

HOPTON-CUM-KNETTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

THE VILLAGE HALL, HOPTON

MONDAY 9th OCTOBER 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 Julian Thompson (JT)

NOT PRESENT:

Councillor Su Delve (SD)

Councillor Ben Shotbolt (BS)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Nicholas Spring (Parish Clerk) (NS)

District Councillor Carol Bull (CB)

Four members of the public were present.

The meeting closed at 9pm

Nicholas Spring

Parish Clerk

hoptonpc@outlook.com

1. Apologies for absence

Received from SD, BS and County Councillor Joanna Spicer (JS)

2. Members' declarations of interests & requests for dispensations

None

3. Public participation session

Correspondence had been received regarding dog bins and it was agreed in principle that the PC should purchase some more. AH would consider their siting. The state of the boardwalk was raised. JS had reported at the last meeting that a site meeting was being arranged and the possibility of recycled plastic would be considered. It was noted that the Village Hall might be out of action for refurbishment for 6 months to a year when the S106 funds from the Sarsons Meadow development were received. It was agreed that the PC and VH needed to meet to discuss ideas.

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

- The consequences of the recent B1111 closure were discussed and the volume and speed of traffic in Nethergate Street and Fen Street which resulted due to drivers ignoring/removing the diversion signs. It was agreed that should this arise again, a request for residential/speed signs should be made.
- It was noted that the VAS sign was now working again.

- The idea of a footpaths officer was discussed. In the first instance it was felt that efforts should be made to recruit a volunteer group to walk the footpaths to keep them clear where possible and also to help with the Healing Wood.
- The problem with cars obstructing pedestrians and those with mobility scooters in Nethergate Street was considered.
- There was a potential delay in proceeding with the village gateway due to the Highways maintenance change of contract. AH had received the specification and would measure the available width with DF.

5. Reports from the County and/or District Councillor

CB reported that the District Council had decided not to proceed with the new swimming pool at Western Way and would be renovating the existing one. There was also due to a grass-cutting review. She also drew attention to the review of polling stations. It was felt that if the Village Hall was out of action at the time of an election, then either the Bowls Club or the High Street Chapel might be considered and approached. Lastly CB reported that the Copart planning application at Stanton was likely to go to the DC's Planning Committee at the end of the year.

6. To approve as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2023

The minutes were approved.

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

None

8. To consider a revised schedule of Cemetery fees

The revised schedule was approved, to come into effect from 1st January 2024.

9. Planning

- To consider the Parish Council's responses to any planning application consultations
None
- Sarsons Meadow development update (if any)
No updates had been received. Chair and Clerk to ask for these to be provided and Simon Burgess or a representative to be invited to update the PC on plans for the green space. (VHMC to be informed.) The green space at Market Weston was considered as a good example of what could be provided.

10. Finances

- Council received the monthly Budget Report
- Council approved the Payments Schedule

11. Correspondence

Dog bins, the VAS sign and the polling station review had already been considered. The purchase of a new poppy wreath was agreed.

JH updated the PC on the playground proposals and circulated the draft survey to go to all households in the village. It was agreed that JH and the Village Hall Management Committee would meet to discuss the survey so that it covered both the playground and the facilities within the Village Hall and what people would like to see going on in the Village Hall. Links to the proposals could be posted on the PC website. On the subject of communications, it was noted that the Benefice Magazine was not free and only went to a limited number of households. The PC agreed in principle to the idea of producing a quarterly Hopton newsletter.

12. Council to review councillor roles

Held over to the next meeting.

13. Reports from

- a. The Chair
- b. Councillors

JT updated the PC on progress on the Climate Action Plan, including the need to find sites for renewable energy and solar panels. He further explained how any savings would accrue to social benefit funds. He also updated the PC on his research into finding a Rural Exception Site which could provide social housing for residents of the village. He would pursue this further.

RC reported on the state of the planter and would obtain costings for its stabilization or replacement. It was noted that a Highways licence did exist for the planter from 2014.

AH reported on the newly installed Commonwealth War Graves signage at the cemetery. She also reported that the Woodland Trust had been approached for another 100 metres of hedging and also some standard trees for the 'Jubilee Walk'. The History Group would be meeting again later in the week and there was going to be a Remembrance Walk around Knettishall Airfield on 11th November. AH also raised the need for there to be a notice on the Knettishall Road with an emergency number. This would be raised with the SWT at the next meeting.

DF reported on the grit bins and the Clerk reported that there had been an email from Suffolk Highways in August stating that they would be replenishing them.

14. Date of next meeting: Monday 13th November 2023