

Minutes of the meeting of the Kesgrave Town Council held on Monday 8th November 2010 at 7.15pm in the Council Chamber.

Present: Mr K Beecroft (Chairman) Mrs S Ogden (Vice Chairman and District Cllr)

Mr A Comber	Mr C Pryke
Mr R Haskell	Rev R Spittle
Mr P Miller	Mr R Walkling
Mr P Mills	

In attendance: Mrs V R Read (Clerk to the Town Council)

Mr M Grimwood (District Councillor)

5 Members of the public

1. Apologies

Mrs S Coupe	– family commitments
Mrs S Evans	– work commitments
Mrs N Goodchild	– family commitments
Mrs J Klaschka	– illness
Mr G Lynch	– alternative meeting
Mrs E Smith	– family commitments
Mrs J Francis (Deputy Clerk to the Town Council)	– annual leave
Mrs L Bennett (Administrative Assistant to the Town Council)	– illness
Mrs M Neale (County Councillor)	– family commitments

2. Declarations of Interest

Mr Beecroft declared a personal interest in 6.10.d. Notices and correspondence, School places, being a Governor at Cedarwood School, and remained in the meeting while consideration and discussion of the matter took place.

Mr Miller declared a personal interest in 6.10.d. Notices and correspondence, School places, being a Governor at Cedarwood School, and remained in the meeting while consideration and discussion of the matter took place.

3. Minutes of the last regular meeting held on 11th October 2010

The minutes having been issued were taken as read and approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

a. Late items for information None.

5. Reports from Chairman and Vice Chairman

The Chairman reported he had attended:

- a 12PT meeting on 29th October when the 3 priorities were stated to be anti social behaviour at

Rushmere Heath, anti social parking at Dobbs Lane and anti social behaviour at Oak Meadow

The Vice Chairman had nothing to report.

An adjournment was declared:

– to receive reports from the County and District Councillors

Mrs Ogden, as District Councillor, reported:

– SCDC will be considering the necessary cutbacks at their December meeting by which time it is hoped they will have been advised on what funding will be available to them;

– she will be attending a Forum at Trinity Park and will take part in the workshop on Community Planning;

– Suffolk ACRE are holding a meeting on The Big Society which she will attend. Council was advised to inform the Clerk if they wished to book a place.

Mr Grimwood, District Councillor, reported:

– there are no Kesgrave applications to be considered at DCSub in November;

– a report had been written by Andy Smith, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning, following the Scrutiny meetings. A copy was handed to the Clerk and will be distributed to the P&D Committee;

He also provided a copy of the Greenways half yearly report which is held on file

– to allow members of the public to speak

Mr Bradbrook, KALGA Chairman, referred to the Council Kesgrave News article in November. He queried if this had been agreed by Full Council, how the costs had been arrived at and stated the picture of the unsightly shed was inappropriate.

He was informed:

– Council had agreed the subject at a previous meeting and the Press Officer had as usual written the article on Council behalf. It had also been submitted to the Chairman for comment before being forwarding to Kesgrave News;

- the costings were based on those discussed at previous Council meetings;
- the shed picture had been an editorial decision and was not submitted by the Council.

Mr Copping, who stated he spoke as Treasurer to KALGA and as a resident, also queried the costings. There was some discussion on land availability and its classification. The Chairman reiterated that at present there is no land available because of hope value, landowners have stated they are not willing to consider leasing, and when LDF is concluded agricultural land may become available. Mr Copping handed the Clerk some documents on land values which he had researched.

Two members of the public left

The following item was brought forward.

10. Kesgrave Allotment Association

The Clerk reported some dialogue has taken place between the Rushmere St Andrew Clerk and the landowner who has land available adjacent to the present Rushmere allotments. The Rushmere Clerk is to set up a working party to explore the possibilities and KALGA will be invited to take part.

