

Knapton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 1 April 2008 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

Present: Alan Young (in the Chair) Bea Gatfield
Clyte Venvell
Peter Kaye

2 members of the public

Councillor Wyndham Northam, Councillor Graham Jones

1. Apologies

Karen Herbert-Okey, Norman Dodd, Sally Dodd

2. Register of Interests

Bea Gatfield (Newsletter) Peter Kaye (Pygneys Wood).

3. Minutes of last meeting

After having read the minutes of the last meeting, it was proposed by Peter Kaye and seconded by Clyte Venvell that the minutes constituted a true record of events and were carried.

4. Matters arising

Insurance

The Clerk stated that he was in receipt of this invoice for the Parish Council insurance policy. This year the bill was £508.94. The Clerk read out the list of items covered. It was proposed by Clyte Venvell and seconded by Peter Kaye that this bill be paid. This was carried.

Action: Clerk.

5. Financial Report

The Parish Clerk being the RFO stated that Knapton Parish Council currently has £849.69 in the current account and £3,110.67 in the Deposit Account. This was after transferring £1,000 from the deposit account. The Clerks remuneration for the past month was submitted and expenses from Karen Herbert-Okey. It was proposed by Clytes Venvell and seconded by Bea Gatfield that both the accounts and expenses be accepted. This was carried.

The Clerk pointed out that Parish and Town Councils across the country were now making the Clerk and additional signatory on the Bank Account. This was to enable the Clerk to carry out transfers between bank accounts, and it provided additional security fore now 3 signature would be required on each cheque. The Clerk asked the council to consider implementing this in the new financial year. After discussion it was proposed by Clyte Venvell and seconded by Bea Gatfield that this be implemented. This was carried.

NCAPTC

The Clerk outlined the positives of remaining a member of this organisation and asked if the Council would pay this years subscription of £99.82. It was proposed by Clyte Venvell and seconded by Peter Kaye that this be paid and was carried unanimously.

Grass Cutting

The Chairman stated that he had been given the bill for the grass cutting by Andrew Claydon. The Council thought that this was very good value and the Clerk was asked to write to Andrew and thank him for a job well done. It was proposed by Bea Gatfield and seconded by Clyte Venvell that this bill be paid.

Newsletter

The Parish Council would like to publicly thank Tricia Doidge for all the hard work put into producing a really excellent Village Newsletter. We all await the next edition!

6. Planning

Vehicular access to School Close/Hall lane was discussed and agreed.

7. Correspondence

This was on circulation.

8. Village matters

The Clerk stated that Norman Lamb MP had called for a meeting of all the agencies involved in the recent incident and had invited the Parish Councils for the area to the meeting as well. This was planned for 10 am on 21st April. It was proposed that the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Clerk would attend.

Reports

Councillor Wyndham Northam presented the following report to the Parish Council:

Unitary Status: At long last the Boundary Committee has its Terms of Reference. During the consultation period Parish Councils will possibly be asked for their comments on Unitary Authorities. The County Council's Administration would prefer the status quo. It is a well run authority and see no point in many millions of pounds being spent on unnecessary change. Our preferred Unitary Status would be a Single Authority covering the whole of Norfolk including Norwich.

The Bacton Gas Terminal Incident on 28th February 2008: It was pleasing and encouraging to know that the well rehearsed emergency procedures at the Terminal site worked perfectly. The first Fire and Rescue appliance arrived within 8 minutes of the call being received. A total of five appliances, (the pre determined number) attended. The first appliance arrived at 17.53 hours, the fire was under control by 18.15 hours and completely extinguished by 18.30. Having been closely involved with the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service during my time as County Council Cabinet Member for Fire and Community Protection and having made visits to the Terminals I was very

confident the Terminal Operators and the Emergency Services would be able to deal effectively with any incident.

Waterways Rescue: Until recently it hasn't been the responsibility of the Fire and Rescue Service to carry out water rescue even though they have been doing it. This year £284,000 is being set aside to set up a properly equipped and trained unit.

Norfolk and Norwich Hospital: During the last couple of months there been quite a lot of media coverage and, I think, unnecessary criticism of the shortage of beds at the hospital. When the hospital was planned it was on the basis of the County demography at the time. Since then there has been a dramatic increase of Eastern European immigrants which has placed severe pressures on the hospital service. At Peterborough where all the public services are under pressure due to the immigrant population the hospital has had to send patients to Norwich. We are told the number of births in immigrant families exceeds that of the indigenous population.

Blue Badges: Anyone who wishes to apply for a Blue Badge can obtain an application guide leaflet by telephoning 0870 1226 236.

Councillor Graham Jones presented the Parish Council with the following report:

Environment

The latest corporate strategy will contain a new organisational theme which requires the Council to become more environmentally minded in the way in which it operates its services. The new wording was composed by Helen Dixon, our environmental policy officer, and it goes like this:

Becoming an Environmentally Sustainable Council

As an Environmentally Sustainable Council we will respect the limits of the planet's environment, resources and biodiversity, seek to improve the environment and ensure that the natural resources needed for life are unimpaired and remain so for future generations. We recognise the need to become a community leader in taking action to both mitigate the causes of Climate Change and adapt to its likely consequences. This will involve reducing our use of physical resources, reducing our emissions of greenhouse gasses and protecting and restoring biodiversity.

We will lead the District by example through embedding Environmental Sustainability in the management of our own estate and when delivering our key services including planning and housing. In our role as a community leader we will provide advice, leadership and support to community groups and the public to enable them to become more Environmentally Sustainable.

