

APM 2024

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
TUESDAY 28th MAY 2024
HELD AT THE BRITISH LEGION HALL, KEDINGTON**

In the Chair:	Mrs Ann Naylor	Chair of Kedington Parish Council
Present:	Mr Jeffery Potter	Vice-Chair of Kedington Parish Council
	Mrs Annette Brooker	Kedington Parish Councillor
	Mr Dean Willett	Kedington Parish Councillor
	Mr David Roach	Suffolk County Councillor
	Mrs Diane Potter	Parishioner
	Mr Feroz Talukder	Parishioner
	Mrs Lorraine Farr	Parishioner
	Mr John Brett	Parishioner
	Mr Mike Shearer	Parishioner
	Mr Derek Raine	Parishioner
	Mrs Ann Bellamy	Parishioner
	Mr George Bellamy	Parishioner
	Mr John Boxall	Parish Clerk

1. Welcome and Introductions.

The Chair of Kedington Parish Council, Ann Naylor welcomed all present and thanked everybody for attending.

2. To approve the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 23rd May 2023.

Chair confirmed the draft minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23rd May 2023 have been available on the Parish Council's website and they were approved and agreed to be a true record. The Chair then signed the minutes.

3. Report of Parish Council Chair: Ann Naylor.

The Chair presented her report (ANNEX 1)

4. Parish Council financial report 2023-2024: Clerk John Boxall.

The Clerk presented his report (ANNEX 2)

5. Report of County Councillor: Cllr David Roach.

Cllr Roach advised that each Councillor is allocated a pot of money each year to spend on what they choose. Most of his budget is spent on supporting Kedington Parish. He's also been lucky enough to judge Meadowlark for a number of years. Cllr Roach in particular praised the Community Hub that's run for the last two winters. Cllr Roach advised that in December 2023, on its 130th anniversary he awarded his County Councillor award to Kedington Parish Council. Cllr Roach advised that every quarter he has a drive round with a Highways Department engineer to ensure any issues with roads are picked up and dealt with. Cllr Roach advised he is always happy to be contacted and help in any way he can.

6. Report of West Suffolk District Councillors.

None were present and there was no report from them.

7. Reports from Village Organisations.

Mrs Bellamy, the Library Manager, advised she has been in post since November 2023. One of her aims is to increase the footfall into the library and she welcomes any thoughts on how to achieve this. A library isn't just about books it's also about meeting the needs of the community. She has started up some groups, for example a kids group who this afternoon had a local author come in and read to them. On Thursday she is going to the Eastcotts Residential Care Home in Calford Green. She can issue them with a library card and she has a volunteer who will go in and read to them. The library is also involved with D-DAY 80. Mrs Bellamy advised there is also a group who meet on Friday mornings that is facilitated by her colleague, Sylvie. It was originally set up generally for those over 50 who might be socially isolated or who just wanted to meet up for a chat. There are some speakers lined up to meet with that group. Mrs Bellamy thanked the Parish Council for its grant that helped her provide items for the Knit, Stitch and Natter group; a pair of pinking shears for example. Cllr Naylor advised Mrs Bellamy that if the Parish Council can help in anyway she shouldn't hesitate to ask.

Mr Raine is the Chair of the Kedington Community Association. He advised the Kedington Library Friends exists as a formal way of supporting the library. They meet on line with the "powers that be" and are very helpful in providing feedback on the activities of the library. Mr Raine advised that planning permission has been granted for the development of the Community Centre. They now have three years to raise the funds. The first phase will be a sports pavilion that will separate the changing rooms from the toilets and provide separate female changing rooms. The second phase will be a second hall that was part of the original plan that will hopefully accommodate a lot more evening activities that they're currently able to. He would appreciate any help with raising funds for the build

8. Questions.

Mrs Farr advised that she has been flooded five times this year by the river overflowing along the Cut, most recently last Thursday. She has previously been in contact with the Chair who advised that she should contact the Environment Agency. Mrs Farr feels that if the river could be cleared a bit then more water could stay in it rather than coming over the side and flooding her garden. She asked who she could approach for help and if it's the Environment Agency does the Parish Council do it or does she. Chair advised that she has been in contact with the Environment Agency on three occasions and gets the same response, one of which she sent to Mrs Farr. Chair advised the Environment Agency came out a few months ago to do some exploratory work. She has not seen any report but is aware the Environment Agency will not do anything to land that is flooded, they will only take action if it affects property or life. Chair will again request a copy of the report. Chair will also contact the Environment Agency again reporting the issue. Chair advised her garden also gets flooded.

