

Minutes of a meeting of Knapton Parish Council

held in Knapton Village Hall on 1st February 2022 at 7pm

Present: Peter Neatherway (Chair), Pat Lee (Vice-Chair), Jackie Hall, John Lawton, Elizabeth Winter, Alan Young, Dee Holroyd (Clerk). Cllr Ed Maxfield NCC, Revd Andrew Jones, two members of the public.

1) **Apologies for Absence:** None

2) **Declarations of Interest:** None

3) **Cllr Ed Maxfield:**

PN thanked EM for attending the recent meeting on speed restrictions held with Mundesley and Swafield Parish Councils.

EM had contacted NNDC Housing Officer re the large number of new houses planned for North Walsham. Response awaited. EM confirmed NNDC are told by Government how many houses they must build. Sites must be found. EM would monitor the situation.

There are already traffic jams at the NNDR roundabout which could only worsen when new houses were occupied. Infrastructure tended to come after housing. A new school and surgery were promised.

The question of adequate water supply was raised.

Contacting Duncan Baker, MP, would be a good move.

LW and JL to meet and form a plan for addressing these problems.

PN thanks EM who left the meeting at 7.30pm.

4) **Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 6th December:**

These were agreed and signed by the Chairman. Proposed LW, seconded AY.

5) **Matters Arising:**

a) County Broadband: PN and JL had looked at the options for fast fibre in Knapton. CB will provide a solution for the whole village, for which grants are available. PN & JL are aware CB may not offer a perfect solution, but it was clear that BT was not bringing fast fibre to Knapton in the near future. PN had contacted three village where CB had already installed fast fibre and would have more information by the March meeting.

b) Speed Restrictions B1145: PN reported on the meeting held on 24th January, with Mundesley and Swafield PC Chairmen and Clerks and Cllr EM, to discuss a combined initiative. Applications to reduce the 60 to 50mph speed restriction leaving Mundesley, to the current 40mph limit, this limit remaining in place till the 30mph restriction in Swafield is reached. 40mph limit should also apply to Pond Lane. PL suggested a 30mph restriction from Knapton to Swafield. There are three bus stops on the route. Two big vehicles are unable to pass.

EM confirmed that funding could be available.

In order to record the vehicular movement on the B1145 between Mundesley and Swafield, the three councils agreed that, on a certain date, all Speed Machines would be turned to face in the same direction and reversed at an agreed second date.

c) Playground Maintenance: A maintenance programme needs to be put in place with a company having suitable insurance. It was agreed that minor defects shown in the Play Safety report should be put right first. PN, PL and AY to meet at the site on Thursday 3rd February. Following that, ALS would be asked to quote for a monthly inspection and repairs contract.

d) Car Park transfer: had been signed. The Car Park and surrounding hedges and grass area will belong to Knapton PC. There is a small area of land which has also been transferred. PN suggested offering this for sale to the two nearest Wild's Way properties.

e) Flagpole Repair: This had been completed by PL and AY, who were thanked by PN. A new flag would be erected.

6) Parish Councillor's Reports:

- a) PL reported all allotments taken.
- b) AY: planning PF/21/2906. It was agreed that Knapton PC would lodge an objection with Planning. The application site lies outside the Development Plan, access is dangerous, and Planning had previously refused an application to convert an existing building on the opposite side of Hall Lane to a home.
- c) LW reported that Anglia Water were on schedule. Works from the pumping station would be across fields. A section of the road by Knapton Green would be closed for April with residential and pedestrian guided access. LW had asked to be kept informed.

7) Concerns for the future of Knapton Church:

The Diocesan Board has commissioned a review of the 658 churches in Norfolk to identify and find alternative uses for the most vulnerable.

The village must take responsibility for Knapton Church which is central to the village, unique in Europe, due to its spectacular roof, and a visitor attraction which has recently had £360,000 spent on restoration. It is one of 100 `treasure` churches in the UK.

Funding to maintain the fabric of the church is in place (through restrictive legacies).

Annual running costs are about £10,000 plus the Parish Share. Only about four Knapton residents regularly attend church.

PN opened the Meeting to the floor. (8.10)

Revd AJ reported a scheme was in place whereby the church could be used for six services a year only. In other churches half the pews had been removed to make room for other functions to take place. These was vital to the future of the church.

If the Village Hall was sold the money could be used for the above purpose, space within the body of the church or on the north side of the church being used as a new village hall.

PN suggested forming `Friends of Knapton Church` to be advertised in the Knapton News. `Friends` could then organize fund raising events.

AY suggested asking permission to put the beacon in the churchyard. DH to write to PCC. JH to liaise between PC and PCC.

8) Planning:

PF/21/2906 Hunters Light: dealt with under item 6.

9) Financial Report:

The Clerk reported a current credit balance of £5,500. No outstanding invoices.

10) Any other business:

- a) LW: The Queen`s Platinum Jubilee. Events held in Knapton should not clash with other local events. All ideas to be ready by 15th March for inclusion in the Knapton News.
- b) The possibility of the beacon being located in the church grounds was discussed and EW will investigate the possibility with the PCC.
- c) AY asked about placement of flowerpots in the village and it was agreed to investigate cost.
- d) PN: MADRA. The PC has received messages of concern about the current running of MADRA which appears to being run as a private business, rather than a charity. PN asked the PC to sanction his application to join the MADRA Committee as a representative for Knapton. All agreed. PN also asked the PC to sanction him contacting the other parishes involved in MADRA. All agreed. AY suggested asking the other parishes involved with MADRA to send representatives.

11) Date of next Meeting:

Tuesday 1st March.

The meeting closed at 9.30pm