

KESGRAVE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 19 February 2024

Councillors present:

N Beecroft-Smith (*Chairman of the Town Council*)

A Comber

A Cook

R Gibson

G Lynch

J Ogden

A Skinner

G Ward

County and District Cllr S Lawson

Officers present:

J Abbott – Town Clerk

A Dougall – RFO

1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence** – The Chair welcomed all those present, apologies received from Cllr Hook, reason – personal, Cllr Athwall, reason – personal and Cllr Mears, reason – personal, following the vote these were accepted. Apologies also noted from District and County Cllr D McCallum.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr A Comber, Item 8. – Scout Leader and Director of RFC, non-pecuniary. Cllr R Gibson, Item 8. – DAS Secretary, non-pecuniary. Cllr J Ogden, Item 8. – Scout Leader, non-pecuniary.
3. **Minutes of the Full Town Council meeting** held on 22 January 2024, following the vote these were agreed and signed by the Chair.
4. **Chairman’s Communication** – Cllr Beecroft-Smith wished to thank the office for all their hard work, especially over the last few weeks managing all the additional projects along with the day to day running.
5. **Clerks/Officer Report/Update** – J Abbott provided the following report.
 - David Hunt has confirmed he will conduct the internal audit.
 - The Precept requirement has been submitted to East Suffolk Council (ESC).
 - Attended the ESC Town Clerk quarterly meeting, discussed; ‘East Suffolk’s Amazing’ initiative, ‘Simpler Recycling’ central government led proposals with effect from 2026, Suffolk Highways – partnership working with District Council’s and Towns/Parishes.
6. **Members of the Public** – one member of the public present, they did not wish to speak.

7. County and District Councillors Reports –

- Cllr Lawson spoke on the following; tackling local drainage issues in the Town, including properties, roads, underpasses near and at the Highschool. Has recently supported the following with his Cllr locality budgets; Kesgrave Library, Kesgrave football clubs, Rushmere enchanted trail, town council planters. With a small amount left to be allocated by the end of the financial year.
- District Cllr G Lynch advised on the following; has attended two scrutiny committee meetings this month – discussed deprivation issues and having powers to fine commercial bins which are left on public highways. The changes to the Planning processes for determining applications has commenced this month and is being monitored, will review again in 6months. The new ESC constitution making changes to how matters are debated. Continuing to pursue issue of residential properties being miss used as Air B&B lets. Suffolk Devolution-SCC consultation, the Clerk & Cllr Gibson confirmed they are both attending the online forums being held.

8. Finance & Governance –

a. Schedule of Accounts –

- List of Payments for the period 01/01/2024 to 31/01/2024 - all accepted and agreed following the vote.
- List of Receipts for the period 01/01/2024 to 31/01/2024 - all accepted and agreed following the vote.

b. Transfer from the Savings Account and the KTC Card Payments Account for January 2024 - the transfers were agreed following the vote.

c. DAS Grant Application – Cllr Gibson left the meeting to allow Councillors to discuss the request. The committee reviewed the grant application, Cllr Ogden, seconded by Cllr Lynch, proposed to award a grant of £1,000 towards the running costs of the group. Agreed, following the vote, Cllr Skinner abstained. Cllr Gibson returned to the meeting after the vote.

9. Planning & Development – Committee meeting minutes; 22 January 2024 and 5 February 2024 were noted. (copies attached to these minutes).

- Proposed Pump Track at Millennium Sports Ground, Long Strops – The Committee Chair advised of the update provided earlier this evening at the P&D meeting;
 - *“The Sound Assessment has been received and is currently being reviewed.*
 - *The Clerk and Events & Estate Manager met with the Community Police Officer (CPO) for Kesgrave to discuss the concerns and objections from residents. the CPO has provided some crime statistics at similar sites for the last year; BMX track in Ipswich, Skatepark in Woodbridge and Leiston Skatepark, only a couple of incidents listed. The CPO would be happy to engage with the residents who have concerns.*
 - *The Office have been speaking with both the organisers for Parkrun and Football regarding the parking on a Saturday morning, both are aware this needs to be closely monitored and members reminded to park sensibly and considerately. The office is considering placing traffic cones along some areas on a Saturday morning.*
 - *The location for CCTV would be one camera on the skatepark and one on the entrance/exit of the MSG car park”.*

10. Community & Recreation –

- a. Trinity Close Green – The Clerk advised the tree works are immanent and has been informed some height is due to remain with some foliage and will be made safe for neighbours and users. The office has received notification of Tree Preservation Order's (TPO's) on the three trees in the middle of the green, however as far as aware no works have ever been discussed for these, the officer will respond accordingly.
- b. Kesgrave Parkrun 10yr Anniversary September 2024 – The Clerk confirmed the Parkrun organiser has contacted the office to discuss and obtain Council's support and agreement for them to hold a sports festival event to celebrate the 10yr anniversary on Saturday 21 September 9am-12pm (approx.). Following a discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Gibson to support the event, offer use of the MJH and to provide an overflow car park, this was seconded by Cllr Lynch and following the vote unanimously agreed.
- c. Road Safety Forum meeting 12 February 2024 – The Clerk confirmed she attended the online forum, which our CPO was also present at. A very productive meeting discussing 30MPH bin stickers, mobile SID's, Police speed gun checks in the town.
- d. Cedarwood School Parking, SCC Proposals – the Clerk and County Cllr Lawson advised following months of partnership meetings between the school, local residents, Cllrs and officers a proposal has now been received by SCC Highways to improve the issue of anti social parking and to improve road safety, which is currently out for consultation. The consultation includes extending and adding double yellow lines, with new 'no waiting at any time' parking restrictions. The Clerk highlighted the need to ensure the proposals will address all the current issues. Cllr Gibson proposed, and Cllr Ogden seconded for the Clerk to respond to the consultation on behalf of Council, following the vote this was agreed.

(Cllr Lawson left the meeting at this point)

11. Community Engagement Strategy – Cllr Beecroft-Smith confirmed no further update. The Clerk is in process with Cllr Skinner of setting up LinkedIn account.

12. Other/Urgent Communications – The RFO advised Flagstone are processing the application and have requested that all F&G members to be named individuals on the application form. Cllr Lynch agreed to provide details. All agreed, following the vote, to accept this amendment to the application.

13. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 18 March 2024 at 7.15pm at Town Council Office.

14. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – none.

15. Resolution to exclude the Public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 – Following the vote this was agreed, the member of the public left the meeting at this point.

Agenda items 16a, 17a&b and 18 were then discussed in the CONFIDENTIAL part of this meeting.

this part of the meeting finished at 8.17pm.

Chair**Date.....**