



So much has happened in the last three months in our quiet little parish that space limitation here means I can't include it all.

As the sun shines through the blinds, Storm Babet already seems like a distant memory. That is, unless you live in The Street or Pond Lane where only a few days ago the water was halfway up our Vice-Chair's wellies, and the memory is not so distant for residents as yet again they had to clear up the mess that nature - and our failing highway drainage system - left behind. I believed that I was getting somewhere with Highways on this, but clearly not. Jackie walked the route in the pouring rain, noting the location of, and taking photos and videos of, streaming water, blocked drains and filled-up drainage ditches so we can have another attempt to get Highways to resolve our road drainage issues. I'll let you know how we get on!

It was always going to be a challenge for anyone taking over the reins from the wonderful Dee, but in her first couple of weeks Denise, our new Parish Clerk, has worked hard to get to grips with all the idiosyncrasies of our delightful little parish. As a qualified Playground Inspector, Denise has already inspected our playground (*and made suggestions for it going forward*), our land assets (*and found a WW2 Spiggot and registered it with Norfolk County Council so that it can be added to the Historic Environment Record*), the Bus Stop at the Green (*and identified remedial work required*) and organised a new flagpole to replace the one on the Wilds Way green. Great start Denise, thank you.

Another monumental change that's taken place since my last statement is that the MADRA is now under new management. Bacton Football Club (renamed MADRA FC) now have the keys and are working hard to build a friendly relationship with those who live around them. They are keen to integrate themselves within the village and I would encourage everyone to pop up there and see the friendly, welcoming atmosphere they have created, as I have done. There have been a few issues, some have been resolved and some are in the process of being resolved, but the willingness to find a happy resolution seems to be there, and the Parish Council will work hard to make MADRA an integral part of our village once again. A place for events, recreation and sport for everyone in the parish to enjoy.

Talking about closer ties, I welcome the closer working relationship that appears to be developing between the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee. In such a small village, that has to be a good thing, especially with the Parish Plan revision soon to be launched.

The tragic death of young Alfie in Swafield just a few weeks ago and the near misses recently experienced by one of our village mums taking her children to meet the school bus, have once again highlighted our need to persevere with making our roads safer. The re-modelled design of the Hall Lane / Knapton Road junction was agreed by our parishioners over two Public Meetings and Highways have confirmed that the work will commence on 27th November.

With the Knapton Road and Pond Lane speed limit reductions already approved by Highways and due to go live next year, our focus will now be on slowing down the speeding drivers in Hall Lane! By the time you read this we will have had a third Public Meeting on 30th October as the council continues to seek a safe solution for all those who use our roads, particularly our children!

Helping us to do that will be our new Councillor, Zillah Austin. I believe that our youth are our future, and you may have read in the local papers that at 18yrs old, Zillah is officially the youngest councillor in North Norfolk and quite possibly the country. With Jackie as her mentor, we hope that Zillah will be able to help the council reach out to the young and the vulnerable amongst us so that we can work to help everyone in the parish.

As we help Zillah to get to grips with her new role within the parish, we are also now looking to add another member to our team, so if you are a Knapton parishioner, love where you live and want to help us make a difference, please feel free to contact any one of us for a chat, or visit our webpage at: https://knaptonvillage.org/parish_council/why-be-a-parish-councillor/

It seems to be a time for repair around the village, with the church clock being overhauled and the Village Sign having to be replaced. The Knapton History Club will be putting on a display about them both in the church to celebrate their place in our village's rich history and creating a dedicated page on our website in the near future. Well worth a look.

And finally, I'd like to offer a special note of thanks to Mr Graham Robson of Stratton Strawless. He and his family have attended the Knapton Fete every year (apart from Covid) for the last 25 years! I'm reliably informed that Graham feels it's the best fête around... and who would argue with him!

As always, I and my colleagues on the Parish Council are easy to contact if you have any questions, comments or if you feel there's something I or we should know, and I look forward to seeing you at any one of the events planned over the coming festive period.

Peter

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