

KESGRAVE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Minutes of the Kesgrave Annual Town Meeting held on Monday 28 April 2025 at 7.15pm
At the Millennium Jubilee Hall (MJH)

In Attendance:

N Beecroft-Smith (Town Council Chair)
A Comber
A Cook
R Gibson (Town Council Vice Chair)
J Ogden
A Skinner
S Lawson (KWMCC, District & County Cllr)
J Abbott (Town Clerk)
J Catling (Events & Estate Manager)

4 Resident's

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair of Kesgrave Town Council – Councillor Beecroft-Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting. He informed the attendees of the emergency exits. Cllr Beecroft-Smith confirmed the annual town meeting is for the residents and organisations within the town to raise any issues and is also an opportunity for local groups to submit reports, both verbal and written.

J Abbott, Town Clerk confirmed apologies received from County & District Cllr D McCallum and District & Town Cllr G Lynch.

2. Minutes of the last Kesgrave Annual Town Meeting held on 29 April 2024

There were no issues raised, following the vote, the minutes were agreed, there were two abstentions. The Chair, Cllr Beecroft-Smith signed and dated the minutes.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

None.

4. Chair's Comments

The Chair, Cllr Beecroft-Smith provided a verbal report, there were no questions raised. (A copy of the report is attached to these minutes).

5. Report of the Accounts of the Town Council

The Chair asked if there were any questions on the finance report, which had been provided by the Town Council's Responsible Financial Officer – Angela Dougall. Two questions were raised by one of the resident's; enquired for clarification on the precept amount and calculation, this was confirmed by the Chair. They asked why the amount for youth services had been decreased significantly this year from last. The Town Clerk informed there had been a trial for a 'drop in café' for the young

people but this unfortunately hadn't been successful, however the town council are continuing to work with 4YP and the young people with a view to providing an additional 'drop in' weekly facility. The town council continue to fund 4YP to provide the Thursday youth club and weekly detached youth workers. The town council are also this year providing funding to support the Mentoring Service at the High School, which is facilitated by Just42. An additional question was asked about the Tuesday night youth club, the Clerk advised this has not been operating for many years (this information may have been outdated on the town council website, which the Clerk confirmed is in the process of being updated due to the software no longer being compatible). (A copy of the accounts are attached to these minutes).

6. Draft Business Plan 2025-28

The Vice Chair summarised the Draft Plan, which is currently out for consultation and highlighted how this works alongside the Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan. He also referred to the 2021-24 Town Council Business Plan, which has just been concluded. The Vice Chair advised of the challenges the town may face due to central governments demand for a significant increase in housing supply within the next five years and that Kesgrave has seen no development in the last fifteen years. There were various questions raised by residents to possible development, housing requirements and infrastructure. The Vice Chair gave reference to East Suffolk Council who are the current authority responsible for planning and to Suffolk County Council who are currently responsible for the Highway. The Vice Chair concluded Council will look to undertake analyse to assess the needs of the town and its community and continue to work with the other authorities within our capacity as the town council.

7. Devolution/LGR

The Clerk confirmed that on behalf of the town council she is well informed of the process for Devolution and the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). The town council have recently responded to the Governments consultation for the Mayoral Combined County Authorities proposals. The council office will continue to promote public consultations via our website and social media and noticeboards. There were no questions raised.

8. General Discussion and other matters raised from the floor

The Chair asked if anyone wished to discuss any other matters, the following issues were raised;

- Street signs – general condition, require cleaning etc. The Clerk confirmed the council's Estate Operatives have cleaned a number of street name signs and fixed posts etc where we are able to do so and this will continue. Depending on types of signs depends on what authority is legally responsible. The town council are in the process of replacing all the 'welcome to Kesgrave' signs.
- Litter – Main Road, Dobbs Lane, near and around the high school. The Clerk mentioned the great work done by Kesgrave Wombles (recently carried out a litter pick, collecting 12 bags of rubbish along Dobbs Lane). The East Suffolk Council Community Partnership have worked with the High School on litter picking within school site and in the community.
- Overgrown hedges / trees which block and obstruct roads, such as Dobbs Lane. The Clerk and Cllr Lawson confirmed responsibility of SCC Highways but work together to try and resolve when required.
- Cedarwood School, Wilkinson Drive parking. The Clerk & Cllr Lawson confirmed the project for correct legally enforceable signage and line markings has taken much longer than anticipated. However Cllr Lawson confirmed he believed we are now close to completion

and he will work closely with ESC Parking Enforcement once completed to ensure this is enforced. The Clerk confirmed the town council along with other stakeholders are also working with Heath Primary and the High school to address road safety and ASB parking in these locations.

- Bell Lane Speeding – SID's (Speed Indicator Device). The Clerk confirmed the town council now have two SID's and currently five SID posts in the town, three of which are currently located along Bell Lane. The council office is working with the Highway authority (SCC) to agree the installation of additional SID posts, in other areas which receive reports of speeding, such as Main Road, Dobbs Lane, Penzance Road. The office also works with our local community Police Officer in carrying out speed checks in the town. The town council continue to work within our powers and with the appropriate authorities to address speeding. Cllr Lawson added the towns community Police Officer holds monthly surgeries at KWMCC for any resident's to address any policing issues and there is also an 'anonymous box' where residents can inform the community Police Officer of any local (non-emergency) issues.
- Library – SCC ownership. The Chair confirmed whilst the town council will be unable to continue to fund additional hours as they have previously, due to the library now being in the ownership of government authority. However, the council do hope to be able to continue to work with and support the library with all the additional clubs and groups it runs as it's very much acknowledged how important this is to the community.

Written reports, which were requested and received from Kesgrave organisations are attached to these minutes.

- SPARK
- Kesgrave Library
- KWMCC
- 4YP

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.11pm

Town Council Chairman.....**Date**.....