

APM 2025

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
TUESDAY 13th MAY 2025
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
	Mrs Lynda Woodward	Kedington Parish Councillor
	Mr Ross Standeven	Kedington Parish Councillor
	Mr David Roach	Suffolk County Councillor
	Mrs Ann Bellamy	Parishioner (Library Manager)
	Mr Keith Bush	Parishioner
	Mr Colin Jenkinson	Parishioner
	Mrs Jeanette Kilpatrick	Parishioner
	Mr Graham Lawson	Parishioner (Local History Recorder)
	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.

Clerk advised that the Parish Council, members of the public and press may audio record, film, photograph or broadcast the meeting and the Parish Council cannot control 3rd party recordings. The Parish Council will audio record the meeting.

Chair advised that Parish Meetings are an opportunity for those present to discuss anything they think is relevant to the parish or of importance to them or anything they want to bring to the attention of the Parish Council. This meeting is not a meeting of the Parish Council; no decisions are made at this meeting. Any actions from this meeting are discussed at future meetings of the Parish Council.

2. To approve the minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting on Tuesday 28th May 2024.

Clerk confirmed that the draft minutes had been emailed to all Parish Councillors and the attending parishioners on 31st May 2024 and have been available on the Parish Council's website since then also.

Chair confirmed that Councillors who were present had read the draft minutes.

A resolution was put forward by Cllr Potter and seconded by Cllr Brooker to agree the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 28th May 2024 at which they were both present, as a true record. The resolution was unanimously agreed. The Chair then signed the minutes.

3. Report of Parish Council Chair: Ann Naylor.

Chair congratulated the Clerk for obtaining the Certificate in Local Council Administration making him the first qualified CiLCA Clerk for Kedington Parish Council.

The Chair presented her report (ANNEX 1).

4. Parish Council financial report 2024-2025: Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer John Boxall.

The Clerk presented his report (ANNEX 2).

5. Report of County Councillor: Cllr David Roach.

Cllr Roach presented his annual report (ANNEX 3).

Mr Jenkinson asked and Cllr Roach confirmed that with regards to the 7.5T weight restriction application for the B1061 from the A143 to the A1017 at Sturmer, Essex County Council have categorically said no; they won't even talk about it.

Cllr Potter asked and Cllr Roach confirmed that the Mayoral election will take place next year, 2026. The Council elections that were due to take place in May this year but were postponed due to the Council reorganisation work required will possibly now take place in 2027 instead. They will be elections for the new authority.

6. Report of West Suffolk District Councillors.

There were none present and a report had not been received.

7. Reports from Village Organisations.

Ann Bellamy, the manager of the Library, gave her report. Mrs Bellamy has been the manager for just over 18 months. The library is currently part of Suffolk Libraries but on the 1st June 2025 it will go back under the control of Suffolk County Council with no changes to staff, opening hours etc. Cllr Naylor advised that the Parish Council is aware of these coming changes.

The library is not just about books, it's about health and wellbeing, community and community development. There are weekly groups running at the moment:-

- Tot, Rock and Story Time
- Knit, Stitch and Natter
- Top Time

There are also some monthly groups:-

- Book Club
- The Lunar Society
- Science Club

The Library is open on 5 days. It depends a lot on volunteers of which there are currently five and there is also a Friends Committee.

Mrs Bellamy has connected with other community groups i.e. the Parish Council, the Kedington Community Association and the Royal British Legion and helps out with jointly organised events i.e. D-Day 80 and at Christmas the library was converted into an Elves workshop.

There are also now flower beds outside the Community Centre and Library that improves the look of the area. Mrs Bellamy obtained books for the Guides and Cubs to help them choose what flowers to plant in the flower beds. Thank you to them for the planting they did.

Recently the Library had a couple of Easter events over the holiday period. Rev Dr Karen Smith from Bury St Edmunds came to read her story “Abbie and Eddie visit Bugingham Palace” and they made a butterfly mobile. On 16th April Jo Nicholas, a local resident, did welding the chocolate.

