

HOPTON-CUM-KNETTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

THE VILLAGE HALL, HOPTON

MONDAY 10th JULY 2023 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 David Faiers (DF)

Councillor Jo Hassan (JH)

Councillor Ben Shotbolt (BS)

Councillor Joolz Thompson (JT)

ABSENT:

Councillor Su Delve (SD)

One members of the public was present.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Nicholas Spring

Parish Clerk

hoptonpc@outlook.com

1. Apologies for absence
Councillor Su Delve (SD), County Councillor Joanna Spicer (JS), District Councillor Carol Bull (CB) and the Clerk.
2. Members' declarations of interests & requests for dispensations
None
3. Public participation session & correspondence

Question raised about the surface of the road at the end of the B1111. This was covered by notes from JS

Parishioner querying the delay of the Knettishall bridge repairs (via SD correspondence) and asking about insurance to be passed to JS.

Parishioner query about Woodside Cottage footpath to be passed to SCC. It was noted that many paths are almost closed over following warm conditions and rain. This includes the Healing Wood where vegetation is being allowed to grow in order to shade the young trees. Volunteers are attempting to keep the path open.

It has been noted that the finger post outside Hopton shop reads BSE 3 miles, not 13. Apparently, this has been like this for many years but is of concern to new residents.

4. Reports from the County and/or District Councillor

Report from JS read and discussed. The point was made that Olive's Throat closure could be for as long as 6 months and that it was important that this was known.

CB reported that monies for Coronation mugs had been applied for. The mugs are now with LM and will be taken to the school by JH. Unfortunately, the parish report in the parish magazine asking people to contact the PC if they had a child under the age of 11 had not appeared in the magazine. This will be held over to the September issue.

5. To approve as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2023
The minutes were approved.
6. To review any action points highlighted in the minutes
None
7. Correspondence
Considered under item 3.
8. Community Emergency Plan
BS produced a draft and expressed the hope that eventually hard copies and digital copies will be available for the whole parish. He aims to have a second draft ready for September with centred maps and other information.
9. Reports from the Chair and Councillors

JH and DF have looked at playground equipment with another company that seemed very innovative and could work with the space available. This would also develop into an activity linking the two community green spaces. Once agreed upon funding will be sought.

BS: a Neighbourhood Watch could be best organised as small groups of aware houses linked to a parish WhatsApp. Ben is to talk to individuals, SCC and SD.

JT is looking at ideas for a rural exception site to provide housing to local people. He is approaching landowners and will produce a housing needs survey. A Community Climate Action Plan is written and will be presented in September. Six parishes are now involved. Community Energy South are looking at the feasibility of local energy generation.

RC: replacing the planter by the shop will cost £700 to £1000. LM is to find out where the unused planter bought a number of years ago has gone so this could be utilised for repairs.

DF: The bulbs for the floodlights at the church have been replaced at the cost of £42. Invoice presented to LM for Clerk.
10. Planning

Application re Fen Street thatch change discussed. The PC objects although it has some sympathy with the homeowner and will make this comment: "We understand the householder has fire risk concerns. We do not agree that any modern roofing material will match a thatched roof in terms of insulating material. We believe the thatch was renovated post 2000 and would greatly regret the loss of one of the few remaining thatched properties in the village."

Barn on High Street - no objections

Sarsons Meadow - no report
11. Finances
 - a. Council noted the monthly Budget Report
 - b. Council approved the Payments Schedule
12. Date of next meeting: Monday 11th September 2023