

KPC 127-03

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF KEDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL
TUESDAY, 20th JULY 2021
HELD IN THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION HALL, HAVERHILL ROAD, KEDINGTON**

Present: Cllr Ann Naylor (Chair)
Cllr Stella Wilsher (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Karen Barber
Cllr James Stranger
Cllr Terry Wheeler

In attendance: Mr John Boxall (Parish Clerk)

Also in attendance: Mrs Marion Rushbrook (West Suffolk Councillor); Mr Nick Clarke (West Suffolk Councillor)
Two Parishioners present.

1 Parishioners' Question Time and to acknowledge agenda items of interest to members of the Public present

ACTION

1.1 Maintenance of Public Rights of Way within Kedington Parish in response to an email from a Parishioner

Parishioner James Stringer has previously sent an email to the Parish Council that has been forwarded to all Councillors regarding the maintenance of Public Rights of Way within the Parish. Mr Stringer stated that many of the paths are very overgrown at present and that Suffolk County Council are behind on their cutting schedule. Mr Stringer made representations that there is a need for more to be done by others i.e. at least one supplementary cut each year. Mr Stringer confirmed land owners do keep some of the paths clear but this is only due to their goodwill. He suggested a team of volunteers could be involved and made mention of Dedham Vale. Mr Stringer also suggested the Parish Council could do it and that it is allowed for in the Highways Act. He is aware this could involve extra cost to the Parish in the form of an increase in costs to grass cutting contractors. He also suggested a village handyman or similar could do the work.

Cllr Naylor stated she has spoken to Suffolk County Council and confirmed the next cut will be in August. Cllr Naylor has looked into other Parish Councils that have taken the job on and it is very expensive. She also doesn't think it's the Council's responsibility to take it on, we don't have the skill set or manpower. In addition, our Parishioners already pay for the cutting via their Council Tax that funds the Council's precept and she feels Parishioners would not be happy if we increased the precept for something that's not the Council's responsibility. Cllr Naylor also confirmed that the Council does grant money to Dedham Vale to help them. Cllr Naylor's view is to see what interest there is in the Parish and get a group of volunteers together. Cllr Naylor does not feel it's right to burden our Parishioners with more expense when it is already the responsibility of Suffolk County Council.

Cllr Stranger said it's difficult to comment without knowing exactly what areas need cutting back and how often and how much it will cost. Mr Stringer said there's about 10km of Public Rights of Way within Kedington Parish but what needs cutting changes each year due to the weather.

Cllr Wheeler advised that the precept has already been established for this financial year and we have up until November, when next year's budget is set, to decide on this matter. He agreed that our grass maintenance bill to date is expensive, but they do an excellent job. He thinks the Public Rights of Way within Kedington Parish are and should remain the responsibility of Suffolk County Council.

Council. He questioned whether there would be any volunteers who have a professional strimmer and are qualified to use it.

Cllr Wilsher agreed with Cllr Wheeler and reiterated how much of the suggested 10km would actually need doing each year. She thinks a volunteer group would be better as Cllr Wheeler says, but with someone who knows what they're doing and has the skills to do it.

Cllr Barber agreed with Cllrs Wheeler and Wilsher.

Cllr Clarke confirmed that this is a discretionary service that Suffolk County Council don't have to provide and will more than likely do it as cheaply as they can. He is of the view that this is an issue best dealt with at Parish level, maybe by using volunteers or adding something onto the precept for the "exceptional" cut.

Cllr Stranger reiterated how can we say it's too expensive when we don't know the cost and how often it needs cutting.

Cllr Naylor advised there is a standard rate that most Parish Councils will charge a County Council of £125.89 per kilometre per cut on gold paths, £50.36 per kilometre for silver paths and £6.29 for the cutting of isolated gates and stiles on gold paths. Cllr Naylor asked is it right that our Parishioners pay more for a job that really should be done by Suffolk County Council.

Parishioner Mike Shearer stated that it is something he has the equipment to do and could do but then you run into the issues of insurance, leaving grass on the paths that somebody slips on and then all of a sudden it becomes not worth it.

