

# HOPTON-CUM-KNETTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

THE VILLAGE HALL, HOPTON

MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 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 Su Delve (SD)

Councillor David Faiers (DF)

Councillor Jo Hassan (JH)

Councillor Ben Shotbolt (BS)

Councillor Juliam Thompson (JT)

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Nicholas Spring (Parish Clerk) (NS)

County Councillor Joanna Spicer (JS)

District Councillor Carol Bull (CB)

Five members of the public were present.

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

Nicholas Spring

Parish Clerk

[hoptonpc@outlook.com](mailto:hoptonpc@outlook.com)

1. Apologies for absence

None

2. Members' declarations of interests & requests for dispensations

None

3. Public participation session

It was noted that the mobile Post Office only visited on Mondays. The notice on the Parish noticeboard would be amended.

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

The PC agreed in principle to buy a village gateway and JS said that she would fund this via a grant to cover its cost & the licence. The PC would be responsible for its installation and maintenance. JS reported that the replacement of the Hopton Fen boardwalk was in the system and recycled plastic was being considered. It was noted that Natural England approval would be needed. JS further reported that a site meeting, date tbc, was being set up to discuss the replacement of the Knettishall bridge or a diversion of the path. It was pointed out that this was also a bridleway. An offer was made to clear the path by Woodside Cottage. Correspondence was also noted regarding the Nethergate Street pavement and the pavement on the way out of Hopton towards Garboldisham. Use of the Highways reporting tool was the best way to ensure such issues were logged. The possibility of a footpaths officer would be considered at a future meeting.

5. Reports from the County and/or District Councillor

CB reported that the District Council was likely to pause the Western Way Hub. She also reported that the next round of the Community Chest was open.

6. To approve as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 10th July 2023

The minutes were approved.

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

None

8. To consider the Kompan proposals for the Village Hall Play Area and next steps

The Kompan proposals which had been circulated were discussed. It was agreed that the next step should be to ask all four companies to present their ideas at a meeting to gauge the response of both school children and the village at large. It was suggested that zip wires and adult equipment would be popular.

9. Draft Community Emergency Plan update

The draft CEP was noted. It was felt that a register of those who might be vulnerable should be considered. Any such register would not be published.

10. To review the Cemetery fees

The Council compared Hopton's fees with a number of neighbouring parishes. It was agreed that the Clerk should draw up a new schedule based on a similar sized parish for consideration at the next meeting.

11. Planning

- a. To consider the Parish Council's responses to any planning application consultations
  - It was noted the District Council had approved the Fen Street Farmhouse application
  - It was further noted that the Copart application had gone for re-consultation
- b. Sarsons Meadow development update (if any)
  - LM to ask about plans for the green space

12. Finances

- a. Council received the monthly Budget Report
- b. Council received the Bank Reconciliation to 14th August, and it was signed by LM
- c. Council agreed the appointment of Heelis & Lodge as auditors for 2023/2024
- d. Council approved the renewal of the insurance policy with Zurich Municipal
- e. Council approved the Payments Schedule

13. Correspondence

None in addition to that already considered.

14. Reports from

- a. The Chair
  - LM proposed the idea of drawing up an action plan linked to councillor roles. This would be further considered at the next meeting.
- b. Councillors
  - SD updated the Council on the Crooked Corner and also submissions to the Parish Magazine. She also reported from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust an issue with the feeding of the ponies on Knettishall Heath which was to be discouraged as it could lead to ponies on the road.

- JT updated on the Community Climate Action plan and the idea of a Rural Exception Site.
- RC reported that the planter by the village shop either needed stabilising with additional sleepers or replacement.

15. Date of next meeting: Monday 9th October 2023