Mr Shearer advised that he has an email from the Suffolk County Council Flood and Water Manager, Hannah Purkiss, and asked if it would be worth talking to her about Mrs Farr's flooding.

Cllr Roach advised that by and large County Council will not get involved unless it is property being flooded; buildings not gardens, but it might still be worth talking to her. Mr Shearer will provide Mrs Farr with her email/contact details.

Mr Shearer then spoke about the flooding last year in Hall Road and a discussion took place around blocked drains and the adjacent new housing development, the Limes. There has been a camera investigation into the drains by EHA, the construction company. Chair confirmed she has requested the report of this investigation a number of times but it is not being disseminated by their Head Office. Mr Shearer understands

that a tree root is blocking a drain but has only heard this verbally. Chair advised that she will formally request a copy of the report again.

Mr Brett also expressed his concerns about flooding that has taken place recently with water coming down Hall Road, onto Mill Road/Dash End and being unable to drain away from that area. He is concerned about cars approaching it at speed from the Hundon Road direction, hitting the water and losing control, especially at school times when there are children and parents in that area. Mr Brett believes the flooding is connected to the new housing development and drains blocked by tree roots. It was agreed that consideration will be given to placing flood warning signage at that location. Cllr Roach advised he will get the highways engineer to come out and have a look at the area with him to see if flood warning signage would at least warn people.

Cllr Roach also suggested that if the new housing development is the cause then they have to meet certain drainage criteria. This could be something that one of the West Suffolk Councillors could look into. Mr Shearer advised that the development isn't the issue, the blocked drain is the issue. Cllr Roach advised it would then fall to the land owners of the blocked drain.

Cllr Roach advised he will also talk to Hannah Purkiss about this issue.

Mr Shearer asked if there was any update regarding the Cut being recorded as a Public Right of Way, he mentioned December. Clerk advised that once the application had been approved there was a timescale for any appeals to be submitted. Clerk has not heard whether any appeal has been submitted or not. Cllr Roach is not aware of any appeal being made. Cllr Willett asked if Cllr Roach was sure because the footpath is not open. Chair believes that there are then negotiations regarding what will actually be done with the footpath access and the Parish Council is not involved in that.

Mr Shearer advised that years ago, he thinks in 2007, at the Annual Parish Meeting, the Parish Council passed a resolution "the avenue of protected trees called Church Walk is an environmental asset for Kedington, the community is prepared to cooperate with the owners to conserve this asset for future generations". Mr Shearer advised there were meetings and it was thought it would be a good idea to have a long term management plan for replacement of the trees on a rotational basis. The trees are old and they are dangerous, bearing in mind it's part of the footpath to the school, bit by bit they are degrading. David Carmichael who was the Arboricultural Officer for St Edmundsbury Borough Council stated "Church Walk is a historical avenue of some length running through the centre of the village" and "serious consideration must be given as to the long-term renewal of the avenue. If left as it is, it will merely decline into a few individual specimens and lose the uniformity that is the glory of an avenue." Mr Carmichael proposed a long term management plan be devised and in his opinion "the most workable solution would be to divide the avenue into a number of phases and fell a phase at regular intervals, perhaps every 5 years."

Mr Shearer asked if whether today's Parish Council want to act further on that. He advised he didn't own the trees at that time but he does now. He wondered if there is any funding available from the County Council to assist in the felling and replacement of those trees on a phased basis. Mr Shearer confirmed he owns the trees on the side of the footpath opposite the school and the trees on the school side of the footpath are owned by Mr Andrew Kiddy. He advised the school recently felled one of the chestnut trees without permission, arguing that it was dangerous.

