

Kelsale-cum-Carlton Parish Council
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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 26th FEBRUARY 2025
AT 7:00PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE VILLAGE HALL**

Present at the meeting:

Cllr Alan Revell (Chair)	Cllr Edwina Galloway (Vice-Chair)
Cllr Helen Reynolds	Cllr Claire Buttle
Cllr Simon Ransome	Cllr Laura Gwynne
Cllr Rob Holden	Cllr Caroline Harker

In attendance: 0 members of the public.

Welcome by the Chair.

12352 Public Forum

Democratic Quarter-Hour/Public Question Time – Residents are invited to give their views and question the Parish Council on issues on this agenda or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Chairman. Members of the public, whilst welcome to attend, may not take part in the meeting itself.

No members of the public.

12353 Reports

Report by County Councillor Richard Smith

Richard Smith reported that the amount of traffic is increasing due to Sizewell C. Lion Link is to come ashore at Walberswick. The cables will pass through Saxmundham on there way to Friston. This is likely to be approved even though people are objecting. The Solar Park in the west of the was given the go ahead even though SCC objected. The SCC budget has been agreed, after 8 months of working on it. There will be a meeting takin place regarding the proposed unitary council. Some reports regarding this will be submitted to the government. There would be a mayor elected in 2026. They will take over the responsibility of Suffolk & Norfolk Fire and Rescue, the local Police and also economic development. The contract for the Suffolk Libraries is ending, this will be taken back by SCC. A group called LVEP which is linked to tourism will be led by a representative from Adnams will work to enhance tourism in Suffolk and Norfolk.

Report by District Councillor Ewart

Julia Ewart submitted a written report. ESC wishes to have smaller groups rather than one unitary council, Julia enjoys visiting all the smaller councils within her ward. Sizewell C is a big part of the work that is happening at the moment, but there are a few other items that she has been made aware of. There is a homeowner on the edge of the A12 who is very concerned with what is happening on the A12, and the impact on their life. There has been no communication to them from Highways or Sizewell C. Flooding of their property is an issue. Hopefully this will be resolved. Sea Link is underway, responses from SCC and ESC will be submitted. 2 people from the Planning Department in ESC are leaving. These will be replaced shortly. Many people are applying for Solar Farms, ESC are producing a policy relating to this.

Cllr Galloway commented that there was an application for a solar farm in North Green about three years ago.

Julia commented that the applications are being carefully looked at.

Cllr Galloway asked of the safety of the solar farms are being considered due to the batteries.

Julia said that the ESC are required to have their own policies to ensure the safety of this sites.

Please can the PC be aware of these applications, as several are being presented to ESC. Housing – there is a problem with housing as young people are being taken from houses which they rent to allow Sizewell C workers to live there. The insufficient numbers of houses need to be addressed with Flagship. There are also not enough houses for larger families. Is there any land within the village that could be used for social housing? Could the PC please think about this carefully. Cllr Ransome is working with the Community Partnership to source funding to be used for the Village Hall. The bicycle plan is back on track, this is the 3 Communities Link from Benhall to Kelsale. There is a need to have a representative from the PC on this panel, there is a report for the website.

Cllr Gwynne asked if the issue with housing was because of the increase in rent prices.

Julia commented that this is the case, it appears that the people working at Sizewell C are able to pay the higher rental prices. There are only 500 beds at the Pontins site but this is not enough. Cllr Gwynne said that there is always the promise of affordable housing when developments are built but it is rarely the case.

Julia reported that large developments should provide affordable housing. ESC has the power to build social housing if there is available land. There are families in this village who are not living in the right properties. A village could have their own houses.

Cllr Buttle would there be something in place to prevent those houses being taken by second home owners.

Julia replied, yes definitely, these properties would be for social housing only. Flagship are currently selling properties that require significant work when tenants vacate.

Cllr Ransome asked how long a tenant would have to be living in a property before they have the right to buy.

Julia replied that the right to buy is not happening at the moment. There should also be a policy to ensure new developments have solar panels on the roofs. There is an ongoing query regarding the funding for Sizewell C. A fence has just been replaced on the edge of the A12, which has been ongoing for several years. The emissions level in this area is to be checked.

Richard Smith added that a pumping station at Benacre is very exposed and vulnerable, this needs to be replaced. This would cause flooding if it should stop working. The Environment Agency, SCC and Sizewell C are working together to create a new area for wildlife and a new pumping area. This work should start in March.

Representative of the Speed Indicator Device.

CL commented that he had printed out some copies of the data recorded by the SID, this shows the speeders.

Cllr Revell thanked CL for looking after the SID for many years. Taking account of the speeders in the village is very important especially with the increase in traffic.

CL commented that the SID job entails changing the batteries and charging them every three weeks or so. It may be good to consider a solar powered SID. A new battery has just been purchased. The SID does not flash if a vehicle goes over 50mph, but it does register the speed. There is one recording of a vehicle speeding at 65mph.

