

Knightwick and Doddenham Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council on Monday 12th September 2022 at 19:00 hrs. at the Talbot Hotel, Knightwick.

Present;

Chair, Cllr B Munt

Cllrs: Ms G Evans, Ms M Horton, F Budden, M J C Bellamy, D Steel, G M Brewin (Clerk)

Apologies: Cllr Ms K L Parkinson, C.Cllr Ms K Hanks, D. Cllrs Ms S Rouse, P Whatley

Visitors: None

Public Question Time prior to the formal meeting;

None

Reports; County Councillor, District Councillors.

None

The formal meeting commenced at 19:05hrs.

Formal Agenda

1.

a) Apologies for absence and members' declarations of interest.

The apology from Cllr Ms K L Parkinson was accepted.

There were no declarations of interest in agenda items.

b) To fill a vacancy on the council by co-option

There are no applicants at present

2.

Confirm the minutes of the Meeting of the Council on 16/05/22 (circulated in advance)

These were agreed and signed by the Chair.

3.

Financial Matters

a) Note the following payment made as a delegated action since the last meeting:

14/06/22 R A Wilks – Parish Lengthsman exp, £90.00 inc vat. - Noted

08/07/22 R A Wilks – Parish Lengthsman exp, £108.00 inc vat - Noted

b) Note the council's bank acct at 31/8/22 - £17672.02. (includes £13575 charitable in trust.) - Noted

c) Confirm acceptance of new Financial Regulations, (circulated in advance)

These were accepted and signed by the Chair.

4.

Planning Matters; None

5.

Distribution of charitable funds ex Village Hall sale.

Approve the following resolution proposed at the last meeting.

'As the council has had no applications for funding from the Village Hall Charity residual fund it is proposed to reduce the Parish Precept for the year 2023-24 by £2000 and transfer a similar amount from the fund to the council's account, as way of returning the assets of the old Village Hall to the parish.'

Following a discussion the Chair proposed an amendment – 'to change £2000 to £3000'. This was agreed unanimously.

Subsequently the amended proposal was agreed unanimously.

6.

Note the recommendation of Malvern Hills District Council and approve a new Code of Conduct for members. (circulated in advance)

The new Code of Conduct was accepted and signed by the Chair.

7.

Note response to the proposed reassignment of the parish from Alfrick & Leigh MHDC ward to the new Martley ward under the Boundary Commission's revised proposals.

(circulated in advance)

This was noted. See appendix -a

8.

Clerk to report.

The latest water quality test on the River Teme on 11/9/22 showed a negligible level of nitrites and c10ppm nitrates. Both well within acceptable water quality standards.

It was suggested that the Lengthsman clears the footpath along the B4187 from the A44 to the Talbot Hotel corner and the verges on the approach to the Teme Footbridge. Agreed.

The search for a candidate for co-option to the council will continue.

C.Cllr Ms K Hanks to be asked for the latest information on the accommodating of Ukrainian refugees in the county.

9.

Items for the next meeting

None

10.

Confirm the date of the next meeting: Monday 21st November 2022 – proposed.

Agreed

The meeting closed at 19:45

Minutes confirmed

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appendix -a

Parish Council of Knightwick and Doddenham

Response to the Boundary Commission proposals 2022 to revise the representation of these two parishes on the Malvern Hills District Council by linking them to the Martley Ward instead of their remaining as part of the Alfrick & Leigh Ward.

Response

For nearly half a century the civil affairs of Knightwick and Doddenham Parish have been linked to the present Alfrick and Leigh Ward (which includes Suckley) ie southwards from the A44 via the two roads to Alfrick and to Suckley.

The majority of the Martley Ward is remote, with the Martley population focussing eastwards along the B4204 towards Worcester not southwards towards Doddenham Parish.

The Parish Council considers that the current arrangement is socially, commercially and administratively preferable to the draft proposals. The parishes of Knightwick and Doddenham should not be split off to achieve a numerical balance which would have a damaging effect out of all proportion considering the very small electorate involved.

Supporting Notes

Geographical Situation

The two historical parishes are clustered along the River Teme and on the south side of the Ankerdine escarpment where the river turns eastward towards Worcester through a break in the Malvern Hills ridge. The A44 trunk road follows the river through the parishes. The Herefordshire border forms the western boundary of the parishes.

Social and Electoral – Doddenham Parish – 110 Dwellings, 213 electors

A cursory glance at a map shows the Doddenham Parish boundary with Martley Parish providing a direct connection but of the roads crossing this boundary only the B4197 on the western edge is two-lane, others are single-track, all hazardous in poor conditions. The natural boundary of the parish is the top of the Ankerdine escarpment. Considered in detail the focus of some 36 dwellings on the southern flank of the escarpment is southerly, downhill towards the A44 road linking westward to the Knightsford Bridge and on to Bromyard or eastwards via Broadwas to Worcester and not towards Martley.

At Knightsford Bridge at the western boundary there is a substantial hotel and restaurant, a thriving butcher's shop and an NHS surgery, attracting visitors and providing employment for local residents. Around these are some 74 dwellings again focused westward to Bromyard or eastwards via Broadwas to Worcester.

Social and Electoral – Knightwick Parish – 41 Dwellings, 87 electors

This parish is on the opposite bank of the River Teme and across the A44 road. The A44 / Suckley Road junction is the only link to Doddenham Parish. The 44 dwellings in Knightwick Parish are scattered along the Suckley Road over a distance of some two miles or so southwards from the A44. These residents have no direct link to Martley Parish and generally focus on Suckley (Church, Shop and School) and onwards to Malvern and Worcester.

G M Brewin

Clerk to the Council 20/7/22