

# KNETTISHALL AND HOPTON ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS

## Minutes

Present: Parish Councillors L. Macklin (Chair), A. Hanks, R.Capon, S.Delve, D. Faiers, B. Shadbolt and Councillor J Spicer (Suffolk County Council) & Councillor C. Bull (West Suffolk District Council) and seven members of the public.

### 1. Apologies for absence

None

### 2. Annual Report from the Parish Council

Cllr Macklin Horsfall highlighted the establishment of the Healing Wood and also the friendship bench, along with the telephone support which had been put in place for a period of time during the covid pandemic.

### 3. Financial Report from the Parish Council

The Clerk reported that there was a surplus for the year 2021/2022 without the need for any reserves to be used as had been budgeted.

### 4. County Councillor's Report

County Councillor Joanna Spicer reported that the County Council had received over £150 million of funding from the Government for Covid response and recovery and as Chair of the County Council Audit Committee she would be leading on assuring that this was all accounted for. The Council had increased its refugee support service in the light of the crisis in Ukraine and was the first council to cancel its contract for gas from Russia. Councillor Spicer also wished it to be known that she was always happy to liaise with constituents or the Parish Council on county-wide issues such as major infrastructure projects (like Sizewell C, solar and wind farms and offshore energy issues), environmental matters including policies relating to climate change and carbon reduction, strategic transport links, and the proposed Freeport of Felixstowe. Cllr Spicer's full report will be published on the Parish Council's website.

### 5. District Councillor's Report

District Councillor Carol Bull reported on some of the work of the District Council including the proposal to invest £9 million in a range of green initiatives to help reach carbon neutrality by 2030, and the creation of a new Local Plan, the draft of which will be going out for consultation in May, and which is essential to ensure that the area is able to meet the housing targets required by central government but avoid speculative and often inappropriate development. Cllr Bull's full report will be published on the Parish Council's website.

6. Reports from Local Organisations & Charities

The Meetings received a report from the Hopton Combined Charities who had made payments totalling £2131 in 2020/2021 and £3188 in 2021/2022 and a report from The High Street Chapel who reported on the gradual restarting of events and clubs in 2022, including a Tuesday Coffee Morning at the Chapel to which all are welcome. Cllr Hanks reported on a meeting between Councillors and the Village Hall Management Committee. She reported on the Committee's plans to secure the Hall's roof, followed by insulating the building and upgrading the toilets, and finally building an extension were mentioned. Once it was clearer when the funds from the Hopton South development were likely to come, match funding would be sought. The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall Committee is scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

7. Knettishall: Local issues

It was noted that a full report from the Knettishall Reserve had been submitted to the Parish Council at its February meeting.

8. Hopton: Local issues

The possibility of establishing Quiet Lanes in the Parish was raised.

9. Any other business

None

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