

KNODISHALL PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 18th 2017

PRESENT: Councillors J. Staff, G Baly , C. Lister, J Mayhew, J Pipe, J. Read, A Wigg, The Clerk J.O’Hear, SCC Cllr. Smith, SCDC M Jones, 3 Members of the Public

1. **APOLOGIES** – Cllr G Smith, SCDC Cllr. TJ Haworth-Culf
2. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST** – None for January
3. **NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR** – Elizabeth Hayward of 5 Whinlands, School Road, Knodishall IP17 1TT was proposed by Cllr. Wigg and seconded by Cllr. Baly for immediate co-option onto The Parish Council
4. **MINUTES** – of meeting held on December 14th 2016.
December minutes proposed by Cllr. Mayhew and seconded by Cllr. Pipe and thus agreed by the Parish Council to accept the Minutes of the last meeting
5. **CLERKS REPORT AND MATTERS ARISING**
 - Following approval at December’s Parish Council meeting, the Clerk had submitted the Precept application of £14,052.13 for 2017 to SCDC and received notification of receipt.
 - The Clerk submitted a VAT reclaim request for £1,191.75 VAT paid during some of 2015 and all of 2016. This amount has now been credited to Knodishall Parish Council bank account.
 - Notification received from the Smaller Authorities’ Audit Appointments Ltd (SAAA) of a change to the official external auditor for a five year period from the financial year 2017-18. In Suffolk this is PFK Littlejohn LLP but for the end of year accounting process 2016-17, parish councils should continue to use their existing external auditor.
 - Following ongoing complaints about poorly maintained local footpaths the Clerk contacted SCC Area Manager Annette Robinson to discuss the unsatisfactory situation. Ms Robinson said that the process is complicated because while the grass clearance on the ground is managed by SCC, the hedgerows are the responsibility of the relevant landowners, It is not advisable for individual members of the public to clear overgrown hedges but if they are reported to her, she will do her best to help/liaise with the relevant landowner.
 - The Clerk had circulated a quote from SCN for grass cutting in Knodishall and was asked to request a second, larger area quote. It was agreed that this would be best undertaken with the support of Cllr John Read who could point out the precise areas to be included.
 - Immediately prior to the meeting, In his absence, Cllr. Smith had asked the Clerk to investigate the apparently faulty locking device on the bollard placed at the top of Chapel Lane leading to the Methodist Hall. Cllrs. Staff and Wigg said they will follow up on this.
 - The Clerk requested that Councillors should advise her in advance of any particular 137 payments which are traditionally approved at the February meeting.
6. **PLANNING**
 - Ref: DC/16/4618/FUL – Application for construction of a two storey extension at rear of 4 Burchs Close, Knodishall, IP17 1XG - the decision has now been delegated to Head of Planning and Coastal Management for a final decision.

7. DEFIBRILLATOR

All councillors are supportive of acquiring a publically accessible village defibrillator and storage cabinet and it was agreed that more discussion on both funding and where to site it would be advisable. In the interests of public accessibility either the Village Hall or the garage on Leiston Road seem viable locations The Clerk was asked to follow up with the British Heart Foundation (thanks to a tip-off from villager Pat Cassidy) and EDF regarding potential defibrillator donations.

8. PLAY AREA

Cllr. Mayhew advised that some renovation work was in progress but that he is still chasing quotations from suppliers for carrying out other necessary improvements . Cllr. Baly asked if there was any new information about interest in a mini-football pitch and was advised that an article would be included in the next parish Newsletter in order to assess local interest.

9. COMMON

- The Clerk reported that Shaun Wright Tree Services has now been hired to undertake the essential tree pollarding in February. Unfortunately the HLS Capital Works additional grant scheme is no longer automatically available from Natural England but Natural England representative Matthew Ginn subsequently advised there might be some available “one off” financial support which the Clerk will investigate.
- Cllr. Staff noted that there was continuing good public support on volunteer days for help with the winter Common maintenance – and encouragingly, this year several new faces are coming to help.
- The Clerk said that following a successful and informative onsite clarification review of progress with Susan Stone from Suffolk Wildlife Trust, she requested a progress summary from Susan which is very positive. A copy is now published on the website.
- Two certification and associated record keeping matters urgently need confirmation: – (i) Certificate to use pesticide and (ii) Waste exemption certificate (for burning brush on the Common). Cllrs. Staff and Wigg and the Clerk will follow up and report back at the next meeting.

