

Kelsale-cum-Carlton Parish Council
21 Ferry Road, Orford, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 2NR
Tel: 07595757380, E-mail: clerkkelsalepc@gmail.com
www.kelsalecarltonpc.org.uk

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY
2nd APRIL 2025 AT 7:00PM IN THE MAIN HALL,
KELSALE VILLAGE HALL.**

Present: Cllr Alan Revell (Chairman), Cllr Galloway, Cllr Courage, Cllr Stewart, Cllr Ransome, Cllr Buttle, Cllr Reynolds, Cllr Weaver, Cllr Gwynne, the Clerk (Marie Backhouse) and 18 members of the public.

Cllr Alan Revell (Chairman) welcomed members of the public and representatives and formally opened the meeting. The agenda would be slightly amended with a break taking place after the presentation from Dr Harvard.

Public Forum

Members of the public raised a few concerns; speeding in Carlton Road, Carlton Lane verges, the HGV sign that is not being obeyed and litter picking.

Cllr Revell stated that there will be a couple of Duke of Edinburgh award volunteers undertaking some litter picking in the village. The Carlton Meres site is on the PC agenda every month, there is concern about the size of the site and the number of vehicles. There are some roadworks to take place at the entrance to the site, this has now become an enforcement issue. Richard Smith commented that he has spoken with the local Highways Engineer and asked that they liaise with the enforcement team. Some action needs to be taken to sort this problem. The MOP stated that some bollards need to be placed along the road.

Richard Smith said that there was no money to pay for the bollards in the Highways budget.

Cllr Revell said that the Speed Indicator Device is shared with Carlton Road and the Main Road.

The MOP said that there is a pole outside Park Farm where the SID could be placed.

Cllr Revell said that he would speak with the resident who is responsible for moving and monitoring the SID.

1. To receive Apologies for Absence.

David & Sue Granville-George, Cllr Harker, Cllr Holden, Carpet Bowls, Kelsale Village Hall Chair.

Presentation from Dr Havard, Saxmundham Health Centre

Some 25 years ago the idea of having a 'one stop shop' was first suggested. This would bring together health and social care, a nursery etc. A nursery now would need to have the provision for children with ADHD, self-harming, anxiety etc which was not the case 25 years ago, these issues were very rarely heard of. The team were lucky enough to obtain a grant of £368,000 but the NHS pulled out and nothing happened. There was lots of advertising about the project, but nothing came of it. The project is now going again, with a large developer. There is a need to produce an outline business case for this project. The current surgery is 14 rooms, and the new building would be 17 rooms, this is not enough, with the need that is being presented at this time. CIL money may be used for this, as may a grant/funding from Sizewell C. The use of funding will need to be explored. The NHS may be able to assist with funding also. There has been a meeting in Ipswich with the local Member of Parliament. Many years ago, surgery

would start at 9am and finish at 10.30, with house calls and weekend appointments as well. Now the surgery starts at 8am and finishes early afternoon, ready for the 3pm afternoon surgery. There are around 400-500 phone calls every day, demand has gone through the roof. There should be the provision for patients to attend the surgery, not the need for them to travel to the hospital. There is a need to rekindle the good neighbours, who may be trained to assist with some care for the elderly.

Cllr Revell thanked Dr Harvard for attending.

A short break for refreshments from 7.45pm – 8.10pm.

2. Chairman's Report

A verbal report was given by Cllr Alan Revell.
(Full copy of the report attached to the minutes).

3. Responsible Finance Officer's Report

A verbal report was given by the Clerk/RFO.
(Full copy of the report attached to the minutes)

4. Reports from Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council Representatives

Suffolk County Council

County Councillor Richard Smith gave a verbal report.
(Full copy of the report attached to the minutes.)

Suffolk Coastal District Council

District Councillor Julia Ewart gave a verbal report.
(Full copy of the report attached to the minutes.)

5. Reports from Village Organisations

Kelsale PCC

Cheryl Payne gave a verbal report.
(Full copy of the report attached to the minutes)

Town Lands Trust, Kelsale-cum-Carlton

A verbal report was given by the Chair on behalf of the Towns Land Trust
(Full copy of the report is attached to the minutes.)

