

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

Present: Cllrs R Lear, R Bolton, J Ruffles, J Barnes, D Hubbard, J Bradley.

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

Mr D Hubbard chaired the meeting.

1 Apologies. L Shorney.

The Chairman-Kay Redfern has tendered her resignation due to family commitments, Malvern have been informed. Thanks and best wishes were sent to Kay.

2 Register / Declarations of Interest.

Dispensations

Public Question Time

3 District/County Councillor's Report.

Cllr David Chambers had circulated his report to all members. COVID is again on the increase, but also fluctuates, everyone is encouraged to get their vaccine and booster jabs. There is a bid of £86m to the Dept of Transport to tackle the lack of buses in the county, there is already a new plan in place from April next year but everyone is encouraged to use the bus service. A date is awaited for the VAS/pole installation, there is no justification for extending the 30mph limit past Wyrebrook Orchard.

An integrated care system is being planned to enable all NHS services to work together better. Local concerns remain that the current facilities are suffering whilst new development goes ahead.

Cllr Chambers left the meeting.

Cllr Godwin advised that there are less planning applications in the system making time for other matters such as enforcement. The 5year land supply is not fully in place, it stands between 4-5 years, a request for any land available suitable for development should be forwarded to planning.

A meeting with the Police & Crime Commissioner highlighted a drive to tackle domestic crime, to recruit more officers and to crack down on county lines drug gangs.

The fire service are looking to make savings, there are fewer household fires now, more occur in industrial and roadside settings.

Grit bins have been refilled and stocks are good, £100 from the ward budget is available for community use. Parish Rooms to be contacted to see if this would be of assistance.

4 Minutes: Minutes of meeting held on 5th October were approved.

5 Safety along A456, Newnham Bridge.

a VAS sign – update on refund/bank investigation. The Clerk advised that neither the goods or a refund had been received, the TSB was asked for their advice in the first instance. They put a trace on the payment which was followed up by their fraud dept. TSB agreed to refund the payment in full and are now investigating the company for fraud, this matter is now closed.

Lengthsman agreement / risk assessment to be reviewed when VAS's in place.

The Chairman agreed to look into other companies / local parishes for quotes for the next meeting.

b Installation of white village gates and VAS post – awaiting date with Highways it hoped within the next three weeks. The Chairman has the gates, Highways will contact him to collect.

c 30mph extension beyond Wyrebrook Orchard - Highways have confirmed that the speed limit will not be extended at this point as it does not meet the criteria.

6 Planning

- a The following planning application had been received:
21/02131/AGR Newnham Court, Newnham Bridge. Agricultural building for hydroponic farming.
The Parish Council have no objections and recommend approval in relation to a building for the purposes of hydroponic farming as per the planning application. It is perceived this would benefit the farm manager in pursuance of their hop growing business at a long established hop farm. Should there be any intention to put the building to some other use, we would recommend a change of use application be submitted prior to any changes.
- b The following determinations were approved:
21/01431/HP Glen Cottage, Knighton on Teme. Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension.
21/01543/FUL Bannersfield, Knighton on Teme. Erection of agricultural shed, stable block, garage and arena/menage for schooling horses.
Cllr Godwin left the meeting.
- c Planning applications determined under delegated powers. None.
- d Town centre transformation plans – Malvern are asking for comments on how town centres should look going forward, comments to be forwarded to the Clerk.

7 Finance

- a Clerks salary November £265.46 & December £265.46, expenses October-December-£12.12 Agreed.
- b 2nd qtr accounts for approval. Agreed.
- c Final budget/precept for 2022-2023 – for discussion. The Chairman advised the meeting at this point that the Clerk had tendered her resignation due to family circumstances to take effect from 31st March, 2022. Due to potential training costs and equipment for new Clerk, increase in VAS costs, moving to .GOV email addresses and a new laptop/software required from January 2023, it was agreed to increase the precept. It was noted that this would be the first increase in 4 years. The Clerk also advised that the mobile phone has broken, the battery does not charge and the number appears to have been redirected through lack of use, this will be looked at when the new Clerk is in post.
It was proposed by D Hubbard, seconded by J Barnes to set the precept at £10K – all agreed.
- d Grants were agreed in line with the budget set at 7c: £150 each to Teme Span, Lindridge Pre-school, Knighton on Teme PCC, CAB.
- e General Reserves Policy – a draft copy was circulated to members and discussed in line with 7c above.
It was agreed to adopt policy as read.
- f Review of bank mandate. Kay Redfern to be removed as a signatory, J Ruffles to be added. All agreed.

8 Highways

- a Lengthsman Scheme. October a/c £288, November a/c £288. Agreed. The Tavern steps to be cleared of debris, river side of kerb through Newnham to be cleared of debris. Church Hill middle part of road to be cleared and the rest checked and cleared where necessary.
- 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. To be re-reported as wrong area has been marked.
- e Road sweeper through Newnham Bridge – the sweeper has been through again but no significant improvement made – Lengthsman to be asked to clear within 30mph zone.
- f Drains to be jetted around The Talbot – reported, awaiting feedback.
- g Overgrown hedges in Jewkes Lane – reported, landowner to be contacted. It appears some work has been done but will request an update from Highways.
- h Hedge opposite the Talbot – to be checked and monitored .
- i Church Hill – state of road – patching has been carried out.
- j Risks assessments have been carried out on all assets, no issues to report.

9 **Broadband issues in the parish.** An updated proposal has been received from BT and was forwarded to WCC for information. WCC stated that they did not think all properties had been mapped correctly and if we wanted to include those properties highlighted, we would need to go back to BT for a revised quote. The Chairman advised that he would speak to both parties and bring further information to the next meeting so that we understand everything and have included all households that wish to be included as well as ensuring any project going forward is viable.

10 **Dogs/Litter**

Proposed snack bar in layby – no response has been received from Highways so assume no planning or highways regulations are being breached. The layby seems tidier since the snack bar has appeared, this will be monitored for now. Some rubbish has been dumped and will be reported as flytipping. Fewer people joined the litter pick in October, however there was also less rubbish to pick.

11 **Email addresses.** CloudyIT have been advised that we are happy to accept their quote and will pursue this in the new year.

12 **Vacancies for two Parish Councillors.** Kay Redfern has tendered her resignation which now leaves two vacancies, both of which we can now co-opt for. Two interested parties will be sent forms.

13 **Election of Chairman.** D Hubbard was proposed by R Bolton, seconded by J Barnes, accepted and agreed. A declaration of office was signed.

14 **Election of Vice-Chairman.** To be placed on the next agenda.

15 **Councillors' reports and items for future agenda.** Raw sewage is spilling onto the highway outside the property of Bannersfield, it was agreed to write to the occupier.

The Chairman attended the CALC AGM and heard from the EA regarding flooding. Tenbury is going to have flood defences, but with further development and climate change, the current defences will not be enough, more flood plains are required to displace water away from homes.

16 **Date of next meeting:** 7pm on Tuesday 1st February, 2022 at the Parish Rooms.

The meeting closed at 9.25pm

Signed (Chairman) Date