

KNODISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21ST JULY 2026

PRESENT: Councillors J Mayhew (Chair), N Black, J Clements, R Hardy, J Healy Clerk D Sanders, ESC Cllr S Whitelock and 22 members of the public

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

1. APOLOGIES - No Apologies

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – Cllr Mayhew & Cllr Clements for item 8 on the agenda.

3. MINUTES – Approval of minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 16th June 2026. Proposed by Cllr Clements and seconded by Cllr Healy and thus agreed by the Parish Council to accept the Minutes of the last meeting

4. CLERK'S REPORT AND MATTERS ARISING

- Bidwells are investigating the willows at the allotment however they mentioned to due bird nesting it may limit what can be done
- Tree works at the back of no.29 Hawthorn close has been reported
- St Andrews road junction has been reported however they responded saying road markings are not warranted.
- Reported overgrowing hedges outside 7&8 gorse view to flagship where they have informed that they will contact the tenants.

Meeting was closed and opened to district Cllr Whitelock, who began giving response to the request from the clerk regarding, school road, the bridge on the common and the broken drain by the allotment. The bridge and school road doesn't have owners and recommended to reach out to county again, the drain was positive as Cllr Whitelock have reached out to Anglian water who maybe able to help, will be able to provide an update in due course.

Cllr Whitelock went on to raise issues with the bins and 5 out of 30 in attendance have only had 1 or no collection since implementation. 1 resident mentioned that their green waste has not been collected.

Cllr Whitelock went on a briefly covered the report which can be found on the Knodishall website.

PLANS – DC/26/2090/LBC, Listed Building Consent - Replacement of Mid C20 single glaze window panes to double glazed panes - to the front, rear, and side elevation on

5. ground and 1st floor, Cherry Tree Farm, Aldringham Road, Knodishall, Suffolk – council only comment was to ensure that it is in keeping with visuals however no objections.

6. CO-OPTION OF COUNCILLORS

Nick Deacon in attendance has shown an interest becoming a councillor of Knodishall Parish Council and the chair invited Nick to share a few words to introduce himself. Councillors agreed unanimously to invite Nick to council which was proposed by Cllr Clements and seconded by Cllr Healy – Council welcomed Cllr Deacon to the council meeting. Clerk explained that he will send more information over.

7. PLAY AREA

7.1 chair explained that item 11 will be discussed at the same time as this item.

7.2 clerk has completed a preventative maintenance schedule for the play area with photos to be completed and decided by council on ways to implement.

7.3 Cllr Clements and Helen (Cleaner) have already carried out a trial which went well and agreed Helen will implement weekly checks and report where necessary, in addition a councillor will carry out a monthly check to ensure the play area in well maintained.

7.4 following the checks Cllr Clements reported that on the spider net the majority of caps have been removed, a bit of timber shelf is required for the frame as it exposes metal – it was agreed clerk to contact playdale to try source some new caps and Cllr Healy volunteered to affix the new bit of timber on the climbing frame.

7.5 Bark was delivered into the cradle swing area thanks to Cllr Hardy and Cllr Healy taking delivery, 5 bags was used for this area.

7.6 councillors to look at the zip wire area and see if it is worthwhile getting some more plastic edging and bark – to be discussed and agreed at a later date

8. REPAIRS SCHOOL ROAD

8.1. Chair explained that it would appear someone is filling in the holes on school road

8.2 Councillors to look at school road and decide what material and how much to use – hold of ordered until this has been decided.

9. TRAFFIC CALMING

9.1 Cllr Hardy attended the SZC Main Development Site Forum last week and asked for an update on the feasibility study for a pedestrian crossing. Now that funding has been approved, Suffolk County Council Highways Manager Steve Merry and Rebecca Quigg, SZC Transport Coordinator, will arrange a site visit to ascertain the best location for a crossing.

9.2 Cllr Hardy also asked for an update on the improvement works on the B1094/B1069 junction at Blackheath Corner. In quarter 4 this year more vegetation will be cut back, the road will be resurfaced and a 40mph speed limit will be implemented.

9.3 A resident in Coldfair Close has raised concerns about heavy traffic causing difficulty exiting the close. She will get in touch soon to arrange a meeting.

9.4 Cllr Hardy also read out the latest SID data from 7/6/26-7/7/26

9.5 Clerk gave an updates on the gates and there has been an issue with getting road authorisation however clerk has been assured that this is close and work should commence in the coming weeks.