Cllr Wilsher asked about the landowners being encouraged to help more.

Cllr Clarke said that as long as the Parish Council task someone to do the work i.e. a working party, they are covered by the Council's Public Liability Insurance.

Mr Stringer will gauge the amount of interest there is from any volunteers to help, including from the Parish and from Dedham Vale.

Mr Stringe

Parish Council to check its Public Liability Insurance. Cllr Wheeler confirmed that any company or self-employed individual has to show us their Public Liability Insurance. The Council's Public Liability Insurance will cover volunteers.

Clerk

Mr Stringer left at 1925 hrs.

1.2 Removal of Old School Field skate ramp centre box on Wednesday 23rd June 2021

Despite this item being placed on the agenda at the request of a Parishioner and confirmation from that Parishioner (and one other) that she would be attending to propose a replacement concrete ramp and that she would be happy to fundraise towards the cost and that a petition to replace the ramp had started, no Parishioners attended to make such proposal.

Cllr Wheeler suggested getting a costing for a concrete ramp, as it wouldn't cost us anything to find out how much it would cost to replace it and it would both placate the people who had complained that it has been removed and limit the noise.

Cllr Naylor stated she has done some research into concrete ramps, including the one in Haverhill, and confirmed they are still noisy but not quite as noisy as a metal one. Cllr Naylor's view is that before any more money is spent on the skate ramp by the Parish Council a proper Noise Impact Assessment needs to be done because the research she has completed, that she would have presented at this meeting, shows that there should be 98 metres to the nearest house and our ramp is only 18 metres from the nearest house. Cllr Naylor also reminded Council that the Noise Impact Assessment previously obtained by the Council after the skate ramp had been installed, had been heavily criticised by Karen Cattle, the Senior Public Health and Housing Officer for West Suffolk

Council. Cllr Naylor also reminded the Council that the Parishioner as detailed above had offered to fundraise.

Cllr Naylor stated she had been disgusted by some of the comments on Facebook about this matter and said the following for the record:-

"We are volunteers; we choose to give up our time to support the community the best way we can. We must make decisions; they are never going to please everybody. We work with all residents, young and old, and try to meet a compromise on some of the more challenging issues. So that said, we are not "spineless" nor "selfish" individuals. These comments were used without any justification. We work hard and sometimes exceptionally long hours. We have worked tirelessly to support our residents during this pandemic. I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank our current Parish Councillors sitting in this room this evening, our new Clerk John Boxall, our past Councillors and our retired Clerk Marion Farrant, who gave up hours of their personal and family time to support everybody in the village. I'd also like to thank our County Councillors that also support us. My personal thanks to Terry Wheeler who has served over 30 years as a Councillor within this village and still continues to serve us. Thank you, Terry. We will still continue to assess and monitor the ramps over the summer holidays. We do not meet in August. I suggest you as residents prepare a business case, costs etc. We will email you details of companies that could assist you regarding the skate ramps. We can also help you liaise with professional companies regarding noise assessment, costs and obtaining general advice. We can put this on the agenda in September if we receive any more communications, if we don't, it will not go on the agenda for September."

Cllr Wheeler asked and it was agreed that Cllr Naylor's response will be put on the Parish Council Facebook page.

Cllr
McAllister

It was discussed and agreed that Council will await further contact from the Parishioners and at that point will gladly assist with their enquiries into a resolution, as stated by Cllr Naylor above.

2 Welcome and apologies

Cllr Standeven is unable to attend due to work commitments, Cllr Pateman is self-isolating and Cllr McAllister is unwell.

3 To receive members' declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Local Non-Pecuniary Interests in accordance with the Suffolk Code of Conduct (and section 106 of the LGFA 1992) and receive any applications for dispensations on agenda items.

Cllr Naylor and Cllr Wilsher declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest in agenda item 7.2.2. regarding the Centre Café.

