

KESGRAVE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Minutes of the Kesgrave Annual Town Meeting held on Monday 20 April 2026 at 7.15pm
At the Millennium Jubilee Hall (MJH)

In Attendance:

A Athwall
N Beecroft-Smith (Town Council Chair)
A Cook
J Ling
G Lynch (Town & District Cllr)
J Ogden
D McCallum (District & County Cllr)
J Abbott (Town Clerk)
L Denny (Administrator)

8 Resident's

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chair of Kesgrave Town Council – Councillor Neal Beecroft-Smith welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the Councillors and Officers present. Cllr Beecroft-Smith confirmed the annual town meeting is for the residents and organisations within the town to raise any issues and pass resolutions, confirming everyone present is eligible to vote on the agenda items.

J Abbott, Town Clerk confirmed apologies received from Cllr Ward, Cllr Comber, County & District Cllr S Lawson, 4YP Simon Doling, Kesgrave Library Maggie Lusher and Citizens Advice East Suffolk.

2. Minutes of the last Kesgrave Annual Town Meeting held on 28 April 2025

There were no issues raised, Cllr Lynch proposed to accept, following the vote, the minutes were agreed. The Chair, Cllr Beecroft-Smith signed and dated the minutes.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

None.

4. Chair's Comments

The Chair, Cllr Beecroft-Smith provided a verbal report. (A copy of the Chairs report is attached to these minutes).

5. Report of the Accounts of the Town Council

The Chair asked if there were any questions on the finance report, one resident asked if these were the actual accounts or just the budget. It was confirmed as per the report provided; they are an accurate budget summery. The full town council accounts will be published later in the year and will be available to view on the town council website as in previous years. (A copy of the report is attached to these minutes).

6. Community Engagement

The Town Clerk provided a verbal report, there were no questions raised. (A copy of the report is attached to these minutes).

7. Devolution/LGR

The Clerk provided a verbal report. One resident asked if the names of each new unitary council has been agreed, confirmed, the Clerk advised no direct communication has been received to confirm the names. Another resident asked about the new boundaries for the County Council elections, Cllr McCallum explained Kesgrave has been split by the boundary commission, meaning Kesgrave will have different County Cllrs depending on where they live in Kesgrave. It was confirmed that the parish of Kesgrave boundary has not changed. (A copy of the report is attached to these minutes).

8. General Discussion and other matters raised from the floor

The Chair asked if anyone wished to discuss any other matters, the following issues were raised;

- Electric Vehicle Charging - Cllr Lynch confirmed the town council now has an electric vehicle, with a charging point at the town council office (not for public use). One resident asked about the town having public charging points in and around the town. The Clerk confirmed the town council is registered with 'Plug in Suffolk' – Suffolk County Council, where the two car parks in the ownership of the town council (Millennium Sports Ground and Rupert Fison) have both been considered for public charging points but do not currently meet the required criteria, i.e. accessible 24-7. However, the office will continue to work with Plug in Suffolk as new initiatives are introduced and criteria changes. Cllr McCallum also added ESC as the Planning Authority consider and review applications for charging points.
- Overgrown Hedges – one resident asked who is responsible for cutting hedges which are blocking, obstructing foot / cycle ways. The Clerk and Cllr McCallum explained it depends on who owns the land and this is not always straight forward, however the council office works closely with our District and County Cllrs and landowners to identify and resolve any issues. The resident confirmed the footpath of concern is the one that runs parallel with the tennis courts from the library through to Nock Gardens. The Clerk confirmed she will investigate.
- Dangerous Parking – one resident said they had an issue with a vehicle they believed was parked dangerously, but the Police and Parking Enforcement said they weren't the authority responsible. The Clerk and Cllr McCallum explained that there can be a 'grey area' with parking issues and who is the responsible authority to resolve. Cllr McCallum said if there are issues like the one highlighted, she is happy to be contacted to try to resolve.
- Damaged Pathway – one resident advised there was a large amount of slabs which had been left for some time on the highway, which had caused damage. Cllr McCallum advised this would need to be reported to ESC Planning Enforcement and/or SCC Highways. Cllr McCallum and the Clerk again highlighted that if residents are ever unsure of who to report a matter to then the council office will assist in trying to resolve by working with our District and County Cllrs.

Written reports, which were requested and received from Kesgrave organisations are attached to these minutes.

- SPARK (Sport and Recreation in Kesgrave)
- CAES (Citizens Advice East Suffolk)
- Kesgrave Library

- KWMCC (Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre)
- 4YP

There being no other business the meeting closed at 7.54pm

Town Council Chairman.....Date.....

DRAFT