In a couple of weeks’ time there is a talk from the Dogs Trust about their re-homing centre.

Mrs Bellamy advised that West Suffolk Councillor Marion Rushbrook and Suffolk County Councillor Roach have given the library some money as it needs more storage. Cllr Naylor advised that she could also apply to the Parish Council for a grant. Clerk to send Mrs Bellamy an application form.

Cllr Naylor congratulated Mrs Bellamy saying that since she took over running the library it has blossomed.

Graham Lawson, the Local History Recorder, presented his report (ANNEX 4). He advised he is very new to the job having taken over from Mr Peter Deeks who has since sadly passed away. He advised his role is recording the present for the future and he submits a report at the end of the calendar year. He welcomes all submissions to him of documents, photos etc. that will assist him.

8. Questions.

Cllr Woodward advised that the last remaining bench on Risbridge Reserve has gone. She assumes it’s for safety reasons because it was looking a bit tired and a piece had broken off. She wondered if it could be replaced. The Reserve is owned and maintained by West Suffolk Council. Cllr Naylor said she will email the Park Rangers to see if she can find out what’s happened to it. Cllr Naylor is also aware of someone who wants to donate a bench for the Reserve and she will ask them how that’s going also.

Mrs Kilpatrick said she’s aware from what was said earlier that this isn’t a meeting at which the Parish Council makes decisions but asked when the Parish Council does meet and make decisions, how is it done. Is it by a majority, does everyone have to agree, does there have to be a majority of a clear 2, is it like a jury. Clerk advised it is a majority vote and if there is a tie the Chair has the casting vote. Councillors don’t have to vote, they can abstain.

Cllr Roach advised that the public can ask for something to be discussed at a Parish Council meeting but they must let the Clerk know. Clerk advised that there must be three clear

days' notice of this for it to go on the agenda. For our meetings on a Tuesday the agenda has to be publicised no later than the preceding Thursday.

9. Refreshments.

The chair thanked everyone who attended the meeting. Light refreshments were offered and the meeting was formally closed at 1938 hrs.

DRAFT

Signed.....

Date.....

ANNEX 1

KEDINGTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 13th May 2025 PARISH COUNCIL CHAIRS REPORT

Welcome Everyone

Firstly, compliments to John Boxall our RFO/Clerk, who has once again worked extremely hard this year. We are also pleased that John passed his Cilca qualification and we are very proud that Kedington now has its first fully qualified Cilca clerk. Well done John.

First things first....Decrease in your Precept this year. You all should have received a letter from Parish Council

Precept – letter

Dear Parishioner

When you receive your Council Tax bill for the coming financial year 2025/2026 you will see that the Parish Council has reduced its precept, therefore reducing the amount it is asking you to pay towards its expenditure for that year as part of your Council Tax. On behalf of the Parish Council I am writing to you to let you know why. A council should typically hold between 3 and 12 month's expenditure as a General Reserve. These are the funds held by councils to cover unforeseen expenses or cash flow issues. At the time of the Parish Council's informal meeting on 2nd December 2024 to discuss its precept application for 2025/2026, the amount it held in General Reserves was £72,830.73 and its current precept is £88,746.00. That is equal to approximately 10 month's expenditure. In the last three years the Parish Council has underspent by a total of £31,096.32, an average of £10,365.44 per year. All of this has been put into its General Reserves. At the time of the informal meeting on 2nd December 2024 the Parish Council had spent 58.37% of its' precept and was two thirds (66%) of the way through the year. It was therefore on course to be approximately 8% underspent that was approximately £7,100.00. It was agreed at this informal meeting that the final underspend for 2024/2025, whatever it may be, would be carried forward to the expenditure for 2025/2026 rather than being added to the General Reserves, therefore reducing the precept required for 2025/2026. At its formal full Council meeting on 17th December 2024 the Parish Council agreed by a resolution to apply for a precept of £77,032.00 for the year 2025/2026. This application was submitted to West Suffolk Council on 20th December 2024. Looking ahead to the year 2026/2027 it is anticipated that the Council's precept will increase but not by as much as the decrease for 2025/2026, in the anticipation that there will be minimal underspend for the year. If you have any queries regarding this, please don't hesitate to contact me or John Boxall, the Parish Council Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer.