KADWAG (Kelsale And District Wildlife Action Group)

A verbal report was given by Keith Dickerson.
(Full copy of the report is attached to the minutes)

Kelsale-cum-Carlton Community Energy

A verbal report was given by Keith Dickerson.
(Full copy of the report is attached to the minutes)

6. Any other matters arising

A member of the public reported that the Chapel is to close in a couple of months due to the lack of numbers of followers and the need for some updating of the building. The resident has also been the Local History Recorder for 49 years and would like someone to take this forward.

There being no further questions or discussion the Chairman thanked the representatives and members of the public for their attendance/reports and formally closed the meeting at 9.00pm.

Signed:.....
Alan Revell – Chairman

Dated:.....

CHAIR REPORT FOR APM 2ND APRIL 2025

Parish Council membership numbers have remained fairly static throughout the past year. Last May we were pleased to welcome Sarah Courage. Sarah has a wealth of experience and is helping with the massive workload involved with the numerous energy projects. The D Day 80th Anniversary Commemoration event held in the village last June was a great success, it was a lovely afternoon, with people getting together, chatting and listening to the wonderful band, whilst at the same time remembering what the event was all about. In November we had the Bonfire Party and fireworks, which every year for quite some while has been a great success, last year's being no exception. Good turnout, great fireworks, an enjoyable time was had by all.

For some while the Parish Council has been looking at the prospect of being able to have power and water available on the Recreation Ground. With the SZC Community Fund asking for applications for various projects, it was agreed to apply. I am pleased to report that we were successful, and very shortly, power and water will be installed on the Rec. My thanks to those involved with the application.

I would like to mention the tremendous amount of refurbishment work that has been done to this wonderful building we are having this meeting in, a new kitchen, flooring done, electrics and numerous other things have been completed. This has been possible, mainly through the CILs funding, but none of it would have even got off the ground, if it wasn't for the work of the brilliant Hall Management Committee, so thank you to you all, especially Simon Ransome who, I know, dedicates an extraordinary amount of his time to the Village Hall. I would next like to thank Richard Smith, Suffolk County Councillor and Julia Ewart, our East Suffolk Councillor for their assistance, help and advice on all matters throughout the past year.

Lastly, thank you, to all Kelsale-cum-Carlton Parish Councillors for all their hard work during the past year. Just recently though, sadly, I received news that one of our Parish Councillors, Traci Weaver, was no longer able to continue with us. Traci was, as most of you know, heavily involved in the collation and responses to the applications for the great number of energy projects we have been flooded with. Traci built up a great knowledge base, so that we were able to offer our opinions regarding the consultations in a most highly professional manner. Thank you, Traci, and best wishes for the future and of course, I must thank Marie our wonderful Clerk.

That concludes my report

Alan Revell – Chair Kelsale-cum-Carlton Parish Council

Responsible Financial Officer Report 2025

- The balance carried forward as of the 31st March 2025 was £82,501.79. This includes earmarked funds of £60,226.79.
- It was agreed that the Parish precept should be raised in line with inflation for the financial year of 2025/26 to manage ongoing increasing costs; as a result, a request was made of £27,308.00. This is an increase of £2935 from the last request, this is shown as a 3% increase for the homeowners on their Council Tax bill.
- As part of the statutory audit requirement the accounts of 2023/24 were submitted to SALC for the annual internal audit. The internal auditor's report was received ahead of the submission to the External Auditor (PKF Littlejohn), any recommendations have been noted and actioned. All the copies of the reports can be found on the website. The 2024/25 accounts will be submitted to SALC shortly.

- The Parish Council received CIL money totaling £4,275.61. This money has been added to the £63,311.78 making a total of £67,587.39. Some of this funding has been used to support the Village Hall with flooring, a new fitted kitchen, and other work to improve the building for the future use by hirers, but a sum of £40,707.87 has been earmarked for further projects. These items of expenditure are in line with the recommendations by residents of the village using a questionnaire which was circulated to all the households.
- The Parish Council has had some expenditure since the last Annual Parish Meeting, which included some repairs to the car park surface. In addition to this there are the everyday expenses such as grass cutting, play equipment maintenance, car park maintenance and the printing of the Community News newsletter. The Parish Council has been able to obtain £750 in advertising revenue towards the cost of the newsletter, and we hope that more interest in advertising will continue.
- The Parish Council received funding and donations towards the cost of the Car Park repairs, the Christmas Tree and the utility connections for the recreation ground.
- There are still vacancies on the Parish Council should anyone wish to join as a Councillor, please contact me.

