

**Minutes of the Bi-Monthly Meeting of Knaith Parish Council held in the
Village Hall on Monday 12th May 2025**

Present: Councillor D. Belton (Chairman)
Councillor A. Morphet
Councillor A. Coulson
Councillor S. Bowdler
Mrs E. Coulson (Clerk)

Public Time

Mr Stanser has raised the following:

The Village Hall Committee – Would like to know where the Parish Council are with regards the Village Hall documentation. Councillor Belton to resolve. **Action DB**

We have a perfectly working speed indicator within the Parish, but this has not been utilised for the last 13 weeks. When speeding is high on the agenda why has this been left so long? It is still a deterrent. Councillor Bowdler apologised and raised that a risk assessment still needs to be done as putting this indicator up is hazardous. Councillor Bowdler has said that he will do both this weekend. **Action SB**

Mr Randall – Will the existing speed indicator be kept when the new ones have been installed? Yes, the mobile one will rotate between Station Road and Padmoor Lane.

Mrs Randall – Speed Limit on the A156 is dangerous. DC Bailey has been working tirelessly trying to get this reduced. DC Bailey emails read out as follows:

“This is very disappointing. I highlighted this to highways a number of years ago when there were quite a few injury accidents on this route and it was not followed up. I believe that there are often more accidents than are recorded on here also as a non injury RTC does not always get reported to the police.

At a time when we should be encouraging the use of footpaths/cyclepaths and public transport this area for the village of Knaith does not allow for that as this road is dangerous at times for crossing, particularly the vulnerable who may not be able to move quite as quickly. The way this is assessed is not practical and does not apply common sense, placing a footpath on the opposite side to where residents live and a bus stop forcing residents to cross the road is extremely short sighted.

Would it be easier for me to request a footpath on the Knaith Hill side of the road linking the houses on the A156 all the way to Lea going past the crematorium so that people may walk to these destinations?”

The response from Traffic - Lincolnshire County Council:

“Thank you for your email. I realise this result will be disappointing for you, but we are required to assess all requests for speed limits in line with the policy. This document was developed with input from a number of councillors and was agreed by the Executive. It allows requests to be assessed in a consistent manner across the whole county and consideration of the various factors involved in the assessment, results in speed limits being introduced where they will be of most benefit.”

Mrs Bailey (via email) – I would be grateful if you could ask Council to consider a dog bin at the entrance to Rhododendron wood. I know that there are dog bins further down the road towards the Hill and also at the entrance to the woods on Station road, however there are more and more people driving to this wood and then not walking past a bin which then means they do not dispose of the bags appropriately. I would be happy for Council to consult the residents on their thoughts before spending the money, in the newsletter if this is still going ahead?

WLDC will not pay for the bin and would be an expense of the PC. Rhod wood has always been a popular route for dog walkers, and I would ask that the PC consider another bin thanks in advanced.

Councillors agree and the Clerk will contact WLDC to ask this to be actioned. **Action EC**

Councillor Randall has handed in his resignation. The Chairman would like to thank Councillor Randall for his service.

1/5/25. Declaration of Acceptance of Office

All Councillors present, signed Declarations of Acceptance of Office which were witnessed by The Clerk.

2/5/25. To Elect a Chairperson

It was proposed by Councillor Bowdler to Elect Councillor Belton as Chairman, all other Councillors in favour. Councillor Belton accepted the position and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Chairman.

3/5/25. To Elect a Vice-Chairperson

It was proposed by Councillor Bowdler to elect Councillor Morphet as Vice Chairman, all other Councillors in favour. Councillor Morphet accepted the position and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office as Vice-Chairman.

4/5/25. Apologies for absence

Councillor Breeze was absent, apologies were sent and accepted.

5/5/25. To receive any declarations of interest in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and to receive any applications for Dispensation. Members may make declarations at this point but also make them at any point during the meeting.

Councillor Coulson and The Clerk declared an interest as they are married.

6/5/25. To approve the Minutes of the last meeting on 10th March 2025

Minutes have been circulated, and it was proposed by Councillor Coulson and seconded by Councillor Morphet and **resolved** to sign as a true record.

7/5/25. Governance Documents

- a. Standing Order – There was no change required to this policy.
- b. Financial Regulations – There was no change required to this policy.
- c. Code of Conduct – There was no change required to this policy.
- d. Complaints Procedure – There was no change required to this policy.
- e. GDPR – There was no change required to this policy.

