

KESGRAVE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 28 October 2024

Councillors present:

N Beecroft-Smith (*Chairman*)
R Gibson
G Lynch
J Ogden
A Skinner

District & County 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 Athwall, reason – personal, Cllr Comber, reason – personal, Cllr Cook, reason – personal and Cllr Ward, reason – personal, following the vote these were accepted. Apologies also received from District and County Cllr McCallum.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr J Ogden, Item 8. – Scout Leader, non-pecuniary.
3. **Minutes of the Town Council meeting** held on 16 September 2024, following the vote these were agreed and signed by the Chair.
4. **Chairman’s Communication** – Cllr Beecroft-Smith confirmed he and the Clerk attended the Suffolk Community Awards on 24 September to accept the ‘Most Active Town’ award on behalf of the Town. This is the third time the Town has won this award. All the awards will be displayed in the foyer of the KWMCC. He thanked everyone in the community who provide, support or attend the huge variety of groups we have in Kesgrave. Attended the Suffolk PCC & Chief Constable public meeting held at Martlesham HQ on Wednesday 9 October, provided positive feedback on the new policing model, Kesgrave have a very proactive Community Police Officer, the PCC confirmed no longer looking to proceed with the Planning application for the site but to modernise the building for current needs.
5. **Clerks/Officer Report/Update** – J Abbott provided the following report.
 - Reiterated the Chairs comments on the Suffolk Community Awards.
 - On Saturday 26 October Kesgrave 1st Scout Group planted 3,000 of KTC’s bulbs at Legion Green and Cedarwood Walk.
 - The office received confirmation that bus fares in our area will be increasing by 50%.
 - Kesgrave Cruisers have confirmed the Kesgrave 10K Road Race next year will be held on Sunday 22 June 2025.
 - Attended the ESC Community Partnership meeting with Cllr Comber on 23 September, which was held at the MJH.

- Attended the Community Rest Centre Training, held at ESC Melton. Cllrs Gibson, Odgen and Ward also attended along with Spark Chair Mr Stewart and Our Events & Estate Manager. Will be looking to put together an Emergency Plan for the Town in the coming months.
- Attended a meeting held by our ESC Community Officer to discuss various funding for road safety initiatives, The Road Safety Trust and Sizewell C. Currently looking into possible funding for Heath Primary and the High School.
- Attended the A12 Major Net Work improvements online session. As per the P&D meetings minutes, a full response to this consultation has been provided.
- Had a meeting with the manager of Just 42 to discuss possible sources of funding for mentoring they are providing at the High School.
- Today attended a SALC Forum with SCC Highways, SCC Emergency Planning and Flooding Recovery.
- Cllr Gibson attended the Spark meeting 21 October on behalf of KTC, positive feedback on the partnership working and looking forward to the upcoming events.
- Cllr Gibson also confirmed he attended the SALC East Suffolk Area Forum on 1 October.
- Cllr Gibson helped with the Kesgrave Poppy Appeal stand at Tesco along with other volunteers and confirmed it is being greatly supported by Kesgrave residents.

6. Members of the Public – none.

7. County and District Councillor Reports – District and County Cllr S Lawson provided the following verbal report.

- Congratulated the Town on receiving the 'Most Active Town 2024' award.
- Confirmed KWMCC have been nominated for the 'Most Active Community Centre' award, ceremony being held at Trinity Park on 15 November.
- Confirmed the Humpty Dumpty Nursey have closed, and he is assisting SCC in the closure regarding funding.
- The Monthly Police Surgeries being held at the KWMCC by our Community Police Officer are well received. Is working on an initiative for ASB Week in November to have an anonymous reporting letter box for residents to report ASB issues to the Police.
- Has secured some funding from the 'Active Travel Fund' to resurface the entrance to Linksfield, Rushmere St Andrew (foot / cycle path on Main Road).
- Cedarwood School road safety improvements should be completed by end of this year, early next year at latest.
- Has received confirmation from SCC Highways of funding for a full survey assessment of the flooding which impacts all underpasses including the High School on Main Road.
- Continuing to host at the KWMCC the East Suffolk CAB monthly surgeries, which are very well used by residents seeking support. Also attended along with Cllr Ogden the CAB AGM, where he presented an award.
- Has hosted our new MP Patrick Spencer at the KWMCC and will support his Kesgrave Surgeries in 2025.
- Still has some funding available, welcomes any suggestions, requests.