4 To agree and sign as a true record the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Kedington Parish Council held on 15th June 2021

A resolution was put forward by Cllr Wheeler and was seconded by Cllr Wilsher that the minutes of the meeting of Kedington Parish Council held on 15th June 2021 be agreed as a true record. There were no other resolutions; unanimously agreed. The Chair duly signed the minutes.

5 Receive visitor's reports and reports from District and County Councillors

Cllr Naylor confirmed the joint report has been received and will be added to the minutes.

Annex 1

Cllr Clarke stated that Cllr Rushbrook has "worked her socks off" regarding the grass cutting issues for the Parish.

6 Receive Clerk's report – to include noting of correspondence received

- 6.1 Letter received from West Suffolk Council confirming the Royal British Legion Hall has been added to the list of Assets of Community Value.
Cllr Wheeler advised Council that the Royal British Legion has four weeks remaining to appeal.
- 6.2 Email from Historic England confirming that the War Memorial has been added to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest and is now listed as Grade II.
- 6.3 Felling of Poplar Tree in Silver Street Park.
The Clerk advised Council that UK Power Networks and Alexander Talbot, from Tree Surgery Services, are meeting at the location tomorrow and will arrange a date for the felling. Mr Talbot will advise the Clerk of that date. Cllr Wheeler suggested and it was agreed that once we get the date an announcement should be put on the Facebook Community page.
- 6.4 Bloomfield Electrical Services to replace broken emergency lights in Parish Council Offices on 23rd July 2021.
- 6.5 The Green Room to install the gate at the exit from Old School Field onto the Cut and then out to Mill Road in the week commencing 19th July 2021.
The Clerk advised he has been in contact with Ross Van de Zande, from The Green Room, and he is due to commence work this week.
- 6.6 Parking bays on School Road.
Cllr Naylor informed Council that she has reviewed the planning application as there had been an updated application. She was a little bit concerned that some narrative that should have been added to Council's response had in fact not been added. She has been in contact with Havebury; they are putting 14 parking spaces in total at the location. Council's concern was that if the spaces were only for use by the bungalow residents it would cause even more havoc because other local residents would no longer be able to park on the grass. There are only nine bungalows that would theoretically be entitled to a parking space however, Havebury have confirmed that none of the spaces will be allocated to their residents and there are no allocated disabled parking spaces. They have no ability to stop anyone parking there and they will not be putting up signs to say the spaces are for their residents only.

Cllr
McAllister

Additional items received after the agenda had been circulated to Councillors.

- 6.7 Clerk advised Council that Cllr Naylor has made enquiries with Barbara Smithson, the School Crossing Patrol Supervisor at Suffolk County Council, and that she sent the following email to Cllr Naylor on Friday 16th July. "As explained when we spoke on the phone recently, I needed to consult with my managers. It was recommended to me that firstly, I should stress if the individual you have appointed is stopping traffic, they are doing it illegally. If there is an accident as a result, the Parish Council will be responsible and possibly also the individual. Following discussion it was also felt that it is most unlikely that footfall of unaccompanied children crossing would be sufficient to require a formal school crossing patrol appointment. I would also add that even when a school crossing patrol is at a post, legally the responsibility for a child's journey to and from school remains a parental one. If you require more information regarding the bodycam and the GDPR implications, it has been suggested that the County Council's in house expert might be able to advise, however as you already know it is an extremely difficult and complex area to navigate. I hope that this information is useful to the Parish Council in your deliberations."

Cllr Stranger commented and it was confirmed by Cllr Naylor, that this would negate our insurance policy because if our school crossing supervisor stops traffic she would not be working legally. Cllr Wilsher asked and it was confirmed by the Clerk and Cllr Naylor that our school crossing supervisor has been made aware of this.

Cllr Stranger asked if there has been any response from the Safety Camera Team to his email on the 7th July regarding a future speed check on West End Lane. Clerk confirmed there has

not. Cllr Naylor confirmed that she made contact with Suffolk County Council and believes a speed check will take place in September once the children return to school.