Cllr Revell said the highest recorded on Carlton Road is 40mph.

CL said that there is a criteria for where the SID may be placed. Would it be possible to have some assistance with the SID.

Cllr Revell said that the PC should be able to assist with finding an assistant.

CL said that he is happy to continue to look after the SID at this time.

Richard Smith commented that there are some speed cameras that go around the area, and if you are caught speeding you receive a letter.

ACTION: Notification of an assistant to aid CL with the SID to be placed in the Community News.

CL left the meeting at 7.58pm.

Cllr Revell wished to send best wishes to the Clerk and her husband, for a speedy recovery. Thank you Cllr Galloway for Chairing the last PC meeting. Doug Ireland passed away and he was a member of the PC for a long time.

The Chair formally opened the meeting at 7.50pm.

12354 To receive apologies for absence – Cllr Courage, the Clerk, Cllr Weaver and Cllr Stewart.

12355 To accept apologies for absence – Accepted.

12356 To record absence without apologies – None

12357 Declarations of Interest – None

12358 To consider any dispensations – None

12359 To consider the Approval of the draft minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 29th January 2025.

The draft minutes of the meeting had been circulated and the version now on the website were approved with abstentions from those that did not attend. Proposer: Cllr Ransome, Seconder Cllr Gwynne, all in favour with 3 abstentions.

12360 Parish Clerk's Report

There is no report.

12361 Clerk's Report on urgent decisions

None

12362 Matters arising from the Clerk's report.

None

12363 Matters arising from the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 29 January 2025.

10.1 Power Projects – Cllr Weaver had circulated a report.

Cllr Galloway thanked Cllr Weaver for the report. Sizewell C are trying to persuade parents of the children at local schools to share positive comments about Sizewell C. It is undertaken in a formal way, with a letter being sent to the parents about this. This appears quite an odd thing to do. The letter states it welcomes parents and carers to join the Friends of Sizewell C group.

Cllr Harker asked why they are cutting down hedges to put in fences.

Cllr Revell said that many people are asking the same question. It appears that they are digging up meadows to recreate another meadow just to tick a box, so that the team may say we have created a meadow.

Cllr Gwynne attended the Northern Transport Forum. The fences are in place for security. A predicted picture of how the area will look in 10 years' time, what all the new planting will look like, but other attendees believe this will be more like 50 years' time. A very old tree on the village boundary has been removed. There is not enough accountability being done, relating to the destruction of the trees. The section of the Link Road is a 2.5-year project. If there are bats in the trees, they cannot continue, this is why the trees are being removed now. People's wellbeing should be considered. A copy of the Biodiversity Booklet has been given to Sizewell C. A request for a talk about why they are doing the trees should be given to residents.

Cllr Revell commented that not everyone is heavily interested in nature, but they are all being impacted by what is happening to prepare for Sizewell C.

10.2 Carlton Meres – Julia Ewart commented that the application for the illuminated sign at Carlton Meres was given permission. Having spoken to Joe Blackmore about this it was apparent that because the sign was already in place, it was agreed.

Cllr Revell said that the Carlton Meres owners are very good at stating they will do something but do not give a date for completion. When Joe Blackmore visited the site, he could not see an issue with the devastation around the lanes. There is no follow up of the things that have not been done, which have formed part of a planning condition.

Cllr Galloway commented that the new Highways Engineer is aware of the condition of the lanes.

10.3 Highway Signage – The meeting between Richard Smith and the resident of Low Road is ongoing and will take place on the Clerks return.

Cllr Gwynne said that she has requested a 50mph limit for the section of the A12 where there is a turning to Town Farm Lane.

Richard Smith commented that this needs to be reported using the SCC online reporting tool. The letter received from a resident regarding the layby off the A12 which forms part of the access to her property, the email has been circulated to all.

Cllr Revell said that this layby has been in place for many years, and it has been used by lorry drivers when they are required a break.

Richard Smith said that this layby does form part of the SCC Highway.

Cllr Revell said that the management of the problem with the resident and SCC Highways may be the way forward.

Richard Smith left the meeting at 8.20pm.

10.4 Village Hall Proposals – Cllr Ransome reported that the kitchen in the main hall is complete. The structural engineers have looked at the site in the village hall where the lift may go. This will form part of a written report which will be passed to the architect. There is some money available to assist with the installation of a lift from the Community CIL, which may mean that not all of the CIL money from the PC is required. The Quiz Pudding Night was a success.

Cllr Harker reported that there is to be an Easter Flower Arranging evening in early April.

Cllr Ransome said that an email regarding the possible proposal for the change of angle of the junction of Bridge Street and Low Road, outside the village hall was circulated to all. The change would be achieved by enlarging the forecourt and creating a sharper turn. This proposal will be placed in the Community News to gain comments and support from residents. This may be covered by CIL funding. This would also create an outside hub with benches and trees. The junction currently being so wide leads to speeding cars along Low Road.

