**Ketton**

The Parish Council Meeting of Ketton Parish Council was held on Wednesday, 20th November, in the Parish Office, Stocks Hill Lane. The meeting was attended by nine councillors, County Councillors Karen Payne & Gordon Brown & the Clerk. Apologies were received from one councillor & approved.

There was one member of the public present.

**Police report**

No police were present at the meeting, but PC Peter Icke sent an area crime report for the past month, dated 15 November. During the last 31 days there has been reported in the Rutland South Beat; theft of a dog from a van, the dog was found in Northants; one burglary dwelling whilst occupants away – rear window forced; one break in to a shed and car between 06:30 – 12:00 hours; one incident of theft - parts stripped off vehicle; one incident of a works van broken into and tools stolen – 2 x males arrested – tools located along with other items – on going investigation; action fraud – an elderly person was defrauded of money over the phone; one burglary dwelling – entry via rear insecure window; 2 thefts of vehicle number plates overnight; damage to a motor vehicle overnight; theft of 2 old type land rovers & the theft of plant machinery overnight in Ketton.

The joint Rutland North and Rutland South priority remains as Rural Crime in relation to burglaries, car crime and theft. In the last 30 days there has been 2 residential break in on the South Rutland beat, although there were 3 breaks ins, in Uppingham and 2 in Oakham. Residents are advised to look at their security measures on any lockups, garages, sheds or outbuilding. If you can make it difficult for anyone to get into the rear garden, even better as this is the preferred point of entry for burglars. Preferred items for criminals to steal are jewellery and cash, so please keep these safe.

There have also been a number of reports relating to vehicle crime this month. The police are running a force wide operation at present as last year we saw an increase in theft from vans in as the darker nights drew in. Please continue to remove all property from your vehicle – remember’ if you leave it on show it will go’. Try and park your vehicle in a well-lit area, & manoeuvre your van to make it difficult to open any side or rear doors.

No lead thefts have been reported this month although other areas have seen an increase in thefts of lead from church roofs. Please keep a look out especially in the evenings / overnight and report to the police or make a note of any suspicious vehicles and the registrations in the area.

The police are running a vehicle enforcement campaign throughout Rutland for speed and anti-social driving & will be out in villages and towns with the speed laser gun. They will update Twitter and

Facebook with the results.

The police will continue to work closely with the local residents and will alert residents as soon as a crime is reported. If anything suspicious is seen, please report it through either 999 or 101.

The next beat surgery: PC Peter Icke will be at Ketton Hub on Tuesday 10th December 2019 between

10 – 11am for you to pop down and discuss any issues you may have.

C.Cllr Payne notified council that RCC’s contractor had completed the removal of the semi-retaining boundary wall to the west of the library, & had re-graded the soft landscaping and made good the tarmac path. The car park behind the library has also been improved, with the surface levelled.

C.Cllr Payne confirmed that the parish council & RCC have been exploring the possibility of removing the steps and installing a ramp at the Edmonds Drive entrance to the Sooty Bridge footpath, to improve accessibility for mobility scooters, pushchairs and prams. The parish council’s H&OS Committee discussed a work and analysis report from RCC, regarding the gradient at Sooty Bridge and the steps on

Edmunds Drive. RCC advised that although it would be possible to replace the steps with a ramp, there is no way of addressing the steep slope down to Sooty Bridge, and reducing it to an acceptable gradient (1 in 12), without a significant amount of work; & at some considerable cost. A significant amount of excavation would be required & retaining structures needed (sheeting piling may be cheapest but driving it in could cause the slope embankment to become unstable) and the Network Rail fencing would probably need to be removed during construction. The H&OS Committee voted and concurred with RCC that In the circumstances, it would be not be worth removing the steps and replacing with a ramp, when there is no way that RCC can address the problems with the steep rise by Sooty Bridge.

C.Cllr Payne confirmed that work has started on creating a pedestrian refuge, (hard standing area) at the junction of Barrowden Road and Geeston Road & this should be completed shortly.

C.Cllr Brown confirmed that Rutland County Council is considering a raft of new targets, initiatives and actions to help in the global fight against climate change. A 'Rutland Climate Change Consultation Event' will take place on the 28th November at Voluntary Action Rutland 7 - 9 pm. This event is aimed at engaging the communities of Rutland with the topic of climate change in the county, & will focus upon the natural environment, building ideas and areas to work upon, in order to mitigate and combat the effects of climate change. This consultation relates to climate change in Rutland and will help to inform how we use our land and open spaces to meet our net-zero carbon footprint before 2050. The topics for focus within this consultation are carbon storage (in our trees, soils, grasslands, natural areas, parks and open spaces), flooding, food production and waste avoidance, and renewable energy production

Ronnie Burt is now the Flood Warden for Ketton. The Clerk will contact RCC again to request that a flood warning sign is installed at Geeston, similar to the sign at Collyweston. Cllrs thanked Ronnie for issuing flood warnings to residents via Nextdoor (a free private social network, used by many residents), as Collyweston Road, Ketton has flooded frequently during the recent wet weather.

