

Knapton Parish Council

Minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 6 Feb 2007 in the Village Hall.

Present: Alan Young (in the Chair)
Peter Kaye
David Spencer
Karen Herbert-Okey
Norman Dodd
Sally Dodd

County Councillor Wyndham Northam
Graham Jones (District Councillor)

2 Members of the Public.

Before the meeting got underway the Neighbourhood Policing team involved with Knapton introduced themselves to the Parish Council and answered questions put to them by the Councillors.

1. Apologies – None.

2. Declarations of Interest

MADRA – Norman Dodd
Pigneys Wood – Peter Kaye

3. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held in January were reviewed. Karen Herbert-Okey proposed that these minutes constituted a true record and that they be accepted. This was seconded by Peter Kaye and was carried unanimously. The Chairman initialled and signed these minutes.

4. Matters Arising

(a) **Notice board**

This was reviewed, and Peter Kaye and Parish Clerk will survey the placement area, after which the new notice board can be erected.

Action: Chairman, Peter Kay, Parish Clerk

(b) **Village Plan update**

This was carried over to the March meeting when ALL interested parties are invited to attend.

Action: Parish Clerk

(c) **Finance Funding**

This was discussed at length with an interim meeting being held at Norman and Sally's house on Monday 12th at 7.30pm to discuss Benjamin Foundation, O2, and Lottery funding.

5. Finance Statement

The Parish Clerk outlined the current financial situation. With all known bills paid there is £707.17 in the current account, and £3,752.69 in the deposit account.

The Clerks remuneration was agreed. Plus print costs of £72.32 for leaflets regarding Village Plan etc.

It was proposed by Peter Kaye, seconded by Sally Dodd and carried unanimously.

Action: Parish Clerk

6. Planning

The latest planning application was discussed at length. A member of the public present in the hall voiced her concerns over the fact that NNDC appeared to take no notice of local concerns especially concerning sewage overflow. The Parish Clerk asked Councillor Graham Jones if the Parish council should take a harder line and reject all applications affecting sewage. Councillor Jones asked that this passed to him for action and he would report back soonest.

Update: Planning and building control had now visited the site. The matter of the sewage problem has been highlighted with Councillor Jones asking for the application to be 'called-in' if it did not meet with local approval (as outlined in a letter from the Parish Council to NNDC Planning).

Action: Parish Clerk

7. Correspondence

On circulation.

8. Village Matters

Postcode

The Parish Clerk stated that he was currently trying to obtain approval for a name change to a property recently sold in Hall Lane, and asked for approval in principle of the new name. This was unanimously given, and the Clerk will report back for formal acceptance at a later date.

Action: Parish Clerk

Homewatch

Sally Dodd will call a meeting of all co-ordinators soon to re-establish the reporting structure.

Action: Sally Dodd

9. Reports

Village Website

Norman Dodd reported that the village website www.knapton.eu was now up and running.

Flooding/Waste etc

David Spencer reported that the recent heavy rains had caused the Green to flood again, even though the drains had recently been worked on by Highways. The height sign on the bridge at the bottom of 'the street' had now been replaced. David also kindly offered his services to attend a training course to enable him to become the village Composting Tsar.

Pygneys Wood

Pete Kaye reported that the clean up had taken place and had gone well.

MADRA

Norman Dodd reported that discussions were under way regarding the formation of a new committee.

North Norfolk District Council

Councillor Graham Jones reported that the proposed increase in the NNDC Council Tax was 2.5%.

He invited all those interested in becoming a Councillor at the forthcoming elections, to come to an Open Evening being held in Bacton Village Hall at 7pm.

Graham Jones had also recently attended a meeting of the Local Area Partnership, which had highlighted that many people were unaware or had little knowledge of the local area transport links.

There is still concern about the speed of traffic along the Swafield to Knapton road. The Police were not going to do a speed check for the speed limit on the road is 60mph. In conjunction with other parties including Knapton and Swafield Parish Councils we will be campaigning for a speed reduction to 40mph.

Lastly, the Lifesaving service in the NNDC area will now be controlled and run by the RNLI, this has resulted in a considerable saving.

Norfolk County Council

Councillor Wyndham Northam reported:

Coastal Issues. The Council has written to DEFRA expressing concerns about the proposal to pass Coastal Defence to the Environment Agency.

Last week the Council wrote to the Minister for Climate Change and Environment over the decision to make a cut in the Coastal Defence budget of £5.2 million for the planned beach recharge scheme between Eccles and Winterton.

Fire and Rescue Service.

An overspend of £395,000 during last July's hot spell has been reduced to £250,000 through savings and efficiency. Should there be any overspend at the end of the year this will be covered by the reserve fund.

Bethel Street Fire Station, Norwich

Due to the inability to bring the station up to modern standards a new station and training building will be built opposite County Hall at Martineau Lane. As 1 in 10 call outs are for road traffic accidents this site will give quicker access to the A11, A47 and other major roads.

Budget 2007/08.

At last week's Cabinet Meeting it was decided to recommend to full Council on the 19th February an increase of 4.75% Council Tax, this increase is in line with the majority of County Councils. Had we received the extra £22million the Government stated we required but didn't give us there would have been no need for the increase. Should the full Council agree the recommendation for a Band D property this will mean an increase of 92p per week.

White Paper on Local Government.

Norwich City Council has made a bid for Unitary Status. Following the consultation the County Council carried out 130 Parish /Town Councils responded, 129 opposed the bid supporting the County Council's opposition. If Knapton Parish Council has an opinion on this bid please send by e-mail or letter your observations.

Modern Reward Strategy. The Government's decision on the equal pay strategy is still being discussed. To cover the possible costs we a reserve of £6.2million in 2006/07 and £7.2million in 2007/08 is being recommended.

10. Date of next meeting and agenda items

Next meeting to be held on Tues 6 March 2007, at 1930 in the Village Hall.

Signed _____

Chairman