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**The minutes of Knighton on Teme Parish Council Extraordinary Meeting  
held virtually at 7pm on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2021**

**Present:** Cllrs R Lear, K Redfern, D Hubbard, E Mapp. J Barnes

**In attendance:** Clerk, Mrs Karen Yates.

Mrs K Redfern chaired the meeting.

**1 Apologies.**

**2 Register / Declarations of Interest.**

**Dispensations**

**Public Question Time**

**3 Broadband issues in the parish** – to consider a community scheme to improve speeds.

For some residents, broadband speeds have always been slow, this has become more of an issue recently due to lockdown and home-schooling. A UK Government grant in the form of a voucher scheme is available to residents and businesses if their speeds are less than 100mbps.

We have been discussing this with Worcestershire Council, in addition the Chairman and Clerk had a virtual meeting with a resident at Pensax who is going through a community scheme with a few residents and whose input was very helpful. The scheme aims to upgrade everyone on ageing copper lines or low speeds. Depending on take-up within the community, a Parish Council scheme for most of the parish or a Community Scheme for just certain residents can be considered.

An expression of interest is made to BT Openreach who will quote for the job, after which the vouchers can be applied for and given as ‘payment’. The project is likely to last 2 years until completion.

It was established that there is one exchange coming into the parish, as grants can only apply to each exchange, the further away from the exchange you are, least likely to receive fibre optic.

Residents need to discuss this with their current provider as only some providers are signed up for fibre optic, there may be a need to change supplier and ongoing contractual arrangements/costs are the responsibility of individuals.

Demand needs to be established, there are approximately 300 properties -the Clerk had circulated a list of addresses via the Royal Mail postcode finder. It was agreed to hand deliver a letter to each property and place boxes around the parish to be collected on 1<sup>st</sup> February, to be further discussed at our next meeting. All members were reminded of the current COVID rules and masks should be worn and safe distancing applied where necessary.

Costs were approximated at £200 to cover printing, Clerks extra hours and the purchase of boxes.

A letter and contract will be drafted by the Chairman & Clerk based on the templates received and circulated to all for agreement. All members present agreed to deliver these to sections of the parish. The Clerk to purchase and put up boxes at Wyrebrook, The Forge, NB, Parish Rooms and the kiosk for collection of forms.

**4 Safety along A456, Newnham Bridge.**

a D Hubbard had circulated possible areas in Newnham where speed signs could be placed, it was thought that either on the bridge or just before the bus stop sign travelling from Worcester to Tenbury on the left hand side. D Hubbard to send the Clerk further photos of these areas to send to Highways to seek their permission to place a sign on the highway.

**5 Councillors’ reports and items for future agenda.**

**6 Date of next virtual meeting:** 7pm on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2021.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8pm.

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date .....