

**The minutes of Knighton on Teme Parish Council Meeting
held virtually at 7pm on 3rd November, 2020**

Present: Cllrs R Lear, K Redfern, D Hubbard, E Mapp, R Bolton

In attendance: Clerk, Mrs Karen Yates, Cllr D Godwin.

Mrs K Redfern chaired the meeting.

1 **Apologies:** J Barnes, R James, (It was noted some members could not secure a connection and join the meeting)

2 **Register / Declarations of Interest.** E Mapp declared an interest in item 8a.
Dispensations

Public Question Time

3 **District/County Councillor's Report.**

Cllr Pollock had circulated his report to all members.

Cllr Godwin advised of his ward budget - £100 available for projects. All council meetings continue to be via Zoom, the Boundary Commission are reviewing wards and the number of councillors.

Members advised of their disappointment regarding the outcome of the enforcement enquiry at Newnham Farm regarding the removal of hedges.

4 **Minutes:** Minutes of meeting held on 1st September, 2020 were approved.

5 Correspondence

6 Planning

a The following planning application had been received:

20/01066/FUL Newnham Farm, Newnham Bridge. Erection of 3 general purpose agricultural buildings.

The Parish Council query the size and use of the buildings which is not stated. Consideration should be given to planting of native English species trees and hedges having just been informed of the removal of hedges at this location which we would like to see replaced.

b There were no determinations.

c Planning applications determined under delegated powers

d Newnham Farm hedge removal. The 4 hedges furthest north are questionable regarding the regulations, a further 2 hedges have been deemed as being of poor quality. The hedgerow to the south was an established hedgerow, as the landowner apologised for removing them, not realising that permission was required and as a first instance a warning letter will be sent. In addition discussions with the landowner will continue to identify where new hedgerow planting could take place.

The Parish Council think this is a disgraceful response, given the overall countywide plan to make our county greener, this is a missed opportunity to enforce further planting of new native hedgerow. This will be relayed to the enforcement officer and highlighted in the planning application at 6a.

e Commonwood Villa. A site visit is planned for next week, an update is awaited.

f Possible unauthorised planning rear of Stoneycross, Tavern Lane. Complaints had been received of building work in the field at the rear of Stoneycross. Pipework and a septic tank appears to have been installed and work at an existing shed is a concern. This will be relayed to enforcement.

7 Finance

a Clerks salary October-£304.22 (incl. new pay rate + backpay), November-£265.46 + expenses £37.05.
Agreed.

b 2nd quarter accounts – previously circulated - agreed.

- c Second draft budget – previously circulated, to be placed on the next agenda.
- d Proposal to set up internet banking. This has been approved, Clerks salary and Lengthsman account to be set up as an ongoing payment on the 10th of each month. It was further agreed that a member should also be set up for internet banking as a back up, K Redfern agreed to this. It was also agreed to apply for debit cards for each so that internet purchases can be made.

8 Highways

- a Lengthsman Scheme. September-£288, October-£288. Agreed.
- b Overgrown hedges at Woodgates Green. The hedges have been cut by highways, a letter to be sent to the landowner to reclaim costs.
- c Jewkes Lane hedges – these have been cut back.
- d Potholes at Bickley x3 – highways to re-check and repair where necessary.
- e Litter pick -27/9/20. A successful litter pick well attended, a summary was included in Teme Span. The wildlife verges in Jewkes Lane were cut by J Bradley and cleared by K & J Redfern. Thanks to everyone for their help, the Clerk confirmed the litter pick packs have been delivered.
- f Cracked drain opposite Mill Lane – this had been reported as having been completed, however this refers to a larger drain opposite Mill Lane that is now cracked and the centre of the drain has fallen through.
- g Speeding vehicles through the parish (recent MotoX event). Revised signs were placed out for the event on 29th September which resolved the problem.
- h Complaint of mud on the road/feedback from West Mercia Police. Complaints had been received about some fields that were harvested, trailing mud along the roads and not clearing it away. The police had been contacted and were discussing this with landowners/contractors. Local police to be advised that there were two separate incidents in the parish and to request an update.
- i Request for information/funding for replacing footbridge over River Rea. A request for support to restore the aqueduct/replace a footbridge over the river had been received. Landowners details were requested, however, due to GDPR details cannot be given out. The footpath has been closed for safety reasons, it was thought in the current climate funding would be difficult. It was agreed to relay this information whilst sending a general letter of support.
- j Risk assessment of assets – were completed by the Clerk. The notice board outside the Parish Rooms has loose dowels inside the doors, D Hubbard to fix.

9 Safety along A456, Newnham Bridge.

- a Quotations for speed signs had been received – prices start from £1900. Only the basic model is affordable, their effectiveness was questioned, members were reminded that the road policing unit will not increase current enforcement. It would need to be placed on street furniture, however, it would need to be portable as a fixed sign is not as effective as a one that is placed in the parish two or three times a year. Members were not in favour of purchasing a sign, however the county council will be asked if signs can be rented through them – similar to a scheme in Herefordshire.
Black and white lines outside Bickley Lane are planned, an update to be sought.

10 **Vacancy for a Parish Councillor.** Notice for co-option have been posted on the website.

11 **Councillors' reports and items for future agenda.** The Clerk advised that the water leak at Aston Bank advised of at the last meeting was already reported on their website.
Water is coming up through the tarmac in Tavern Lane at the junction with Bickley Lane – to report.

12 **Date of next virtual meeting:** 7pm on Tuesday 1st December, 2020.
There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Signed (Chairman) Date