

KESGRAVE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING (A Meeting for the Residents of Kesgrave)
Minutes of the Kesgrave Annual Town Meeting held on
3rd April 2017 at 7.15pm in Millennium Jubilee Hall, Kesgrave

Councillors:

K Archer
A Athwall
N Beecroft-Smith (Chairman)
R Bridgeman
A Comber (*Apologies*)
G Derrick
D Fairbrother
S Fairbrother
G Hamilton
S Lawson
G Lynch
J Ogden (Vice Chairman)
P Mills
R Patten
R Spittle
I Wallace

In Attendance:

Mrs Susan Clements (Town Clerk).
Mrs Diane Jimpson (Business and Development Manager)
Mrs Christine Marsh (Service Development Coordinator)

Ms Sue Hall (Public Transport Liaison Officer)
District Councillor Sue Mower
Mr Derek Oldham (Highways, Suffolk County Council)
PCSO Mike Sarbutts and PC Gooch
Approximately 25 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 informed attendees of the Fire Evacuation procedures and emergency exits and 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 Councillor Comber. An apology for absence was also received from District Councillor McCallum and County Councillors Hudson and Whiting.

Tea, coffee and biscuits were served before and during the Meeting to all those present by the small part-time Town Council Officer Team.

2. Minutes of the last Kesgrave Annual Town Meeting held on the 4th April 2016.

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

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes

- Matters Arising Minute Number 8 – Neighbourhood Planning and Development Matters – It was noted that the emerging Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan is well-underway, with the boundary now agreed and the Resident Questionnaires very near to being finalised. (Further details will be reported about this later on during this Meeting).
- Matters Arising Minute Number 8 - Dog Fouling – The Meeting noted that various pro-active initiatives have been set up to improve dog fouling issues in the Town. (Further details will be reported about this later on during this Meeting).
- Matters Arising Minute Number 8 - Grange Meadow – The Meeting noted the ongoing discussions regarding this area of land with the District Council. (Further details will be reported about this later on during this Meeting)
- Matters Arising Minute Number 8 - Play Equipment in Kesgrave and Working Party Group - Local residents noted the play equipment that the Town Council has installed in this area. (Further details will be reported about this later on during this Meeting)

4. Chairman's Update

Councillor Beecroft-Smith reiterated that it has been a busy, but exciting and inspirational year again at the Town Council and in Kesgrave. He spoke about new Councillors who were elected or co-opted during this year, including Councillors Athwall, Derrick, Hamilton and Patten. The Chairman thanked Councillors and Staff for all for their support. Also numerous community, stakeholder partners and in particular those who have assisted with funding projects for the Town, including Spark (Sport and Recreation in Kesgrave) and Locality Funding via our District and County Councillors, which is greatly appreciated. He thanked previous Town Councillors Crutchfield, Goodchild, Isaacs and Thomas for their work during their respective terms of office. Thanks were also expressed to Suffolk Coastal District Council and Suffolk County Council and in particular the Highways Department and the extensive clearance work which has been completed along the A1214 Main Road. The Chairman welcomed Mrs Christine Marsh, the Council's Service Development Co-ordinator to her first Annual Town Meeting since her appointment and he also welcomed Mr Charles Rayworth to the Council, as the new part-time Caretaker/Litter Picker.

He also welcomed the new Youth Club Staff and Volunteers and thanked Mr Jeff Collins who has recently retired as part-time job-share Caretaker/Litter Picker and wished him well in his retirement. The Chairman commented that the next few months will bring new challenges. He referred to the imminent Public Inquiry and the application for 300 new residential dwellings off of Bell Lane, Kesgrave. Councillor Beecroft-Smith emphasised that the Town Council will be continuing to work towards ensuring that any new development will improve Kesgrave and compliment and mould with the existing Town and that any new houses should not be piecemeal.

The Chairman referred to the funding cuts to emergency services, for example, the Police and the County Council. The Meeting noted that the Town Council, in partnership with Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council agreed to fully fund a PCSO in order to assist with managing crime more closely in the Town. He also advised local people very briefly that there are various large, exciting and inspirational projects ahead of the Town Council for 2017/2018, including, the emerging Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan, which 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 reminded the Meeting about the Town Council's Big Lunch/Fun Day Community Summer Event on Saturday, 10th June 2017 at the Millennium Jubilee Hall and Field, Millennium Way, Kesgrave, which will combine lots of fun activities and help to "showcase" local Groups, Clubs and Sporting activities in the Town. The Town Council hope to see as many local people at this free of charge, community event as practicable.