Two more members of the public left

6. Notices and Correspondence

a. Items for discussion

- Community Magazines: The Kesgrave and Rushmere Community News is no longer in existence and has been replaced by a magazine entitled “In touch with Kesgrave and Rushmere”.
- 1.D.**

- A letter from the Suffolk Police Authority stated they would welcome the opportunity to attend a Council meeting to discuss their plans for addressing the financial challenges and sharing the Governments proposals for Police reform. Council agreed the Clerk will write thanking them for the offer, which may be taken up in the future when their own situation is clearer.
- 5.D.**

- Andrew Down, Extended Schools Officer, had written asking for Council support for the High School bid for £5,000 from the SCDC Play and Sports Space fund for Kesgrave. This would help fund the fencing and lighting of the all weather sports field. Council discussed the situation but agreed their response must be that while they support the installation in principal they have their own projects which will be of benefit to the whole Kesgrave Community. They have in the past not granted monies for additions at the High School as this enhances the County assets. It is considered that if the High School could include a skateboard park within the grounds then the situation could be considered more favourably.
- 9.D.**

- A SCC Consultation on the options for meeting the future needs for Primary school places in the Kesgrave Area had been received. Council agreed that Heath School presents the only opportunity for expansion but the catchment area for Heath is ill considered with pupils living in sight of Cedarwood being required to attend Heath. The Clerk will respond for Council stating this and that places for siblings should be protected for longer than the one year proposed.
- 10.D.**

A copy of the lists of Notices and Correspondence, including those for information only, were issued to each Councillor and are attached at **Annex 1** to the permanent copy of these minutes.

b. Councillor Representative Reports None, other than that at Item 11.a.

c. Police Reports Members had been issued with the following reports which are held on file:–

1. 12PT monthly report.
- 2 Kesgrave Crime report

Mr Grimwood left during the following item

7. Financial Matters

a. Receipts and Payments Copies of the statements of Receipts & Payments were issued to each Councillor and are attached at **Annex 2** to the permanent copy of these minutes. Council **agreed** the Receipts & Payments be accepted with no further discussion and settlement of the accounts was approved.

b. Transfer between accounts Council **agreed** a transfer of £14,400 be made from the Tracker Account to the Ordinary Account; this figure includes the additional cheque agreed at item 7.

c. Transfer of Reserve Funds

Product/service Amount Reserve fund

Photocopier 3,073.00 From Photocopier

d. Budget 1st April 2011 – 31st March 2012

The Clerk reminded Council that in 2009 the November meeting had considered what percentage increase should be used in the budget preparation. Following some discussion, it was agreed in view of the current uncertain nationwide financial situation F&R will consider a draft budget at their meeting in November but this will be subject to further discussion by Full Council in December. The Precept demand has to be agreed for the end of January. As it will not be possible to hold additional meetings during the Christmas period, with information available over forthcoming weeks the Clerk will consult with F&R via email for their advice between the December and January Council meetings and prepare a final budget for the January meeting to approve.

The house number increase should be available before the January meeting which will make it possible to calculate the cost to the tax payer for the Kesgrave portion. While it is hoped not to increase this amount the following was also agreed:

i. Interest rates 10% be used for utilities and 3% for other increases.

ii. Reserve Fund increases A further £5,000 to be paid back into the Cemetery land fund and the Improvements fund to be renamed the Community Project fund and enhanced by £20,000 if possible. This could then be used for any project which comes to fruition in the 2011/2012 financial year.

f. Resolution to exclude the Public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (to consider).

The Council resolved that the public and the press be excluded for consideration of Item 7.g. Financial Matters, Office Equipment since publicity would prejudice commercially sensitive information, and that these matters be deferred to follow item 17 on the agenda.

The following item was taken after item 17 and is minuted there.

g. Office Equipment

h. Late items for information None.

8. Planning and Development Matters

a. Planning applications received since 8th October 2010 The list of planning applications where comment was required, those which were not contentious and the decisions received, had been issued to each Councillor and is attached at **Annex 3** to the permanent copy of these minutes.

c. Street naming None.

d. Late items for information Mr Mills, as Committee Chairman, advised Members that in future when a letter of explanation is received from SCDC on a planning application which has been approved contrary to KTC's recommendation for refusal, the letter will be circulated to Members and then held on file for discussion at the next P&D meeting.

9. Recreation and Amenities Matters

a. Roads, footways and footpaths None.

b. Late items for information None.

10. Kesgrave Allotment Association

This item had been taken immediately after the adjournment and is minuted there.

11. The Big Society

Members had been issued with papers which presented correspondence printed in the EADT following SCC proposals for a new strategic direction. They had also been alerted to the article in which SCC answered the 8 questions posed by the EADT. Copies are held on file. Council agreed with meetings still to be held, and further information forthcoming, meaningful debate and decision could not be taken. However they considered they should endeavour to plan their way forward before setting the budget. It was therefore agreed the January meeting should be focused on these two items and other issues would be kept to the minimum.

a. Kesgrave Library

The Library working party report had been issued with the agenda papers and is attached at **Annex 4** to the permanent copy of these minutes. Members agreed that, as before, no decisions are possible on the library future until costings are available. It was noted the Library are phasing out their retail operation and it was **agreed** Council will require the cabinet they purchased for display of these items to be used at the Town Council Office.