**2024/25 ANNUAL REPORT
TO THE TOWN COUNCIL AND PARISH COUNCILS
OF BLYTHING DIVISION, SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD SMITH, MVO**

It has been an eventful and momentous year, my fifteenth as a County Councillor and my eighth representing Blything Division.

Last May the Leader of the County Council, Councillor Matthew Hicks, reshuffled his Cabinet and asked me to become his Deputy and also to bear responsibility for Finance, Economic Development and Skills. As I had previously held the Finance portfolio, I was pleased to resume responsibility for that crucial area of Council work which will spend, in the 2025/26 financial year, a net £803 million delivering its services throughout Suffolk. I was also pleased to be able to continue with my responsibilities for Economic Development and Skills, both of which are vitally important to all our futures.

Last year saw the demise of the New Anglian Local Enterprise Partnership, which had successfully steered business spend from Government to Suffolk and Norfolk. It has been replaced in Suffolk by a new Suffolk Business Board, who work under the brand 'Suffolk Economy' and the leadership of its dynamic and much-respected Chair, Mark Pendlington, a businessman and former High Sheriff of the County, who initially agreed to chair the Board for its first year, but has recently been persuaded to continue his chairmanship for one further year. The Board also keeps its eye on initiatives for up-skilling young people and those already in the workforce. I work in close liaison with the University of Suffolk and our three further education institutes, Suffolk New College, East Coast College and West Suffolk College to co-ordinate efforts to produce a skilled workforce which meets the demands of today's world of work.

Many of you will have heard from me how tight local government finances are. Suffolk County Council spends 77 pence of every pound on social care and services to people who are disadvantaged in one way or another. To keep elderly people in care homes who can no longer pay their fees, to provide caring accommodation to adults with a wide range of disabilities, and to keep young people safe and properly safeguarded costs huge sums of money, in our case considerably over £300 million pounds this year. The care sector has been widely affected by the Government's rise in the National Minimum Wage – which must be welcomed – but also by the rise and widening of the scale over which Employers' National Insurance is paid – which most certainly is not. The care sector initially looked to us

to pay for their extra costs, but we simply are not able to do so, nor should we assume responsibility for extra costs imposed by central government action. So the situation and prospects for this year in the sector are a matter of concern.

The County Council wants to spend more money on maintaining the road network than it is able to do. While many of us do not use the care services, we do all use the roads. Resurfacing and mending of potholes all costs money, and that money is rationed severely. However, we try to do our best with the resources available and thanks to a relatively mild winter there have been fewer potholes occurring, but they are still annoying to the motorist when they do open up, and we try to fix them as quickly as possible. To that end we have brought in two 'dragon patcher' machines to help. They dry the road and the sub-surface before effecting a permanent repair, and they have made a difference. But their cost has been £3 million, so we need to assess their effectiveness before taking a decision to pay to use them again next winter.

This time last year we were negotiating a local government devolution deal with the then government. The new government, elected in July, cancelled those negotiations, and a few months later started again with their own plans, with which we are faced now. They want to see a Mayor covering Suffolk and Norfolk elected in May 2026 to sit at the table of the Council of Nations and Regions, through which most money for local government will be distributed. Their plans also mean the abolition of both our District Councils and the County Council - to be replaced, I hope, with one Unitary Authority for Suffolk. Preliminary figures, and I stress they are preliminary, shows that if Suffolk ends up with one Unitary Authority, savings of around £110 will be realised over the next five years. But the view of our District Councils (and I will let them elaborate on this for themselves) is that Suffolk should have either two or three Unitary Authorities. Two authorities would still save money over a five year time-span, but ninety per cent less than one authority – around £10 million. And if we had three – East Suffolk, West Suffolk and a Greater Ipswich which would probably take in Felixstowe, Woodbridge and Needham Market, then this option would cost you and I as Council tax payers at least £50 million over five years, with considerable extra costs continuing into the future.

