

# **KESGRAVE TOWN COUNCIL**

## **Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 16 February 2026**

### **Councillors present:**

A Athwall  
N Beecroft-Smith (*Chair*)  
A Cook  
R Gibson  
J Ling  
J Ogden

### **Officers present:**

J Abbott – Clerk  
A Dougall – RFO

1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence** – The Chair welcomed all those present, apologies received from Cllr Comber reason – personal, Cllr Lynch reason – work and Cllr Ward reason – personal, following the vote these were accepted. Apologies also noted from County and District Cllr McCallum.
2. **Declarations of Interest** – Cllr Ogden, item 8 – Scout Leader, non-pecuniary.
3. **Minutes of the Town Council meeting** held on 19 January 2026, following the vote these were agreed and signed by the Chair.
4. **Chairman's Communication** – Cllr Beecroft-Smith provided the following update:
  - Welcomed the new member employee, Rob Wilson and confirmed the staff have reorganised the office space, which is working well.
  - Attended the recent ESC Planning Forum and has shared the slide presentation with the P&D committee members.
  - Will be attending the ESC Town Council Conference on 26 February with the Clerk and Cllr Ogden.
5. **Clerks/Officer Report/Update** – J Abbott provided the following report:
  - Community Litter Pick will now be held on Saturday 14 March. This is being promoted on FB and will be an event on our website. Please can Cllrs share and like the posts on FB. And take part in the event if available.
  - Electric charging point installed and the Electric Van has arrived, in process of arranging magnetic signage for the van.
  - One of the two additional lamp posts installed in Dobbs Lane, the second is due to be installed on 9 March.
  - Dobbs Lane SID post has been installed and one of the SID's is currently active on this post. The other additional two SID posts for Fentons Way and Ropes Drive East should be installed by the end of March.

Cllr Ling asked if the Highschool had been contacted regarding the community litter pick, the Clerk confirmed the office are in contact with the schools Facilities Manager and the Head Teacher is aware.

**6. Members of the Public** – none present.

**7. County and District Councillor Reports** – no District or County Cllrs present, no written reports received.

Cllr Ling asked about the ongoing issue of potholes in the Town, and subsequent road closures. The Clerk confirmed the office had received many phone calls and residents into the office reporting pothole issues. The Estate Operatives carried out a review and compiled a report with photos of the potholes to Cllr McCallum. Cllr McCallum is working with Highways to address these. The Clerk also confirmed she has addressed the issue of road closures with our SCC Highways Officer and our County Cllrs. Requesting that in future if a road is closed for pothole repairs, especially Main Road that these closures are maximised and not just for one pothole at a time.

**8. Finance & Governance** –

- a. Schedule of Accounts –
  - List of Payments for the period 01/12/2025 to 31/01/2026 – all accepted and agreed following the vote.
  - List of Receipts for the period 01/12/2025 to 31/01/2026 – all accepted and agreed following the vote.
- b. Transfer from Savings Account and the KTC Card Payments Account – all transfers for December 2025 and January 2026 were accepted and agreed following the vote.
- c. Detailed Income and Expenditure to 31 December 2025 and 31 January 2026 – the reports were received and reviewed.
- d. Trial Balance for January 2026 – the report was noted.
- e. Flagstone – review of maturing deposit account due 27 February 2026 – A Dougall presented a report with recommendations. Cllr Gibson proposed, seconded by Cllr Ogden, for themselves and A Dougall to review the deposit options closer to the maturity date. It was agreed, following the vote, for the 3 parties to choose the best available account with the highest interest rate for a 12-month fixed account and re-invest the full amount. It was also agreed to transfer a maximum amount (subject to cash flow requirements) from the Active Saver Account (interest rate 1.10%) into a short notice Flagstone deposit account to earn a higher interest. A Dougall to inform Flagstone of the changes to all read-only users email accounts from org.uk to gov.uk.

**9. Planning & Development** –

- a. Committee meeting minutes 19 January 2026 – noted, no questions raised.

**10. Community & Recreation** –

- a. Pump Track Project – The Clerk confirmed she, the EE Manager and Patrick Allen met with the benefactor on Friday 6 February. Positive, productive meeting, on schedule for works to start end of this month. All relevant stakeholders have been updated and will be kept informed.

**11. Local Council Award Scheme** – No further update. Cllrs reminded about the training log, which is to be completed, and this will be from April 2025-March 2026. The Clerk will re send the training log to all Cllrs.

**12. Community Engagement** – The Clerk presented the paper, which all Cllrs have had sight of. The Clerk highlighted how our bespoke website could be built on, supporting our social media presence and therefore enhancing our community engagement. By

working with our website designer on a three-month trial period to; create and document workflows, manage and enhance content, support the town award/recognition scheme, continue developing AI for meetings and email and demonstrate the full capability of the platform. At the end of the three months, we can review the outcomes and decide whether to: continue, adjust the scope or cost and/or draw up a contract, or bring workflows and documentation in-house. This is a significant proposal, but it allows all digital media (website, content, communication, social, video, and AI) to be managed in one place.

The Clerk and EE Manager will oversee all works and decisions would come from them, with all outputs delivered by the web designer. Cllr Gibson was fully supportive of this proposal, which was seconded by Cllr Ogden and following the vote unanimously agreed.

**13. Town Award / Recognition Scheme** – The Clerk confirmed following the previous item being agreed this will include the deadline for nominations being extended till the end of March to allow for the extra publicity, promotional material via our website, social media, banners, leaflets and posters. This will also include an online nomination form and as part of the community engagement, persons will have the option to ‘sign up’ to being kept informed of all the town councils news items and events when completing the online form (this is all GDPR compliant). Cllr Gibson was in support of this approach and requested for the judging panel to be informed of the date change.

**14. Devolution/Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)** – The Clerk advised that today central government have confirmed all local elections in May 2026 will go ahead and have also confirmed additional funding to support these elections.

**15. Other/Urgent Communications** – none.

**16. Date of Next Meeting** – Monday 30 March 2026, 7.15pm, at the Town Council office – noted. Cllr Cook gave his apologies for this meeting.

**17. Agenda Items for Next Meeting** – no requests.

**18. Resolution to exclude the Public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960** – All in favour, resolution passed.

*Agenda items 19a and 20a were then discussed in the CONFIDENTIAL part of this meeting.*

*this part of the meeting finished at 8.12pm.*

**Chair** ..... **Date**.....