8/5/25. Review and confirm arrangements for Insurance Cover in respect of all Insured Risks

The Clerk has requested an updated quote/policy from Zurich to include the new Speed Indicators purchased. She will update the Parish Council once this has been received. **Action EC**

9/5/25. Clerk's report on Outstanding Matters

Replacement Defibrillator

Claire Morris left WLDC, and no one was picking up the forms until beginning of May. Ella Williams Project Support Officer has been asked to pick this up, she asked some questions for further clarification which I have sent, and I am just awaiting her response.

Heynings Court

I contacted WLDC to see if they could quote, as the weed killer etc needed to maintain the roads requires a licence. Simon Smoothey – Street Cleansing Manager - rang me and agreed to go and have a look at Heynings Court for to quote us.

I chased this up beginning of May, but he was on holiday until 12.05.25 but I have asked if he can get back to me hopefully in time for the meeting.

Brambles Overhanging on Footpath

It was reported to me that the brambles were overhanging on the footpath between Willingham Road and Station Road.

I reported this through Fix My Street Ref 2838648. LCC confirmed it was looking into this 20.03.25 but then submitted another report:

'Just to let you know this issue has turned out to be more complicated than we first thought. We need to take this on for more investigation. We will let you know the situation as soon as we can. Thanks for bearing with us.'

Posted by Lincolnshire County Council at 10:39, Thursday 20 March 2025'

I provided an update on 01.05.25 saying they were getting worse, but I have yet to have a response.

Environmental Smell

Councillor Breeze reported the following:

‘Could you raise an enquiry with regard to the recent muck spreading in the village and for how long it is expected to continue for. I do appreciate that this is normal practice in a rural environment, but the stench is very strong and has been like this for over two weeks now, thus rendering the opening of house windows impossible.

I have also brought this matter to the attention of the local district councillor.’

Both DC Bailey and I contacted WLDC with regards the above and got the following response:

‘Afternoon Cllr E Bailey

I write further to your email regarding the above matter.

The practice of incorporating manures and bio-solids into agricultural land and the spreading of pre-treated sewage sludge is also a perfectly lawful activity. These included: -

- *manures and slurries from the farm or imported from other farms*
- *biosolids (sewage sludge) from sewage treatment works*
- *products from waste treatment processes such as composts and digestates*

The practice of stockpiling and then spreading of treated sewage sludge is controlled by the Sludge (Use in Agriculture) Regulations 1989. This is regulated by the Environment Agency and overseen by Water UK and Ofwat, and any concerns should be reported to the Environment Agency on their 24/7 incident hotline number 0800 80 70 60, further information can be found online at: <https://www.gov.uk/report-an-environmental-incident>

In most circumstances, the most sustainable option is to recycle it to agricultural land as organic manure. Although spreading is a standard agricultural practice, and odour must be expected from time to time, spreading should always be undertaken in accordance with the best practice guidance issued by DEFRA these includes:

Code of Good Agricultural

Practice https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/268691/pb13558-cogap-131223.pdf This guidance if where livestock manures and organic wastes and treated materials are applied to bare soil or stubble that they are incorporated as soon as possible, and within 24 hours, to minimise odour and ammonia losses.

The Sludge in use Code of Practice <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sewage-sludge-in-agriculture-code-of-practice> - This guidance is for farmers who produce sewage sludge, or if they farm, own or manage agricultural land where it’s used

Code of Good Agricultural Practice For Reducing Ammonia

Emissions https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/729646/code-good-agricultural-practice-ammonia.pdf This guidance explains the practical steps farmers, growers, land managers, advisors and contractors in England can take to minimise ammonia emissions from the storage and application of organic manures, the application of manufactured fertiliser, and through modifications to livestock diet and housing,

Further information can be online at: -

*<https://www.nfuonline.com/updates-and-information/biological-waste-treatment-ea-publishes-guidance/>
<https://www.nfuonline.com/archive?treeid=33380>*

In terms of residents wishing to make a complaint they should do so by completing the online form at <https://www.west-lindsey.gov.uk/report-it>. If they are unable to complete the online form, then they can contact our Customer Services Team on 01427 676676 who will complete the form on their behalf. To investigate the complaint, we will need a location or identify of the farmer(s) involved.

On receipt of complaint Environmental Protection will try to visit as soon as practicably possible, but the Council do not offer a 24/7 call out service, as such, complaints received over the weekend will be picked up on the Monday. We will also contact the farmer to consider whether best practice has been applied in accordance with Code of Good Agricultural Practice. We will also liaise with the Environment Agency subject to what waste being spread.

Environmental Protection may take formal action using statutory nuisance legislation. If there are unacceptable odours produced by spreading agricultural materials in a manner which does not follow Code of Good Agricultural Practice and, where there is evidence of best practice not being followed that results in the smell being an unreasonable intrusion into the complainant’s home.

