

Minutes of a Meeting of Knapton Parish Council held in Knapton Village Hall on Tuesday 6th December 2022 at 7.30pm

Present: Peter Neatherway (Chair), Jackie Southwell-Hall (Vice-Chair) Monika Kemp, Pat Lee, John Lawton, Nicky Page, Elizabeth Winter, Dee Holroyd (Clerk), Cllr Ed Maxfield, two members of the public

Before the meeting began, PN asked whether there were any public questions. There were Oak saplings ready to donate. PN explained that on Saturday 2,000 mixed trees would be delivered to Knapton and on Sunday morning in the Village Hall, between 10.00 and 12.00 trees would be given out in return for small donations to the playground maintenance fund. The Oak saplings could be included.

The meeting opened at 7.45pm

1) Apologies for Absence: None.

2) Declarations of Interests: None.

3) Cllr Ed Maxfield, Greg Hayman: EM would have more to add to his report at the February meeting. No decision had been made regarding proposed enlargement of the local recycling centre.

4) Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 1st November: Were agreed, proposed LW, seconded MK and signed by the Chairman.

5) Matters Arising:

- Complaint about Cllr Greg Hayman - DH had contacted NNDC but as Cllr GH is not affiliated to any political party, NNDC could not progress the complaint. EM confirmed that there was no obligation for a District Councillor to attend Parish Council meetings. No reports or apologies for absence were sent by Cllr GH. NP and LW together to draft a letter and forward it to PN for approval by the Parish Council before sending it to GH, copied to the EDP.
- Knapton Rural Mobility Survey - had been completed and sent to Transport East (15/11).
- SAM2 Camera - neighbours had been consulted by PN and approval given by Highways for additional siting in The Street and Hall Lane. All agreed to purchase two new post and brackets sets. Cost £494.
- Poppyland Radio - left for next meeting.
- Knapton News funding - LW confirmed currently four 12-page issues published annually, cost £260 each. Only £800 was received from the Gas Site and this would be reviewed, probably in May '23. Currently funding was in place for 1 ½ issues. Reducing publication to three annual issues was suggested but four were preferred. LW needed help. LW and NP would meet to discuss working together on the News. NP would source possible funding and forward to DH to apply. PN felt that the Knapton News should remain independent of the Parish Council, ensuring that it remained a village newsletter, and all agreed the Knapton News was very important to the village.

6) Parish Councillors Reports:

PL: confirmed that all allotments had been let and rents received. There were now more, smaller allotments, which were working well.

MK: would be willing to accompany Play Inspection when they carried out their annual inspection, for which PI make a charge. The gate to the playground was currently locked. DH to contact Play Inspection to ask them to confirm the time and date of visit, so the gate could be unlocked. A basic playground inspection training was available at NCC but this could not replace the annual outside inspection.

LW: PN congratulated LW on the very excellent job she had done in liaising with Anglia Water during the recent mains drainage installations. LW reported that Anglian Water should shortly finish in Hall Lane. They will then repair damaged verges and LW asked for anyone knowing of such a repair needed to contact Anglian Water. The system should go live on 13th December, once the electricians approved it. A new letter has been circulated from Anglian Water. A question was asked about new hedging to disguise the pumping station (whips were seen on site) and about loose cables. A mature tree about fifty yards east of the pumping station had been damaged by a vehicle. LW to give JL an address for Anglian Water, to whom he could write about this.

JH: reported mud on the road leading to The Old Station. It was believed this would be cleaned by the farmer.

7) Repair of fence behind School House:

All agreed to a gift of two bottles of wine for David Jackson, who had removed branches on the fence free of charge. Once a quote had been received from Alan Young, it would be sent to MADRA, who, under the terms of their lease, were responsible for the repair.

8) Financial Report:

A cash book and bank reconciliation had been circulated showing a current credit balance of £3,930 plus payments due for Christmas trees of £155 from Anglia Water and £71 from Eastern Power. Payment of £494 for two brackets and posts for the SAM2 machine were approved.

A draft budget had been circulated. The payment of £300 for mowing the churchyard was questioned. PN had initially thought to raise the Precept by £300 but had since considered no increase. (A £600 increase would result in an annual increase to a Band D Council Taxpayer of £3.51. People on benefits would not be affected). However, it was felt that more events were needed in the village, especially during the school holidays and a £300 increase in Precept could be earmarked for events. Increase in Precept of £300 proposed LW, seconded PL all agreed.

9) Coronation of King Charles II:

£750 had been allowed in the Budget. NP would source funding of £3,000 and pass to DH for application.

10) Any Other Business:

- Charity Donation requests would be considered and voted on at a full meeting of the Parish Council
- The Carol Service would be held on 18th December at 6.30. Anyone available to help to contact Alison Jackson. The Christmas Day service in Knapton would be held at 10.00am
- MK confirmed that decorations from this year would be there for the Halloween Party next year and therefore the budget of £150 could be reduced. PN felt that given the impressive success of the three events this year and the obvious increase in resident participation, the budgeted figure should remain unchanged as consumable cost (food, drink etc) would probably increase
- NP would book Father Christmas to visit Knapton on a Wednesday in December 2023. The visit had been a great success. DH to thank Father Christmas
- PN suggested a ring-fenced pot for future event funding to be created from the net profits of events run by the Parish Council, starting with the small profit made from the Santa event
- JH would provide final figures for the Cheese and Wine party after the event and the Fête Committee had suggested that the Council retain the balance of the £50 they had donated for the event as all profit from that event was already promised to fund playground maintenance

11) Date of next Meeting:

Tuesday 7th February 2023 at 7.30pm

12) The meeting closed: at 9.10pm