Yours sincerely Ann Naylor

Budget year 1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025, Kedington Parish Council paid out in grants under Section 137, LGA 1972 as being of benefit to local people a total of £3670.00. Grants were awarded to:

St Peter and St Pauls Church
 1st Kedington Rainbows
 1st Kedington Brownies
 1st Kedington Guides
 2nd Kedington Rangers
 1st Kedington Sea Scouts
 Family Christmas Event

We also had financial support from our District Councillors, Marion Rushbrooke, Karen Richardson, Nick Clarke and our County Councillor David Roach to support numerous village events including Children's Sports and wellbeing day, Xmas family event, DE Day and VE Day. Kedington are very fortunate to have their support.

From 31st March 2024 to 1st April 2025 Kedington Parish Council viewed and commented, where appropriate, on 11 planning applications.

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, 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. Our thanks to Shawn Winters, replanting and general maintenance of Silver Street park and Bob Dellar for some tree and clearing maintenance. 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.

Day 80 1944 – 2024 Kedington Remembers

Commemorative Family Picnic

for 8th June 2024. Kedington Parish Council worked 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 Belamy. Many thanks to everyone concerned.

VE Day – 8th May 2025 – we all worked together. Events were very supported and very successful. Working together again ..

VE DAY 80th Anniversary
Thursday 8 May 2025

VE 80 Flag Raising Ceremony
10am Royal British Legion Hall
Haverhill Road, Kedington
Remembering the sacrifices made by so many

VE 80 Commemoration Cafe
1.00pm to 4.30pm Community Centre
Arms Lane, Kedington
Tea, Coffee, Cakes and Scones etc.
Live Singer and Music

VE 80 Celebration Party
7.30pm to 10.30pm Legion Hall
Haverhill Road, Kedington
Live Singer, Music, Bar Open
Beacon will be lit at 9.30pm

Friday 9 May 2025
Film: A Royal Night Out (2015) 15
Kedington Community Centre
Doors 7.00pm, Film Starts 7.30pm
£2 Entry, Refreshment Available

A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION IN KEDINGTON
WEARING OF PERIOD COSTUME WELCOME

RBL Kedington Community Association

During this summer school holidays, Kedington Parish Councillors hosted another Kedington Sports Camp at the community centre. Prestige Sports managed this event with the help of councillors. Sports included football, cricket, rounders, and of course, a bouncy castle. We extended the numbers of children attending last year to 48. This was a huge success. Sports camp 2025 is already booked and I have no doubt this will be over subscribed again.

December 2024 the Parish Council and KCA hosted a Family Christmas Party, with Olly the magician; and of course a visit from Haverhill Santa and his team. Thank you Haverhill Santa team and my personal thanks to Nathan Watts who provided the Disco and some fantastic music for us to enjoy during the eventing. This event was a fantastic success. ,.

Thank you to everyone who worked that evening to make this event so 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.

My personal thanks the Royal British Legion, Kedington Community Association, Ann Bellemy and her team at Kedington Library, and Kedington Parish 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. 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 and help Kedington Parish Council.

We have a great team.

Finally, I am pleased to confirm that after meeting Trevor, our internal auditor on Friday 9th May 2025, I am confident we will receive another excellent report report

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

Ann Naylor – Chair Kedington Parish Council

ANNEX 2

Kedington Annual Parish Meeting Kedington Parish Council Finance Report 2024/2025

Cash in hand at year end on 31st March 2025 amounted to £95,353.81.

The Parish Council's Barclays account that holds the Precept had a balance of £9,637.09, 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 £85,716.72.