The chairman thanked C.Cllrs Brown & Payne for their ongoing work in resolving issues on behalf of Ketton residents.

It was agreed at the F&GP meeting on 7 November, that to break even and to cover the relatively small increases in each section of the draft budget, the parish council would need to claim a £9,405 increase in precept, meaning a £12.23 increase in residents 2020-21 Band D, Council Tax bills. The parish council budgeted for a deficit of £8,000 in this current year, i.e. it agreed to plan a level of net spend, and meet that from cash reserves, not from the Council Tax bills. Clearly this is not sustainable at the same levels of spending, either the spend must go down, or the precept must go up, or the parish council will need to continue to use cash reserves, or a combination options. Cllrs considered the options and acknowledged that the withdrawal & reduction of rebates received by parish councils from RCC for snow clearance, cemetery maintenance & grass cutting was having a detrimental impact and to continue reducing the council’s reserves further was not prudent. Therefore cllrs agreed that the precept should be increased to avoid further cuts in the provision of services, although some economies will be made to mitigate the budgetary increase.

Cllrs have formed a working group to explore the potential options for the Ketton Library site.

Council agreed to defer any expenditure for plans to be drawn up examining the workable reconfigurations for the building space, and exploration of potential options for the Parish Office. Cllrs & RCC will continue to discuss the options for the Library building.

Ketton has won 'the Best Overall Village' in Rutland Radio's Village Star Awards. A big thank you to all those who help to keep our village safe, looking good and full of friendship and activity.

The Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, who manage Ketton Old Quarry and the Station Road fields as nature reserves, have winter activities listed at lrwt.org.uk

Ketton News Facebook page, our village website www.ketton.org.uk and the village noticeboards are kept up to date with details of local events.

LEAP - Local Energy Advice Partnership (phone 0800 060 7567 or email support@applyforleap.org.uk ) offers eligible residents in our area a free energy and money saving service, including in-home advice visits, installing LED bulbs and draught-proofing, finding the best energy tariff and sourcing funding for energy-saving home improvements.

The Ketton and Tinwell Joint Neighbourhood Plan Group had hoped to issue their village questionnaire this autumn, but due to the delay in RCC publishing its new Local Plan, it is unlikely to 'drop onto your mat' until the spring.

You can sign up for a monthly 'Your Rutland' e newsletter by registering on Rutland County Council's website [**www.rutland.gov.uk**](http://www.rutland.gov.uk)

Dates for your diary: Sun Dec 1st Advent Carols 4pm at St Mary's; Tues Dec 3rd lunch at Carver Court; Wed Dec 4th Open Mic at the Railway; Thurs Dec 5th Darby and Joan Xmas lunch (pre booking required); Fri Dec 6th Ketton School Xmas fete after school, Ketton Showtime 8pm at the Northwick Arms Hall; Sat Dec 7th County Councillors' surgery, 10.15 to 11.15am in the library; Fri Dec 20th Traditional French music & dancing, 8pm in the Northwick Arms Hall, Christmas Concert 7pm at St Mary's; Mon Dec 23rd village carols 6.30pm at St Mary's; Tues Dec 24th Christingle 3pm at St Mary's; Thurs Dec 26th 1970s event at the Railway; Sat Jan 25th 4.15pm Ketton Wassail in Hall Close (aka the Play Park), and after-party at the Northwick Arms; Sat May 16th Ketton Village Fete at KSCC (volunteer fete committee members needed !

The Whitebread Trust is a charity for the support of individuals and organisations within the parish of Ketton. Applications for support should be addressed to the Chairman of the trust, Glenis Southern, via the Parish Office.

If you are struggling with your smartphone, tablet, or laptop then why not sign up with Sarah at the Parish Office for free one-to-one IT training sessions on a Monday between 1.30pm and 4,30pm, with Berni, our very patient and dedicated volunteer trainer?

Don't forget that the Community hub, at Ketton Library, offers coffee, biscuits and a chance to meet up with old and new friends, every Tuesday and Thursday, 9.30am to 11.45am.

C.Cllrs Karen Payne & Gordon Brown would like to remind residents that they hold a monthly surgery in Ketton. The public can come and talk to Karen & Gordon on the first Saturday of every month from 10.15 -11.15 am.in the Community Hub/Library. Councillor Alison Couzens from Ketton Parish Council will also be available to answer questions and provide assistance.

The next surgery will be on Saturday December 7th.