- 6.8 Clerk advised Council that he received correspondence yesterday from Lloyds Bank regarding the application to open an account with them. During the COVID pandemic Lloyds have taken the decision to temporarily stop applications from new customers who already have a business bank account elsewhere and those who would like to switch from another bank. There is no indication of when this will change and they have no facility to advise me when the change happens. Clerk will make enquiries regarding opening an account with Barclays instead.

Clerk

With regards to our paper application to change signatories on the Bank Of Ireland account nearly two months ago, Clerk sent them a chasing email yesterday and awaits a reply.

7 Finance Committee

- 7.1 Receive Budget update from Chair of Finance Committee

Cllr Wilsher confirmed that the Bank Of Ireland and Nat West account balances total £135,784.01. Confirmation all payments have been made, no questions from Councillors.

- 7.2 Grants – Sn 137, LGA 1972

- 7.2.1 Uptake – None

- 7.2.2 Applications

- Centre Café – application discussed for £250 grant to purchase 15 new aprons and some tea pots. Cllr Wheeler proposed to agree the grant, seconded by Cllr Barber. There were no other resolutions; unanimously agreed.
- Ketton Early Birds – application discussed for £150 grant to support a fund raising event, a family disco, to raise funds to purchase new equipment. Cllr Barber proposed to agree the grant, seconded by Cllr Wilsher. There were no other resolutions; unanimously agreed.

8 Discuss provision of a Christmas Tree for centre of village 2021

Cllr Wilsher led a short discussion on where to locate a Christmas tree and whether there would need to be an electric supply to it or use solar power. Cllr Wilsher to look into the cost of a Christmas tree.

Cllr Wilshe

9 Play Equipment

- 9.1 Receive defect report(s) (if any); agree action

Clerk advised that regarding the play equipment inspection report of Old School Field:-

- the picnic benches are still damaged. Mortimer Contracts have the agreed quote to repair them. Clerk has chased and they have replied that there is a delay as the grass they cut is still growing at a very fast rate and delaying other work.
- monitoring the various surfaces that are cracked and worn.
- overhead see saw has been repaired by Mortimer Contracts since the inspection was completed.
- spraying off weed growth around the inclusive roundabout. RMS Trees have done this as well as spraying the pebbled area outside the gate and strimming this area too.

Clerk advised that regarding the play equipment inspection report of Silver Street Park:-

- the litter bin is emptied regularly.
- monitoring ground support post for chest press.

- 9.2 Proposed new football goal post for Great Meadow, storage before installation and installation itself.

Clerk has contacted a company called Soccertackle that Cllr Stranger discovered. They will supply the anti-vandal goal, one net, ground pegs, two net supports, two extra ground sockets and two ground socket locking plugs. This will enable the goal to be moved between two positions to mitigate goal mouth wear. There is a 6 week lead time on delivery. Can all be stored in the Parish Council office. Cost of items including VAT is £939.90. Cllr Naylor confirmed that Council have previously agreed to a budget of £2500.00 to purchase the goal so it can be ordered.

Clerk

- 9.3 Nets for Old School Field goals purchased 9th July for £77.15 inc VAT

Following a query from Cllr Wheeler we will also need to obtain ground pegs for these nets. Agreement reached that Clerk is to order extra pegs from Soccertackle, as above.

Clerk

10 Environmental / Grounds Maintenance Matters

- 10.1 Strimming around village

Cllr Wheeler is making unsuccessful efforts to meet with Bob Dellar of RMS Trees to discuss the strimming contract. Clerk to email Mr Dellar.

Clerk

Cllr Naylor raised the subject of the Cut not being cut back by MD Landscapes at the end of last year, having been cancelled by the previous Clerk. Cllr Wheeler states this is normally done yearly when they strim the whole of the river area all the way down from the top of the bank down to the river for £350.00. MD Landscapes to be asked to do this, Waterfield Meadow and Silver Street Park, from the top to the bottom of the bank. Proposed by Cllr Wilsher, seconded by Cllr Stranger. There were no other resolutions; unanimously agreed.