12. Retrospective Debate on Involvement in Community Events

Council discussed their possible involvement in Community events and **agreed** they are not in a position to take the lead. They did however consider they should lend their support to such events, as with the Music festival, although it would not be possible to always provide funding. Organisations are to be encouraged to provide details of events open to the whole Community with posters displayed in the RFC noticeboard. Some discussion was held on also displaying a calendar of events in the community such as that which appears on the Kesgrave website to be updated weekly. The Clerk and Mr Comber will discuss how this can be achieved.

13. The Royal British Legion Remembrance Day

a. Two minute Silence Civic Ceremony Members were again reminded this ceremony will take place on Legion Green on the 11th November, arrangements are in hand for help with refreshments, the maroons are purchased and the bugler and the Vicar booked.

14. Report from Clerk and Press Officer

1. Articles for inclusion in December Kesgrave News had been submitted on:—

Page 3 Rupert Fison Improvements

Others Community Awards Evening of Reflection

Last minute Christmas presents

2. It was suggested when Members cannot park in the Council car park for meetings they park in Ferguson Way on the hedge side to the road leading to Tesco in order to avoid inconveniencing neighbouring residents.
3. Post and wire fencing had been erected prematurely at Long Strops adjacent to the pond. Complaints had been received this was a danger to children and bunting had been applied in the short term to make the situation safer. Complaints were then received that horses were being spooked. The post and wire, and bunting, will be removed on Tuesday 9th.
4. Members were asked to inform the office of the registration number of any car parked in the RFC car park disabled spaces if a disabled badge is not displayed. A log will be kept and a letter asking for consideration towards disabled badge holders will be placed under windscreen wipers in a first attempt to deter this anti social parking.
5. Preparation of Christmas decorations for the office windows is under way, and this will as usual be done in staff own time and at their expense.

15. Resolution to exclude the Public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 (to consider).

This Council resolved that the public and the press be excluded for consideration of Item 16. Confidential Note regarding Item 7.a.i. of 8th June 2009 meeting and subsequent papers, since publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business, and that these matters be deferred to follow item 17 on the agenda.

The following item was taken after item 17 and is minuted there.

16. Confidential Note regarding Item 7.a.i. of 8th June 2009 meeting and subsequent papers

17. To receive such other communication or matters of sufficient urgency and importance that the Chairman will allow for discussion None.

The remaining member of the Public left and Council were able to consider the following:

7. Financial Matters

g. Office Equipment

The Clerk advised Members of the advice from Prettys with regard to their contract with NCS for the photocopier, and a copy of part of the letter was issued. Some discussion took

place on other ways in which the charges being made by NCS could be challenged but it was agreed to accept Prettys terms in the first instance and accordingly the Chairman signed the copy letter. A cheque for £2,000 was completed to accompany the document as requested.

Another local Council has also experienced difficulties and are considering whether to take legal advice. The Clerk has explained to their Clerk that their support in corroborating the manner in which the contract was explained would be appreciated, even if financial support is not available. Council agreed that when Counsel opinion had been received they may consider going to other Councils to ask if they have also had difficulties with a photocopier contract.

16. Confidential Note regarding Item 7.a.i. of 8th June 2009 meeting and subsequent papers

Reverend Spittle explained as SPOC (Single Point of Contact) he had met with County Councillor John Klaschka recently. At mediation in February 2010 all parties agreed and signed the document stating Mr Klaschka would remove, and keep out of the public domain, all articles, strap lines etc that are critical of the Town Council, following which KTC would remove all restrictions on Councillor Klaschka speaking at its meeting within Standing Orders. While some strap lines, and website articles have been removed or modified, Mr Klaschka now states he will not remove the past magazine articles. He believes the past is the past and that a line should be drawn under the issue.

Council considered the situation at some length and agreed Reverend Spittle should meet again with Councillor Klaschka and explain that:

Council are willing to draw a line under the episode but consider the articles should have been withdrawn as agreed at mediation. As a goodwill gesture they are willing to move forward, in the belief that he will do so too, and work together for the benefit of Kesgrave in these difficult economic times.

Mr Klaschka will be offered the opportunity to address Council again at their January meeting.

Date of next meeting – Monday 13th December 2010 in the Council Chamber

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.26pm.

Chairman