

The Knockholt Parish Council
Report of Council meeting held on Monday 4th February 2008

A packed public galley this month, well actually there were four members of the public one of whom was one of our District Councillors, another was a co-opted member from the Amenities Committee whilst a third was an advisor from the Planning Committee!! So perhaps not so packed..... but the quality was excellent.

In no particular order of importance or necessarily meeting events, you may be interested in some of the following we debated.

We are aware, and have been and continue to try to get the remains of the gas works signage and other bits removed. So do not be surprised to if you see a Councillor or two shinning up a lamp post to remove a great big yellow sign!

Those of you, who use Harrow Road, will be aware of the poor condition of the road surface, and despite the fact we record and report it on a very regular basis, it is repaired in a temporary manner only, that is until we wrote to KCC Highways. They are going to repair it correctly we are advised – good news eh? Bad news – we are on the list, so who knows when?

A date for your diary, electronic schedule, board and chalk or just memory.

Cllr. Malzer did mention it in this spot last month, it is Wednesday April 9th, and is the date of the Annual Parish Meeting. This you will recall is not a Parish Council meeting, but in days of old would have been when footpaths were agreed and the like. Times move on and we have different subjects, but you will be pleased to learn that we are expecting to have our local Member of Parliament attending, Mr. Fallon, so a good opportunity for questions, particularly as more news of the Fort Halstead development may be public by then.

Another date for your diary's, etc. is the 2nd April between 10:00 and 11:00 when Dennis Glasspool, our local Police Community Support Office will be holding another 'surgery'. Venue will be published around the village, but is likely to be the Parish Rooms in the Village Centre.

We had our usual sack of mail, and even these days e-mail. Everything from the Kent Village of the Year competition, (something we have not entered now for a number of years, as we feel we have nothing 'new' to contribute), through letters from the Chevening Estate, and all the KCC/SDC/KAPC plans and meetings that go on, that your Councillors contribute to on a regular basis.

Our work is not just the monthly meeting, and I mention this now, as unfortunately one of our members is leaving us for more demanding challenges. That means we will have a vacancy in the next few months for a Councillor. The work is not onerous, the tasks are enjoyable and the satisfaction of actually contributing to our lovely village is immense. So be you in work or out of work/retired, young or old, a professional or not, do please consider stepping up to the plate and at least finding out more of what is involved. The contact will be as always our wonderful Clerk, so give her a call now, well when you have finished reading this anyway.

Your council is involved in so much it is hard to condense it into this space limited article, but the Minutes of our meetings, which are to be found on all notice boards, and for those who have it the web at <http://www.knockholtparish.org.uk/> will give you some idea. Be it development at Fort Halstead; queries on planning matters from Parishioners; the care of the War Memorial; Waste Disposal; Traffic Safety; Crime and its prevention; the care of the land we own or just plain old fashioned finance (we have had a relook at our financial situation, and are moving some of the Parish money to better pastures, a move in our continuous efforts to keep the Precept down, and the service levels up), we beaver away on your behalf.

Next meeting is on Monday March 3rd, at 19:45 (7:45pm) in the Village Centre Hall. Come alone and see, and don't forget, we are looking for a new Councillor – could it be you?
Bob Martin – Vice Chairman.