

# Knapton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 5 January, 2010 in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

**Present:** Alan Young (Chair), Clyde Venvell, Sally Dodd, Karen Herbert-Okey, Peter Kaye, Lorraine Shakespeare, Tricia Doidge.

County and District Councillor: Graham Jones.

Four members of the public.

## 1. Apologies:

Peter Holtam, Parish Clerk.

## 2. Declaration of Interests:

Clyde Venvell (Griffon Area Partnership, Village Hall, Mundesley Visitors' Centre), Karen Herbert-Okey (Homewatch and Police Liaison), Peter Kaye (Planning Liaison and Pigneys Wood), Alan Young (Bus Shelter), Tricia Doidge (Newsletter and Village Plan).

## 3. Minutes of Last Meeting:

After reviewing the minutes of the meeting held on the 1 Dec 2009, it was proposed by Sally Dodd and seconded by Peter Kaye that they represented a true record of events. This was carried.

## 4. Matters arising:

No further action to report re the Bus Shelter, the War Memorial or Mains Drainage (all to appear on the agenda for the next meeting).

Your Parish: Sally Dodd reported that an application has been made (the closing date being the end of 2009). If this application proves unsuccessful, Griffon Area Partnership will be contacted re their 'small grants to Parishes'.

## 5. Financial Report:

In the absence of the Parish Clerk, no financial information was available.

A bill for the grass cutting has been presented. This is in the region of £534, although an accurate figure was not available at the meeting. It was proposed by Sally Dodd and seconded by Peter Kaye that this bill be paid. This was carried.

## 6. Planning Proposals:

The planning application for the MADRA containers to be retained has been approved by the Parish Council and this has been communicated to NNDC.

## 7. Correspondence:

There was no correspondence for discussion.

## 8. Village Matters:

**Millennium Field and Garden:** Clyde Venvell requested that we continue to explore maintenance options. Tricia Doidge will contact Peco and Peter Kaye will speak to North Norfolk Workout Project Leaders (who are currently working at Pigneys Wood) and Elaine Roberts from the Scouts (who have volunteered to help at Pigneys Wood).

**Action:** Tricia Doidge & Peter Kaye

**Village Plan:** The Chairman requested that the Village Plan appear on every agenda with itemised headings. Tricia Doidge will provide the Parish Clerk with a list of headings for the next agenda.

**Action:** Tricia Doidge

**Salt Bins:** Lorraine Shakespeare has made an enquiry to the County Council re obtaining further salt bins for the village. The reply was that we could purchase salt bins and they would be filled by the Council (although it was not clear whether a charge would be made for this service). Alan Young will obtain quotes from builders' merchants for salt bins and Graham Jones will ascertain whether a charge will be made by the Council for filling them.

**Action:** Alan Young & Graham Jones

## 9. Councillors reports:

- **GAP (Clyde Venvell)**  
The Gap meetings are still very poorly represented by parishes other than Knapton and Mundesley. It was suggested that each parish should have a GAP representative who is enthusiastic about the project, and that all details about meetings and events should be sent directly to them. (Currently all GAP correspondence is sent to the Parish Clerks and there was concern that not all Clerks might be as efficient as ours in passing information to Parish Council members).
- **Pigneys Wood (Peter Kaye):**  
Pigneys Wood has won two awards – a Biodiversity Award and a Lottery Grant of £47,350. The Lottery Grant will be used for a track from the car park to the barn; renovation of footpaths for improved disability access; a new scrape; agricultural storage.  
The green burial ground is still under discussion.  
E-Forests have been contacted about the possibility of supplying some hedgerow trees to the village. We urgently require a tree survey – Peter Kaye will contact Peter Croot with a view to this being carried out in February or March.

**Action:** Peter Kaye

- Karen Herbert-Okey – Police/Neighbourhood Watch  
The Chairman thanked Karen Herbert-Okey for her time and effort in such regular attendance and efficient reporting of meetings with the police.  
It was suggested by a member of the public that the Community Police Officer might occasionally come to Parish Council Meetings to answer questions and this option will be explored.

**Action:** Karen Herbert-Okey

The Chairman then opened the meeting to the floor.

Items discussed were the lack of road gritting during the past few weeks when the weather has been particularly bad; repair of road signs (which Graham Jones assured us would be completed in the next few months); the Village Hall light being left on; Community Police; failure to cut back hedges, particularly on Hall Lane (Alan Young will look into this matter).

**Councillor Jones submitted the following County and District report:**

County Council:

The failure to grit pathways was a major issue across the Division especially in Mundesley. I shall be asking the following questions at the meeting of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee on Wed 6<sup>th</sup> January:-

The failure of the County Council to grit key areas of Mundesley during the recent snow and ice led to a significant number of falls including at least 4 visits to the hospital and a number of minor injuries. One of the fallers was an elderly lady of 74 who sustained a swollen knee injury and a bruised elbow. There was no gritting at all in the important Station Road or Back Street and that included roads and footpaths. These roads and footpaths were like an ice rink. Given that these are vital links to the Doctors surgery and the County Council's own Mundhaven Care Home will the Panel respond to the following questions:-

Question 1

- Assuming that the County Council accept that the gritting of roads and footpaths such as those described is a mark of a forward thinking civilised and caring authority who are mindful of the well being of its inhabitants, can the Panel advise of what planning, particularly in the area of risk assessment, took place prior to the adverse weather event that would enable these areas to be rendered reasonably safe for the inhabitants of Mundesley?

Question 2

- Given the serious risk to life and limb will the Panel order an immediate review of its plans for the gritting of these two areas of Mundesley and a county wide review of other areas ensuring that it consults widely in this respect, especially with local members, District and Parish Councils and local farmers.

The effectiveness of the recent Cars campaign involving stickers appears to have been something of an expensive failure and I expect to be raising this at a future County Council meeting.

Budgets are currently being put together against a background of serious shortages of funds and I can only repeat my advice to please keep an eye out for the elderly and vulnerable.

#### District Council Report January 2010

- a. There has been a serious issue with the County Council in respect of the income from second homes that has been ring fenced for use as affordable housing in the North Norfolk District. With no consultation and after the District Council had set a balanced budget the County Council has reneged on its agreement and transferred these funds for use in infrastructure work for housing in places like Thetford, Kings Lynn. This is clearly a deliberate right wing policy change to benefit their own areas at a cost to the rural district of North Norfolk. We now have to identify further savings of some £250,000 for next year which will be a major difficulty,
- b. The district council has been receiving considerable plaudits for the quality of the refuse collection service including praise from a Cromer resident on a radio 2 phone in programme.

The public were then asked to leave while the Councillors reviewed a discussion paper re the Parish Council Accounts and Administration Reporting Procedures. It was agreed that the Chairman should meet with the Parish Clerk for further input and to discuss a change in the presentation of financial reports at each meeting, to ensure simple year-end accounts.

#### **10. Items for the next agenda:**

Bus Shelter; War Memorial; Mains Drainage; Millennium Field & Garden; Village Plan (as itemized list); Salt Bins; Tree Survey; Hedge Cutting.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

The next meeting will be on Tues 2 Feb 2010 at 1930 in the Village Hall.

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