10. MATTERS RAISED BY PARISH COUNCILLORS

- Cllr. Staff is continuing to monitor erratic litter bin collection in Knodishall and is following up on any litter and dog bins which need repairing/replacing.
- Cllr. Wigg raised the issue of poor public carpark maintenance and the general conclusion is that it is either SCDC or SCNorse. Similarly, Cllr. Read said that potholes in Post Office Road, Huntsbarn Corner and Leiston Road are left inattended. The Clerk will investigate and report back at the next meeting.
- Cllr. Lister reported increasing dissatisfaction with SCC over Knodishall streetlights not being repaired despite several notifications of malfunctions. SCC Cllr Smith asked him to forward details and promised he would look into this.
- Cllr Pipe suggested deducting any general maintenance work in the allotments from the allotment reserve fund

11. CORRESPONDENCE

- Notification received about Battle’s Over – A Nation’s Tribute is an event scheduled in memory of WW1 armistice of 100 years ago. The Clerk was asked to include this as separate agenda item at February’s meeting
- Details of a forthcoming Suffolk Heritage seminar at Haughley Park were shared with all councillors.

12. FINANCIAL - The Clerk had prepared a copy of the Financial Statement relating to due

payments. This was proposed by Cllr. Pipe and seconded by Cllr. Bay. The Parish Council agreed to pay the following:

• DD Hall Hire	£17.00
• H Mayhew Wages	£172.80
• J O'Hear Wages	£320.80
• J Read – Allotment Noticeboard repair	£60.00
• Ensors (Payroll) – VAT £9.90	£59.40
• Premier Toilet Hire (Common work) – VAT £13.50	£81.00
• Suffolkbiz (Website set up training)	£ 70.00

The Chairman invited members of the public to speak after which the public meeting was closed at 8.26pm

REPORT FROM WARD COUNCILLORS

From SCC Cllr. Richard Smith:

- 2017 Budget of £480 million to be published on Monday 23rd pm and final approval will be on Feb 9th. This includes spend on mandatory Suffolk services including 6% for vulnerable people and children at risk - which is being administered as 3% for the next 2 years and zero in the 3rd year. Essential large capital work will be funded from the £48 million reserve which cannot be accessed for social spending.
- The EDF consultation period runs until February 3rd and as the only local cabinet member, Cllr. Smith is urging all local parish councils to respond despite the disappointing lack of detailed information on the impact on traffic numbers, coastal processes and the environment of a third plant. Cllr. Smith has concluded that the current third site is wrong both because of these extremely disruptive factors and also because he doubts it will be built on target. 15 years is more realistic plus aesthetically the building will be inferior to the “golf ball” building.

From SCDC Cllr. Maureen Jones

- Cllr Jones wished Knodishall parish council and all other local residents a very Happy New Year.
- She reminded the meeting of the need for coastline safety and urged all to be vigilant about unstable cliffs and strong seas – especially on light of the recent tragedy at Thorpness.
- SCDC is holding cabinet meetings throughout January in order to agree an affordable capital programme for the next 4 years – affordable homes are particularly on the agenda. Within SCDC there has been much focus on rationalization to reduce spending – e.g. staff reductions and using Woodbridge Library as a public contact point.
- Cllr. Jones also recommends that the parish council responds within the Sizewell 3 consultation period and asks that Geoff Holdcroft at SCDC is notified if KPC does submit a joint response.
- The Beach Hut Survey is also taking place and it is in the interests of local residents to respond. (N.B. Details are on the KPC website).
- The Melton Riverside carpark is currently under improvement.
- Please check on neighbours during cold weather periods, especially on older residents. Ungritted roads and pavements are a particular hazard.