

**The minutes of Knighton on Teme Parish Council Meeting
held at 7pm on 5th October, 2021 at the Parish Rooms**

Present: Cllrs R Lear, K Redfern, R Bolton, J Ruffles, L Shorney.

In attendance: Clerk, Mrs Karen Yates, PCSO Vanessa Snape

Mrs K Redfern chaired the meeting.

1 **Apologies.** J Barnes, D Hubbard, Cllr D Chambers.

2 **Register / Declarations of Interest.**

Dispensations

Public Question Time

Vanessa updated us with local police matters, crime remains low in our parish but there were thefts of quad bikes, chainsaws, hedge trimmers etc. do occur occasionally, trailers and horse boxes are also targeted at times. Smartwater remains a good way to trace stolen property. Mike Simpson can be contacted to seek advice and raise awareness to local residents, and to arrange a public open day, contact details were taken. Information was given about the new community messaging service which will also be circulated. People are urged to help themselves in light of less visible police available, we confirmed our agreement regarding the local charter recently returned to the police. Vanessa was thanked for her time and left the meeting.

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

Cllr David Chambers had circulated his report to all members.

4 **Minutes:** Minutes of meetings held on 3rd August and 8th September were approved.

5 **Safety along A456, Newnham Bridge.**

a To finalise funding and fitting of post for VAS from Newnham to Tenbury with Highways.

- The Clerk advised as agreed we submitted an order to SG Manufacturing for a VAS and extra clamp – d total cost £1770 including VAT. A proforma invoice was sent and as further agreed we sent a BACs payment on 20th August to them, requesting confirmation of receipt and date of delivery, they had confirmed goods were in stock and ready for despatch. We received no reply and after various emails were sent requesting feedback and telephone calls made with no success, the Chairman telephoned and spoke to our contact. He advised that due to a shortage of parts they were waiting for the VAS would be with us mid September, she asked him to update us via email – to date we have received no response. The Clerk had spoken with the bank who confirmed that they would apply for a refund on our behalf but could not guarantee funds would be returned.

It was agreed that we ask for a full refund within 14 days, after which legal proceedings would commence through Small Claims Court. CALC will be informed and advice sought.

The Chairman advised that following a complaint to Head of Highways due to lack of communication following staff sickness, a site visit took place with their engineer. Permits were required to site the VAS, these are in place.

The village gates will be fitted by the Parish Team, but not before the 30mph extension beyond Wyrebrook Orchard to Mathon is completed, this will improve visibility and has been escalated. We await a date. Gates have to be placed by original 30mph signs, not repeaters or village name signs, legislation is laid down covering this. The gates will need to be trimmed down to fit and be legal.

During the visit, the request to continue double white lines past Bickley Lane junction was highlighted but will not be reviewed again.

The engineer advised that it would improve the area if the signs were more visible. The Lengthsman has been requested to cut back hard vegetation around all signs within the 30mph zone.

Concerns were raised by Cllr Bolton regarding the safety of the Lengthsman changing the VAS. A copy of the contracts between WCC and the PC and between the Lengthsman and the PC were circulated to all

members for information.

The criteria is set by Highways and allows the Lengthsman to work within the 30mph under the terms of the contract, he is up to date with his training and qualifications and holds the relevant insurance. The Parish Council are also contracted to WCC under this agreement and cannot change it.

The Lengthsman has agreed to change the VAS when it is in place. Given the concern, an extra risk assessment will be drawn up and agreed and Highways contacted to ask if there is additional support or help for busy roads.

6 Planning

a The following planning application had been received:

Cllr L Shorney declared an interest.

21/01543/FUL Bannersfield, Knighton on Teme.

Erection of agricultural shed, stable block, garage and arena/menage for schooling horses. No objection.

b The following determinations were approved:

21/00550/HP 2 Little London, Knighton on Teme. Erection of 3 bay garage/car port. Withdrawn.

21/00940/FUL Land at (OS6380 7002) Knighton on Teme. As at 6c below. Approved.

c Planning applications determined under delegated powers.

