

KETTLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Joanna Otte,
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Present: G Ashby (Chair), C Hipkin, M Hoad, T Hoad, S Hyde, R Kilbourn, (Vice-Chair),
and: V FitzPatrick (District Councillor) and one member of the public.

Meeting of Kettlestone Parish Council on Monday 20 September 2021 at 7:30 pm in the Village Hall

MINUTES

Welcome

- 1) **Apologies** from B Wyvill, S Aquarone (County Councillor), and PC R Dawson (SNT Fakenham) were accepted.
- 2) **Declarations of pecuniary interest** by the Councillors in any of the agenda items listed below.
None.
- 3) **Minutes of the previous Meeting** (19 July) were approved and signed.
- 4) **Matters arising:** Progress on items from previous meetings for information or reminders only. Items not on this agenda requiring decisions will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.
 - a) Vote of thanks to R Kilbourn for strimming at the crossroads at the west of the village.
 - b) It was noted that bus shelters probably did not require planning permission but Highways would know the regulations.
- 5) The meeting was temporarily closed for Parishioners to express any concerns they may have and for District and County Councillors and police to report.
 - a) Report from NNDCllr V FitzPatrick. The District Council was working on a hybrid model of working from home and at the office with staff having a minimum of two days per week in the office. The Council was also supporting the County Council's 'I Choose' campaign. There have been some delays in bin collections. The advice is to leave unemptied bins out for a second day before reporting a missed collection. The annual Green Build for 2021 will be a virtual event running in parallel with COP26. It will be free entry with links on the NNDC website. The annual canvas for the electoral register was underway. Community Grants are open for applications: Sustainable Communities Fund, Arts and Culture Fund, Community Transport.The Chair re-opened the meeting.
- 6) Planning
 - a) Planning **applications** received since the previous meeting.
 - i) PF/21/1867: Installation of outdoor tennis court and fencing at **Merryweather House Holbrigg Lane**. Link circulated. Response submitted on 20 August: Kettlestone Parish Council has no objection to this application. It is noted that there is no reference to lighting and hopes that the site will be unlit.
 - b) **Decisions** made by the District Council since the previous meeting.
 - i) PF/21/1773: Addition of cladding to part of front elevation at **Mulberry House 59 The Street**. APPROVED.
 - ii) PF/21/0522: Retention of cabin (retrospective) at **Land South East Of Kettlestone House Holt Road Kettlestone**. REFUSED. (It was noted that the applicants had appealed to the Planning Inspectorate and a decision was yet to be made).

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7) Highways and footpaths:

- a) It was noted that Highways had carried out the work to lower the raised verge at the corner of The Street /Snoring Road. The Chair had met with the Highway's Engineer and the owner of the adjacent property to discuss, before the work was done. The adjacent owner has sown grass seed (provided by the Highways) and wild flower seed on the top of the verge which is cordoned off for the time being to allow the plants to establish. It was reported that there is a further option of putting in wooden bollards to protect the verge but this might interfere with sight-lines.
- b) It was noted that the pothole at the entrance to Church Court has been filled.
- c) **Items to report:**
 - i) Overgrown hedge and verge at Pearson's plot
 - ii) Boardwalk on footpath at Langor Bridge was rotten and the path is practically impassable.
 - iii) Unofficial sign at bottom of Holbrigg Lane 'No HGV's'.
- d) **Traffic through the village** appeared to be in the increase with some people driving too fast for the conditions especially as pedestrians have to use the roadway. It was decided that a Speed Awareness Messaging unit at approximately £3000 (even using the 50% parish partnership scheme) was too expensive. Furthermore, it might not be very effective as 30 mph is quite fast and traffic should really be going slower for the safety of pedestrians. It was also reported that as there was now an Airbnb on Holbrigg Lane there were often drivers unfamiliar the lay-out and use of the road making it hazardous for walkers particularly on the double bend. It was suggested that chevron signage at the bend and 'unsuitable for HGVs' sign at the top of Green Lane might help. It was suggested that a path along the field edge might be helpful but this would be at the discretion of the owner. The Clerk was asked to get advice from Highways as to the how to make the roads safer for all users especially pedestrians.

8) Re-seeding the verges on **Green Lane** with early and late nectar producing flower.

