

KESGRAVE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING for the Residents of Kesgrave
Minutes of the Kesgrave Annual Town Meeting held on
4th April 2016 at 7.15pm in Millennium Jubilee Hall, Kesgrave

Councillors:

K Archer
N Beecroft-Smith (Chairman)
R Bridgeman
A Comber
B Crutchfield
D Fairbrother
S Fairbrother
N Goodchild (*Apologies*)
D Isaacs
S Lawson
G Lynch
J Ogden
P Mills (*Apologies*)
R Spittle (Vice Chairman)
G Thomas
I Wallace

In Attendance:

Mrs Susan Clements (Town Clerk).
Mrs Diane Jimpson (Business and Facilities Manager).
District Councillor McCallum
District Councillor Mower
Approximately 20 Members of the Public.

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chairman of Kesgrave Town Council – Councillor Beecroft-Smith welcomed everybody to the Kesgrave Annual Town Meeting. He advised attendees that this Meeting is for the Town, Local Residents and Organisations and is an opportunity for local Groups to submit Reports (both verbal and written), on their respective activity within the last year. Councillor Beecroft-Smith also advised that he would endeavour to answer any questions raised, but that if an immediate answer is not available, then he would arrange for the Town Council Office to deal with the matter as soon as practicable following this Meeting.

The Council received apologies for absence from Town Councillors Goodchild and Mills. An apology for absence was also received from County Councillor Hudson.

2. Minutes of the last Kesgrave Annual Town Meeting held on the 23rd March 2015

These Minutes were received, considered and agreed. (A Copy of the Minutes are in the Minute Book).

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the last Meeting.

4. Chairman's Update

Councillor Beecroft-Smith reiterated that it has been a busy and challenging year at the Town Council. He spoke about new Councillors who were elected or co-opted last May 2015 and thanked Councillors and Staff for all for their support. The Chairman thanked Mrs Veronica Read and Mrs Judith Francis following their recent retirement from the Council and also Mrs Linda Bennett who has moved onto pastures new. The Chairman commented that the next few months will bring new challenges. He referred to the Town Council's Extraordinary Meeting held on the 13th January 2016, which considered formerly as statutory consultee, the application for 300 new residential dwellings off of Bell Lane, Kesgrave and the subsequent Suffolk Coastal District Council Meeting to consider this application on the 24th February 2016. Councillor Beecroft-Smith emphasised that the Town Council will be continuing to work towards ensuring that any new development works will improve Kesgrave and compliment and mould with the existing Town. The Chairman referred to the funding cuts to emergency services, for example, the Police and the Fire and Rescue Services. He also advised local people about the various large, exciting and inspirational projects ahead of the Town Council for 2016/2017, including, the proposed purchase of surplus Tesco Land for community use, various projects initialled from this Council's Recreation and Amenities Committee, including the proposed canopy at the Rupert Fison Centre and our Neighbourhood Plan. Councillor Beecroft-Smith was hopeful that our Neighbourhood Plan will assist the Town to safeguard and have more powers with any future large planning applications and also hopefully assist to deter any possible, future incidents of travellers encamping in Kesgrave. Councillor Beecroft-Smith spoke about Delegation of Powers by the Local Planning Authority and changes in consideration of planning applications and also about Devolution. He reminded the Meeting about the Town Council's Community Summer Event in June 2016, which will combine the celebrations for HM the Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations and help to "showcase" local Groups, Clubs and Sporting activities in the Town.

Councillor Beecroft-Smith thanked Councillors' in advance for their respective continued assistance with organising and proceeding with these future worthwhile projects and events for local people. The Chairman advised that the staffing at the Town Council changed this year. Susan Clements is our part-time Town Clerk, with Diane Jimpson as part-time Business and Facilities Manager. Joanna Abbott continues as our part-time Administrator. Following the recent retirement of our long-serving Deputy Clerk – Judith Francis, a new role of part-time Service Development Administrator has been created and Christine Marsh joins our Team on the 3rd May 2016. Our two job-share Caretaker/Litter Pickers - Jeff Collins and Graham Cobb continue with their sterling work around the Town and at our Millennium Jubilee Hall.

5. Report of the Accounts of the Town Council

The Town Council's Business and Facilities Manager, Mrs Diane Jimpson presented the Kesgrave Budget Summary and Financial Information, including income and expenditure for 2015/16 and anticipated for 2016/17, including the Precept and Council Tax Base and the equivalent of a Band D Council Tax Figure. (A Copy and full details are attached to these Minutes in the Minute Book).

6. Reports from Local People and Organisations

It was very disappointing that no Written Reports or Verbal Reports/Presentations whatsoever were received from any Kesgrave Group or Organisation, including those that the Town Council supports financially each year with a grant.

7. Resolutions

The Chairman read out the details of Resolutions received from one local resident:-

- Enhanced pedestrian access to the Cemetery;
- Allotments in Kesgrave;
- Enlargement of the Ropes Drive Roundabout;
- Traffic Light Controls and Pedestrian Crossings to all of the existing Bus Stops at Cambridge Road, Edmonton Road, All Saints Church, Kesgrave and additional Traffic Lights controlled Pedestrian Crossing to the Allotment Site.

