

**Minutes of a Knapton Annual Parish Meeting held in
Knapton Village Hall on
Tuesday 18th May, 2021 at 7.00 pm**

Present: Peter Neatherway (Chairman Parish Council), Pat Lee (Vice-Chairman), John Lawton, Keith Lawrence, Elizabeth Winter, Alan Young, Tracy Smith (members of the PC), Dee Holroyd (Clerk).
Cllr Ed Maxfield NCC
Eight residents of Knapton Village.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Cllr Greg Hayman, NNDC
- 2. Minutes of the previous Meeting:** held on 1st May 2019 had been signed.
- 3. Address by Chairman of Knapton Parish Council:** PN welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained there had been no public meeting last year due to Covid 19 restrictions. He told the meeting that in the last two years the playground had been refurbished, a speed awareness camera installed and that plans for an extension of the 30mph limit in Hall Lane from MADRA to Butterfly Walk was agreed with Highways as was the re-shaping of the junction with the B1145, Hall Lane and The Street. The Knapton Angels had made over 500 deliveries to residents during lockdown. The Parish Council was in negotiations with the Victory Housing Trust to take over the land at the north-east end of the Wild's Way development. The PC was also trying to deal with issues of road safety in School Close.
- 4. Councillor Reports:**
 - **Fete:** AY reported that the fete was a traditional village event, normally held each September. AY did not know whether it would be possible to hold the Fete this year. Fete funds were down but they hoped to re-coop funds given to the Village Hall last year.
 - **Knapton Angels:** JL explained this was set up last year to deliver groceries and to keep in contact with people unable to get out. It had been very well used with Liz Winter and Pat Lee doing a large number of regular deliveries. Calls had now dropped off but anyone needing the Angels could get in touch. Posters were in place in various places in the village. There had been a couple of very positive articles in the EDP about the Angels as well as recognition of their services by Lady Dannatt, HM Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk.
 - **Knapton News:** LW reported that funding from the Bacton Gas Site was in place. LW explained that Bacton Gas was supportive to surrounding villages, providing an annual lunch at a local hotel to which residents over the age of 60 were invited and ferried by coach. They had also provided a very nice bench for the playground. The Knapton News is delivered free to all Knapton residents and is also available via email and on-line on the website. LW was currently putting together the June edition and asked for any articles or appropriate photos to be sent to her.
 - **Allotments:** PL reported that all were taken. One or two had been split as they were too big for some people. There was a waiting list, but Knapton residents were automatically put at the top of the list. There was good community spirit on the allotments.

- **School Close and Wild`s Way:** PN explained the problem of access into Wild`s Way for large (ie. Emergency) vehicles. The PC was trying to get the Victory Housing Trust, who owned the land at Wild`s Way to talk to Highways. The PC was powerless to take action.
- **Sam2 Speed Awareness Camera:** JL explained that this recently installed camera flashes up speed of approaching vehicles as they near or pass the limit. There were five positions in place for the machine, which was moved about once a month. Speeding is then logged and reported to the police who can spot areas of excessive speeding and take appropriate action. This had not yet happened. A vehicle had been logged as entering the 40mph limit at 80mph.
- **Junction Hall Lane/The Street/B1145:** PN told the meeting that currently a pedestrian in Hall Lane had no escape from a vehicle entering from the B1145 at speed. Plans to alter this were delayed as it was hoped to tie in the work with Anglia Water work on the new mains drains installation. There were also constraints as large farm vehicles must be able to use the junction.
- **Wild`s Way:** PN confirmed that negotiations to take over the land at Wild`s Way were ongoing. A Wilds Way resident explained that each household was currently pay £25 month to the VHT for common ground maintenance, which was not being carried out. They personally would be happy to pay this fee to Knapton PC if they would carry out the works. The resident would bring the information on this to the PC.
- **Anglia Water:** LW confirmed that work on the mains drains would start in July at the bottom of The Street, where the pumping station would be installed next to the electricity substation. Residents who still wished to sign up could do so up to the end of May. Connection to the mains would be free, with residents paying their costs for work on their property. A question was asked about why the mains drainage was not coming to Hall Lane. This was due to lack of any drainage problems in Hall Lane, the small number of properties and funding constraints. LW could put anyone in Hall Lane wishing to have mains drains installed, in touch with the appropriate Anglia Water contact. It`s worth bearing in mind that anyone choosing not to connect whilst the works are being carried out but subsequently change their mind and want to connect later (or are forced to by the Environmental Agency) could face connection charges from £10,000 to as much as £20,000 once all the charges from Highways, notices and groundworks have been taken into account.
- **Superfast Broadband:** JL reported a Gigabit Voucher Scheme was in place to fund full-fibre speeds to the whole village. Individual funding would not be enough on its own, but collectively, if enough residents showed interest, it could be. Fliers explaining the scheme would be delivered to each house in Knapton and put on the website. The PC was supporting the scheme and would be able to assist individual residents to form a Community Interest Company. BT would then do a feasibility scheme.
- **Path to Knapton Green:** KL reported that it was hoped that a new path could be made from Wild`s Way to the B1145 opposite Knapton Green. This was with the co-operation of the land owner. At the moment the PC was trying to establish ownership of the strip of land running from Wild`s Way, west behind the pond.

5. Financial Report: The clerk explained that funding for the PC came almost entirely from the Precept from NNDC to which each resident made a small contribution via their Council Tax. The Precept had not been raised for over ten years, but the PC costs were going up. Last year the PC had expenditure of over £7,000, while the Precept was £4,250. A £2,000 increase had been agreed. The clerk

explained the main areas of expense: playground, clerk`s salary, emptying of dog bins, insurance, fees. All accounts were available for the public to inspect, either within a published period or on the website. PN praised the Parish Clerk for managing the transfer of the bank from Lloyds to one more suited to meet today`s council requirements.

6. Public Questions:

a resident asked who to contact if interested in receiving superfast broadband. All contact was via the clerk, who would pass on to the appropriate PC member.

PN thanked the residents who had come to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.