District Cllr Lynch provided the following verbal report.

- Discussions at ESC with regards to Cllr Code of Conduct, this is being consider for a review.
- Main Road has now had a full road sweep.

- Housing Requirements in East Suffolk including social will have to increase under new government proposals.
- Highlighted the importance of Towns and Parishes having a Neighbourhood Plan and to ensure those in place are reviewed.
- Homelessness has increased in the district, and this is currently being assessed.
- East Suffolk Leisure Centres which received a full refurb are being well used, others in the district, which were not upgraded are now being reviewed for possible improvements, refits.
- ESC budget is currently under review, viable projects being assessed.
- ESC Locality Budget Scheme agreed until the end of this term.

J Abbott confirmed she had a meeting with County and District Cllr McCallum on 2 Oct where they discussed various planning, Highways and general issues within Kesgrave. the meeting was very productive, and they will look to meet again in November.

(District & County Cllr Lawson left the meeting at this point – 7.39pm)

8. Finance & Governance –

- a. Finance & Governance Committee meeting minutes; 14 October 2024 – these were noted.
- b. Schedule of Accounts –
 - List of Payments for the period 01/09/2024 to 30/09/2024 - all accepted and agreed following the vote.
 - List of Receipts for the period 01/09/2024 to 30/09/2024 - all accepted and agreed following the vote.
- c. Transfer from Savings Account/KTC Card Payments Account to the Current Account – the transfers for September 2024 were agreed following the vote.
- d. Trial Balance for September 2024 – the report was noted.
- e. Forecast Income and Expenditure to 31 March 2025 – the report was discussed and noted. The forecast will form part of the budgeting process.
- f. Draft Financial Regulations for 2024/25 (new NALC model) – A Dougall provided the latest draft with amendments agreed at the previous meeting. Cllr Lynch proposed, seconded by Cllr Ogden, to accept these changes and adopt the revised policy as from 28 October 2024.
- g. Library Grant Qrt 2 (2024/25) - The Library report was reviewed. All in favour, following the vote, to accept this request for £2,875.

9. Planning & Development –

- a. Committee meeting minutes; 30 September 2024 and 14 October 2024 were noted (copies attached).
- b. Pump Track Application – The Clerk confirmed the update provided at the P&D meeting this evening; *no further update, awaiting the LPA's decision.*

10. Community & Recreation –

- a. 4YP; Hang Out and Detached Youth Work – The Clerk confirmed a meeting, which included the Events and Estates Manager and Cllr Comber as C&R Chair was held with the New CEO Gavin Stone, to discuss the SLA and monitoring due to the current staff changes within 4YP. The meeting was positive, and the office are supportive of how 4YP are continuing to work with our young people.
- b. Tree Report 2024 – the report has now been received with only two trees needing to be felled, which The Events & Estate Manager is now arranging.

The report suggests removing excessive ivy growth around a number of trees, which will be undertaken by the EO's over the next year.

- c. Community Events; Fireworks, Remembrance Service, Christmas weekend, Christmas Tea Party – The Clerk reminded all Cllrs present that the office are now very busy with all the upcoming events and if any are able to offer any support with any of these events, to please make the office aware. All the planning is going well, and the Fireworks is likely to be another sell out event this year.

11. Local Transport Plan for Suffolk to 2040 - Public Consultation launch – following a discussion it was proposed and agreed for Cllr Ogden to provide a response to the consultation as the town's representative of the EP Passenger Group.

12. Other/Urgent Communications – none.

13. Date of Next Meeting – Monday 25 November 2024, 7.15pm, at the Town Council office – noted.

14. Agenda Items for Next Meeting – none.

15. Resolution to exclude the Public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 – agreed, no members of the public present.

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

this part of the meeting finished at 8.20pm.

Chair**Date.....**