

Kesgrave Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Community & Recreation Committee held on Monday 15 June 2026 at 7.15pm in the Council Chamber, Town Council Office.

Present:

Councillor A. Comber (Chairman)
Councillor J. Ogden (Vice Chairman)
Councillor R. Gibson
Councillor J Ling
Councillor N Beecroft-Smith

In attendance:

Jennie Catling (Events & Estate Manager)

1. Election of Chairman for this Committee

Nominations were invited for the position of Chairman for the ensuing year. Councillor Gibson nominated Councillor Alan Comber. Councillor Comber accepted the nomination. There were no further nominations. A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed.

Resolved: That Councillor Alan Comber be elected Chairman of the Community & Recreation Committee for the ensuing year.

2. Election of Vice Chairman for this Committee

Nominations were invited for the position of Vice Chairman. Councillor Gibson nominated Councillor Jonathan Ogden. This was seconded by Councillor Beecroft-Smith. There were no further nominations. A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed.

Resolved: That Councillor Jonathan Ogden be elected Vice Chairman of the Community & Recreation Committee for the ensuing year.

3. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor Lynch.

4. Declaration of Interests

No declarations of interest were made.

5. Minutes of the last Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2026 were presented.

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2026 be approved and signed as a true record.

6. Clerks/Officer Report/Update

The Officer reported that, following a suggestion from Councillor Gibson, the Committee's Action Plan would be added to future meeting papers as a standing item. This will allow the Committee to monitor progress against agreed milestones.

7. Members of the Public

There were no members of the public present.

8. Play Areas / Open Spaces

a. Pump Track In Kesgrave – update

The Officer reported that the pump track is officially open and is being well-used by all ages. The opening event was very well attended with positive press coverage. Minor issues of anti-social behaviour have been reported and the public has been encouraged to use the police reporting tool. The security company responsible for nightly closing has reported no issues. It was noted that some grass seeding has failed to take due to the dry weather, but this will be monitored. The project was noted as a major success.

b. Oak Meadow play area - update

The Officer confirmed that the main contractor is scheduled to begin the refurbishment work on 14 September 2026, with the project expected to take five to six weeks. To minimise disruption during the school holidays, the Council's site operatives will remove the old equipment in the two weeks prior to the start date. The play area will remain partially open, with the work area securely fenced off.

c. Rupert Fison Square - update

The Officer provided an update on potential enhancements for the square. Following research into similar urban planting schemes, an idea for a large, movable planter on wheels was being explored. This would allow for the introduction of a semi-mature tree to improve the area's aesthetics without permanently obstructing the space required for community events.

d. MJH - Car Park spaces

The Officer confirmed that works to create the agreed additional parking spaces at the Millennium Jubilee Hall will proceed. A line-marking company has also been contacted to mark out spaces at both the MJH and Rupert Fison Square car parks to optimise capacity and prevent obstruction.

The Chair noted that the new bus shelter on the main road, opposite the fish and chip shop, was due to be installed by Suffolk County Council by the end of June.

9. Community Events

a. 27 June 2026 - Kesgrave Fun Day

Final arrangements for the Fun Day were discussed. The Officer confirmed that car parking will be managed on the main field, accessed via the barrier, to centralise the event. Several new stalls will be attending this year, alongside entertainment from local dance groups and choirs.

b. Tea party and Senior Citizens Outing to Felixstowe

It was noted that the recent senior citizens' outing and the tea party were both very successful and well-attended events, which were greatly appreciated by residents.

c. Kesgrave High School – 'Giving Back' – to report

The Officer reported that Kesgrave High School had offered the support of approximately 20 Year 12 students for a community project week in July. It was suggested they could assist with the installation of new 'bee bars' or help prepare the town underpass for repainting. The offer was welcomed by the Committee.

11. Suggestions for the Press and Media

It was agreed that the upcoming refurbishment of the Oak Meadow play area would be a positive item for a press release.

12. Other/Urgent Communications

No other urgent matters were raised for discussion.

13. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Monday 14 September 2026 in the Council Chamber, Town Council Office.

14. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Councillor Gibson proposed that the Committee's Action Plan be a standing item on all future agendas to allow for regular review, progress tracking, and prioritisation of tasks. This would support the Council's work towards the Local Council Award Scheme and enable the Committee to take a more active role in driving projects forward. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Ogden.

Resolved: That the Community & Recreation Action Plan be added as a standing item to all future agendas for this Committee, to be placed after the public session.

The meeting closed at 7.59pm

Please note that the Council uses AI to transcribe audio recordings of our meetings to assist in generating minutes. These drafts undergo a thorough human review and correction process by Council staff to ensure the accuracy of the final record.

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