The Parish Council requested a decrease in the Precept for the financial year 2025/2026 to £77,032.00. This was a decrease of 15.2%. There were increases of 3% levied by West Suffolk Council, 5% by Suffolk County Council and 5.1% by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

The Internal Audit for Kedington Parish Council took place on 9th May 2025 and the accounts were found to be in order. The relevant Annual Governance and Accountability Return forms for 2024/2025 will be on the agenda for approval and signing at the Annual Meeting of Kedington Parish Council on 20th May 2025 and will then 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.

ANNEX 3

COUNTY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT FOR KEDINGTON

Another council year has drawn to an end and there are going to be changes in the way our local government is organised.

I have been pleased to represent Kedington at county level.

It's been a privilege to attend the parish council and events within the village. I give a report to the parish council at each meeting and pick up issues from them. There is so much that goes on and so much work done by the village to serve the community that should make everyone proud of Kedington.

One of the great things about being a councillor is that I have a locality fund that I can spend on local projects within my division. I have an annual pot of £6000 and have been able to fund various requests within Kedington of around £4000 for the last year and I now have this year's allocation available.

I continue to have drive rounds with our highways engineer to look for issues once a quarter but if there are any issues please let me know.

You may have seen numerous reports about devolution and cancellation of this year's county elections. The government had decided that it wants to reform the way councils in this country work, favouring a unitary council approach – one council that does everything rather than the current system of district and county councils.

Suffolk along with Norfolk are part of the pilot plans and so to progress this government pulled this year's election so that the work to develop a unitary council can be done. This means that all of Suffolk's district, borough and county councils will be replaced. Whether that is 1,2 or 3 unitaries is yet to be decided by government. Submissions and business plans have to be submitted to them in September and a government decision will be announced in the new year.

There will also be a new mayor of a combined authority of Suffolk and Norfolk with elections for that post next year.

Parish councils will be getting a briefing within the next few weeks to give them greater understanding of the process.

David Roach

County Councillor for Haverhill East and Kedington

ANNEX 4

Recorders' annual report - Kedington 2024.

Apologies for the brevity. I only took over from Peter Deeks in November 2024. Peter was very helpful with the handover.

Village groups and organisations:

There are a host of activities in the village held mainly at the Community Centre.

Centre cafe every Thursday 2 - 4 pm.

Library. Regular activities include Ketton Bookworms, Creative writing group, Lunar Society (science discussion group), Science club (9 - 15y), Tot rock and story time (babies, toddlers & pre-school children), Knit, Stitch & Natter and Toptime (social group for older people).

Also provide tea & coffee, stamps, free internet WiFi, room hire, reservation from other libraries for collection at Kedington, return of items from any Suffolk library.

Art group meet Monday afternoons 2 - 4 pm.

Carpet Bowls Wednesdays 2 - 4.30 pm.

Film Club.

Ketton Players (Amateur drama group). Thursday 19.30h.

Kedington veterans football club (35+y).

Gentlemen's breakfast club (4th Saturday of the month). Followed by an excellent variety of speakers including Jane Thacker (Senior Urology nurse), Men's health (prostate and testicular problems), Suffolk Fire & Rescue (must have had a call out, as no-one turned up!), Jeff Potter Parish, councillor (workings & structure of local government), the lowdown on life in academia and Indicators of rural modern slavery.

Bell Ringers. Monday evenings.

Friendship club. For 55+y and retired.

Gardening club. Royal British Legion Hall, first Tuesday of the month at 19.30h.

W.I. Royal British Legion Hall, first Thursday of the month at 19.30h. Wide range of speakers including Haverhill Local History Group, research at Addenbrookes Hospital into breast cancer, Burlesque (!), and behind the scenes at Wimbledon.

St Peter & St Paul coffee mornings. Tuesdays 10-12 at the church. Everyone welcome.

Community Centre market. First Sunday of the month. 9.30 - 12.00. Foods, crafts, cafe.

Children's clubs. Rainbows (5-7y), Brownies (7-10y), Guides (10-14y), Ranger Guides (14-18y). Beaver scouts (5-8y), cub scouts (8-10.5y), scouts (10.5-14y), explorer scouts (14-18y). Toddler group Tuesday mornings.