With regard to the Resolutions regarding Highway and Pedestrian Matters, the Chairman confirmed that these had been passed to the relevant Highway Officers at the County Council. In respect of the Resolution regarding the provision of Allotment Land in Kesgrave, Councillor Beecroft-Smith explained that a great deal of investigative work and engagement had previously taken place with local residents. This matter can be considered further as part of the Neighbourhood Plan for Kesgrave. In the interim period, the Clerk has asked the local resident in question if he can suggest any land which Kesgrave Town Council owns, which could possibly be earmarked for Allotment Land. On the 14th September 2015 at the full Town Council Meeting, an update regarding the proposed crossing at the junction of the A1214 and Cambridge Road was provided to Town Councillors from the Highways Department of Suffolk County Council. The Town Council previously agreed to pay a third towards the cost of the design of this project. It was also noted that the bus stop opposite Kesgrave Fisheries, on the A1214, does have a raised surface for wheelchair and buggy access. The Town Council is currently liaising with the Highways Department of the County Council with a view to progressing the above project, but to update we have received no further updates from the County. The full Town Council Minutes are uploaded onto our Website, once they have been approved and agreed.

8. Discussion and Open Forum

Members of the Public raised the following matters during the Meeting:-

- Neighbourhood Plan and Planning and Development Matters - A local resident asked for an update with regard to the Neighbourhood Plan for Kesgrave. The Chairman – Councillor Beecroft-Smith with District Councillor McCallum, provided an update. (District Councillor McCallum is the Chair of Suffolk Coastal District Council's Planning Committee). The Meeting noted that the Town Council, together with its community partners and stakeholders are in the initial stages of the Neighbourhood Plan. A Steering Group has been set up and the present position is that the Group is liaising with neighbouring Parish Councils with a view to establishing and submitting its boundary area for submission and consideration by the District Council. Any member of the public, local group or business would be most welcome to join the Steering Group. Members of the public noted that the Plan will take a few years to complete and full engagement with local people will take place, including the local business community. The completed Neighbourhood Plan once adopted carries some legal weight in planning and control terms and even the emerging Plan can be referred to by the Town Council when making any recommendations in its capacity as statutory consultee to Suffolk Coastal District Council as the Local Planning Authority. A full and detailed discussion ensued from various members of the public relating to a Neighbourhood Plan for Kesgrave and the previous Town Plan. The Meeting noted that previous work from the original Town Plan could be utilised for the new Neighbourhood Plan, but that there is a distinct difference in that the previous Town Plan carries no legal standing in planning and development matters unlike the new Neighbourhood Plan.

Members of the public noted the importance of our “community voice” and representation at relevant Planning Meetings (both at Town Council and District Council), regarding any development matter being considered for the Town. Discussions ensued with regard to the Local Plan, Strategic Planning, the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), the 5 Year Housing Land Supply and National Planning Policy.

- Corner of Bell Lane – A member of the public asked when this area is to be tidied, including the grassed area. District Councillor McCallum responded by advising that she has telephoned about this matter, which is within Budget and the footpath will be finalised shortly.
- Dog Fouling – Local residents raised concerns about dog fouling, including near to our Primary Schools and the associated health issues. It was unanimously agreed that a handful of local residents are really letting down the people of Kesgrave and our lovely Town by not taking a minute to clear up after their dogs.

The Town Council is always looking into ways to try and improve on this problem, which is dirty, inconvenient, unnecessary, unsightly, illegal, as well as being a serious health issue. It was noted that the Town Council offers bags for the safe removal of dog faeces at just 70p for 50 bags. These bags are also frequently distributed to local people by our two job-share Caretaker/Litter Pickers. The Town Council will remind the small sector of our community about picking up after their dogs and will also look into some of the enforcement and legal aspects of not adhering to the law regarding this.

The Meeting also noted that Kesgrave has been ranked as one of the best places to live.

- Grange Meadow – District Councillors are aware of the problems with vandalism and the play equipment at Grange Meadow. An item has been included on the Agenda of the next full Town Council Meeting on the 11th April 2016 about this. (The Meeting is at 7.15pm in the Town Council Offices). Local people noted that the Town Council have received some emails from local residents about the problems at Grange Meadow. Until such time as Suffolk Coastal District Council (who own the equipment and land) were able to arrange for Suffolk Norse to visit the site, deal with the safety issues and rectify the vandalism, one of the Town Council's job-share Caretaker/Litter Pickers endeavoured to make the area and fencing area as safe as practicable.
- Play Equipment in Kesgrave and Working Party Group – The Chairman advised local people about this Working Group which has just been set up. He asked for a “show of hands” for those people at the Meeting, asking if they would wish to join this forum. Unfortunately no members of the public wished to join.

Date of the next Kesgrave Annual Town Meeting – to be confirmed – in the Millennium Jubilee Hall at 7.15pm during April 2017.

There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 8.15pm.

Chairman**Date.....**