The Meeting noted that the Town Council has set up various Working Party Meetings in order to move forward with various projects and in order to assist local residents with various matters and issues which arise from time to time. The Working Parties are the Neighbourhood Plan, the Play Area and Open Spaces and Traffic and Pedestrian.

Councillor Beecroft-Smith thanked Councillors' in advance for their respective continued pro-active assistance with organising and proceeding with these future worthwhile projects and events for local people. Within this Meeting, the Chairman advised local people that some of his Officer and Councillor colleagues will provide updates about the other completed and ongoing projects that the Town Council has been busy with.

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 2016/17 and anticipated for 2017/18, including the Precept and Council Tax Base and the equivalent of a Band D Council Tax Figure. She pointed out the costs relating to the now fully funded, shared (with Rushmere St Andrew Parish Council), PCSO for the Town. (A Copy and full details are attached to these Minutes in the Minute Book).

6. Reports from Local People and Organisations

Written Reports were received from the Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre (KWMCC), Sport and Recreation in Kesgrave (Spark), The 2nd Stop Charity Shop, Kesgrave Library and the Public Transport Liaison Officer. There were no Verbal Reports/Presentations.

- 7. Neighbourhood Plan Working Party** – Town Councillor Ogden, the Chairman of this Working Party provided a verbal update to local residents regarding this emerging Plan. Local people noted that the boundary area has now been agreed by the Local Planning Authority – Suffolk Coastal District Council and that this now includes just the boundary of Kesgrave and not Rushmere St Andrew, as a result of neighbouring objections from the Rushmere area. Councillor Ogden advised that the Questionnaires are nearly finalised including the Household questions, the Youth questions, the Clubs and Organisations questions and the Business questions. He emphasised that there may be some cross-over with some of the questionnaires, in that a local resident may also wish to complete a business questionnaire, as they could run a smaller self-employed based business which operates from their residential property. Councillor Ogden explained that the questionnaires will be on-line and that hard copy paper versions will also be available. Residents noted that there are some 6,500 homes to deliver the questionnaires to in the Town and he requested some assistance from local people in this regard. Councillor Ogden thanked two local residents who very kindly agreed at this Annual Town Meeting to assist with delivering the questionnaires. Residents noted that thereafter, the responses to the questionnaires need to be considered, compiled and coordinated by the very small Neighbourhood Plan Working Party. He advised the Meeting that it is really important for the Neighbourhood Plan to reflect how development in Kesgrave is shaped in the future and it is key that the Plan communicates what people want in our Town, including residents generally, clubs and voluntary organisations and the business community. Councillor Ogden explained that although the Plan is a legally binding document, it cannot override the Local Development Plan and Framework, but it can ensure that Kesgrave residents “have a voice” about for example, the sorts of housing and infrastructure that the Town needs. Maybe people consider that affordable housing, social housing or first time buyer, retirement dwellings or similar schemes are required in Kesgrave.

- 8. Community and Recreation Committee** – Mrs Christine Marsh, the Town Council’s Service Development Coordinator provided an update on some of the many completed projects that the Town Council and its small part-time Officer Team has led with and projects which are currently being planned and progressed. Residents noted that the Town Council recently merged two Committees to form this new Community and Recreation Committee and the newly formed Play Area and Open Spaces Working Party which feeds into the said Committee. Mrs Marsh reported on the purchase, installation and training of two Defibrillators which are located at the Bell Inn Public House and the Millennium Jubilee Hall.

