

KETTLESTONE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Mrs Joanna Otte,
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Present: G Ashby (Chair), D Burgis, C Hipkin, M Hoad, T Hoad,
and: S Aquarone (County Councillor)

**Meeting of the Parish Council on
Monday 15 July 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall**

MINUTES

Welcome

- 1) **Apologies** from L Cotton, R Kilbourn and NNDCllr V FitzPatrick were accepted.
- 2) **Declarations of pecuniary interest** by the Councillors in any of the agenda items listed below. None.

- 3) **Minutes of the previous Meetings** (20 May) were approved and signed as a true record.

- 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.

- It was noted that the Woodland Trust only supply sapling bundles free of charge to community groups and schools. However if anyone would like to purchase saplings for their own gardens these are available at <http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/>.
- It was noted that the Clerk had not heard back from UK Power Networks in respect of the leaning pole Orchard Drive.

- 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.**

NCCllr Steff Aquarone was grateful for the response from residents with details regarding the poor mobile phone reception in the village. He reported the following:

Climate Emergency: I am now the Liberal Democrat spokesperson for the Climate Emergency and one of only two opposition members on the "Task and Finish" group on climate change. This group, set up in the wake of the Extinction Rebellion protests that led to all three parties putting forward motions on the environment at the last Full Council meeting, is considering what Norfolk County Council can do to deal with climate change. My current fear is that the Conservative-controlled group is unlikely to make any recommendations that it believes will not be accepted. However I would welcome your views on this, and on the subject of the Task and Finish group more broadly.

Children's Centres Update: As you may be aware, there have been brutal cuts to Sure Start provision in Norfolk, and we are now beginning to see their proposed replacements take shape. The new service begins in October, and a 'Service Level Agreement' is currently being negotiated. Staff turnover has increased during this uncertainty, meaning that someone will have to foot the bill if agency staff are required to fill any gaps which remain come October. The closest remaining Hub for Melton Constable division is in Holt. I have been informed that this facility is currently undersubscribed, and that they would like the word spread that they have places available for September. To find out more about their service provision, visit their page on the Action for Children website. Finally, the Portage service which helps with transition for very young children requiring extra assistance before joining more formal settings, such as those with disabilities, has seen a large increase in demand, but no such increase in funding. Demand has increased 148%, but funding has remained at the same level.

The Chair re-opened the meeting.

- 6) **Highways and footpaths:** items to report

- a) The long grass on the verge opposite the pond was obscuring visibility for drivers trying to turn out of The Street. The Chair would have a word with the property owner.

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- b) It was also noted that a few hedge on The Street were growing over the road creating potential hazard for drivers and pedestrians. The Clerk was asked to put a request in the newsletter for people to cut back hedges and verges to make the roads safer for users.
- c) It was noted with appreciation that the verges at the crossroads at the west of The Street had been cut by the farmer and also that the footpath from Holbrigg Lane had also been cut.

7) Planning

- a) **Planning applications received** since the previous meeting. None
- b) **Decisions taken by the District Council** since the previous meeting. None.

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

- a) **Receipts** since previous statement: NNDC £1,850 (precept) and £46 (LCTG)
- b) **Regular payments** since previous statement: salary and on-costs.
- c) **Balances on statements** at 29 May: Current Ac £3,908.67; Savings Acc £3,281.63.
- d) The following **payments were approved**:

to whom	cheque no	amount
J Otte (expenses including newsletter)	100398	30.81
Norfolk ALC (training)	100399	72.00

- e) **Change signatories on the bank accounts**: RK still needed to complete the forms.

9) Maintenance

- a) **Village Sign (£1,600 reserved in budget)**: The Village sign has proved more complicated than AOT engineering thought it would be. It was shot blasted (work completed to date £225+vat). Unfortunately because of the way it is constructed it cannot be hot galvanised as it could explode. This leaves the following options:
 - i) cold galv spray extra £130+vat
 - ii) twin pack epoxy paint £200+vat
 - iii) lift letters to avoid contact on main sign this will stop rust bleeding around letters, then twin pack epoxy prime and paint £365+vat
 It was agreed to go with option 3. The Chair would confirm with T Rivett and AOT.
- b) **Notice board**: the clerk was asked to get quotes for repairing the notice board to make it weather proof (particularly the backboard which might need replacing). It was also suggested that it might be an idea to move the notice board to the bus shelter which could be painted in a light / bright colour on the inside (and perhaps become a home for a book exchange cupboard).

10) Parish Plan Actions

11) Mail circulated as usual

- a) An email had been circulated regarding Public Rights of Way. It was confirmed that all the PROWs in the Parish were already recorded on the Definitive Map.

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

- a) The Chair reported that she had been to the District Council exhibition of the Draft Local Plan. It was confirmed that there were no allocated sites for future development in the village, (any development on new sites would, as now, only be considered under the Rural Housing Exception Scheme – which requires the support of the Parish Council).

13) Next Meeting of the Parish Council is on **Mon 16 September 2019** at 7.30pm in the Village Hall