

HOPTON-CUM-KNETTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING THE VILLAGE HALL, HOPTON MONDAY 15th JANUARY 2024 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)

ABSENT:

Councillor Ben Shotbolt (BS)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Nicholas Spring (Parish Clerk) (NS)
County Councillor Joanna Spicer (JS)
District Councillor Carol Bull (CB)

3 members of the public were present.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

1. Apologies for absence
Apologies from BS
2. Members' declarations of interests & requests for dispensations
None
3. Public participation session

The following matters were raised:

- The Village Hall survey: c.20 responses had been received to date.
- Siting of dog bins: In response to a question, AH reported that the plan currently is to site at Healing Wood, at the end of the Boardwalk, Mill Lane and Fen Street, with the fifth bin possibly in the Holme Close area.
- The White Horse Thelnetham: £300,000 match funding had been offered by the Government. It is hoped to raise sufficient funds to secure this by the deadline and the pub would then be in community ownership.

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

JS noted what had been reported at the December meeting about Burgess Homes being responsible for the village gateways and also the new footpath. It was noted that the work on Olive's Throat had been completed. Also to be undertaken was the bridge over the ditch. JS suggested a meeting be held in March with Burgess Homes so that matters relating to the development could be discussed between them and representatives of the Council, JS & CB.

JS reported that a drainage engineer would be in Hopton on 19th January and she would make him aware of a number of issues.

JS also reported that a) it was still the intention to replace the boardwalk with recycled materials and b) the restoration of Knettishall footpath/bridleway bridge would be very costly and a variety of options were under consideration.

5. Reports from the County and/or District Councillor

JS had nothing further to report in addition to the matters commented upon under item 4.

CB drew attention to: the cost of living leaflet; the Local Plan; the Mobile Libraries consultation; and the Western Hub not going ahead.

6. To approve as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2023
The minutes were approved.

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

8. Planning

To consider the Parish Council's responses to any planning application consultations.

The PC had no objection to the pollarding of a willow at Jessif, I High Street.

CB referred to the planning application at Shepherds Grove airfield. Although Copart had withdrawn, Jaynic's application was still live and would be considered by the District Council in the coming months.

9. Finances

a. Council to receive the monthly Budget Report
The Council received the monthly Budget Report.

b. Council to approve the Budget for 2024/2025
The Council approved the Budget for 2024/2025 which includes one major new item of expenditure, the new quarterly village newsletter. The budget would result in an increase of £2.05 (6.46%) a year for the Parish Band D Council Tax.

c. Chair & Clerk to sign the Precept Application of £10,137 for 2024/2025
The Chair and the Clerk signed the Precept Form.

d. Council to approve the Payments Schedule
The Council approved the Payments Schedule.

10. Correspondence

To consider any correspondence previously circulated and not considered earlier.

An email had been received from SALC concerning D-Day 80 – 6th June 2024 which would be marked nationally by the Lamp Light of Peace and the Ringing Out for Peace. The Council would consider how D-Day 80 could be marked in Hopton.

11. Information updates from

SD reported a) that she would be sending a report for the next edition of the Parish Magazine and b) that Suffolk Police were changing the structure of their policing and a new Community Engagement Officer would be in place shortly, covering a smaller area. SD hoped to meet with her soon and go on a village walk.

JT had emailed an update on his work on community led housing. The Clerk to circulate.

A training meeting for the Council would take place on Monday 12th February 2024.

12. Date of next meeting: Monday 11th March 2024