

HOPTON-CUM-KNETTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING THE VILLAGE HALL, HOPTON MONDAY 11th DECEMBER AT 7 PM (Draft until approved and signed)

PRESENT:

Councillor Loreen Macklin Horsfall (Chair) (LMH)
Councillor Andrea Hanks (Vice Chair) (AH)
Councillor Robert Capon (RC)
Councillor Su Delve (SD)
Councillor David Faiers (DF)
Councillor Jo Hassan (JH)
Councillor Julian Thompson (JT)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Nicholas Spring (Parish Clerk) (NS)
12 members of the public were present.

NOT PRESENT:

Councillor Ben Shotbolt (BS)
County Councillor Joanna Spicer (JS)
District Councillor Carol Bull (CB)

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

1. Apologies for absence were received from: Councillor Ben Shotbolt (BS); County Councillor Joanna Spicer (JS); and District Councillor Carol Bull (CB)
2. Members' declarations of interests & requests for dispensations
None
3. Sarsons Meadow update from Burgess Homes

Construction progress: footings now down; bricking up would follow early in 2024; the marketing launch would be in Spring 2024. Aiming to keep roads clean during construction. The 37 properties would be released in 5 phases for reservation. S106 funds would be made available when the 26th property was occupied. Could be up to three years.

Surface water flooding: as required by the planning permission, drainage would be put in place to future-proof against worse case scenarios. The site would therefore not add to current flooding issues.

Sale prices: likely to be from £250,000 to £750,000.

Affordable: 9 properties would be Housing Association rentals and 2 properties would be shared equity.

4. Public participation session

A number of issues were raised:

- Nethergate Street pavements – accumulated vegetation and poor condition of surface – members of public encouraged to report direct – Clerk would also report.
- Village gateways – it was pointed out that this + VAS were part of the planning permission for Sarsons Meadow – Clerk to follow-up.
- It was also noted that the planning permission for Sarons Meadow included £6000 for a new bus stop.

5. To consider any matters relating to Highways, pavements, footpaths and trees

- a) To approve the quote from Glasdon for a pair of gateways for £1733.10 (excl. VAT)
This was provisionally approved but the responsibility of the Sarsons Meadow developer for these would be followed-up
- b) To approve the quote from Earth Anchors for five dog bins & posts for £1073 (excl. VAT)
The quote was agreed.
- c) To note the correspondence from Suffolk County Council regarding Hopton Footpath 8 – Boardwalk
It appeared that English Nature had not yet approved the replacement of the boardwalk. It was also noted that the boardwalk was now potentially dangerous to walk and might need to be temporarily closed. Clerk to contact SCC Highways.
- d) To discuss the setting up of a footpaths volunteer group
In the first instance, the offer to keep a footpath open with a ride-on mower needed to be risk-assessed so as to satisfy the Council's insurers.
- e) Other
None

6. Reports from the County and/or District Councillor

JS's written report included: meeting regarding Knettishall bridge and the boardwalk.
CB's written report included: blocked drains in Nethergate Street are due to be cleared by SCC; the Council Tax reduction scheme; the Local Plan; rough sleeping.

7. To approve as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 13th November 2023
The minutes were approved.

8. To review any action points in the minutes and not already on the agenda
None

9. Planning
To consider the Parish Council's responses to any planning application consultations.
None

10. Finances

- a. Council received the monthly Budget Report
- b. Council to consider the draft budget for 2024/2025
Clerk to revise draft budget to add interest payments + some reserves to income.
- c. Council approved the Payments Schedule

11. Correspondence

To consider any correspondence previously circulated and not considered earlier including correspondence with the Bowls Club regarding the Storm Babet flooding.

- a) The email from the Bowls Club was noted. It was agreed that a small grant might be considered at a later stage.
- b) The Council agreed to the re-appointment of Ron Smith as one of the Council's nominated Trustees of Hopton Charities.

12. Council to review councillor roles and councillor training needs

The updated schedule of councillor roles was noted. It was agreed that the Clerk would organise a training session for the second Monday of February. The Clerk would also circulate SAL:C training opportunities.

13. Information updates from the Chair and Councillors

JH reported that the Village Hall residents' survey was underway.
DF reported that the ditch alongside the Village Hall was being levelled up
SD would update on Starlink and domestic EV charging at the next meeting

14. Date of next meeting: Monday 15th January 2024