

## **Knapton Parish Council**

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 7 February 2006 in the Village Hall.

Present: Alan Young (in the Chair)  
David Ross  
Peter Kaye  
David Spencer  
Norman Dodd

County Councillor: Wyndham Northam  
District Councillor: Graham Jones

1 member of Knapton village

### **1. Apologies**

Karen Herbert-Okey, Anne-Marie Coe.

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

None.

### **3. Minutes:**

David Ross proposed that the minutes of the last Ordinary Meeting of Knapton Parish Council held on 3 Jan 2006, constituted a true and correct record. Peter Kaye seconded and it was unanimously agreed. The Chairman initialled and signed these minutes.

### **4. Matters Arising**

#### **(a) Village Bench**

The Chairman (Alan Young), stated that he had recovered this item from the garden of the late Henry Wild. It has been re-worked, but in his view it would not stand up to much use. It was proposed to replace this bench back where it came from in The Street.

**Action:** Chairman

#### **(b) Distribution Folders**

The Chairman (Alan Young) stated that he had noticed that it was taking several weeks to get these folders fully circulated. After discussion it was agreed that from now on the Parish Clerk would distribute all urgent distribution electronically. Items of lesser importance would be circulated in a brightly coloured folder, and the Chairman asked that each Councillor have a maximum of 2 days to pass from one to another.

**Action:** All

(c) **Resignation of Anne-Marie Coe**

The Chairman stated that it was with great regret he had received the resignation from Anne-Marie. The Council agreed that it would be sad to lose her, and wished her and the family all the best for the forthcoming move. The Parish Clerk explained what now had to happen, and had started the procedure off. The Clerk then gave a breakdown of the costs that would be incurred if an election were to be called.

**Action:** Parish Clerk

(d) **MADRA**

The message is coming over that all is not well. The current committee had all resigned. There is to be an extraordinary meeting of members on Thurs (9 Feb) at 1930, to choose a new committee. David Ross and Peter Kaye stated that they would try to attend to get to the bottom of what was going on. It was suggested that this be an item for discussion at the next meeting with a report by those that attended the extraordinary meeting

**Action:** Vice Chairman and Parish Clerk

(e) **Allotment Committee**

The Parish Clerk stated that the secretary of this committee had visited recently to pay the Parish Council an additional £10.50. It appears that the full committee had met and decided that one of the larger allotments would be better split into 3 smaller allotments and rented out at £3.50, hence the sum of £10.50. The Parish Clerk had signed the allotment agreements. The secretary stated that a plan of the allotments had been produced and would be passed to Norman Dodd in due course. The Parish Council endorsed the action taken and praised the Allotment Committee for their action in raising additional revenue.

**5. Finance**

(a) **Statement**

The Clerk outlined the current financial situation. The Parish Clerk also outlined the fact that whilst he was the Responsible Finance Officer, he was not allowed to request a bank statement for he was not a signatory. It was proposed by Peter Kaye and seconded by David Ross that this be rectified by consulting the Bank Manager. This was carried unanimously.

The Clerk stated that the Parish Council had received a revised down bill (part year) for the emptying of the Dog Bin in The Street. This was for the sum of £63.45. It was proposed by D.Ross seconded by P.Kaye that this bill be paid. This was carried.

The Clerks remuneration was agreed.

**Action:** Parish Clerk

## 6. Planning

There was to be a presence at the forthcoming Open Forum on Planning. Graham Jones urged the Parish Council to consider producing a village plan. He would forward details to the Parish Clerk on who to contact.

**Action:** Peter Kay and David Ross, plus Graham Jones and Parish Clerk

## 7. Correspondence

Dealt with throughout meeting under individual headings.

## 8. Village Matters

### (a) Bus Stop

There was discussion regarding the possible pathway across the green which was turned down in the past but their appeared to be no official record. The Clerk is still working on this.

