging more tourists to visit, to stay for longer and to keep visiting all year round.

The project will be delivered by members of commercially-led Suffolk Coast Ltd Destination Management Organisation (DMO) and Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB, working alongside Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Councils. Tourism is worth in excess of £500m per annum along the Suffolk Coast and provides approx. 1 in every nine jobs in the area.

5. Quality of Place Awards

Launched in 2010, the Quality of Place Award scheme spotlights efforts being made across Suffolk Coastal to add to the district's quality through new projects that have helped conserve historic buildings, create new designs, or benefit the local landscape, nature, local community or community spirit.

The awards aim to recognise and encourage an interest in the quality of the built and natural environment in Suffolk Coastal, while promoting an awareness of the need for high standards in all forms of design. Entries are invited in two categories, Design and Building Conservation. All nominations will be judged by a panel on quality of design and detailing, quality of workmanship, materials and sustainability.

New buildings or extensions nominated in terms will be judged on the originality of design, overall architectural effect and relationship to context. Nominations in the Building Conservation category will be considered for their inventiveness and how the works have provided a new lease of life into a previously redundant or neglected building.

To qualify, an entry must be within the Suffolk Coastal area and have been completed between 1 January and 31 December 2014 and have all the necessary planning and building regulations approvals.

Entry is free and nominations should be submitted by **Friday 29 May 2015**. Details at <http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/designandconservation/qualityofplace/>

6. Community Grants – only two weeks left

Grants are *still* available from my Communities Enabling Budget – applications are urgently needed from any qualifying local organisations for eligible projects (see SCDC web site for conditions and forms) so that grant money can be reserved *next week* at the latest.

7. SCDC accommodation review - update

Suffolk Coastal announced in May 2013 that, as part of its wider review of accommodation, it intended to sell Cedar House, which has now been put on the market as a residential property. The house with substantial grounds, opposite Suffolk Coastal's headquarters at the junction of Pytches Road and Melton Hill, is a short distance from Woodbridge town centre.

END