

KNIGHTON ON TEME PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2020/2021.

MEMBERSHIP AND OFFICES. Detailed at the end of this report

MEETINGS. Last year's meetings were mainly held on zoom due to lockdown. The next parish council meeting in June, will be held in The Parish Rooms. Last year the Council met all planning application deadlines during the period. 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 attends and /or sends reports to all of them. District Councillor Douglas Goodwin also attends.

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) is 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. 2 Planning or Listed Building applications were received and considered, Comments were put forward on 1 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.

Walkers have increased during lockdown and complaints on dog fouling on roads and paths around the village have increased. The Council has previously purchased 3 litter bins which were installed around the Parish, and are now considering the purchase of further bins.

There were 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 has increased since the country went into lockdown. The council has now prepared a leaflet containing guidance to walkers and landowners to try to address some of the issues reported.

The Lengthsman Scheme operated very satisfactorily through the 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 part of the costs are recovered from the County Council.

The parish council have agreed to try to reduce the problem regarding speeding vehicles in Newnham Bridge. The council has agreed to purchase and install speed reduction equipment, which is being supported by highways.

FINANCE. The internal audit system introduced a few years ago continues to operate efficiently. Payments during the year totalled £7822.63 (previous year £7749.78); The Precept for the year £6520. 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, Louisa Shorney, Richard Bolton, Jonathon Bradley, John Ruffles.

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

Kay Redfern, Chairperson April 2021.