All councils had to put their initial ideas to Government by 21 March, and we now have until 26 September to work up a full, detailed business case. The Government will then make their decision before the end of this calendar year. Undoubtedly we now face six months of political controversy about which of the various options is right for Suffolk but, ultimately, we will have to do what the Government tells us to do. My final point for the moment on this subject is that I hope we find some really top-class candidates for the post of Mayor, as we need a figure who is a hard-hitter for our two counties on the national scene.

Elsewhere, taking decisions is never easy, and sometimes our influence is not great. Here I mention the LionLink and Sea Link projects to which we are opposed, but to which our opposition does not count for as much as it should. The final decision is in the hands of Ed Miliband, Secretary of State for Energy, and he has been over-riding local opposition and approving every project that goes across his desk. The Sunnica wind farm in West Suffolk was a terrible project which was recommended for refusal by the Planning Inspectorate. He approved it. So, I fear, that the projects affecting our area will also ultimately be approved, whatever the feelings are in the local area where the full effects will be felt – be they cables coming ashore under Walberswick beach or the building of one or more giant converter stations on high ground just outside Saxmundham. As to the effects of a yet-to-be sanctioned Sizewell C, I am almost lost for words. No final investment decision has yet been taken, although I suspect we all know that you and I as taxpayers will end up funding it. The developmental works are already proceeding at a vast pace, and from my own anecdotal, unscientific experience, the traffic along the A12 in the month of March has been not far short of what we usually experience in high Summer.

Finally, I want to say a few words about Libraries. Suffolk Libraries have run the service over the last 13 years, but the back-office costs have grown from single figures up to 33%. We could not reach agreement with them during extensive negotiations, complicated by the legalities of the procurement process, and the County Council's Cabinet agreed in March to

bring the Library service back into house. Last year we gave them an emergency loan amounting to an extra 12% and we were not convinced that they could keep to their budget in future, over 92% of which is supplied by the County Council. My Cabinet colleague laid out in very great detail all about the process and negotiations, and this is now all on the public record to counter certain mis-information which has been circulating. Our guarantee is that all 45 library sites will remain open, at present opening hours. In addition, new mobile library vans will be purchased to guarantee the continuance of the service to villages across Suffolk, and we will invest in bringing the IT systems up-to-date. I firmly believe our libraries have a very bright future, not just for the borrowing of books, but for their continued development as community hubs encompassing many useful social and economic functions. The transfer of responsibility takes place on 1 June.

Without the advent of local government reform I had planned not to seek re-election and to retire on 1 May this year. Those plans are now on hold and I will continue to serve as your County Councillor until the government-defined end-of-term of this administration. We know the Government has postponed elections by twelve months, so retirement still beckons before too long! I am proud to represent Blything Division, but retirement still looks tempting...

Richard Smith, MVO
County Councillor for Blything Division
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finance, Economic Development and Skills
Suffolk County Council
April 2025
Contact details: richard.smith@suffolk.gov.uk
07545 423817

Annual report from St Mary and St Peter's, Kelsale

A floral feast of red, white and blue greeted visitors to St Mary and St Peter's flower festival in June. Co-inciding with the village's celebrations to mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day, we took that as our theme and many a model Spitfire was spotted tucked into the wonderful arrangements. We raised the amazing total of £1,350, the majority of which went to the fabric fund, boosting our efforts to raise money for a toilet at church.

Over the past few months we have been strengthening our links with the village and have plans for further collaborations in 2025, the next being a Harvest Supper at the Village Hall. There have been several special services throughout the year and two well-attended Muddy Church events took place in the churchyard at Easter and Christmas. A moving All Souls service was held in November and our carol service, followed by mulled wine and mince pies, was joyful, as usual. The Midnight service on Christmas Eve is always special, attracting many who do not normally attend church. Harvest Festival saw food items collected for the local food bank and Community Fridge.

Revd Dave Preece leads a service for all children at Kelsale CEVC Primary School twice per term and it is lovely to see so many youngsters in church.

During the year at St. Mary and St. Peter's there were four baptisms, nine funerals and three burials of ashes. I think this shows how valued is the church in the village community. No weddings last year, surprisingly, but we are making up for that this year when we already have three booked.

Regular cutting and upkeep of the churchyard is maintained thanks to Tony Driver and it is worth noting that after the spring flowering, the grass is not cut until the end of June to protect seeds and wildlife. We have explained this to the very few people in the village who take exception to "untidiness".

