

# HOPTON-CUM-KNETTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

THE VILLAGE HALL, HOPTON

MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024 AT 7 PM

(Draft until approved and signed)

### PRESENT:

Councillor Andrea Hanks (Vice Chair) (AH)

Councillor Robert Capon (RC)

Councillor Su Delve (SD)

Councillor David Faiers (DF)

Councillor Jo Hassan (JH)

Councillor Ben Shotbolt (BS)

### ABSENT:

Councillor Loreen Macklin Horsfall (Chair) (LMH)

Councillor Julian Thompson (JT)

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Nicholas Spring (Parish Clerk) (NS)

County Councillor Joanna Spicer (JS)

3 members of the public were present.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm

1. Apologies for absence were received from LM and JT and also District Councillor Carol Bull (CB)
2. Members' declarations of interests & requests for dispensations  
None
3. Public participation session  
The new dog bins were being well used. Rubble sacks would be purchased to enable them to be efficiently emptied.  
The new quarterly newsletter was welcomed.
4. To consider any matters relating to Highways, pavements, footpaths and trees  
JS reported as follows:
  - County Farms were working on the issues relating to flooding by the Bowls Club.
  - There was no news yet on the bridge between Olive's Throat and the new development.
  - JS suggested and it was agreed that a meeting with Burgess Homes should be held when the weather was better to discuss matters relating to the development.
  - The Knettishall signs had been done; JS to be informed of any other signs requiring attention though budget was limited.
  - JS said that an engineer had been spoken to about the blocked drain outside the old surgery and that it was on the Conty Council radar.
  - The boardwalk cannot be rebuilt whilst the weather is so wet.
  - Regarding the Knettishall bridge, the County Council will not close the path/bridleway but there is no money to rebuild the bridge once it is taken down.

5. Reports from the County and/or District Councillor

CB had sent a report informing the PC that the District Council development control committee had met and were minded to refuse the plans submitted by Jaynic for a new vehicle storage, distribution, and processing site on land at Shepherds Grove, Bury Road, Stanton, a new roundabout on the A143, and a link road to the existing Shepherd's Grove West industrial area. This means the application has been effectively deferred until a risk assessment can be completed, at which point it will return to the council for a final decision.

6. To approve as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
The minutes were approved and signed.

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 Council had no objection to three roof lights at Greyhound Cottage DC/24/0343/HH

9. Council to consider whether to purchase a gov.uk domain + related gov.uk email addresses  
The Council agreed to the proposal with [hoptoncumknettishallpc@gov.uk](mailto:hoptoncumknettishallpc@gov.uk) the preferred name.

10. Finances

- a. Council received the monthly Budget Report
- b. Council acknowledged the receipt of a locality grant of £150 from West Suffolk DC for the purpose of paying for a projector & screen for the Hopton History Group and approved retrospectively a grant of £144.98 to the History Group in the form of a projector & a screen purchased by the Council.
- c. Council approved the Payments Schedule
- d. Council discussed its banking arrangements, including bank of choice, online banking and whether to apply for a debit card or prepaid card. It was agreed that the Clerk should prepare proposals to transfer the Council's reserve funds to an environmentally conscious building society. It was also agreed that a debit card linked to the current account would make sense and that the option of online banking should be kept under review.

11. Correspondence  
To consider any correspondence previously circulated and not considered earlier.  
None

12. Information updates from

AH: The Healing Wood had been flailed and mown, and trees had been replaced. The History Group had a programme of events drawn up which would be published on the website and noticeboards.

JH: 21 Village Hall surveys had been received. The next step would be to arrange for three or four companies to present to gather more views. It was suggested that outdoor gym equipment would appeal to children as much as adults. It was also suggested that visiting other playgrounds/recreation areas would make sense.

BS hoped to spend more time on preparing the Community Emergency Plan in the coming weeks.

13. Date of next meeting: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024