Thanks to Simon Partridge, the Chief Executive now has in addition a specific objective which should ensure that the requirements of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act are incorporated into the workings of North Norfolk District Council.

Planning

The pre inquiry meeting for the Sheringham supermarket application will take place next Wednesday afternoon. Roger Howe has worked tirelessly to bring together a team of experts to work on our behalf. The inquiry will begin on July 1st at the District Council. I know that

representations have been made to the effect that the inquiry should take place in Sheringham, but there are many advantages to conducting the inquiry at the Cromer office. In the first place, files will be more easily available. They won't have to be carried back and forth every day for what will be a long inquiry and, if anything new is needed, then it can be found quickly. Secondly, the timings will be unpredictable - witnesses and the public will need comfortable premises in which to wait and watch the proceedings. Finally, the inspector doesn't intermingle much with other people so she will need a small office of her own where she can work or eat a sandwich.

Street Signs

We are at present looking into the possibility of raising a Capital amount of money to bring up to date all the St Signs in North Norfolk. There are approximately 1100 plates in some need of Replacement or repair in North Norfolk. In Sheringham alone 45 signs are in need of attention. 21 Totally Missing, 14 Vandalised. Vandalism is the most significant reason causing these problems. The present Fire fighting activity is not addressing the ongoing issue. We feel the only way to significantly sort this problem would be to fund a Project and get all signs done at once, leaving maintenance to be done on a routine basis. It is worth mentioning that the replacement process is not a simple one, it entails, responding to a report, Site Survey, Order Signs, Erection. We have undertaken issuing Parish and Town Councils with Information in a newsletter form, on their area. Giving details of signs missing or in need of repair, and asking for further Information if any.

Stray Dogs

An Animal Control Working Group is looking into this issue. In April 2008 total Responsibility for Stray Dogs will pass to Local Authorities, historically this has been a joint responsibility with the Police and Districts. Dangerous Dogs still remain the Responsibility of the Police. Currently the service costs NNDC £3.5K annually for rental of Kennels at North Walsham. This guarantees places for Stray Dogs in the NNDC area. Monies will be available for this change by Government, but is expected will fall short of requirement. Stray Dogs are not a huge problem in NN district, this year 68 dogs were seized, most of which were claimed by their owners.

Pest Control

The Animal Control Working Group are at the moment looking into Pest Control. A Survey has been carried out to determine what was the possible Rat population of the Area. This is a very Informative Document and has some surprising findings. Surveys were carried out at Sutton, Sidestrand and Sheringham. The Group will be looking at the best and most efficient way to provide a Service in North Norfolk.

District Wide Dog Control Orders

Consultation on these Issues has been ongoing. North Norfolk will adopt a District Wide Order, which means that owners must clear up behind their dogs anywhere in the District. We would like to see 'Dog Banned' areas in particular Sports Fields and Play Parks.

The Placing of Goods and Amenities on Highways

These issues raised their head last year with the (Jolly Butcher) Advertisement placed on the pavement at Cromer. Following these complaints sent to NCC Highways, meetings have taken place between NNDC, Highways, Cromer Town Council and Cromer Chamber. A code of practice is being drawn up for Cromer Town Centre, if this proves successful; it will be extended to other town centres. Under the terms of the code there will be a small charge for a licence to place recognised type of goods and signs on the Pavement. Street Furniture, hoardings, Scaffolding etc will continue to be controlled by County Highways.

Licensing

Government have issued published evidence on the 2005 Implementation of the new Alcohol and Licensing Act. The main conclusion is that people are using the freedoms this has given, but are not using the considerable powers granted by the Act to tackle Anti Social Behaviour problems, and that there is a need to rebalance actions towards Enforcement and crack down on irresponsible behaviour. Suggesting that the Introduction has not led to more widespread problems that were feared. Crime and Alcohol Consumption are down, but Alcohol Related Violence has increased in the early hours. Also average closing times across all licensing premises has increased by only 20 minutes since the Act came into effect. Central Government suggest they will push for the existing powers to be used to better effect and if necessary bring in new laws to make it easier to Review Premises where local intelligence suggests there is a problem.

Waste

We are trialling collections of trade food waste starting in April. This service will mean all Trade food waste, including meat, which would normally be placed in the rubbish collection bin can now be placed in a separate 240-litre wheeled bin. Because the Local site is not ready to receive green waste and food for Composting, it will initially go to Landfill. Once we have this site in place and the whole scheme up and running we hope to bring the service to the ordinary householders using the brown bins which currently contain garden waste. What is surprising is that 25% of our rubbish is food waste.

We in North Norfolk are recycling 45% of our household rubbish, and what's also very positive is that our contamination rate has halved in the last year. Remember, more contamination makes recycling more expensive.

POLICE AUTHORITY

The New Police Operational Deployment Base, which is due to be developed at the entrance to the NNDC offices, is well under way and hopefully due for completion by the end of 2009.

The new force Structure changes are well under way. Norfolk now has 7 areas Units Led by a Superintendent. The Superintendent for our area (same as NNDC) is Supt Dave Marshall. Our area is made up of 7 Safer Neighbourhood Teams. We hope the teams will deliver Local Solutions to Local Problems, Of course the key to that is the Involvement of the Community.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 9.15 pm.

Signed _____ Alan Young (Chairman Knapton Parish Council)