We have also had an interesting proposition from KADWAG to do with the churchyard. Details to be finalised!

Kelsale Bell/Tower fund appeal for information

Approximately 32 years ago, a substantial sum of money was raised in memory of Ivan

Ludbrook who, at the time of his early death, was the Bell Captain of St Mary and St Peter's Church. We are interested in talking to those involved in the fundraising process at the time (including significant donors) to agree how best to use the money, given that there has been no material need to spend the fund on the bells in the years since. Please speak to Rev. Dave at david@skc.church or 01728 561047

Cheryl Payne

Kelsale cum Carlton Parish Council APM - Town Lands Trust

Town Lands Trust owns the allotments on Low Road and Trust Cottage on Low Road. There are currently around 30 allotment holders and some vacant plots. The trustees wish to thank Bob Paternoster for his continued work related to the allotments. This year we have made sure that the hedge growing along Low Road was trimmed back to allow for good road access.

As per our objectives the Town Lands Trust continues to disburse funds to the Kelsale Education Foundation, Kelsale Welfare Trust, and the church.

Significant work has also been undertaken to ensure that Trust Cottage is safe and up to date.

Rev. David Preece
29th March 2025

Kelsale And District Wildlife Action Group (KADWAG)

There have been 2 main highlights this year:

1. The BAP Group completed work on their Biodiversity Action Plan and produced a wonderful book entitled "A Wildlife Strategy for Kelsale-cum-Carlton - the KcC Biodiversity Action Plan". This has been universally acclaimed and admired and is being used as a template for their own BAPs by several other Town and Parish Councils including

- Saxmundham's BAP Group kick off meeting will be held in the Market Hall on 16 April.
- Wickham Market are holding their "Wild About..." event on 17 May and as part of this I will speak on how they could produce a BAP.
- Aldeburgh have plans to produce a BAP and I will talk to them about this soon.
- Waldringfield are producing a BAP and I have given them a copy of the book..

The BAP Group has now been dissolved as a subgroup of the Parish Council and an electronic copy of the BAP book will go on the PC Web site.

2. We created an independent "Kelsale and District Wildlife Action Group" or KADWAG. This was launched in the Village Hall on 22 January and already has 63 members. Each member has paid £10 for their first year's membership and has received a copy of the book. To run our activities we've received grants of over £1,000 including £250 from Cllr Smith from Suffolk County Council and £500 from East Suffolk Council via the Greenprint Forum, so they jointly enabled us to fund the printing of the book. In addition, Cllr Ewart provided us with £300 from her enabling communities budget to help us get started on monitoring and enhancing the River Fromus. The Fromus will be monitored for several types of pollution and recommendations will be made on how to reduce levels of pollution and water abstraction to help avoid it drying up during droughts. Other KADWAG teams being set up include "Hedgerows", "Ponds", "Swifts" and "Arable Field Margins". We have 11 teams altogether and more members are very welcome to join KADWAG and participate in our activities.

Keith Dickerson
(Acting) Chair, Kelsale & District Wildlife Action Group

Kelsale-cum-Carlton Community Energy

After 10 years of operation, KCCE has nearly £12K in shareholders funds in our Lloyds Bank account. At last year's APM the Board received permission from the shareholders to spend up to £2.5K on an electricity storage battery for Kelsale Village Hall. Therefore, in this year's Solar Together scheme from Suffolk County Council, the KCCE Board applied for a 9.3 KWh storage battery for the Village Hall which should make the building independent of the grid for over $\frac{2}{3}$ of the year. Greenscape Energy were appointed by Solar Together as the chosen installer and they will carry out a technical survey of the Village Hall on 10 April to check that a storage battery can be installed successfully. If the result of the technical survey is positive then we will apply for match funding from the Suffolk Climate Action Community match funder so the cost to KCCE should only be £2.5K, thus meeting the wishes of the shareholders.

Our AGM this year will be held in my garden behind The Cottages, Bridge Street (next to the Village Hall) at 2pm on Saturday afternoon, 14 June 2025. Invitations will go to all shareholders and stakeholders so anyone in Kelsale-cum-Carlton will be able to come along and find out more about Community Energy and its benefits to KcC.

Keith Dickerson
Chair Kelsale-cum-Carlton Community Energy