

# Knapton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 3rd November, 2009 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

**Present:** Alan Young (in the chair), Clyde Vennell, Sally Dodd, Karen Herbert-Okey, Peter Kaye, Lorraine Shakespeare, Tricia Doidge and 4 members of the public.

County and District Councillor: Graham Jones

## 1. Apologies:

None

## 2. Register of Interests:

Clyde Vennell (Griffon Area Partnership, Village Hall), Karen Herbert-Okey (Homewatch and Police Liaison), Peter Kaye (Planning Liaison and Pigneys Wood), Alan Young (Bus Shelter), Tricia Doidge (Newsletter and Footpath)

## 3. Minutes of Last Meeting:

After reviewing the minutes of the meeting held on the 6 Oct, it was proposed by Peter Kaye and seconded by Clyde Vennell that they represented a true record of events. This was carried.

## 4. Matters arising:

### Bus Shelter

Sally Dodd had reviewed the paperwork regarding the survey and reported that this survey was to be carried out AFTER the shelter had been built to determine usage. After discussion it was decided that the Chairman would approach Karl Rands regarding the placement of this shelter on the original base and the Clerk would contact Norfolk County Council to determine the way forward.

**Action:** Chairman and Parish Clerk

### Playground

This was now in a bit of a state regarding the fence posts etc and Sally Dodd requested it be closed. After discussion it was decided to get the Chairman to contact MADRA and talk with them on how best this area be brought up to an acceptable standard.

**Action:** Chairman

## Standing Orders

These were discussed in particular paragraphs 3, 4, and 46. It was proposed by Sally Dodd and seconded by Peter Kaye that the current Standing Orders be reissued as they currently stood. This was carried.

**Action:** Clerk

## **Your Parish**

Several proposals were considered, but the most appropriate was thought to be the Friday Coffee Morning. It was proposed by Clyte Venvell and seconded by Peter Kaye that funding be applied for from the Your Parish source. This was carried.

**Action:** Clerk/Sally Dodd

## **5. Financial Report:**

The Clerk reported that the balances in the deposit and current accounts with Lloyds TSB as of Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009, were £4331.40 and £2,754.31 respectively.

The Clerk explained that Peter Gray from the Allotment Assoc had been to see him and paid £119.50 for the rent of the village allotments. There had been some re-organisation and they had been able to offer 3 people from the waiting list the chance of taking up an allotment. When this had been finalised another £14 will be due to be paid.

The Clerks remuneration of £107.60 was agreed.

It was proposed by Peter Kaye and seconded by Sally Dodd the financial report be accepted. This was carried.

## **Vote of thanks:**

Knapton Parish Council wish to record their appreciation to Peter Gray and the Knapton Allotment Association for their prudent running of the allotments, and recently after some re-organisation had cleared the waiting list for allotments in the parish.

## **6. Planning:**

**Nil.**

## **7. Correspondence**

The Chairman, Clyte Venvell and Pete Kaye stated they would be attending the Council Annual Conference in Cromer on the 11 Nov.

## **Poppy Wreath**

There was an opportunity for the Parish Council to lay a wreath at the Village Memorial at the forthcoming Remembrance Day service. The cost of the wreath would be £15. It was proposed by Peter Kaye and seconded by Sally Dodd that this should be done. This was carried unanimously.

**Action:** Parish Clerk

## **8. Councillors reports**

- **Footpath Project**

Tricia Doidge said that she was going to start up this project again, so was looking for volunteers to help. She would shortly approach the relevant landowners to get their views. Tricia also asked for the quest for Mains Drainage be started up again. This will be on the agenda for the December meeting of KPC.

**Newsletter:** Tricia asked for all submissions for the forthcoming newsletter be with her by the 23 November at the latest.

- **Peter Kaye – Pigneys Wood:** The Trustees of the wood were very pleased to have a Police presence to try and stop mindless acts of vandalism and damage to this area.

