

Knapton Parish Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday 6 Sept, 2011 in the Village Hall at 7.30pm.

1. **Present:** Sally Dodd (Chair), Lorraine Shakespeare, Norman Dodd, Bea Gatfield, Mary Allen, John East. 21 members of the public were also present. Mr Graham Jones District/County Councillor was also present.

The meeting was declared open at 1930 by the Chair who welcomed all to the meeting.

2. **Apologies:** David Gale.

3. **Declaration of Interests:**

Sally Dodd – Composting/Gas Liaison
Norman Dodd-MADRA, F/Paths & Allotments
Lorraine Shakespeare –Home Watch/GAP
John East – Village Hall.
David Gale – TBD
Clerk – Planning

The Chair invited the Parish Councillors both old and new to introduce themselves and outline their goals and aspirations for the new council. This was carried out with all Councillors wishing to do their best by the village.

4. **Minutes of the previous meeting**

After reviewing the minutes of the last meeting and making one minor correction, it was proposed by Lorraine Shakespeare and seconded by Norman Dodd that they constituted a true record of events. This was carried unanimously.

Matters arising:

Bug Hotel - Millenium Garden: Lorraine Shakespeare has been in contact with Mark Webster, and our needs will be factored into the programme. Lorraine will advertise this event nearer the time, but it will be held in October or November and we will go for another combined working day to bring things up to scratch.

Action: Vice Chair

MADRA/Play Equipment

This was an emotive issue and one likely to cause some dissention in the room. In view of this it was proposed by Lorraine Shakespeare and seconded by Norman Dodd, that this item be discussed in closed session. This was unanimously agreed.

Dog Fouling

John East stated that he had received many complaints about dogs being allowed to foul the MADRA fields. During discussions it appeared there were dual standards, dogs should not be allowed on the fields, yet dogs were seemingly allowed when the field was given over to caravans in the past few weeks. KPC will contact MADRA to make its feelings known.

Action: Parish Clerk

Hedges

The Clerk stated he was now in receipt of three quotes for the cutting of the hedges and grass boundary. They ranged from over £1000 down to £240. With the Councils permission he will contact the lowest

quote to get the work done. It was proposed by John East and seconded by Bea Gatfield that this be done. This was carried unanimously.

Action: Parish Clerk

5. Financial update.

The Clerk stated that the monies held in the accounts were as follows:

Current Account: £504.51

Deposit Account: £3000.47

The council agreed the following payments:

Clerk's remuneration: £207.80

Web hosting (N. Dodd) £ 43.14

Mazars (Audit) £162.00

The Clerk stated it would be good to include the new Precept request under this heading. He reminded the Council that with the latest increase in verge/hedge cutting this would add an additional cost of around £300 per annum. However, he thought that the Council could manage without increasing the Precept. It was proposed by John East and seconded by Lorraine Shakespeare that the precept remains the same. This was carried unanimously.

It was proposed by Norman Dodd and seconded by Bea Gatfield that the financial update be accepted, and the expenditure agreed. This was carried unanimously.

Action: Parish Clerk

6. Planning

The Vice Chair stated she was in receipt of a planning application (PF/11/0639) for another minor addition to the plans already agreed. The Vice Chair stated she had consulted with likely parties that could be affected and nobody had any objections at all. It was proposed by Lorraine Shakespeare and seconded by Bea Gatfield that the plans be accepted. This was carried unanimously.

Action: Vice Chair

7. Correspondence

The Clerk stated he was in receipt of a letter from the Village Hall Committee asking for a representative from the Parish Council. This had already been dealt with at the first meeting of the new council some two months ago. At that meeting, John East had agreed to be the representative and had contacted them but did not get a reply. The Clerk was asked to reply to the Village Hall Committee.

Action: Parish Clerk

8. Village Matters

Allotments (1)

KPC had met with the allotment committee within the past year, to discuss and forewarn the Committee that it intended to put the allotment rental up to £15 per annum (different sized plots – pro rata) as discussed at, and unanimously carried by the Council in 2010. The Clerk had invited the Secretary to come along to this meeting as there had been certain activities taking place on the allotments that concerned the Parish Council. The Chair stated that bonfires had been lit and left unattended, household waste was being burnt on bonfires and latterly a substantial shed had been erected without discussion with the Parish Council as stipulated in the Allotment Agreement signed by every Allotment Holder.

As this was being outlined, some allotment holders and their secretary caused some disruption in the hall. At one stage the secretary of the Allotment Committee stood up and interrupted the Chair of the Parish

Council refuting what had taken place. He was asked to be seated and remain quiet. After further discussion Norman Dodd sought to ask a question of the Allotment Secretary to which a bad tempered reply was offered intimating that he had already been asked to keep quiet. In view of this the Council moved on to the next item on the agenda.

The meeting was closed at 2005.

9. Councillors Reports

Footpaths

Green lane needed attention, the Parish Clerk said that he would talk with Andrew and see what could be done. Chair stated NCC should be contacted to request this lane be cleared.

Action: Parish Clerk

Councillor Jones:

Bacton Park and Ride – this is now classed as a major application and will be discussed on the 13 Oct along with the Magic Museum.

Speed restrictions – Norman Lamb MP is asking for local communities to be able to have a say in the setting of speed limits.

Rights of way – the council were dropping funding for keeping these clear, however there is a legal requirement for this to be undertaken under section 56 of the Highways Act.

GAP - Funding for this useful partnership will cease from April 2012. This will have a serious impact on the Disabled and Voyager enterprise, which will need to further support to keep going.

Greenbuild – get involved, it is good for free compost!

Allotments (2)

It appeared to KPC that certain elements of the Allotment Holders present were determined to make things unpleasant. The Allotment Secretary directly confronted the Chair of KPC and Councillor Dodd, stating that it was only themselves that had issues with the allotments. No reply to this statement was given by the Council. It was obvious the meeting could not move forward and the Chair asked for the room to be cleared, after further accusations being levelled at the Chair of Knapton Council the room was eventually cleared.

MADRA/ Play equipment

The discussion resumed after it had been earlier agreed to hold the discussion in closed session. The Council discussed the current situation at length and it was proposed by John East and seconded by Mary Allan that a letter be sent from KPC to the appropriate person(s).

10. Items for the next agenda: Meet with Allotment Committee

The next meeting will be held in the Village Hall on Tuesday 1 Nov 2011 at 1930.

Signed _____ Sally Dodd (Chairperson Knapton Parish Council)

Dated _____