Clerk

- 10.2 Cutting back front facing side of hedge bordering Old School Field in Mill Road and School Road.

MD Landscapes at very short notice have trimmed back a line of sight on both sides of the main entrance gate and at the junction of School Road turning right into Mill Road.

They will trim fully as normal in October.

11 Highway/Footpath/Street Furniture matters

- 11.1 Installation of new plaques onto roadside Rights of Way fingerposts in conjunction with a 2 year project called Discovering Suffolk based within the Green Access Team at Suffolk County Council.

All Councillors in agreement. Cllr Stranger to be point of contact.

Cllr
Stranger

- 11.2 Speeding vehicles in vicinity of school crossing.

Cllr Naylor stated we'll have to wait for the Safety Camera Team to do their speed check as above item 6.7.

- 11.3 Review of Road Safety and Signage around the village (emailed to Councillors by Cllr Naylor) Cllr Stranger asked where we can put the playground sign between the Church and the Cut entrance. Cllr Naylor suggested putting one on one of the two no waiting sign posts, the one on the bank. Cllr Naylor to liaise with Cllr Roach.

Cllr Naylor

- 11.4 Dog litter bin Hundon Road damaged

Clerk advised Councillors that Wayne Blackman has collected the bin and will be repairing and refitting it.

11.5 Bench Hundon Road damaged

Clerk advised Councillors that Wayne Blackman will be repairing the bench.

12 Any other reports (on-going matters)

12.1 Update for children's sports and wellbeing activity day Wednesday 21st July

Chair advised Councillors that Haverhill Rotary Club have granted £600 to pay for Dellar Sports Coaching for the day. Thanks given to Cllr Barber for working to get this. Ice cream van to be paid for by Vans 4 U. Cakes donated by various people including Cllr Rushbrook. Cllrs Naylor and Wilsher donating drinks and biscuits. KCA not charging for the hire of the Community Centre. Haverhill Echo will take photos and report on the day in the paper.

12.2 Discuss and approve new Grant Award Policy

Cllr Stranger suggested changing the word "should" to "must" in all appropriate occurrences. Proposed by Cllr Stranger, seconded by Cllr Barber. There were no other resolutions; unanimously agreed.

Clerk

13 Housing/Planning

13.1 Applications for discussion at meeting

- DC/20/0247 - Car Park Layby, School Road, Kedington
- DC/20/0246 - Car Park Layby, School Road, Kedington

Already discussed at item 6.6

13.2 Planning Applications – Observations conveyed by Parish Council

DC/21/1364 - 3 Risbridge Drive, Kedington, CB9 7ZE	No Objections
DC/21/1212 - 22 Barton Grove, Kedington, CB9 7PT	No Objections
DC/21/1180 - 45 St Peters Close, Kedington, CB9 7HT	No Objections

13.3 Planning Applications – Decisions received from Borough Council

DC/21/0310/HH – Dowlands, Calford Green, CB9 7UN	Approved
DC/21/0311/LB – Dowlands, Calford Green, CB9 7UN	Approved

13.4 Any other housing / planning matters

None

14 Consultations

14.1 Nominations

None

14.2 Councillor absences (update)

As item 2 above

15 Events: None

16 Any new matters (for discussion only):

AR

Cllr Stranger asked and it was confirmed that the Speed Indicator Device is in place on the B1061 Haverhill Road. Cllr Stranger was going to ask Cllr Roach about getting one with an ANPR facility. It was previously thought that Cavendish had one but Cllr Naylor has been in touch with them and they don't. Cllr Naylor stated that Suffolk County Council Road Traffic Safety Unit have ten ANPR speed cameras that they will set up in various locations. No one else has an ANPR camera and we are not allowed one as a Parish Council. We can only get one by a County Councillor making representations to get one.

The next meeting of Kedington Parish Council will be held on Tuesday, 21st September 2021 commencing at 7.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.

SignedA.E. Naylor..... Dated ...21st September 2021....