10. ALLOTMENTS – REVIEW CONDITION AND DISCUSS RENT DEMANDS

10.1 Cllr Clements provided an update on the allotments and mentioned that Plots 7, 10 & 11 require attention to which clerk has sent out reminders of rule 7.1 – they have until end of the month to carry out work or they could be at risk of eviction.

10.2 Bidwells have written in on behalf of our landlord that the rent will be increasing to £566.23 from £370 – this has been calculated as part the land index, therefore clerk will sign the agreement and return to Bidwells.

10.3 following the increase in rent, council will raise the rent to all allotment holders by £5, from £40 yearly to £45 yearly to cover this increase, this was proposed by Cllr Clements and seconded by Cllr Black.

10.4 Cllr Mayhew opened to meeting to Mr Naylor who maintains the allotment pumps and tops up the tanks – Mr Naylor explained he has recently serviced the pump and handed costs to the clerk, he also mentioned that the need for water is high however the river is low so can be a struggle at times. Council thanked Mr Naylor for his services.

11. DISCUSS IMPLEMENTATION OF PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE FOR PLAY AREA this was discussed with item 7

12. REVIEW RISK REGISTER

The risk register was reviewed by council and proposed by Cllr Hardy and seconded Cllr Healy

13. TO CONSIDER THE FINDINGS OF THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR AND APPROVE RECOVERY ACTION PLAN TO ADDRESS MATTERS RAISED

Clerk explained due to a couple of governance issues we needed to act and implement a recovery action plan to resolve issues raised- the action plan was proposed by Cllr Hardy and seconded BY Cllr Black.

14. TO CONSIDER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE A GOV.UK DOMAIN AND COUNCIL OWNED EMAIL ADDRESS

This item was discussed at the last meeting however clerk explained this must be an agenda item therefore was proposed by Cllr Hardy and seconded by Cllr Healy

15. MATTERS RAISED BY PARISH COUNCILLORS

Cllr Mayhew raised concern about the common and spreading of potential fire outbreaks – All councillors had a walk around the common prior the meeting to identify key points that need attention. These were

- Footpaths overgrowing and require cutting back
- Fire breaks neared the dwellings need attention
- Grass areas around sheldrake house requires cutting back
- Debris around fencing requires removing
- Logs near sparrow cottage requires removing

Cllr Clements went on to say that additional presence is required like a walk around every few weeks to remove high risk items like reflective bits.

Cllr Healy suggested to make a poster to ensure residents are doing the same and to contact us so we can act quickly.

Cllr Mayhew added that the village hall is readily available in the event of such disasters.

Cllr Black told council that as a result of the events in July 2022 that when he spoke to the fire service he was informed that the common maintenance had nothing to do with the fire spread as it resulted in young offenders lighting it in 3 areas of the common. Cllr Black also raised the issue of trying to ensure leaf litter is being picked up too.

Cllr Clements thanked the feedback regarding St Andrews road and have fed this back which wasn't agreed and will await further comment.

16. CORRESPONDANCE –

Clerk received the following correspondence (title only for minutes) which was read out at the meeting – followed by council action

- Car parking opposite the playgroup – council will actively meet with both households and try find a common ground.
- Coldfair close speeding – council will look at this area and include as part of measures, perhaps introducing another SID device.
- Wildfire danger on common – fire measures discussed in item 15

17. FINANCIAL –

17.1. The July 2026 financial statement was reviewed and approved. Proposed by Cllr Clemments and seconded by Cllr Healy.

17.2 A total of £3218.74 for payments was approved.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING –18th August 2026

Council meeting closed at 20:43 and chair invited residents in attendance to speak – due to the amount chair start at the front and worked through to the back.

Comments from residents were kept brief for the minutes.

- Can someone come and look twice a year a produce a fire plan for the common
- Posts for the parking area have not worked in the past
- Where are the fire hydrants in the village
- Can brambles be cut back further on the common
- How high can the gorse be
- Don't think the council are doing enough to prevent fire
- Can a working party be introduced

- Risk register should be implemented solely on fire for the common

The general feeling around the room is that council are not doing enough to prevent fire on the common. It was reiterated that council do not own the common and it is under management by natural England and wildlife trust, this advises council on how to proceed.

Closed at 21:21