

# Annual Parish Meeting of Knapton

held on **Tuesday, May 7th 2024, 7:30 pm** at **Knapton Village Hall**

## MINUTES

**Present: Jackie Hall, Chairman Knapton Parish Council**

**Minute taker: Denise Revell**

Cllr Lawton, Cllr Austin, 19 Parishioners, Norfolk Police, MOD Police, County Councillor Ed Maxfield

1. Welcome by the Chairman of Knapton Parish Council

Cllr Hall welcomed those present and said that she hoped that her time as Chairman would be a positive one.

2. To consider and agree the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on the 9th May 2023. The minutes of the last meeting were read aloud at the meeting. They were considered and agreed and signed at the meeting

3. Village and other reports

### **Knapton News**

Donations from the Gas Site this year have been really generous, the amount given has been increased in the last year. Requests have to be made on an annual basis to each of the companies, one payment into the account to date. The next issue is due out by the beginning of June. I will request contributions from all the organisations who use the village hall or who have activities in the village to let me know for the What's on section. Also to help those new to the village with a small write up for the news. Our thanks to Jenny Lee who organises the delivery of all the Knapton News to each resident in Knapton and thanks also to the volunteers who distribute the Knapton News around the village.

### **Women's Own**

The group of ladies meet on the first Tuesday of the month, with various speakers. New members are always welcome. This year's annual fundraising Strawberry Tea will be on the 2nd July from 2.15pm, everyone is invited to attend for just £5 for the tea. All monies raised will be going to the Priscilla Bacon Hospice and The Jenny Lind Children's Hospital in Norwich. Before Covid and during this period Women's Own raised money for the Macmillan Cancer Centre at Cromer Hospital, they did this in memory of Patricia Doidge, a long-time member of the group. They continue to collect 5p pieces for the centre. Their contributions have been recognised with a Plaque on the centre wall.

### **Coffee Club**

The Coffee Club has continued to thrive, with a regular attendance of between 15 to 20 +. Whilst work was being done on the village hall, the Madra kindly stepped into give us a place to meet. There are many people in the village who live alone and the group was set up some years ago to give them and others somewhere to meet and chat.

#### **4. Parishioners Open Forum**

Parishioners discussed the Knapton Bump, which was still unpainted. The Council would continue to chase up this unfinished works.

Speeding in Hall Lane and The street was discussed, Norfolk Police said that they would speak to the people who carry out speed monitoring and see if it was possible for them to monitor speed in these areas. They also said that they would be doing visits to the area. New plans are underway for the service to be provided by a man on a bike, rather than in a van, which may make it easier for it to be implemented in Knapton. It was discussed that the SAM 2 results had not been reported for a few years and the question raised about the impact on speeding traffic that they make. The council would look into the data collected from the SAM 2 sign. Community Speed Watch was discussed and Norfolk Police would pass on information to the Parish Council about the possibility of setting one up in Knapton. 6 Volunteers will be needed with 2 people working together at any one time to monitor the traffic speeds. Volunteers need to be a community group and the cost of the equipment would need to be at the cost of the Parish. Recently Trunch had set up a successful scheme and they would be invited to attend the next Parish Council Meeting to explain what they do.

Concerns were raised about the increase in traffic exiting the MADRA site and the speed of vehicles and the possibility of drink drivers. MADRA have reported that they have increased communication with their members about driving safely in the village after an incident where a resident's child was almost knocked off their bike by a speeding motorist. MADRA and Highways have installed extra signage reminding motorists to drive carefully in the village to try and combat the problem.

There also appear to be problems with speeding in Hall Lane during School and Work run times.

Suggestions were made of a crossing place by Point Cottage leading to the Car Park. The council would investigate, this could possibly be paid for using Parish Partnership money or under the Safer Road Strategy.

The Wilds Way bus stop still hadn't had a barrier installed as promised. The Parish Council would look into this.

Older School Children walking to the bus stops are at risk because there is no lighting in the area and where they have to cross is unsafe as its on a blind bend

Issues with cars safely exiting Wilds Way on to School Close were raised

#### **Knapton Parish Council**

Concerns were raised that there were not enough councillors to run the council. Electoral services had confirmed that the Quorate for Knapton Parish Council was Three. The council is in the

position to be able to Co-opt 2 councillors and after the 15th May they could co-opt a further two councillors. Parishioners wanting to apply to be co-opted onto the council should contact the Clerk for an application pack. The council's code of conduct will include the NOLAN principles. Future training for new councillors would be compulsory.

Parishioners discussed the village website and the future plans for the site. The Village Hall were looking into setting up their own site and investigations were also underway for the Parish Council to do the same.

Parishioners raised concerns that Cllr Lawton had not offered an apology for his actions at the last meeting sooner, it was also mentioned that Parishioners believe that Cllr Hall is biased towards MADRA and does not manage the Knapton Village page in an appropriate way. It was felt that the Parish Council's Facebook would be reinstated and this would be the Social Media platform that would be used for Council business from now on.

### **MADRA**

Parishioners discussed the current issues with MADRA and the Old School Playing Field that is owned by the Parish Council.

**School Playing Field** - Questions were raised about the restrictive covenants on the original 1955 conveyance document, the 1985 lease, the 2020 Lease and notice periods. All of these issues were to be investigated by the Parish Council through the Solicitors.

**MADRA** - Issues about the original Trustees for MADRA were discussed as it appears that several of them no longer wished to remain as trustees. The legalities of them being removed as trustees would have to be investigated and advice taken from the Charity Commission.

More discussion took place relating to MADRA and the meeting started to get out of hand, two parishioners left the meeting at this point because a parishioner was raising their voice at which point the Police stepped in to try and calm down the situation. The parishioner apologised for their behaviour and the discussion continued.

It was also raised by parishioners that there were concerns about the timing of the MADRA AGM as it was felt that this should be held in April not May, but this issue would have to be raised with MADRA.