

KNIGHTON ON TEME PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2017/2018.

MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICES.

Details of members of the Council are given at the end of this report. At the meeting on 2nd May 2017, Mr John Rugman was elected Chairman, and Mr Clive Bevan was elected Vice-Chairman. Mr Bevan indicated that he would not stand for the post for 2018/2019. During the year Mrs Cheryl Albert was co-opted and attended her first meeting in June. In April 2018 Rosemary Collie resigned due to ill health, and was thanked for her valuable service. A replacement will be co-opted in due course.

MEETINGS.

There were 11 meetings during the year. The Council met all planning application deadlines during the period. A total of 4 members of the public attended 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. Ken Pollock of the County Council attended 1 meeting and sent reports to all of them. District Councillor Chris Dell attended 8 meetings. A police officer from West Mercia Police attended the December meeting and gave a comprehensive briefing on the “We don’t buy crime” scheme, which the Parish Council is pursuing.

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.

Arrangements are well in hand to ensure compliance with the new data protection laws-General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which come into effect on 25th May 2018. Included in this is the use by the Clerk and Councillors of dedicated email links for Parish Council business.

PLANNING AND HOUSING.

10 Planning or Listed Building applications were received and considered, compared with 7 in the previous year. Comments were put forward on 3 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 are projected during the meeting so that they can be seen by everyone present, and this works satisfactorily.

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 it became clear during the litter picks (see below) that there is room for further improvement through continued consideration and exercise of good practice by dog owners. The Council is in the process of procuring four bins for dog

waste which will be placed in suitable locations across the Parish; arrangements will be made for the authorities to empty these regularly.

There were two Litter Pick events during the year, 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 generally lower than in previous years, although the main road was very poor.

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 continued to operate efficiently. Payments during the year totalled £7350 (previous year £7179.43); income for the year was £6724 (previous year £7194.43). The balance carried forward to 2018/19 was £5744 The Precept for the year 2018/19 has been set at £4520, no change from the previous year.

Grants to local providers of services totalled £600, £150 each to Teme Span, CAB, PCC Churchyard, and Lindridge Pre- School, all unchanged from the previous year.

PARISH COUNCILLORS

John Rugman Chairman, Clive Bevan Vice-Chairman, Roger Lear, Jonathan Barnes, John Powell, Duane Hubbard, Rosemary Collie, Kay Redfern, Cheryl Albert.

Clerk to the Council Mrs Karen Yates kotpcclerk@gmail.com 07534151198.

John Rugman
Chairman

April 2018.