

KESSINGLAND PARISH COUNCIL



KESSINGLAND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH

Minutes of a meeting held at 7pm, Friday 28th March 2025

In St Edmunds Church Hall, Church Road, Kessingland

NR33 7SQ

In attendance: The Chair of the Parish Council, Jess Asato MP, District and Parish Councillors, 9 guest speakers from various organisations and 34 parishioners.

1. **Minutes of the Last Annual Parish Meeting held on 5th April 2024**

The Chair confirmed there were no matters arising from the previous minutes. As no issues or objections were raised, the minutes were accepted and approved by consensus as a true and accurate record of the last Annual Meeting of the Parish held on 5th April 2024.

2. **Kessingland Parish Council – Chair’s Annual Report 2024/25**

Chair Cllr Sid James welcomed attendees and began by paying tribute to two former Parish Councillors, Barry Burden and Brian Kite, who sadly passed away. He expressed his gratitude to fellow councillors, Parish Council staff, and the many volunteers who have worked hard throughout the year, supporting both the council and the wider community. A special presentation was made to the previous General Factotum in appreciation of five years of dedicated service. The Chair then provided a summary of events and initiatives over the past year, as well as upcoming projects. Highlights included the installation of new benches around the village and plans to commence the revamp of Roy Browns Garden during the summer months.

3. **Jess Asato MP**

Jess Asato, recently elected and serving for eight months, addressed the meeting. She shared that she has already taken on almost 5,000 constituent cases, highlighting her commitment to local concerns. A key issue discussed was the ongoing sewerage problem in Kessingland. Ms. Asato emphasized her determination to resolve the issue and urged residents to report all related problems to Anglian Water to help hold the provider accountable. She expressed interest in holding a future public meeting with the Parish Council.

4. East Suffolk County Council

Cllr Alan Green provided a verbal update on various local matters, notably confirming that the long-awaited replacement of the Green Lane steps had finally been completed.

5. Kessingland Benefice

Val George reported on recent developments within the Benefice, including the successful completion of the new thatched roof on the church. She also announced that a new Rector would be appointed soon, marking an important new chapter for the parish community.

6. Chairs of Kessingland Parish Council Committees

The four committee chairs of the Kessingland Parish Council delivered updates on their respective areas of responsibility, outlining key activities and progress made since the last Annual Meeting. It was noted with appreciation that the Parish Council has chosen not to increase the precept for the 2025–2026 financial year. The floor was also opened to residents for questions, which were addressed during this session.

7. Water Management Alliance

Kari Nash gave a verbal report highlighting future flood management plans. These include the construction of new embankments and pumping stations, with completion expected by 2029. A Q&A session followed her report.

8. DANES

Trish Riches provided an overview of the work carried out by DANES, focusing on how their services support the community. Topics covered included help with housing issues, applications for Pension Credit, Disability Living Allowance (DLA), and Personal Independence Payments (PIP). She also mentioned community initiatives such as wellbeing coffee mornings and IT drop-in sessions.

9. Kessingland Men's Shed

Chair Alan Bagley reported on the ongoing projects and activities of the Men's Shed, detailing some of the valuable work members have contributed to the community over the past year.

10. Kessingland Sports & Social Club and Youth Café

Chris Smith presented updates on behalf of both the Sports & Social Club and the Youth Café. She shared information on the wide range of activities offered at both venues. Notably, the Youth Café is now successfully open every Wednesday and has become a popular and well-attended initiative.

11. Kessingland Library

Amy Roberts, speaking on behalf of Kessingland Library, thanked all the community groups that have supported the library by holding events and activities. Their contributions have played a key role in keeping the library active and welcoming.

12. RSPB

Pamela Hallesy, Team Leader of the East Norfolk & North Suffolk Beach Nesting Birds Project, provided an update on the ongoing conservation efforts. The project continues to thrive, and fencing will once again be installed on the beach to protect nesting birds during the breeding season.

13. Women's Institute

WI President Christine Mabb shared a brief history of the Kessingland branch, established in 1952. She noted the diversity of current members and highlighted the WI's collaborative events with other local groups, maintaining a strong and active presence in the community.

14. East Suffolk Communities Team

Gemma Fraser delivered a report focusing on key social issues, particularly the cost-of-living crisis. She encouraged residents to seek support for mental health and wellbeing challenges, assuring them that help is available and accessible.

15. Close of Meeting

This meeting closed at 20.42hrs.