However, formal action will generally only be taken where informal intervention would not succeed or where there have been repeated incidents of failing to follow best practice. It is also important to understand that taking formal action against the farmer or contractor will not make the smell go away immediately. I hope the above answers your query, however, if I can be of any further assistance, then please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Kind regards

Sarah

Mrs S Gamble MSc (Environmental Health) MCIEH/REnvH
Senior Environmental Health Practitioner'

I forwarded this information to all Councillors 15.04.25

Newsletter – Is a good way to communicate information like the above. To be included as and when necessary.

10/5/25. Correspondence

General Correspondence – List circulated.

11/5/25. Financial Matters and Grant Considerations

- a. Internal Audits – Councillor Breeze.
- b. Financial Statement to May 24 – With payments totalling £398.34 and receipts totalling £5,242.14 it was **resolved** that the Chairman would sign the statement for the record.
- c. Grant/Annual Cost Considerations – All proposed Grants and Annual costs were read out by The Chairman. These had previously been agreed when the Precept was set in January 25.

12/5/25. Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2024/25

- a. Approval of the Parish Council Annual Internal Audit.
- b. Approval of the Annual Governance Statement
- c. Approval of the Accounting Statements
- d. End of Year Accounts requirements including Public Rights and Publication

The Audit paperwork has been prepared and circulated. All Statements read out, approved, and signed.

13/5/25. Solar Projects

No progress with regards Gate Burton Low Carbon.

It has been in the news of late that Chinese slave labour cannot be used and Reform will fund judicial reviews.

Rolling Agenda Item. **Action next Agenda**

14/5/25. Speed Initiatives

After the purchase of the two speed indicators, Graeme Butler from Lincolnshire Highways has been out to look at where the speed indicators would be best suited and has highlighted two sites.

1. Verge opposite village hall. This clear of the tree canopy and offers drivers a better view when entering the village around the slight bend.
2. At the northern end, he suggests placing the sign closer to the public footpath and at the end of the adjacent property boundary. This location would offer drivers a good view when entering the village.

Photos of the locations has been distributed to Councillors.

Funding for the posts may be available also as these are at an additional and un-budgeted cost of £200 each.

It was proposed by Councillor Morphet and seconded by Councillor Bowdler that the above sites are agreeable and that funding be sought for these posts. **Action EC**

These solar powered speed indicators will be beneficial to the Parish, especially with the increased traffic we are already seeing. They will also have downloadable data which can be submitted to the police. This will highlight any speeding issues we are having, and this then can be escalated if necessary.

15/5/25. Neighbourhood Plan

No changes with regards the Solar Farm. Rolling Agenda Item. **Action next Agenda**

16/5/25. Village Newsletter

The Councillors have requested that a quote to produce the newsletter is obtained from Councillor Belton. To include a generic email for parishioners to contact us through and to include details of an event in August. Councillor Bowdler will amend and re-distribute a draft version.

It was proposed by Councillor Morphet that this be amended and ready to distribute beginning of June with all in favour. **Action SB**

The Chairman would also like to mention that the VE Day Event was a success with a good turn out of Parishioners.

17/5/25. Environmental and Sustainability Statement

Further to the agreement last meeting, The Clerk distributed a few options with regards the proposed statement. After discussions it was proposed by Councillor Coulson and seconded by Councillor Bowdler that we adopt a statement as follows:

Knaith Parish Council will endeavour to use environmentally sustainable products where practice and make the most economical and effective use of resources to minimise waste.

18/5/25. Items of information to be noted and if necessary, dealt with at the next meeting.

Suspicious activity – The Clerk was contacted by a resident with regards the following:

This afternoon a flatbed transit drove slowly down Willingham Rd stopping at each gateway so the driver could look over the house and front drive area. This vehicle driven by a late middle age white male has done this on previous occasions and his activity has been reported to the Police. He then picked up scrap metal left on the grass verge before moving slowly on down the road. I believe the Parish Council has a duty to warn residents that firstly the district council consider putting giveaway items on the grass verge is fly tipping but secondly it is attracting undesirable elements to be cruising the area on the lookout for opportunities for mischief. Residents should be guided in the direction of Facebook marketplace as a safer alternative.

I have raised this issue informally before but just wish to have this matter logged in writing in case there any issues involving this individual in the future.

The Parish Council have requested that The Clerk email him and confirm the contents of his email is noted. **Action EC**

19/5/25. Date for next meeting.

A date was set for the next Bi-Monthly Parish Council Meeting - Monday 14th July @ 6.30 pm.

With all business concluded the meeting closed at 8pm

Signed Dated