Cllr Revell said that this would look more appealing and enhance the village hall. Another meeting has taken place with the solicitors regarding the forecourt, a further letter has been draft, but there is one alternative route that may be taken as it is in a conservation area.

Cllr Ransome said that it is worth speaking to SCC and ESC to see if they are able to assist.

ACTION: To continue to place on the agenda. Julia Ewart to send an email to Mr Scrimgeour to see if he will make a site visit to look at the forecourt.

10.5 Speaker for the APM – Cllr Gwynne said that the previously mentioned speaker is unable to attend.

ACTION: Councillors to consider a speaker for the APM.

12364 Parish Council Matters

11.1 Kelsale Village Hall: Covered in 10.4.

11.2 Notice board quote – Cllr Ransome reported that the noticeboards cost around £1000, but they come in various designs. They are made from recycled materials, which would not rot and the PC require 2. A sample has been ordered but has not arrived yet.

Julia Ewart commented that she may be able to offer £1000 towards this from her locality budget.

ACTION: Julia Ewart to send the application form for the funding to Cllr Ransome, Cllr Revell, Cllr Galloway and the Clerk.

11.3 Quote to repair the recreation ground fence – Cllr Holden said that this item is ongoing, he will try to walk around the fence with Cllr Buttle.

Cllr Buttle reported that the work has been started on the trench for the electric and water connection, and it has been left very tidy.

Cllr Holden said he will take another look at the trench work as there is more work to be completed on it. All the required specification information has been passed to the contractor.

11.4 To re-adopt the Standing Orders, the Financial Regulations, and the Electronic Communications & Social Media Policy. It was agreed by all the Councillors present to approve the re-adoption of the policies listed above.

11.5 Proposal changes to the Low Road/Bridge Street junction – Covered in 10.4

12365 Planning Matters

12.1 Planning Report - The Planning Report had been circulated in advance and there was no change since the circulation.

12.2 New planning applications since the last meeting:

DC/25/0474/FUL – 2 Riverview, Low Road, Kelsale-cum-Carlton, IP17 2NU

Single storey rear extension, and single storey infill extension to link existing front/side extension.

Cllr Holden reported that this is an extension to be placed on the back of the property.

It was agreed by all the Councillors present to support this application.

ACTION: Clerk to notify ESC of the Councils decision.

DC/25/0538/FUL – Thistledown, Rosemary Lane, Kelsale-cum-Carlton, IP17 2QS

Two storey/part first floor side extension, single storey front extension and alterations including garage conversion.

Cllr Holden reported that this was a big extension but no close neighbours.

It was agreed by a majority of the Councillors to support this application.

ACTION: Clerk to notify ESC of the Councils decision.

Notifications

DC/23/4675/FUL – Dorleys Corner, Kelsale-cum-Carlton

Change of use of agricultural land with pond and landscaping.

To be heard at the ESC Planning Committee North on the 11th March 2025 at 1pm.

The Councillors said that there is a concern for setting a precedence in that area and this land is agricultural so why does it require a change of use to place a pond on it. By changing the land to amenity, this could open it up for other applications to be proposed.

Julia Ewart left at 9.00pm.

12366 Financial Matters

13.1 Financial Statement since the January meeting. See Updated Finance Report of 26th February 2025.

Cllr Galloway proposed the payments, this was seconded by Cllr Ransome and agreed by all, with no abstentions.

13.2 To approve and sign the bank statements: The Bank Statement to 31st January 2025 plus financial reconciliations were presented to the Council and will be signed by the Chair at the next meeting.

13.3 Annual Subscription to CPRE: It was agreed by the Councillors present to continue with the subscription to CPRE at the cost of £60.

12367 To Receive Reports from Portfolio Holders and Liaison Representatives

A2 & A3: Community, Energy & Health

Cllr Reynolds reported that meetings of the PPG and they are trying to connect with the Rural Coffee Caravan to try and combat loneliness.

Cllr Gwynne said that work towards the 'Wild About' event is ongoing, this is to be held in June.

Cllr Galloway commented that the Community News deadline is to be on the 14th March for the next edition.

Cllr Buttle said that the flower border has been completed on the recreation ground. This could be a community plot if anyone has some spare plants.

Cllr Harker left the meeting at 9.08pm.

12368 Items for consideration for inclusion on the next agenda

As appears in the minutes, litter pick date.

12369 Correspondence

SARS – It was agreed by the Council to support the SARS with a donation of £75.

Resident regarding layby – This item was covered earlier. The concerns will be taken on board by

12370 To consider excluding the public and press.

No considerations were necessary.

12371 Excluded items

There were none.

12372 Date of the next meeting

The next Parish Council Meeting is to be held on the 26th March 2025 at 7pm.
The Chair closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

Signed: Chairman Dated:

DRAFT