Peter Kaye along with the Chairmen has recently attended a presentation regarding the new developments being proposed at the Shell site and Bacton Terminal in general. The Shell investment at Bacton is approximately £200m, ENI £1bn and the investment by Perenco/Centrica has still to be declared. It will be more than Shell but probably less than ENI. Perenco/Centrica and ENI are building gas storage facilities utilising depleted wells and a major part of their work will take place offshore although on shore work is also involved. Shell's works involve revamping processing plant at the terminal itself and take place above ground. Additionally a new high voltage line, 11Kva, will be installed between the Knapton electricity sub-station and the gas terminal to cope with the increased power demand resulting from these works. This latter, we were told, will replace/augment the existing line and will involve works resulting in improved security of supply to the area as well as improving security from external threat. All works are expected to be complete by autumn 2015 (Shell) and 2013 (Perenco/Centrica). ENI are expected to complete their works at about the same time.

- **MADRA:** The Chairman asked Lorraine Shakespeare to be the KPC representative to MADRA. Lorraine will take up this post with immediate effect.
- **Karen Herbert-Okey – Police/Neighbourhood Watch**

A meeting took place in North Walsham to discuss the previous three items and to set future ones.

PCSO Knight reported that Pigney's Wood had 33 patrols done within the eight week period. There was one incident when youths were moved on and told to clear up the rubbish that was dropped.

The other two items covered North Walsham, one was parking at dropped kerbs where 2 fixed penalty notices were given. The other was at Midland Road relating to commercial premises.

Items for the next 8 weeks were then proposed and agreed.

- **Sally Dodd:** Sally stated she had recently done a litter pick in the general area of MADRA and part of Hall Lane; the amount of litter collected was substantial. We will maybe have to make litter picks a regular feature. Can we ask MADRA for some assistance in keeping this litter down.

- There had been some complaints received about the external light on the house at the corner of School Close being dangerous to road users and also to some houses in Hall Lane. The Council will seek guidance.
- Clyte Venvell gave an update on the last GAP meeting she had attended. Essentially the content was similar to AGM with the topics discussed being the Community Bank and Town Centre Manager. The next meeting will be on the 24 Nov.

The Chairman opened the meeting to the floor.

Items discussed were speeding in Hall lane and thanks to the team who completed the road repairs ahead of time. The Clerk stated he would write a letter.

Councillor Jones submitted the following County and District report:

- The County Council has a financial hole of some £150 million for next year and is desperately finding ways to make cuts. Unfortunately a large part of the revenue budget is involved in Social Services and the Children's Services and the cuts will impact very badly on the vulnerable members of society such as the elderly, disadvantaged children, the disabled and so forth. You will have read about the plans to close 10 day centres [currently deferred for a month or so to consider representations made following massive protests]. These centres are vital for a whole range of vulnerable and often lonely people but also for the carers who look after them – the day centres give the carers a vital respite from their duties.
- You will be aware that the County Council managed to invest £32million of our money in the Icelandic Banks. So far they have managed to retrieve about £2million and are "hopeful" that they may retrieve up to £26million over the next few years. They have written off some £6.5million as likely to be irrecoverable! In reply to a question that I asked the Conservative leader Daniel Cox said the loss of interest amounted to £1.2million a year – that would have been more than enough to keep 10 day centres open.
- The Conservative majority at County are trying very hard to stifle debate – the "twin hatters" issue was just one example of this. Paul Morse the Lib Dem Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee wanted this to be examined and debated but was overruled by the Conservative majority. It is not a healthy picture for the democratic process.
- I have been appointed a Trustee of the County Councils Pension Funds which is a fascinating role. I am also a board member of the County Council's Procurement body called Epos which is based in Leicester.
- I have toured the Division with Karl Rand of the Highways Department and highlighted various issue raised by Parish Councils. I have emailed all the clerks with the responses from Karl.
- The highways footpaths repair budget has been halved.
- There are serious issues about the Siren System and the Lib Dem group is taking this up. It is sad that the Conservatives appear to have reneged on their election promise to fight to retain the Sirens.

District Council

- We have now achieved a balanced budget for 2009/2010 after a series of exercises in which we have had to make savings of £500,000.
- The following year looks bleaker with a further £500,000 of savings required on an annual turnover of less than £18million

- We are going through an exercise to create a new refuse collection service as the current contract is due to expire. We are hopeful of doing this jointly with Kings Lynn and in the process achieve savings of some £300,000.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Alan Young (Chairman Knapton Parish Council)