The Parish Clerk stated that he had received news that the bus service may be in jeopardy again. He had taken steps to get in touch with the Area Partnership and we had joined North Walsham in submitting Transport Questionnaires. The Clerk wishes to thank all those that completed and returned these forms at very short notice. The Parish had subsequently been thanked by the Partnership for our timely response.

**Action:** The Parish Clerk

### (b) Annual return

This had now been returned from the Audit Commission with a clean bill of health. The completed forms have now been displayed on the Village notice board. A bill for £141 has been received from the Commission for the work carried out on the Parish Accounts. There is no option, we are legally bound to submit these accounts. It was proposed by D. Spencer seconded by D. Ross that this bill be paid. This was carried.

**Action:** Parish Clerk

### (c) Signage

David Spencer outlined the research he had carried out to get a sign done for Robinsons Loke. The cost is very reasonable at a little over £21. The District Councillor was interested to hear this and it could be a way of cutting costs in the future. It was proposed by David Ross and seconded by Peter Kaye, that David go ahead and the Parish Council would look at funding in conjunction with NNDC at a later date. This was carried unanimously.

### (d) Sewerage

The Chairman (Alan Young) stated the he had spoken to Steve Hammond who owned the field opposite Blind Swan Cottage, and had been informed that the drainage ditch alongside this field was piped. Should this not be highlighted to the powers that be, for it might be possible to pipe the sewage under the road and into the pipe. The Chairmen asked the Parish Clerk to contact Pat Bonham and inform him of this new information.

It has also been noticed that there appears to be an outflow of water across the road near to Grove House in Knapton. The Parish Clerk was asked to contact the householder to see if all was OK.

## **9. Reports:**

### **(a) Norfolk County Council**

Wyndham Northam addressed the Parish Council:

#### **Budget**

It had been assessed that just to "stand still" this year we would need an extra £22m to cover inflationary, fuel, wages etc costs. The Governments new "dampening formula" resulted in them taking away £24m from what we were entitled, that is equal to 9% Council Tax. We now have to make savings of Approx £22m which will result in a reduction of some services and the possible loss of 150 jobs. At the last Cabinet Meeting we decided to recommend to Full Council on the 22nd February a Council Tax increase of 4.99%, this is in line with most other Shire Counties. The loss of £24 m to NCC was the highest in the country, the next highest being £11m

#### **Waste Disposal**

Following extensive investigation the Cabinet has decided to recommend Incineration as the most effective way of disposing non recyclable waste. This method is used extensively in Europe with excellent results which provide by-products such as compost, heat, electricity and fuels. NCC has achieved its 2005/06 recycling target but this still leaves 280,000 tons of waste to be disposed. At present on average householders pay £80 per annum for the collection, disposal and recycling of waste. This amount could double with escalating landfill tax and possible Government fines should we not find a more effective way of waste disposal. The Cabinets recommendation is now out for public consultation.

### **(b) North Norfolk District Council**

Councillor Graham Jones addressed the Parish Council:

#### **Council Tax**

I can confirm, that North Norfolk District Council, share of the Council tax will increase by £4.14p a year [for a band D Council Tax payer] from April and that the County Council are likely to increase theirs by a massive £47.70. In addition the Police will increase theirs by about £8 a year. This would be a huge problem for many people in rural areas. North Norfolk District Council had managed £300,000 of growth by identifying a similar sum in savings. The District Council is working towards a 2.5%, or less, increase next year.

#### **Car Parking Charges**

The District Council is to institute a town shoppers reduced parking fee in the major market towns in order to encourage the use of local shops. This has been something that I have been working on for some two years and was so pleased that my councillor colleagues accepted my arguments. Visitors to the market towns will be able to park for 20 minutes for just 10p. We have budgeted that this will cost some £50,000 a year [in the growth figure above] – I believe that it will be less "with a fair wind!"

## **North Walsham Area Partnership**

I have been asked to serve as a Board Director on the North Walsham Area Partnership which covers Knapton and I will give more information at the next Parish Council meeting.

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

Next meeting to be held on Tues 7 March 2006, at 1930 in the Village Hall.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**Chairman**