21/00940/FUL Land at (OS6380 7002) Knighton on Teme. (Previously Bannersfield)

Change of use of land to equestrian and construction of stables with associated hardstanding and access track. No objections.

Amended plans – change of description and amended block plan to include all proposed development for hardstanding and access track. In addition hedgerow planting scheme along north and west side boundaries of proposed development.

The Parish Council have no objection to this application, we would, however, like to point out that this is in part retrospective as a large area has already been cleared for the access track and a pile of rubble has appeared on site.

d Possible unauthorised planning adjacent to Stoney Cross Villa, Bickley Lane. No response had been received from the landowner, the site is being monitored and they wish to know the landowners intentions. It is considered that little harm is being caused at present but would welcome feedback if things change.

e To consider review of Tree Preservation Orders(TPO) in the parish. No requests had been received.

f Local Listed Buildings SPD Consultation. No comment to make regarding the formal document, however, clarification of Station House local listing will be checked.

7 Finance

a Clerks salary September £265.46 & October £265.46, expenses July-September-£15.06 Agreed.

b Photocopies July – September - £10.56. Agreed.

c Draft 1st budget/precept for 2022-2023 – for discussion. Consideration to be given for a new laptop/software as Microsoft will no longer support Windows 8.1 beyond January 2023. .GOV email costs to be included, other general costs to be increased slightly as per normal. To be placed on the next agenda.

d Planning training 15th & 22nd April - Cllrs Redfern and Hubbard. Sessions 2 and 3 payment due £80 x 2 - £160. Agreed.

8 Highways

a Lengthsman Scheme. August a/c £288, September a/c £288. Agreed.

b Cracked drain opposite Mill Lane. Work planned for 11th January, 2022.

c Blocked drain outside High Hall. In hand.

d Water leak at Bickley Lane/Tavern junction. Re-reported.

e Road sweeper through Newnham Bridge – Re-reported.

f Drains to be jetted around The Talbot – reported, awaiting feedback.

- g Bridlepaths at Oxnalls Farm. Gate has been repaired.
 - h Footpath at Bannersfield – Footpath Officer is liaising with landowner to lower the rail for easy access.
 - i Overgrown hedges in Jewkes Lane – reported, landowner to be contacted.
 - j Overgrown hedge at Aston Court – reported and advised to be cut back.
- 9 **Broadband issues in the parish.** Confirmation of a scheme costing approx. £900 per household has been received, however various properties were missing, we await completed listing and further costings.
- 10 **Dogs/Litter**
Proposed snack bar in layby – The snack bar that has appeared will be checked with planning/highways. Consideration of purchasing large bin for layby - £359 + £41 delivery + VAT – await outcome from highways.
A litter pick will take place on 24th October.
- 11 **Website/email addresses/social media.** Orphans Press do not operate an email service, neither does Wayne Rudge who was also asked for advice. It was agreed to set up email addresses with CloudyIT as previously quoted, this will be progressed in January to be precepted for next year.
- 12 **Vacancy for a Parish Councillor.** Sadly Emma Mapp has tendered her resignation, a vacancy notice is with Malvern until 14th October after which we can co-opt a member.
- 13 **Mobile library.** The mobile library visits the parish every third Friday, it was agreed to advertise this in Teme Span.
- 14 **Queens Green Canopy – Platinum Jubilee.** As we have no open public space to plant trees, a minimum of 15 trees is supplied and permissions from landowners is required, it was agreed to advertise this in Teme Span to raise awareness locally for anyone who may be interested.
- 15 **Councillors’ reports and items for future agenda.** The Clerk advised that Wade Muggleton the Greenspace Officer had contacted us, he had been in the parish and reviewed the roadside verge nature reserves. He noted that Jewkes Lane had become overgrown and not been cut, following last year when it was cut. He will be contacted and advised that this was only agreed for last year, the verge has been cut but along with the normal verges and ask if he can arrange for it to be cut from now on.
State of Church Road from Bickley Lane junction to the first gates will be reported to Highways.
- 16 **Date of next meeting:** 7pm on Tuesday 7th December, 2021 at the Parish Rooms.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm

Signed (Chairman) Date