She expressed thanks and appreciation for the funding of these by the District Councillor Locality Enabling Budgets and the British Heart Foundation. The Meeting also noted the Town Council is now in legal ownership of Oak Meadow. It noted the ongoing discussions with Suffolk Coastal District Council regarding possible transfers of part or full ownership of Holly Gardens to the west of Kesgrave and Grange Meadow, a new bench at Long Strops for local residents as kindly funded via District Councillor Mower's Locality Enabling Budget, various initiatives to assist with the anti-social behaviour of Dog Owners, including the Suffolk "Paws on Patrol" national initiative via Suffolk Constabulary, the Barriers and Bollards installed at the Millennium Jubilee Hall car park and bollards at Cedarwood Walk, Peart Grove, The Woolnoughs and a pedestrian guard rail at the entrance to Oak Meadow from Ropes Drive in order to assist with anti-social vehicular issues, a Survey of Trees on Public Open Spaces in the ownership of the Town Council, installation of an All-Weather Surface at Oak Meadow with generous and much appreciated funding from Spark, installation of further Play Equipment (April 2017) and thanks and appreciation for this play equipment funding to all four District Councillors via their respective Enabling Community Budgets, including the installation of a tarmac Footpath from the existing footpath across to the main entrance and bicycle stands which will be moved to the entrances, Outdoor Exercise Equipment at Oak Meadow via Section 106 funding, (funding via planning and development obligations), Notice boards at the Millennium Jubilee Hall and Pilboroughs Walk/Ashdale Walk, the Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration Fun Day held in June 2016 at the Millennium Jubilee Hall and Field, The Senior Citizen's Outing in August 2016, The Remembrance Service Event in November 2016, the Christmas Lights Switch-On in December 2016, the Evening of Reflection in December 2016, confirmation that all of the aforementioned Events will be held again in 2017/2018, where the Kesgrave Fun Day in June 2017 will follow the national initiative and Big Lunch theme. Mrs Marsh advised local people that building on the popular family event and Christmas Lights Switch-On, there will be more lights for this event in December 2017 and that a synthetic Ice Rink will be in place for the weekend of the 25th and 26th November 2017 with free of charge sessions for children who attend Kesgrave Primary Schools, where special thanks for funding assistance go to District Councillors Lawson, Lynch, McCallum and Mower. Mrs Marsh reported on the training which is taking place this week (week commencing the 3rd April 2017), for the Pop-Up Mobile Skate Park Event which will take place during the May/June 2017 School Half Term Holiday week at Cedarwood Primary School. Funding for this exciting skateboarding event has been secured via the Suffolk Coastal's Holiday Activity Fund.

9. Resolutions

A local resident read out the details of Resolution/s that he had submitted in advance of this Meeting to the Town Council as follows:

- Bell Lane and Dobbs Lane junctions with Foxhall Road – a request for a solution to the repeated road traffic accidents and a remedy to improve congestion and the flow of traffic in this area.

- The request for the construction of mini-roundabouts, complete with highway road signage and lighting to cover the whole junction, also to impose a 40 miles per hour (mph) speed limit from the A12 Foxhall Road right down to the Ipswich end of the highway which is currently 30 miles per hour (mph).

With regard to the Resolutions regarding Highway and Pedestrian Matters, Mr Oldham from the Highways Department of Suffolk County Council confirmed that a mitigation scheme for Bell Lane/Foxhall Road with regard to the Public Inquiry - Appeal Reference: APP/J3530/W/16/3160194: Land To The East Of Bell Lane would be required for the proposed erection of 300 new dwellings, if the development goes ahead. A financial contribution to consult on a speed limit Traffic Regulations Order (TRO) for the said location and an appropriate planning condition, plus a Section 278 Agreement for the junction improvement. This sort of Agreement allows developers to enter into a legal agreement with the Council to make alterations or improvements to the public highway as part of a planning application. However, if the development goes ahead, it is likely that this will be a signalised junction, as there is insufficient highway land to facilitate any roundabout options, unless a larger housing scheme is proposed and agreed in the future.

10. Discussion and Open Forum

Members of the Public raised the following matters during the Meeting:- repainting of white lines at St Olaves, (which Mr Oldham agreed to action), Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGV) and training in Penzance Road, (which Mrs Susan Clements, the Clerk agreed to investigate), Visibility Splays in the Parking Area near to the Shops at Penzance Road, (which Mr Oldham agreed to investigate), issues with road infrastructure drainage, soakaway, flooding and servicing, traffic survey request at Bell Lane and a more extensive pothole repair programme for this area, Dobbs Lane footpath and highway concerns, where Mr Oldham confirmed that a risk assessment has been carried out and that due to severe national Budget cuts, this area is not identified as a high risk area, St Ives Close and footpath and highway concerns, (where Mr Oldham has agreed to investigate), Town Council Notice Boards, local magazines and publications, public seats/benches which need cleaning at Legion Green, anti-social behaviour in the Town and broken glass, residents overgrown hedges and greenery, and speeding of motor vehicles, which the Clerk will pursue further. Local Residents and the Town Council thanked Mr Oldham and the Highways Department of Suffolk County Council for their assistance throughout the year, for attending this Annual Town Meeting and in particular, for the sterling work in clearing the overgrown greenery and shrubbery, including liaison with other landowners, along the long stretch of the A1214 Main Road.

Date of the next Kesgrave Annual Town Meeting – to be confirmed – in the Millennium Jubilee Hall at 7.15pm during April 2018.

There being no other business, the Meeting closed at 8pm.

Chairman **Date.....**