

## **Knightwick and Doddenham Parish Council**

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2009 at 8pm in the Village Hall, Knightwick.

### **Present;**

Mr S K Munday, Chairman

Mrs G Evans,

Messrs; P Edwards, F Budden, D Kirkbright, P Walker, G M Brewin (Clerk),

**Apologies:** C Smith (County Councillor), D Hughes (District Councillor), A Warburton (District Councillor), B Lee (Parish Paths Warden)

**Visitors:** Mr B Munt and Mr J Norris; Candidates for co-option to the council.

### **Questions from members of the public:**

None

### **The formal meeting commenced at 8.00pm.**

The chairman welcomed the two candidates for the vacancy on the council and explained that it would be useful if they could see the council in operation prior to their making their introductions which would be at the end of the agenda.

### **1. Apologies for absence and members declarations of interest.**

There were no apologies for absence from members nor were there any declarations of interest in agenda items from members.

### **2. Confirm Minutes of the annual meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

These had been circulated in advance. They were agreed as a true record and signed by the chairman.

### **3. Reports; County Councillor, District Councillors, Parish Path's Warden.**

In sending his apology Cllr C Smith reported;

He had an allowance of £5,750 to spend within the district for the current year. He was allocating £750 to speed-bump repairs in Malvern Link and the remainder would be shared amongst the Parish Lengthsmen schemes in the district.

In his absence Cllr A Warburton (District Councillor), reported

I have now been notified of an MHDC meeting that I must attend on Monday 20th. I must, therefore, and with regret tender my apologies for absence.

The news from MHDC is:

1/ The decision, following consultation, to retain weekly refuse collections but using only two bags, one for reusable/recyclable materials and one for everything else. We will also improve the quality of the bags.

2/ We have a new Leader of Council in Phil Grove (Tenbury Wells) and David Hughes has taken over responsibility for planning.

3/ The decision on the Government's housing strategy for South Worcestershire will almost certainly be delayed until after the General Election. Both Conservative and Liberal parties are pledged to abolish the (unelected) "regional assemblies" and everything that goes with them, including the housing strategy.

Planning policy making would then revert to the combination of (elected) District and County Councils.

4/ MHDC's target is no increase to Council Tax in April 2010 (and if at all possible a cut).

In his absence Mr B Lee Parish Paths Warden reported that there was nothing of any significance currently but if anyone has any issues for him, would they please give him a call.

### **4. Financial Matters;**

- a) Confirm Payment L Cotterill, LCCA Ltd - Internal Audit £50+vat - £57.50 - Agreed
- b) Confirm Clerk's delegated payment; B Taylor (Plumber) V-Hall repairs £82.00 - Agreed
- c) Confirm Clerk's delegated payment; V/Hall Elect. £135.67+vat - £142.45- Agreed
- d) Village Hall Insurance; Quotations received;

Aon (current insurer) - £360.30

Norris & Fisher (Ansvar) - £299.00

Community First (Zurich) - £141.50 -3yr agreement.

After a discussion it was agreed to insure with Community First (Zurich) for a 3yr contract.

### **5. Village Hall maintenance, grounds etc**

The chairman raised the matter of the maintenance of the Village Hall surrounds which had become overgrown. It was agreed that members would continue to undertake this as and when required and would review work to be done over the autumn/winter at the next meeting.

**6. Correspondence - (Details Circulated in advance)**

The clerk noted that acknowledgements for donations had been received from 'Footprints' magazine, the Nora Parsons Day Centre and the Lower Teme Parochial Church Council. He drew members' attention to the latest journal 'Clerks and Councils Direct' which contained a useful article on the legal situation relating to common land.

**7. Clerk's Report**

Following the council's request at the last meeting he had obtained the cost for providing a refuse skip for residents. This would be £190 plus the cost of a licence to place it on the roadside of £35.

After a discussion this was considered too much to be worthwhile.

He had raised the matter of the spoil heap in the A44 layby again with the WCC Highways dept but no action to clear it was forthcoming.

After a discussion it was agreed that the clerk should inform WCC Highways Dept that if the layby - which is part of the highway - was not cleared within 28 days the council would employ a contractor to return the layby to its original condition and send WCC the account for payment.

**8. Items for the next meeting**

The clerk was asked to investigate the following and report at the next meeting.

- a) Could the area around the Post Box by Knightwick Church be paved to eliminate an area of mud in wet weather.
- b) Could something be done about the verge opposite the Knightwick Surgery which is in a poor state due to excessive parking on it.
- c) A44 Layby
- d) Village Hall Maintenance.

**9. Confirm the date of the next meeting:**

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September at 8pm in the Village Hall Knightwick. (Note - not as on the agenda)

**10.10.To fill a vacancy by co-option.**

The two candidates to fill the vacancy; Mr B Munt and Mr J Norris, made brief personal statements to the council and then left the meeting.

In discussion the council agreed that both were outstanding candidates but as there was only one vacancy it was decided that it should be filled by Mr Munt who is resident in the parish. The two were recalled and the council's decision explained by the chairman.

Mr Munt then signed his 'Declaration of Acceptance of Office'.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm

Chairman .....