

## **KNIGHTON ON TEME PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2014/2015.**

### **MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICES.**

Details of members of the Council are given at the end of this report. A vacancy arose early in the year when Mr Chris Dell resigned having been elected a District Councillor. A further vacancy arose in October when Mrs Jane Hogan resigned. Both were wished well and thanked for their valuable service, in Jane Hogan's case, service of many years. The vacancies were filled by co-option of Dr Roger Lear in October and by Mr Jonathan Barnes in January. At the meeting on 6th May 2013, Mr John Rugman was elected Chairman, and Mr Clive Bevan was elected Vice-Chairman.

### **MEETINGS.**

Agendas and minutes are placed on village notice boards and copies are available on request to the Clerk to the Parish Council.

There were 12 meetings during the year. The Council met all planning application deadlines during the period. The attendance level of Councillors at the monthly meetings was 67% against 71% in the previous year. A member of the public attended 3 meeting. Ken Pollock of the County Council attended 5 meetings and sent reports to a number of others. Chris Dell attended 6 meetings in that capacity.

The Council wishes to encouraged attendance by members of the public who are given an opportunity to participate during the informal Public Question Time.

### **COMMUNICATIONS.**

Agendas, minutes, the annual report and other documents of interest, are posted on notice boards and in the Parish Room. Since January this information is also entered on the My Parish Website. The Worcestershire edition of County Association of Local Councils (CALC) are circulated to all Councillors via email which is also used for agendas, attachments, and draft minutes.

### **PLANNING AND HOUSING.**

Nine planning applications were received and considered, compared with 6 in the previous year; objections were raised to 2 of the applications.

This process is seen as adding a valuable local dimension to planning approval procedures; the Public Question Time at the start of each meeting gives the opportunity for parishioners to give their views to the Council before it discusses an application. The issue to the Parish Council of hard copies of planning application documents was discontinued during the previous year and all information is now sent electronically and projected during the meeting so that they can be seen by everyone present, this works satisfactorily.

The Council has been keeping under review the subject of affordable housing but there was nothing to report during the year.

### **HIGHWAYS.**

Requests for attention to potholes and gully problems have been passed to the relevant department. No action is taken on potholes which are assessed by the Highway Department as minor, and so the Council concentrates on reporting defects which are likely to meet their criteria.

Complaints on dog fouling on roads paths around the village remained at a relatively low level but there it became clear during the litter pick (see below) that there is room for further improvement thorough continued consideration and exercise of good practice by dog owners. There was a Litter Pick event in April with 19 participants on

the day and subsequently, and thanks are due to those who took part and to regular walkers who pick up what they can during the year. The amount of litter picked up was about half that in previous years and the amount on our verges was certainly the lowest since we have been running this activity.

The Lengthsman Scheme operated very satisfactorily through the year, and funding has been granted for the coming year. Under this scheme the Parish Council takes direct responsibility for minor highways problems such as clearing gully grates, digging out blocked gullies, clearing verge grips, advising landowners and frontages when their ditches need cleaning or where overhanging vegetation needs cutting back, cleaning and clearing signs and similar tasks. The tasks are carried out by the appointed contractor directed by the Clerk, and the costs are recovered from the County Council.

There has been substantial activity on signing and clearing footpaths during the year. A small independent volunteer action group is being formed to help with any footpath matters. The Council is in process of addressing a number of suggestions on how to encourage good practice by all users of public footpaths in the village.

#### **FINANCE.**

The internal audit system introduced a few years ago continues to operate efficiently. Payments during the year totalled £6760.06 (previous year £6421.71); income for the year was £7068.28 (previous year £7508.20) The balance carried forward to 2015/16 was £6350.58 The Precept for the year 2015/16 has been set at £4520, down from £4820 in the previous year).

Grants to local providers of services totalled £600, £150 each to Teme Span, CAB, PCC Churchyard, and Lindridge Pre- School.

#### **PROPERTY.**

Nothing to report.

#### **PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS:**

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Clerk to the Council Mrs Karen Yates [kd.yates@virgin.net](mailto:kd.yates@virgin.net) 810817.

John Rugman

Chairman

April 2015.