

**Minutes of a Meeting of Knapton Parish Council held by video link
on Tuesday 3rd November 2020 at 7.30pm**

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

1. Apologies for Absence:

None.

2. Declarations of Interest:

PN and PL declared an interest in item 8.

3. Cllrs Ed Maxfield, Greg Haymen:

Cllr GH now has the NNDC housing portfolio. He had looked into the PC's concerns about the allocation of houses in Wild's Way, raised at the October meeting. Houses had been correctly allocated according to current criteria. GH agreed that the PC had not been kept informed and understood their discontent. LW asked whether any residence perhaps becoming available could be offered to someone with Knapton connections. JL pointed out the very few opportunities for young people to get a property in Knapton. GH confirmed houses were offered according to local criteria, but he would look into possible improvements in the system. PN confirmed he had contacted NNDC on this subject.

Cllr EM:

Budget consultation was underway. Public comment could be made to www.norfolk.gov.uk/budget or Freepost Plus RTCL-XSTT-JZSK, Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH.

Free School Meals: EM had asked the Council's Cabinet member for Children's Services how much money the council has received from the government to address this issue, and what they have done with it.

Closure of Swafield Bridge: see attached report. PN asked how diversions were planned. LW asked for clearer signage. Road numbers were not generally known. JL requested more specific signage. AY reported collapse of the road edge in Hall Lane due to excess use by heavy vehicles. JL asked why the long delay before the bridge repair. The pandemic and receipt of permission from the Environmental Agency. Priority road markings were suggested, to ease passage over the bridge.

PN thanked EM, who left the meeting at 8.15pm.

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

These were agreed and signed by the Clerk pp the Chairman. Proposed KL, seconded AY.

5. Matters Arising:

a) Allocation of houses on Wild's Way

This had been dealt with under item 3.

b) Litter bins

It was agreed a decision on whether more bins were needed would be made at the March meeting. In the meantime, Councillors were asked to identify places most in need of a discretely placed bin.

c) SpeedWatch

Currently training was not available. JL had a team in place.

d) VAS machine/ 30 mph speed limit extension

- i) The VAS machine was in place and would be moved fortnightly between the other locations in the village that have been agreed with Highways
 - ii) The speed limit extension is currently at advance planning stage with Highways
- e) MADRA Lease
This had been completed and sent to the Clerk. Solicitor Cost £450 plus VAT.
- f) Path to Knapton Green
KL had met Steve Hammond (landowner) and walked the area with him. SH was happy for the path to Mundesley to remain in place and had left a two metres strip. He would not enter into a formal agreement or allow any hard core to be laid. Grass and hedge cutting would be permitted and improvement to the present path considered, especially to make it safer for children. AY said Steve White of Highways would be able to identify land ownership bordering the road. The path across Chris Payne's land was narrower. A letter of thanks, also requesting ongoing use of the path to be written to CP. DH to write and forward to PN. It was agreed that the path was well used.
SH had agreed that a path to Knapton Green had existed but had been taken up by road widening over the years. It was hoped to reinstate this, but again there would be no formal agreement. PN was concerned that without a formal agreement, no funding would be available to make the path suitable for all users. The B1145 would have to be crossed by walkers to and from Knapton Green. PN asked TS to identify the safest crossing place. KL and PN would then meet with Steve Hammond for further discussion.
- g) Christmas Day Dinners for single parishioners
This would be advertised on the website and in the Knapton News, due out at the end of November and stating `subject to Government regulations`. Councillors were asked to identify any possible candidates. Single people might be reluctant to come forward. Ceri Quinton had offered to cook the meals. TS was liaising with CQ. KL volunteered to coordinate the responses. PL asked how it was to be funded. Funding could come from the Government Covid 19 grant of £1,000, of which only £230 had been used.

6. Parish Councillor's Reports:

- a) PL reported nearly all Allotment rents had been collected. These would be passed to the clerk when complete
- b) TS: was keen for the proposed Christmas function to go ahead, with simple and individually wrapped food. TS would talk to Ceri Quinton about this. MADRA would host the event
- c) David Bindley of Knapton Green would very kindly donate a Christmas tree for the Green. The PC would like to put a second one by the village sign. TS to source. KL suggested battery or solar powered LED lights, KL to check costs. These could be paid for and retained by the PC. JL suggested large bulbs, this would depend on the weight the branches could support. The trees would be sunk into tubes in the ground and supported by guy ropes. A tree height of eight feet was agreed. DH to confirm with Highways that they had no objections

7. Finance

- a) Financial Report: The Clerk reported a current credit balance of £5 321
- b) A draft budget had been circulated showing an end of year expenditure over income of £2,894 including a one-off payment of £2,000 towards the speed limit extension. A continuing trend would put the PC in a very precarious financial position. An increase in the Precept, already proposed, was discussed. The Precept had not increased in at least the last nine years and was lower than surrounding villages. AY would support only an increase of £1,000. An increase of £2,000, cost to Band D residences £12.48 a year, was agreed by a vote of six to one

8. Allotments

Possible autonomy for Allotment Association: PN & PL left the meeting, having declared an interest. The proposal was that the Allotment Land should be leased to the Allotment Committee for £1 per annum. The Allotment income of approximately £270 should be transferred to the Allotment Committee for the improvement of the Allotments. All agreed. DH to check with that the Parish Council insurance would still cover the allotments.

9. Correspondence Received:

The Parish Clerk advised that all correspondence received had been circulated.

10. Any Other Business:

- a) KL had replaced a loose tile on the bus shelter at Knapton Green, but the batons need cementing. This was a PC responsibility
- b) Three `dog waste` signs were in place. AY was thanked for making the brackets and putting up the signs. Two were still to go up, one on the old railway bridge near The Railway House and one on Wild`s Way
- c) LW reminded the PC that due to Lockdown, there would be no Remembrance Sunday Service in the Church. The service would be available on Zoom at 10.00 on Sunday 8th November.
- d) It was agreed a welcome letter should go to the new residents in Wild`s Way. This could be delivered with the next Knapton News. DH to write and forward to PN

11. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 1st December

The meeting closed at 9.50pm