

Knapton Parish Council

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 1 March 2005 in the Village Hall.

Present:

Alan Young (in the Chair)
Norman Dodd
Karen Herbert Okey
David Ross
Dennis Watmuff
Cllr. Jones
Cllr. Northam
and two members of the public

1. Apologies

Henry Wild and David Spencer.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 1 February

David Ross proposed, Karen Herbert-Okey seconded and it was agreed these were a correct record. The Chairman initialled and signed them.

4. Matters Arising

(a) Village Hall Car Park

The Contractor is waiting for an improvement in the weather.
The gardener is to be asked to transplant the remaining hedging.

(b) Trafalgar Weekend

The meeting was thrown open. John Kemp proposed that the Fete Committee erect a 24 foot flagpole on the Millennium field, with a commemorative plaque, and the beacon should be lit. It was suggested that the various groups in the village should form a Nelson Group, with the support of MADRA. NNDC should be notified of this, with John Kemp named as the contact. The Village Hall would be available for refreshments. The Chairman will discuss with Blairs the possibility of their helping to provide the flagpole base. Norman Dodd proposed, Karen HerbertOkey seconded that this project be adopted. It was agreed.

(c) Homewatch Scheme

A dozen names have emerged from initial enquiries. The Clerk was asked to contact the Homewatch Project administrator for dates for a meeting in the Village Hall, and advise members of the Council so that they can encourage attendance.

(d) Retirement of Clerk

After consideration of the applications, it was decided that, in the first instance the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should interview the applicant from Knapton on 9 or 10 March at the Chairman's house.

(e) Bus Shelter

David Ross reported that it is derelict, and hardly used. The Chairman felt the cost of repair would be beyond the Parish Council's means in the immediate future. The Gardener had suggested it could be moved to the garden and used to provide a shelter for the seat in the garden. Bearing in mind Henry Wild's advice to the last meeting that it was donated to the village, the Clerk was asked to write to the Ladies Group, explaining the position and seeking their financial assistance.

(f) Dog Bins

The quotation from the District Council was welcomed, and it was agreed to purchase two bins, after the receipt of the first half-year precept.

5. Finance

(a) The Clerk explained that the Lloyds Bank had been instructed to transfer the balance of account no 727098 to the current account, and that cheques from the Fete Committee and the Village Hall had been paid into that account. It will be necessary to defer payments due in April until the ~ year precept and the VAT repayments are received.

(b) The Clerk's remuneration of £102.87 was authorised.

(c) Other payments: Payment of £56 to Colin Baxter for gardening, £30.55 to Crab Line for advertisements, and £58.75 to the Audit Commission were authorised. However, it was agreed unanimously not to pay the invoice of £300.33 received from CHP Solicitors. The Chairman is to discuss this with the leading partner.

(d) The Audit Commission was satisfied with the Parish Council's annual return.

6. Planning

(a) David Ross agreed to attend the meeting being organised by.: Norman Lamb MP on 17 March.

(b) The application for the erection of a three-bay cart shed at East Barn has been given a conditional approval.

(c) The application for a one and a half storey extension to No 2 Pond Cottages has been withdrawn because of building costs.

7. Correspondence

A request for information by a research group looking at the history of the development of allotments has been received. The Group is to be referred to Henry Wild.

8. Village Matters

(1) The Clerk reported that the Parish liaison policeman is to keep a regular check on speeding on the Mundesley Road for the rest of the year.

(2) Karen Herbert-Okey expressed concern that MADRA had put a chain across the entrance so that the car park cannot be used, nor can the bottle bank be accessed. David Ross is to raise the issue at their next meeting.

9. Reports

(a) David Ross reported attending a well-presented meeting concerning the Shoreline Management Plan at Bacton Village Hall. Three major points emerged: the inadequate research into the effects of dredging, the damaging impact on forward planning of the Government's constant changing of priorities, and the need for a nationwide scheme for compensation.

(b) The Surestart financed playground at MADRA (the Nelson Playground) has been installed and will be officially opened on April 17 by Norman Lamb MP.

(c) Cllr Northam thanked the retiring Clerk for his co-operation and support. He referred to the appointment of a Traffic Manager at NCC and a subsidy of £1.9 million to encourage the use of buses.

(d) CUr Jones referred to the Local Development Framework a consultation exercise to be launched in May, a tax increase restricted to 2.98% and that the Housing Stock Transfer is likely to be approved.

10. Date of next meeting and agenda items.

April 5 - 2005/6 budget, Homewatch Scheme and introduction of new Clerk.