

Kesgrave Town Council

Planning & Development Committee Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday 1 June 2026 **Time:** 6.15pm **Location:** Council Chamber, Town Council Office

Attendance:

Councillors: Rod Gibson, Neal Beecroft-Smith, Avtar Athwall, John Ling, Jonathan Ogden

Officers: Joanna Abbott (Town Clerk)

1. Election of Chair for this Committee

Cllr Athwall proposed, seconded by Cllr Ling, to elect Cllr Rod Gibson as Chair. All in favour, following the vote.

Cllr Rod Gibson accepted the nomination.

2. Election of Vice Chair for this Committee

Cllr Athwall proposed, seconded by Cllr Ogden, to elect Cllr Cook as Vice Chair. All in favour, following the vote.

3. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Cook.

4. Declaration of Interests

Cllr Neal Beecroft-Smith declared no interests.

Cllr Jonathan Ogden declared no interests.

Cllr Dr John Ling declared no interests.

Cllr Avtar Athwall declared no interests.

Cllr Rod Gibson declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 9 (Schedule of Planning Proposals) as Patrick Allen and Associates are also acting for the KWMCC, where he is a Trustee, for the Paddle Court application.

5. Minutes of the last Meeting held on the 11 May

These were received, considered and agreed following the vote.

6. Clerks/Officer Report/Update

The Clerk reported:

- East Suffolk Planning Policy Team released an email today confirming the Local Plan timetable. This information is available on the East Suffolk Council website.
- Advised the front fence at 39 Bell Lane, which had been highlighted for planning enforcement due to exceeding the 1-metre permitted development height, has now been reduced to 1 metre. The fence is now within permitted development, and the case has been closed.

7. Members of the Public

No members of the public were in attendance.

8. Copy Letters of Objection/In Support/Observations

The Town Clerk confirmed that no letters had been received directly into the office.

9. Schedule of Planning Proposals

DC/26/1503/FUL, 63 Main Road - Retrospective Application - Erection of fence.

Discussion took place regarding the height and type of fence. Members noted that the fence was out of keeping with the open-plan nature of the town, particularly the front gardens which are typically not enclosed with fencing of this height. It was highlighted that the majority of fencing on Main Road is of a low height, and the proposed fence was considered an arresting sight and not in keeping with the street scene. The full enclosure of the site with a 6-foot fence of this type was deemed to be totally against the design for the town. It was proposed to 'object' to this application, voting was unanimous.

DC/26/1259/FUL, Sinks Pit Main Road - Proposed Lay-by.

Cllr Rod Gibson recused himself from the discussion due to a declared non-pecuniary interest. Members discussed the application, it was proposed to have 'no objection', which was agreed following the vote. Cllr Gibson abstained from the vote.

DC/26/1674/FUL, 17 Carlton Road - Single storey rear extension and fenestration alterations.

Members discussed the application, it was proposed to have 'no objection', which was unanimously agreed following the vote.

10. Schedule of Planning Decisions

DC/26/0810/FUL, 6 Laurel Avenue - First floor and ground floor extension, remove existing rear extension, remove existing lean-to roof and replace with pitched roof. ESC permitted this application on 7 May 2026. This committee recommended 'no objection' on 30 March 2026.

DC/26/0983/FUL, 29 Bracken Avenue - Construction of single storey rear extension and outbuilding. ESC permitted this application on 14 May 2026. This committee recommended 'no objection' on 13 April 2026.

These were received and noted.

11. Martlesham Parish Council, purchase of Portal Woods – a request from the Parish Clerk.

The Town Clerk informed the Committee that Martlesham Parish Council is looking to purchase Portal Woods, which is currently for sale. They approached Kesgrave Town Council and Woodbridge Town Council for support. An informal meeting was held with members of Martlesham Parish Council, the Town Clerk, Cllrs Beecroft-Smith and Comber to offer advice, as Martlesham Parish Council has no prior experience in purchasing land. Martlesham Parish

Council requested Kesgrave Town Council's in-principle support for their purchase, as residents of Kesgrave use the woodland. The boundaries of Portal Woods sit entirely within Martlesham.

Cllr Beecroft-Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Ling, that Kesgrave Town Council pass a vote of support to Martlesham Parish Council for their endeavour to purchase Portal Woods. All in favour, following the vote.

12. Heath Primary School, Bell Lane Road Safety Improvements

The Town Clerk updated the Committee on ongoing efforts with Heath Primary School to address road safety issues on Bell Lane. Previous proposals for a "School Street" (closing a section of road during drop-off/pick-up) were explored. A traffic survey indicated that while speeds were generally within limits, the high volume of traffic meant that diverting it to side roads would simply shift the problem and potentially make those roads more dangerous.

The Clerk reported that Suffolk County Council has since changed its policy on 20mph speed limits. Based on the traffic survey data, Heath Primary School meets the criteria to request an enforceable 20mph speed limit along a designated stretch of Bell Lane. This would replace the current advisory '20's Plenty'. The school is supportive of this proposal.

The Clerk consulted with the Community Highways Engineer for Kesgrave, who confirmed that an application for a 20mph limit would be viable. The proposal requires the support of the school, Kesgrave Town Council, and consultation with residents living on the affected stretch of road. The designated stretch is just before Mackenzie Drive and finishes just past Twelve Acre Approach. Costing for the implementation is not yet clear, but both Suffolk County Council (via Cllr Debbie McCallum's budget) and Kesgrave Town Council have potential budget allocations for road safety initiatives.

The Committee discussed parental engagement and the effectiveness of various safety measures. It was noted that the school already has a pupil road safety group that works on educational initiatives. Speed bumps were discussed but generally not implemented by Suffolk County Council due to noise and emissions in residential areas.

Cllr Beecroft-Smith proposed, seconded by Cllr Ogden, that Kesgrave Town Council move forward with implementing the SCC 20mph Policy along the stated stretch of Bell Lane outside Heath Primary School. All in favour, following the vote.

13. Possible Referral to Planning Committee (LPA) as opposed to Officer Delegated

The Clerk confirmed there were no items for referral.

14. Other/Urgent Communications

The Clerk confirmed there were no urgent communications not already covered.

15. Suggestions for the Press and Social Media

None noted.

16. Next Meeting – Monday 15 June 2026 at 6.15pm in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices.

Noted.

17. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Nothing raised.

18. Resolution to exclude the Public under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

Cllr Gibson proposed, seconded by Cllr Beecroft-Smith, to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960. All in favour, following the vote.

The Chair noted that this was a formality as no members of the public were in attendance.

This part of the meeting closed at 6.45pm

19. Planning Pre-Application SCC/0086/26SC/PreApp - Kesgrave High School, Kesgrave
(This item was discussed in confidential session).

Signed:.....Date:.....