

Minutes of a Meeting of Knapton Parish Council held by video link on Tuesday 2nd March at 7.30 pm

Present: Peter Neatherway (Chair), Pat Lee (Vice-Chair), John Lawton, Keith Lawrence, Elizabeth Winter, Alan Young, Tracy Smith, Dee Holroyd (Clerk) Cllrs Ed Maxfield, Greg Hayman.

1. Apologies for Absence:

None

2. Cllr Greg Hayman, Cllr Ed Maxfield

Cllr Greg Hayman reported;

- a. NNDC were freezing Precepts. NNC would implement a small rise
- b. NNDC budget was looking good
- c. NNDC would like to know of any landowners willing to have trees/hedges planted on their land/road boundaries. AY confirmed Knapton PC has access to the land needed for planting and he was in touch with Nigel Stanner of NNDC
- d. Homeless people had largely been accommodated during Covid but there were fears that numbers could increase once the Covid protection afforded to rental properties ceased
- e. GH confirmed that the Splash swimming pool would be demolished before a new one was built on the site
- f. PN reported that members of Knapton PC had attended a Zoom meeting with NNDC re allocation of houses on Wild's Way. The current system was not satisfactory and whilst too late for Knapton, he wished to avoid the situation rising in other parishes, where people with a genuine connection to the village were not being allocated houses. There was concern that one house was being sold, reducing the number of affordable homes for the future. GH informed the PC of a scheme whereby NNDC lent money to parish councils to build homes.
- g. KL reported that five of the affordable houses in Paston had been or were being sold on the open market
- h. GH would push for change of policy although parameters were set by central government

PN thanked GH, who left the meeting at 8.00pm.

Cllr Ed Maxfield had sent in his report in and reported;

- a. NCC budget had been set, Council Tax would rise 4%.
- b. Cuts were mainly concerned with supplier's contracts
- c. NCC is cutting back on the number of meetings held. PN asked about the money NCC had spent on upgrading their meeting rooms.
- d. Snow on the road was believed to have been dealt with well by the council. EM had pushed for more roadside hedging to avoid drifting. Feedback would be welcomed. JL reported lack of gritting on the Northern Circular road.

- e. Elections to go ahead on 6th May. Postal could be obtained up to the last minute.
NCC wished to avoid the use of schools as polling stations as far as possible.

PN thanked EM, who left the meeting at 8.10pm

3. Declarations of Interest:

None

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 1st September:

The minutes were agreed and signed by the clerk pp the Chairman
Proposed KL - Seconded PL

5. Matters Arising:

Path to Mundesley:

PN confirmed that Mundesley PC have agreed to pay half the cost of mowing the path, so reducing Knapton PC's cost by around £250pa

Community Path Sign & Village Map Display Cabinets:

These display cabinets had been repaired by the `Men`s Shed`. A donation of £40 was agreed as they only charge for materials

6. Junction of Wild`s Way and School Close:

Consideration of resident`s letter:

Discussion points covered included;

- The drop kerbs in School Close have been installed
- One resident was causing problems and possibly had vehicles possibly illegally parked on the road. PN had contacted the Victory Housing Trust and was awaiting response.
- PN has suggested various possible solutions including double yellow lines and Resident parking permits
- PN would write to police
- The entrance to Wild`s Way did not meet Highways rules
- LW pointed out that standard sized refuse collection vehicles could not access Wild`s Way, necessitating a special, additional collection which presumably incurred NNDC with additional cost each week
- PN expressed concern about emergency vehicle access
- KL suggested employing a consultant who understand the rules
- PN would draft and circulate a letter to Highways and KL would research the correct addressee.

7. Allocation of Houses on Wild`s Way:

PN and PL had had a Zoom meeting with NNDC following the PCs dissatisfaction at the allocation policy of properties, particularly those people with a genuine connection to Knapton to be allocated a house. A follow up meeting was to be arranged and PN asked for as many PC members as possible to attend.

8. Tree Planting Scheme:

This had been covered under Item 3. AY would talk to farmers later in the year

9. Registration of Footpaths:

It was agreed to defer this until the next meeting, pending more information

10. Identifying local handymen:

LW suggested the creation of a Local Handyman list which could be displayed on the website and in the Knapton News. PN expressed concern that it may appear that the PC were unfairly promoting or advocating the tradesmen on the list. LW rejected any possibility of paid adverts being included in the Knapton News.

No further action is planned.

11. Parish Councillor`s Reports:

- a. **LW** had spoken to Lucy at Anglia Water who now hoped to start work in mid - summer. Anglian Water will send out three letters based on previous responses;
 - i. those who have said they want to connect
 - ii. those who have said they don`t want to connect
 - iii. those who haven`t responded to the earlier letters

LW to put an article in Knapton news urging everyone to respond.

Surveys had been carried out on houses close to the road.

Parking for the fete might be affected if The Street is closed. Perhaps the field in Pond Lane could be used

- b. **TS** had sent excellent photos of the graffiti on the railway bridge. It was believed this would be dealt with by Network Rail. PL would find out who to contact
- c. **JL** reported the Knapton Angels had been fairly quiet. Liz Winter was still doing her deliveries on alternate days undaunted even by the snow.

12. Financial Report:

The Clerk reported a current credit balance of £3,140 with the next Precept payment due in April.

Change of bank:

PN and DH have investigated the possibility of switching banks from Lloyds to the Unity Trust Bank. This has effectively been driven by the PC needing On-line Banking which requires two authorisations for every transaction, in much the same way that under the current payment process, outgoing cheques require two signatories. PN had checked the status of the bank as well as several others.

Unity Trust Bank had been recommended by Norfolk Parish Training & Support as it specialises in working with Parish Councils. With the decline in the use of cheque books, their on-line banking system meant that the parish clerk could generate an on-line payment which would then require two signatories to log on and ratify it.

Unity Trust Bank levies a fixed charge of £6 month but it was felt that this would be comfortably offset by the benefits of

- virtually eliminating postage costs
- simpler and faster payment process without the need for hunting chq signatories

- payments received in minutes, not several days
- easier accounting process

All agreed that this move should be made.

13. Any Other Business:

Acquisition of land on Wild`s Way

The PC is considering the lease, but covenants introduced by VHT may make the acquisition unfeasible. The covenants would render the land of no use to the PC or the village and the upkeep costs would be considerable. PN to contact the VHT with a view to getting the covenants removed or possibly not taking on the land.

Documentation received from Hansells Solicitors to be circulated to the PC.

Dog Waste Bin damage

JL reported broken hinge on the dog waste bin at the bottom of The Street. DC to contact David Jackson re repair.

Grit Bin damage

PL reported a broken hinge on the grit bin in Lawn Close. DC to contact David Jackson re repair.

14. Date of next Meeting:

Tuesday 6th April

The meeting closed at 9.35pm