

Minutes of a Meeting of Knapton Parish Council held in Knapton Village Hall on 5th October 2021

Present: Peter Neatherway (Chair), Pat Lee (Vice-Chair), John Lawton, Elizabeth Winter, Alan Young, Dee Holroyd (Clerk) Cllr Ed Maxfield (NCC)

1) **Apologies for Absence:**

Cllr Greg Haymen (NNDC) was not present and had not sent apologies

2) **Declarations of Interest:**

none

3) **Cllr Ed Maxfield:**

Cllr Maxfield had sent in his report, which had been circulated.

- a) He added that he was willing to assist in the extension of the speed limit on the B1145 between Mundesley and Swafield and believed that as three Parish Councils were joining forces with this request, it had a good chance of success. EM would raise the matter at the next Mundesley and Swafield PC meetings
- b) AY had spoken to Steve White (Highways) who was doubtful about applying a speed limit on a main road
- c) DH to write to Mundesley and Swafield clerks to set up a meeting
- d) A van had the previous evening, left the main road at the bend and gone through the hedge, across Wilds Way, and drove into Hall Lane via the car park and School Close. PN to enquire from the Police what they had had reported
- e) PN would ask Highways to replace the chevrons which used to be in position on the bend at the top of The Street
- f) EM added that Highways had now decided that some areas which did not meet the criteria for a 30mph speed restriction could have that restriction implemented. EM thought this would take about two and a half years and the cost of legal fees to make these changes was a factor
- g) PN immediately asked for an extended 30mph speed restriction for Pond Lane.
- h) A question was asked about why 'Quiet Lanes' had no speed restriction
- i) PN reported that all speeding in the village recorded by the SAM2 camera was logged and reported to the police as well as being posted on our website
- j) EM was asked about the reduction in hedge cutting by Highways. This was in theory to encourage wildlife and flowers. Highways did respond to requests to cut where vision was obscured, and he suggested that the PC write to Highways next March to point out places where non-cutting caused problems and request these to be cut
- k) PL raised the question of snow clearing, Hall Lane having been completely blocked in the winter this year, the PC receiving the blame for this
- l) JL raised the question of the future of District Councils and how their disappearance might change the role of Parish Councils. This was an unknown area at present.
- m) PN thanked EM for attending and he remained at the meeting

4) **Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 7th September:**

The minutes were agreed with one small amendment and signed by the Chairman.
Proposed LW, seconded AY

5) **Matters Arising:**

- a) Verge and hedge cutting had been covered earlier in the meeting
- b) Letter from Victory Housing Trust to be discussed later in the meeting
- c) Meeting with Swafield and Mundesley Parish Councils/Highways re extended speed reduction had been covered earlier in the meeting
- d) Path to Knapton Green was now complete and being used. Chris Heath had very kindly lent his digger and his time to clear the path. DH to write to Chris Hicks (landowner), Steve Hammond (farmer) and Chris Heath to thank them for their help in creating the path.
- e) The proposed Bonfire night at MADRA would not go ahead this year
- f) PN mentioned his extreme frustration in dealing with NNDC re Wilds Way and was still awaiting a response to his request for a meeting made in March this year. Two letters had recently been received from the VHT. PN circulated the latest and had highlighted significant points
 - i) NNDC had contacted VHT and they had agreed to discuss implementing and sharing the cost of a TRO in School Close at the junction with Hall Lane and opposite the turning into Wilds Way. These would prevent parking outside the property situated opposite the junction which in turn would provide enough turning circle for larger vehicles to enter and exit Wilds Way
 - ii) PL suggested that a parking space in the Village Hall Car Park could be offered as an alternative to the affected homeowner whose property was opposite the junction with Wilds Way. All agreed that the occupier should be given a permanent permit. PN to implement
 - iii) VHT were unwilling to offer additional parking bays on School Close due to cost
 - iv) The above-mentioned TRO would improve access to Wilds Way where it was unlikely that planning permission would be granted to increase the splay
 - v) Land transfer of the Car Park to the Parish Council was in hand
 - vi) The ownership of the Pond was now known. PN has asked VHT for Land Registry confirmation of ownership
 - vii) The long requested Safety Gate between Wilds Way and the B1145 was in hand
 - viii) Grass cutting on the north-east corner of Wilds Way, long neglected, was now in hand and would be done by VHT 16 times a year. First cut was due shortly

6) **Parish Councillors Reports:**

- a) PL said that the playground needed regular inspection. PN asked DH to review the maintenance agreement with ALS
- b) AY reported that the free trees were due in October/November. Farmers were to be paid to plant trees and therefore farmland was not currently available for planting but there were alternative positions
- c) PN suggested the next issue of the Knapton News be delayed until nearer Christmas. LW agreed

- d) PN would ask Tracy Smith about obtaining two Christmas trees. New lights would be needed
- e) LW reported that every house in the village had received an update from Anglia Water and she would put information in the Knapton News. Work would commence this month and there was concern about road closures during the works
- 7) **Recruitment of two Councillors:**
PL had approached one person, who might join. PL had approached one resident who was unable to join at this time. The vacancies to be advertised in Knapton News
- 8) **Planning of Village Events for 2022:**
AY confirmed the Village Fete and a Music Festival would take place. The beacon would need to be lit for the Queen`s Jubilee next year. Siting to be in the Village Hall car park
- 9) **Registration of footpaths:**
Footpaths had to be registered by 2026. DH to ask Chris Heath whether he would help
- 10) **Planning:**
No new planning applications had been received
- 11) **Positioning of Plaque from HM Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk / NALC:**
To go in the Village Hall, with permission of the Village Hall Committee
- 12) **Any Other Business:**
Fast fibre broadband (FFB). Response had been received from 37 residents. This would achieve a grant of £73,600 for BT to install FF.
A letter had been received from County Broadband, Internet Services Provider. PN had had a long conversation with a member of the Country Broadband team who explained that they aimed to bring FFB to every property in a village and would do this if 20% of the properties signed up. Connection was free and they would then provide FFB free for the first year (to allow residents to terminate their existing contracts) and after that would charge £28 month, which compared very favourably with other providers. Existing phonelines could be retained, according to wishes. They had provided services to Suffolk villages, and they were willing to hold a meeting with residents in the village. Doubt was expressed as to whether this was `too good to be true`. PN said he would speak to the chairperson of parish councils of villages where the service had been installed for their opinion of the service and the provider if we decided to consider their offer seriously.
- 13) It was understood that many residents believed the Parish Council achieved nothing and even blamed the Council for things beyond its control. A list of achievement had been put together by DH and PN. It was agreed, by three votes to two, that rather than putting the list into the Knapton News, it would be put on the website with an abbreviated `pointer` to go into the next Parish Clerk`s report.

Date of next Meeting

Tuesday 9th November at 7.00

The meeting closed at 9.30pm