

## **Knapton Parish Council**

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

Present: Alan Young (in the Chair) 12 Members of the Public.  
David Ross  
Norman Dodd  
Karen Herbert-Okey  
Anne-Marie Coe  
Peter Kaye  
David Spencer

### **1. Apologies**

None.

### **2. Declarations of Interest**

None.

### **3. Minutes:**

David Ross proposed that the minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of Knapton Parish Council held on 4 Oct 2005, constituted a true and correct record. Norman Dodd seconded and it was unanimously agreed. The Chairman initialled and signed these minutes.

### **4. Matters Arising**

#### **(a) Allotments**

After the last Parish Council Meeting, the allotment holders had formed a committee and the secretary came along with some allotment holders to put some suggestions to the full Parish Council. Whilst the Parish Council are still awaiting some clarification on several points, it was proposed by David Ross and seconded by Peter Kaye that the charges for 2006 be revised to reflect a more realistic rent. These rents would be £10 per full plot, and £3.50 for part plots. This was carried unanimously. The Parish Council will revise the allotment agreements to reflect the correct sizes and names of allotment holders.

**Action:** Norman Dodd

#### **(b) Sewerage**

The Chairman explained the background to this, and the Clerk explained he had sent letters to North Norfolk District Council (NNDC) Environmental Health, and Anglian Water. Our District Councillor Graham Jones had invited along a representative from NNDC but unfortunately he had been delayed at the last minute. The problem of sewage emanating from an area in front of Suffield and Blind Swan Cottages has been happening since the sewage system for these properties had been separated in 1999 when one of the cottages had been sold. Numerous investigations had taken place by the NNDC, which has still not been able to establish the exact source of the flow. Recently the Parish Clerk had raised the issue again, and NNDC are now actively investigating the problem yet again.

In summary, approx 5 years ago, two cottages in 'The Street' which had been sharing a septic tank had the systems separated. Since this had taken place, sewage is often seen running down the road in front of the cottages. This is not acceptable, and NNDC had on numerous occasions carried out investigations to locate the source of the flow, but the tests had proved inconclusive.

It was thought that the high water table was a contributory factor. However after a lively discussion it was pointed out that what was really required was mains drainage. The Clerk stated he had been in touch with Anglian Water, and they had informed him that several years ago they had surveyed 'The Street' and had sounded local residents out to establish if the laying of the sewer would be economically viable. The replies they had received led them to concluding that not enough residents would take up the offer of being connected. It was thought that this was due in part to the cost of connection, and that some residents had taken remedial action (new drains, and even treatment plants).

Graham Jones encouraged residents to now get together and petition Anglian Water to think again, and at the same time he would contact Norman Lamb MP, who had been involved last time when the problem was first discovered. Meanwhile Graham would continue to work with all agencies to bring about a speedy resolution to this problem.

P.S. The Clerk has received new information about this problem from Norman Lamb MP and the CEO of Anglian Water. This will be brought up at the next Parish Council meeting.

**Action:** Parish Clerk.

## **5. Finance**

### **(a) Statement**

The Clerk outlined the current financial situation which was now looking a lot healthier after the major expenditure during the first part of this year. The precept for the second part of this year had now been received. The Clerk stated he had transferred the sum of £1,000 into the deposit account, ready for the major expenditures during the early part of 2006.

**Action:** None.

### **(b) Bus Shelter**

Initial suggestions were made regarding the siting/erection of a Bus Shelter to replace the last one which after being subjected to numerous attacks by vandals was committed to the Beacon as firewood for the Nelson 200 Celebration. This was carried over until the December meeting to allow further consultation.

**Action:** Parish Clerk.

### **(c) The Clerk's remuneration was authorised.**

## 6. Correspondence

The Clerk stated he had received a letter from the Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC), inviting officials to attend a course in Thetford. The topics covered are *Reducing anti-social behaviour, How risky is your Council business*. The Clerk stated he would like to attend. The Chairman thought this a good idea, and would allow the Clerk to pass on this good information to the rest of the Council.

The Clerk stated we had also been invited to attend a meeting in N.Walsham regarding Rural Transportation. The Chairman, David Ross and Norman Dodd stated they would like to attend.

Another invitation had been received from the Archivist at Norfolk County Council, for any Councillors who would like to visit and view the records for their Parish. Peter Kaye has asked to attend this.

**Action:** Parish Clerk.

## 7. Reports:

### (a) Pigneys Wood

David Ross reported that a Dog Sculpture had been added, and 5 Oaks had been planted in a V shape (for Victory) as part of the Nelson 200 celebrations. The trees were of the same type (straight and tall) used to build HMS Victory. Some gravel footpaths had also been added to facilitate better access for the elderly and less able bodied.

David Ross also stated he had spoken to the contractors responsible for the upkeep of footpaths in the village.

### (b) MADRA

David Ross stated that some money had reportedly been recovered by the committee, and the recent Nelson Celebrations, and the forthcoming Bonfire Night would all help the financial situation. All that had attended the Nelson Night had given good reports on using this as the venue.

It is also understood that NNDC are considering this ground as possible location for an 'all weather' pitch.

The Clerk stated that the Hog Roast provider had donated the sum of £25 from his takings to the Parish Council. It was proposed by David Ross and seconded by Karen Herbert-Okey that this be donated to MADRA. This was carried unanimously.

**Action:** Parish Clerk.

## **Report from Norfolk County Councillor Wyndham Northam**

Councillor Northam kindly comes along to most of Knapton Parish Council meetings and gives an update on what is going on at County Council level.

Budget 2006/7, Last year we were able to produce a budget on a Council Tax increase of just 2.9% this was due to Central Government providing an extra £1Bn plus for local authorities. We are not expecting to receive those extra funds this year which could cause major problems. My Cabinet post involves becoming a Director of Norfolk Contracting Services Ltd and Norfolk Property Consultants Ltd. Both these companies are wholly owned by the County Council, both are making profits which benefits the Council Tax payer. The profit sharing of NCS this year is; £239,625 to the County Council, £41,000 to Gt. Yarmouth B.C. and £30,000 to NNDC. The County Council also benefited by £2.1m on contracts savings, the Police Authority and other District Councils benefited by £1m on contract savings. NPS paid a dividend of £650,000 to the County Council.

I am also Chairman of the Central Procurement Board, the Procurement Unit made savings of £425,000 this year and has set a target of £3m savings over the next 5 years.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Wyndham for this update and declared the meeting closed.

### **8. Date of next meeting and agenda items**

Next meeting to be held on Tues 6 December, at 1930 in the Village Hall.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Chairman**