ANNEX 1

Kedington Parish Council – Tues 20 July 2021

Report from Nick Clarke, Karen Richardson and Marion Rushbrook (West Suffolk District Councillors)

Crucial Crew

The COVID-19 pandemic meant that last year's event couldn't go ahead and has meant this year's Crucial Crew has, for the first time in its history, gone virtual.

More than 50 West Suffolk primary schools are being sent online information on how to take part activities based around seven scenarios including:

Hate crime, Anti-Social Behaviour, Internet safety, Criminal exploitation, Fire safety, Healthy relationships and Substance misuse

The project has been coordinated by West Suffolk Council working in partnership with Suffolk Police, Turning Point, Volunteering Matters, Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service, Lighthouse and Ipswich Borough Council (who provided film footage).

Cllr Robert Everitt, Cabinet Member for Families and Communities, said: "At its heart, Crucial Crew is about teaching and equipping children on how best to avoid or deal with some of the bad things they may unfortunately face in their young lives. It's life skills that could potentially become life-saving for them one day and I think most parents, grandparents and carers would agree, that is invaluable.

"We had great feedback from past Crucial Crews from some of the teachers and young students taking part, so we are delighted that, working with partners, we are able to bring it back albeit in this slightly different format. We have spoken to many of the schools already who are keen to take part and I'm sure it will be just as successful as previous events."

West Suffolk Parish and Town Forum – 14 July 2021

Took place last week via Microsoft Teams – we hope you were able to attend and found the event helpful.

New Homes West Suffolk sees affordable homes growth despite pandemic

The challenges of the pandemic hasn't stopped West Suffolk Council, working with developers and registered providers, achieving above target on affordable homes.

There is a huge need for all types of housing across West Suffolk and despite the COVID-19 pandemic, developers across West Suffolk have continued to deliver on new homes.

A total of 840 new homes or conversions were delivered in West Suffolk in 2020/21 and of these 297 were classed as affordable housing. This includes:

149 classed as affordable rent where the tenants will pay 80 per cent of the market rent

53 at social rent - homes available at an even heavier discount rent of around 65 per cent of the market value

95 made available under shared ownership schemes.

West Suffolk Council secures affordable housing firstly through its local plan which controls where housing growth can take place, and through planning policies which developers must adhere to. The Council's planning policy states that developments of 10 homes or more must include 30 per cent affordable housing.

But the actual number of affordable homes achieved during 2020/21 represents a delivery rate of around 35 per cent and part of this success is down to the work of the Council with registered providers who then manage the affordable housing schemes. Havebury Housing, Flagship Homes and Orbit Homes have all contributed by bringing forward 100 per cent affordable housing schemes. These include a scheme in Beck Row and additional purchases for shared ownership in Red Lodge.

Grass Cutting

The Council are still catching up with themselves for the staff issues they had a few weeks ago. The three of us are receiving lots of comments about this and we can assure you we pass on how disgruntled residents are.

The Council is now issuing timetables to the Town and Parish Councils, details of which week areas are due to be cut. Please let us know if you are not receiving these.

Free summer activities for young people in West Suffolk

Close to 1000 young people will be able to take part in a free programme of activities this summer, designed to support West Suffolk families.

Parents and carers throughout West Suffolk may be eligible to benefit from a free holiday clubs programme for children and young people over the school summer break. The Government's Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF) will be available throughout the region this summer.

The free programme of activities, coordinated locally by West Suffolk Council, is targeted at those who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals. Most events will also have spaces which can be paid for by families who are not eligible for a free place.

Activities include making camp-fires, preparing food, cooking, orientation, team building and archery with Abbeycroft Leisure. The adventure days will take place in Brandon, Bury St Edmunds, Haverhill, Mildenhall and Newmarket

Parents and carers who think their children and young people might benefit from free holiday clubs can book via an interactive map at [Holiday Activity and Food \(HAF\) programme | Community Directory \(suffolk.gov.uk\)](https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/holiday-activity-and-food-haf-programme).