

## **KNIGHTON ON TEME PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2015/2016.**

### **MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICES.**

Details of members of the Council are given at the end of this report. In November, Mr Duane Hubbard was co-opted to fill the vacancy on the Council. At the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015, 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. They are also shown on the website detailed below.

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 79% against 67% in the previous year. A total of 20 members of the public attended 4 meetings, the bulk of these being at the meeting considering two planning applications in Newnham Bridge. Ken Pollock of the County Council attended 3 meetings and sends reports to all of them. District Councillor Chris Dell attended 6 meetings.

The Council wishes to encourage 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 and entered on the website <http://e-services.worcestershire.gov.uk/myparish/> 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. Occasional articles and news items are published in Temespan.

### **PLANNING AND HOUSING.**

9 planning applications were received and considered, compared with 9 in the previous year and the scale of proposed developments was substantially larger than in previous years. 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. Planning application documents can be projected during the meeting so that they can be seen by everyone present, and 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 and 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 March (slightly earlier than previously) with over 20 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 higher than last year at 110 kilograms, but this was partly due to the pick taking place earlier in the year, before any strong growth of vegetation. We are disappointed that the amount dropped remains so high.

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.

#### **FINANCE.**

The internal audit system introduced a few years ago continues to operate efficiently. Payments during the year totalled £6933.46 (previous year £6760.06); income for the year was £6938.03 (previous year £7068.28) The balance carried forward to 2016/17 was £6355.15 The Precept for the year 2016/17 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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Clive Bevan Vice-Chairman 781536, Roger Lear 781445, Jonathan Barnes 781220

Pearl Davies 781276, John Powell 781246, Duane Hubbard 781397

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John Rugman  
Chairman

April 2016.