2024

Exceptionally wet start to the year.

River Stour overflowing at the Cut and Silver Street Park, flooding residents' gardens.

February 2024

Saturday 3rd February. Country and Western night. Royal British Legion hall.

Saturday 24th February. 50th anniversary of the opening of Kedington Community Centre. Exhibition of photographs and memorabilia of Kedington and community groups. Stage performances by community youth groups. Cabaret recalling the initial opening event.

March 2024

Monday 18th March. Rare bird (Water Rail) spotted near Rectory Road weir.

Saturday 23rd March. Model railway group *One Track Minds* present an open day *Railway revelations. Model railways for all ages*. Royal British Legion hall. All proceeds to Prostate cancer UK.

April 2024

Saturday 13th April. Quiz night. Fund raising event in aid of the Royal British Legion. Royal British Legion hall.

May 2024

Friday 17th May. Meadowlark 2024 Junior disco, 7.30-9.30 pm (9-15y).

Friday 31st May. Bingo night in Kedington Community Centre.

June 2024

Thursday 6th June. Service of remembrance and nationwide beacon. British Legion hall.

Friday 7th June. D-day landings talk by Kevin Betts and Dave Brooker.

Saturday 8th June. D - Day 80, 1944 - 2024. Commemorative family picnic. Great Meadow, Arms Lane, Kedington. Live jazz, Army cadet bunker and live targets (for children to have a go), find the mine and treasure hunt, army style

inflatable assault course. WW2 exhibition in parish office. School display in library.

10th - 16th June. 54th Meadowlark week, fete & pageant. This year's theme was *Planet Earth*. This is the main fund raising event to support the running of the Community Centre.

Saturday 8th June - Sunday 16th June. Ketton Scarecrow competition. Scarecrows based on the Meadowlark theme of *Planet Earth*.

Tuesday 11th June. Darts pairs competition for the Rodger Brazier cup. Barnardiston Arms.

Wednesday 12th June. Cribbage pairs competition for the Alan Collier trophy. Barnardiston Arms. Sponsored by Peter Deeks.

July 2024

Sunday 28th July, 10.30 - 4 pm. 3rd Annual Vehicle show West Suffolk Classic. Record breaking fund raising total of £3746.59.

Kedington Primary Academy underwent a routine surveillance inspection in July and retained its *Good* status achieved in March 2018. The evidence gathered suggests this would be *Outstanding* if a full inspection were carried out now.

August 2024

Saturday 3rd August, 10 - 2 pm. Kedington Garage sale with maps to show the location of garages taking part.

2nd, 3rd and 4th August. Flower festival. St Peter & St Paul's church. Raised £2200.

Haverhill Running Club 5K Race 8th August 2024

Sunday 18th August. Family rounders competition and picnic.

September 2024

Saturday 7th September. Kedington church fete from 12 noon, bar and BBQ.

Saturday 7th September. Kedington "Home-made and home grown" show (formally Kedington Horticultural show). All proceeds in aid of Church funds.

Saturday 14th September. Ketton Players Quiz night.

October 2024

Friday 4th October, 7 pm. Bingo night at Community centre.

November 2024

Friday 1st November, 7.30 pm. Community Centre. Charity race night.

Sunday 10th November. Remembrance parade from Barnardiston Arms to the church for act of remembrance around the war memorial followed by service in the church.

Monday 11th November, 10.50h. Armistice Day service at War Memorial, St Peter & St Paul church.

Saturday 16th November from 2 pm. Christmas Bonanza at the Community Centre,

December 2024

Friday 6th December. Parish Council charity Christmas event raised £1470.48.

Thursday 12th December. Christmas meal. Community Centre. Oversubscribed!

Christmas Bingo Friday 20th December at the Community Centre.

Sunday 22nd December. Christmas carols by candlelight. St Peter & St Paul's church Kedington.

Tuesday 24th December. Christmas Eve crib service. St Peter & St Paul's church Kedington.

Graham Lawson
Kedington Village Recorder

January 2025.