Chair asked and Mr Shearer advised that a survey of the trees was organised by the Parish Council, he believes this was in March 2005, and the Parish Council were provided with a copy of it. Chair suggested it may be a good idea to have a current survey carried out on the trees. Chair asked and Mr Shearer confirmed that the Parish Council paid for the survey to be conducted even though the trees are on his land.

Mrs Potter commented that doesn't seem right, why should the Parish Council pay for something that's on someone else's land?

Mr Shearer replied that it's because it's a local amenity. Mrs Potter commented that he owns the land and it's therefore his responsibility. Mr Shearer replied that the land is his responsibility. Mrs Potter replied it is and also what's on it.

Chair commented that personally she thought that was a big ask bearing in mind the cost implications and the funding the Parish Council receives and the trees are on his land, but she stands to be corrected.

Clerk advised that if this is something Mr Shearer is asking the Parish Council to decide upon then it should be discussed at a Parish Council meeting not at an annual Parish meeting. Mr Shearer restated that it was discussed at the annual Parish meeting and a resolution was passed.

Clerk advised it should be discussed at a Parish Council meeting that all the Councillors are summoned to attend if it is a decision he is asking the Parish Council to make, not at an annual Parish meeting.

Cllr Willett asked and Mr Shearer advised that Mr Kiddy owns the actual footpath.

Cllr Potter asked and Mr Shearer advised that all of the trees have Tree Preservation Orders and planning permission would need to be sought.

Cllr Brooker asked what would be the best way for Mr Shearer to have this added to an agenda for a Parish Council meeting. Clerk advised he just needs to send him an email.

Mr Bellamy commented that he thinks it's nice to know that an earlier Parish Council made a commitment to preserving the avenue of trees for future generations.

Cllr Brooker said the Parish Council would welcome the opportunity to discuss it but with all of the Councillors present and advised Mr Shearer to send an email to the Clerk. Mr Shearer agreed to this.

Cllr Brooker commented that if the Parish Council has all the information it can be discussed formally.

Chair suggested a current tree survey would assist, Mr Shearer said he would not do that as they are not all his trees.

9. Refreshments.

The chair thanked everyone who attended the meeting. Light refreshments were offered and the meeting was formally closed at 2001 hrs.

Signed.....

Date.....

ANNEX 1

KEDINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 28th MAY 2024 PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRS REPORT

Kedington Parish Council has worked hard over the past year. We continue to implement new policies and procedures. Our standing orders were updated and approved at our last meeting, our financial regulations will be updated soon.

Compliments to John Boxall our RFO/Clerk, who has again worked extremely hard this year, his commitment and professionalism is second to none.

We are pleased to confirm that we received an excellent report from our internal auditor, on 13th May 2024. Well done John.

Budget year 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024, £4,000 was paid out in grants under Section 137, LGA 1972 as being of benefit to local people. Grants were awarded to:

KCA
Citizens Advice Bureau
St Peter and St Pauls Church
Ketton Early Birds
Suffolk Accident Rescue
Mothers and Toddlers
1st Kedington Rainbows
Café / Hub
Kedington Library Friends – Knit, Stitch and Natter

From April 1st 2023 to May 22nd 2024 Kedington Parish Council viewed and commented, where appropriate, on 19 planning applications.

All our agendas, minutes, documents, and reports can be viewed on our website.
<https://www.kedington.suffolk.cloud/>

Kedington Parish Council has continued to keep the village maintained to an extremely high standard. M D Landscapes Ltd cut and trim most of the grassed areas in the Parish, i.e., the Church Yard, Great Meadow, Silver Street Park, Old School Playing field, Calford Green and some other smaller areas around the village. Other areas in the village are maintained by West Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council.

Mr Dennis Brownlow our village cleaner continues to keep the Parish clean and tidy from litter. Many thanks to all of them, they work extremely hard to keep our parish beautiful.

