

## **KNIGHTON ON TEME PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2018/2019.**

**MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICES.** Details of members of the Council are given at the end of this report. Mr John Rugman was elected chairperson at the beginning of May, but later resigned due to ill health. He sadly passed away later in the year and will be greatly missed. At the meeting on 7th August 2018, Mrs Kay Redfern was elected Chairperson, and Mr Duane Hubbard was elected Vice-Chairman on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2018. During the year Mrs Emma Mapp and Mr Richard Bolton were co-opted and attended meetings during the course of the year.

**MEETINGS.** There were 11 meetings during the year. The Council met all planning application deadlines during the period. A total of 2 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 3 meetings and sent reports to all of them. District Councillor Chris Dell attended 6 meetings.

**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 or Listed Building applications were received and considered, Comments were put forward on 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 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 has now purchased 3 litter bins which will be installed around the Parish by the middle of May. Arrangements have been made for the authorities to empty these regularly. There was 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 continues to operate efficiently. Payments during the year totalled £7749.78 (previous year £7350); income for the year was £7543.35 (previous year £6754. The Precept for the year 2019/20 has been set at £5520, a slight increase to incorporate wage increases. 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** Kay Redfern Chairperson, Duane Hubbard Vice-Chairperson, Roger Lear, Jonathan Barnes, Emma Mapp, Cheryl Albert, Richard Bolton

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Kay Redfern, Chairperson April 2019.