

HOPTON-CUM-KNETTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING THE VILLAGE HALL, HOPTON MONDAY 13th NOVEMBER 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 Ben Shotbolt (BS)
Councillor Julian Thompson (JT)

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

5 members of the public were present.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

4a. JS presented her report first.

- JS made an offer of a grant of up to £2500 for purchase and installation of a village gateway and Highways licence. The PC would then be responsible for its maintenance.
- Flooding at the Bowls Club & Shotgrove Lane: although the County Council was not necessarily responsible for clearing the ditch, they should now have dug it out.
- Natural England had given permission for the wooden boardwalk to be replaced with a recycled plastic boardwalk. However, it was too wet to proceed at the moment.
- Knettishall Bridge: the bridleway had collapsed circa three years ago. JS had approached the landlords on both sides, and they were willing to attend a meeting in early December to discuss. Pressure needed to be put on the County Council to find the funds to replace the bridge rather than divert the bridleway.
- JS asked for photos of any road signs needing repair or replacement. Funds were limited.

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Members' declarations of interests & requests for dispensations

None

3. Public participation session

Information about what to do about flooding was on the PC website and would be put in the forthcoming newsletter. The Community Emergency Plan needs to have a section on flooding. JT to liaise with BS. The flooding at the Bowls Club was raised. The Clerk would contact the Chair of the Bowls Club with information from JS about possible grants for recovery and resilience.

4b. To consider any matters relating to Highways, pavements, footpaths and trees including: Council to approve application to Suffolk County Council for a licence for a village gateway.

Further to JS's offer of a grant, the PC agreed to proceed with a gateway. AH explained that there was a limited width available so the gateway would need to be a tall gate 960cm wide. They were priced at £866.55 each. The next step would be to apply for a licence and then instruct a licensed installer. AH & DF would check if the existing village signs would fit or whether new ones would be needed.

The VAS was now working.

5. Reports from the County and/or District Councillor

CB reported on potential flooding payments for residential properties.

6. Update on Knettishall Heath from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust Warden

The Warden updated the PC.

- Anti-social behaviour had reduced following the introduction of ANPR.
- Fly-tipping was still a big issue.
- The catering van had not been viable and had closed.
- Roadside parking was still an issue.
- There were now 26 British native ponies and they had helped open up the woodland. However, there were some problems with members of the public touching and feeding them, adversely affecting their behaviour. Further education was needed.

7. To approve as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 9th October 2023

The minutes were approved.

8. To review any action points in the minutes and not already on the agenda

AH circulated a map with five suggested locations for dog bins. It was agreed in principle that five green post-mounted bins should be purchased. The cost could be circa £1000.

AH reported on plans for the first quarterly newsletter to be published at the beginning of December.

9. Planning

- a. To consider the Parish Council's responses to any planning application consultations.
None
- b. Sarsons Meadow development update (if any)
None. Simon Burgess hoped to attend the December meeting to discuss the green space.

10. Finances
 - a. Council received the monthly Budget Report
 - b. Council approved the Payments Schedule and approved any expenditure which might incurred on a quarterly newsletter.
11. Correspondence

To consider any correspondence previously circulated and not considered earlier.

None
12. Council to review councillor roles

A draft was circulated and would be updated for the December meeting prior to publication.
13. Information updates from
 - a. The Chair
 - The Village Tea Party had been very successful with circa 85 attendees.
 - A wreath had been laid on Remembrance Sunday
 - b. Councillors
 - SD updated on the Crooked Corner and said she would provide information on electric car charging and Starlink internet.
 - BS would be looking at getting more data from the VAS.
 - JT updated on a) Climate Action and b) housing needs. He also commented on flood mitigation by the farming community.
 - JH circulated the playground survey for comments. It was agreed that it would be best to talk in terms of the village recreation area so as to be as inclusive as possible.
14. Dates of next meetings:

Monday 11th December 2023, Monday 15th January 2024 and Monday 11th March 2024.