- a) Suggestions from parish councillors: Red, White, or Bladder Campion; Oxeye Daisies; Ragged Robin; Common Knapweed; Common Mallow; Common Sorrel; Dandelion; Field Scabious; Foxglove; Hedge, or Lady's Bedstraw; Self Heal; and loads of others. (Provided, of course, they are not too often run over too often by tractors, lorries, and cars.)
- b) Comments from Highways Engineer: *'If you are just spreading seeds on the verge then I don't think it will be a problem. If you actually want to plant flowers then you will need a licence to cultivate. A plan of the location would still be useful for our files. Restriction wise I think we would want to see flowers native to this country, nothing that grows too high or anything that spreads too quickly. With regard to a rebate, are you intending on cutting the verge yourselves? As it is classed as a rural cut, ie one cut a year, any rebate would likely be very minimal.'*
- c) In the light of the comments from Highways and the potential long-term expense of maintain the verges, it was decided not to pursue the project (especially as there was always a possibility of the verges being damaged again by traffic avoiding the A148). It was suggested that perhaps a few patches where the verge is wider could be sown with early and later nectar-bearing flowers in the hope that these would become established despite the annual verge cutting in late May / early June.

9) **Financial business** to consider payment of invoices and other financial business.

- a) **Balances** as at 27 August 2021: Current account £3,132,87; Savings account £5,289.39
- b) **Receipts** since previous meeting: none
- c) **Regular payments** since previous meeting: salary and on-costs.
- d) The following **payments** were approved:

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| to whom | cheque no | Amount |
|--|-----------|---------|
| NNDC (emptying dog bins) | 100436 | £218.40 |
| J Otte (expenses including newsletter for September) | 100437 | £21.62 |

- e) The Standing Order instruction for an annual payment of £1 to Kettlestone Charities for the use of the land next to the almshouse for a bus shelter/book swap was approved and signed.

10) Covid-19 support: hardship Grants. No applications received

11) Community Memorial Token

- a) It was noted that the Norfolk ALC Wellbeing group have sent notification that parish councils will receive a Memorial Token to serve as a permanent reminder of the tremendous community spirit shown in the Covid-19 pandemic. It was agreed to accept the plaque on behalf of the community as the vast majority of people had pulled their weight during the difficult months of the pandemic. It was suggested that the plaque could be formally presented on a Friday night bar.

12) Platinum Jubilee. The Clerk was asked to contact the Village Hall and PCC to say that the Parish Council is happy to support any social activities that they arrange to celebrate the Jubilee.

13) Environment

- a) Climate Emergency Group. It was noted the B Wyvill was hoping to be able to reinstate the group when possible.
- b) Environmental initiatives: nothing to report.
- c) A request to support other Norfolk parishes in a campaign for an Offshore Transmission Network (OTN) for offshore wind farms rather than having multiple cable paths across the county and new substations to link up with the National Grid was considered. The issues were discussed at some length, but it was decided not to take action at present.

14) A suggestion to have **bus shelters at Pensthorpe** for school children and others, including Pensthorpe Nature Park visitors, waiting for buses going to Norwich or Fakenham was considered. There could be a possibility of getting 50% of the funding from NCC Parish Partnership Scheme (deadline end of Nov / beginning of Dec).

- a) Westcotec estimate of cost for reverse two bay cantilever:
- i) £4,322 + VAT (includes perch seat, flag bracket, traffic management and extension pad);
or
- ii) £7,466 + VAT (includes perch seat, flag traffic management and concrete pad)
- It was agreed that while it would be good to have bus shelters at Pensthorpe, the cost was too great for the parish council. However, if Pensthorpe Nature Park (or others) were able to cover the cost then it would be viable. R Kilbourn was tasked to approach Pensthorpe.

15) Maintenance

- a) Bus shelter and Book Swap
- i) Quote from James Cane: £1,850 + £60 for coroline corrugated bitumen roof. It was noted that the final cost was higher due to more shelving and an increase in the cost of materials.
- ii) Thank you to Trevor Hoad for painting the interior.
- iii) Thank you to Shane Hyde for moving the books etc to the Village Hall, and to the Village Hall for allowing storage during the works.

16) Defibrillator and CPR training in the Village Hall on Friday 5 November at 5:30 pm (donations for the Air Ambulance.

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17) Correspondence (circulated via email)

- a) NNDC had circulated its draft Gambling Licence Policy. Richard Ives (who used to be a member of the Responsible Gambling Strategy Board (RGSB), now the Advisory Board for Safer Gambling, which gives independent advice to the Gambling Commission) had provided some comments. While this policy was something that the Parish Council would not normally comment on, lacking the expertise to do so, Richard clearly has expertise in this area so it was an opportunity to comment. It was noted that generic language is acceptable in a policy. It was agreed to forward the comments to the District Council and to thank Richard for taking the time to provide them.

18) Reports from parish councillors and items for placing on the agenda for the next Meeting

- a) The Chair thanked councillors for taking up the slack for delivering the newsletter in October.
- b) Setting budget and precept for 2022-23 (include replacement defib battery)

19) Following a request from a councillor it was agreed to trial starting the meetings at the early time of 7 pm. Next Meeting on Monday **15 November 2021** at **7:00pm** in the Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 9:07 pm