

Kesgrave Town Council

Minutes of the Kesgrave Annual Town Meeting held on the 25th March 2013 at 7.15pm in the Kesgrave Community Centre.

Present:

Top table:

Mrs S Ogden (Chairman of the Town Council and District Councillor, East)
Mrs V R Read (Clerk to the Town Council)
Mrs J Francis (Deputy Clerk to the Town Council)
Mrs L Bennett (Administrative Assistant to the Town Council)

In the body of the Hall:

Mr C Hudson (County Councillor) – arrived 7.40pm
Mr M Grimwood (District Councillor, West)
Mr G Lynch (District Councillor, East and Town Councillor)
Mrs D McCallum (District Councillor, West)
Mrs M Neale (District Councillor, East, and Chairman of KWMCC)
Mr M Percy (Youth Parliament Member) – arrived 7.45pm
Mr P Mills (Town Councillor and Chairman of Spark)
Mrs A Wheeler, General Manager of Suffolk's Libraries Industrial and Provident Society (IPS)
6 Additional Town Councillors
Sgt A Buck (Woodbridge District Kesgrave Safer Neighbourhood Team)
PCSO J Moss (Kesgrave Safer Neighbourhood Team)
Miss S Hall (Town Council Project Officer and PTLO)
Miss J Cody (Chairman of Kesgrave Good Neighbour Scheme)
8 Members of the public

The Chairman welcomed all present to the Annual Town meeting.

1. Apologies

Mrs J Klaschka (Town Councillor)
Mr P Miller (Town Councillor)
Mrs J Smith, Town Councillor
Mr S Hudson (County Councillor)

2. Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting 26th March 2012

The minutes of the last meeting held on 26th March 2012 having been issued were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

None.

4. Chairman's Comments

The Chairman gave a verbal report, a copy of which is attached to the permanent copy of these minutes at **Annex 1**.

Mrs Ogden also announced with sad regret that Mrs Klaschka, Town Councillor, had that day been taken to St Elizabeth Hospice having fought a terminal illness for many months.

5. Report of the Accounts of the Town Council

The Chairman informed the meeting the annual accounts for the 2012/2013 year were not yet completed as the year ends on 31st March 2013. When the accounts are finalised in May they will be available and when the audit date has been set this will be published. A document providing some supporting information about the Council tax demand, recently sent out by Suffolk Coastal District Council, had been issued and is attached to the permanent copy of these minutes at **Annex 2**.

Mr C Hudson, County Councillor arrived during the next item.

6. Presentation by Alison Wheeler, General Manager, Suffolk's Libraries Industrial and Provident Society (IPS)

Mrs Alison Wheeler gave a presentation on the current position of the Library service in Suffolk and its transition from Suffolk County Council to Suffolk Libraries an Industrial and Provident Society (IPS), an independent body with charitable status. Mrs Wheeler stated the new service needed to grow and in doing so had developed its reading media with the lending of 'e books' and the investigation into lending tablets too. The new Service recognises the need to improve/replace IT equipment and make available WIFI in all Libraries. She also hoped Kesgrave Town Council will take the decision to become a member of the IPS which will give them a voice, for their community, in the overall governance of Suffolk Libraries. A report had been issued and is attached to the permanent copy of these minutes at **Annex 3**.

7. General discussion and other matters raised from the floor

Members of the public asked questions of Mrs Wheeler regarding the Suffolk Libraries which were all answered satisfactorily these included:

- Friends of Kesgrave Library: although not established in Kesgrave it could be set up as a mechanism by which data could be gathered and fed into the Management Group;
- the provision of a Library Café: approximately 4 are set up in Suffolk of which only one is profitable and this is run entirely by volunteers;
- continued provision of a Mobile Service: withdrawn from locations where a permanent Library is sited;
- the lack of IPS meeting minutes on the internet: technical problems are being investigated to resolve this issue;
- when will WIFI be available: a provider has yet to be chosen, experiments are being carried out with three WIFI providers to check their effectiveness in different situations;
- a date when tablets will be available: trials are being carried out and if successful should be rolled out in May/June.

Miss Hall, of Trinity Close stated she knew Kesgrave Town Council put forward their 'Expression of Interest' in the adoption of Fentons Wood and asked for an update on the current situation.

- The Chairman stated the Developer, Taylor Wimpy had chosen a private Management Company to put together a Management Plan for the wood. However continued requests by SCDC asking for clarification on their progress had proved negative. Mrs Neale was also consulted from the top table and supported the Chairman's statement.

Miss Hall raised her concerns over the future of the Wood. The Management Plan, which had been seen at a meeting with Suffolk Coastal Officers, only covered a period of 21 years. She posed the following questions with regard to safeguarding the future of the Wood and asking for them to be noted.

1. As the Management schedule runs for only for 21 years who would be responsible for the Wood and its security after this period?
2. Could the Management Company take out a loan or mortgage on the woods if they became financially unstable?
3. Could the Management Company sell the wood at the end of its contract?

Reverend Spittle also raised his concerns for the future of the Wood and expressed his dissatisfaction on how the District Council had progressed this issue.

Mrs Neale, as District Councillor could not give any positive comment on this matter and stated she was not in a position to discuss any agreement between the Developer and Management Company.

Mrs Fairbrother, of Bull Drive, stated last year she had asked a question about what happens to the annual fee charged by the Developer of Area FF of home owners. The Clerk apologised for not answering more fully at the time and explained some Developers charge a maintenance fee which is part of the contract when a property is purchased. The charge is collected by the Developer to be used at their own discretion.

Mr Percy, of Edmonton Close, asked if the Town Council would consider the provision of play equipment for western Kesgrave. The Clerk explained the Town Council had considered this matter at length several years ago. Unfortunately the areas of public open space cannot incorporate play equipment without its use interfering with the general well-being of nearby residents and so provision was not considered possible.

Reports had been available from 2nd Stop Shop, Good Neighbourhood Scheme, KWMCC (Kesgrave Community Centre), Kesgrave and District Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), Kesgrave Conservation Group (KCG), Kesgrave Youth Club, Public Transport Liaison Officer (PTLO), SPARK (Sport and Recreation in Kesgrave) and these are attached at **Annex 4** to the permanent copy of these minutes.

The meeting then closed at 8.05pm.

Chairman