Our commissioned Queens Platinum Jubilee bench, designed and made by Artisteel has now been placed along the side of the cut. We plan some further landscaping around the bench over the next few months.



Extensive repairs to Children's play area Old School Field have also been completed with a cost of £9837.00 net.

Planned for 2024

Replanting and tidy up of Silver Street Park.

Clear area around Jubilee bench into and clear some of the pathways around that area.

D Day 80 1944 – 2024 Kedington Remembers

Commemorative Family Picnic

This event is planned for 8th June 2024. Kedington Parish Council will be working with RBL and KCA to deliver a fantastic afternoon of events for our parish. Including Live Jazz by Hannah Horton, Army Cadets, Find the Mine, Treasure Hunt, Army style inflatable assault course for children, exhibition hosted by Kevin Betts, Library activities hosted by Ann Bellamy. Plus lots more.

Plus, Service of Remembrance and Nationwide Beacon on Thursday 6th June at British Legion Hall. D Day landing talk by Kevin Betts and Dave Brooker, again at British Legion Hall on Friday 7th June.



During this summer school holidays, Kedington Parish Councillors have planned another Kedington Sports Camp at the community centre. Prestige Sports will host this event with the help of councillors. Sports will include football, cricket, rounders, and of course, a bouncy castle. We have extended the numbers of children attending this year to 48. To date we are oversubscribed. Children residing within the parish of Kedington will take priority. I have no doubt this will be another tremendous success.



December 2024 the Parish Council and KCA will hopefully host another visit from Haverhill Santa, raising money for local charities, REACH, Joshua Tarrant Trust, and Kedington Community HUB. Last year was a remarkable success, but this year we believe we can make it even better.

Thank you to fellow councillors, Lynda Woodward, Jeff Potter plus volunteers, Diane Potter, Lara Price, volunteers from Haverhill Santa plus others who worked alongside us to make the event enjoyable for the children of our Parish and surrounding communities.

Parish Councillors and volunteers worked hard again this year to make the community HUB a success during the winter months and early spring. We should all be immensely proud of what we have achieved.

In recognition of our hard work and commitment Kedington Parish Council received a Suffolk County Councillor award from David Roach, who stated, *'as your local councillor, I would like to thank you for all your hard work and commitment. You have led by example and inspired others to follow in your footsteps.'*

We were also runners up in Active Suffolk Award 2023.

My personal thanks the Royal British Legion, Kedington Community Association and Kedington Church for all their support throughout the year. We will continue to work in collaboration to ensure that we maintain the momentum in achieving the absolute best for our community.

Thank you to my fellow councillors for their support and their continued hard work, and of course our Clerk/RFO, John, who keeps us all in check. My genuine thanks extend to our district councillors Marion Rushbrook, Karen Richardson and Nick Clarke and County Councillor David Roach. We have received unconditional support from them all.

Finally, my genuine gratitude and thanks to all our many volunteers and parishioners that support Kedington Parish Council

We have a great team.

Ann Naylor – Chair Kedington Parish Council

ANNEX 2

Kedington Annual Parish Meeting

Kedington Parish Council Finance Report 2023/2024

Cash in hand at year end on 31st March 2024 amounted to £82,553.72.

The Parish Council's Barclays account that holds the Precept had a balance of £11,162.25, this being the underspend for the year.

The Parish Council's NatWest account that holds both the General Reserves and the Earmarked Reserves had a balance of £71,391.47.

The Parish Council requested an increase in the Precept for the financial year 2024/2025 to £88,746.00. There was an increase of 3.0% levied by West Suffolk Council.

The Internal Audit for Kedington Parish Council took place on 13th May 2024 and the accounts were found to be in order. The relevant Annual Governance and Accountability Return forms for 2023/2024 were approved and signed at the Annual Meeting of Kedington Parish Council on 21st May 2024 and will be sent to the external auditors, PKF Littlejohn LLP.

The Parish Council's financial documents and the minutes of its meetings can be found on its website at kedington.suffolk.cloud.