

HOPTON-CUM-KNETTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

The following minutes will be submitted for approval & signing by the Chair at the next meeting of the Parish Council. If any changes are made to the minutes at that meeting, a correction will be notified on the website.

*Nicholas Spring, Clerk to the Council
(Telephone 07813396404 & email hoptonpc@outlook.com)*

MINUTES

Date: Monday 13th June 2022
Time: 7pm
Venue: Hopton Village Hall

Present: Cllrs L. Macklin (Chair), A. Hanks, S.Delve, D. Faiers, B. Shotbolt and also Cllr Spicer (SCC) & Cllr C. Bull (WSDC)

Five members of the public were also present.

1. Public participation session

The Parish Council was thanked for organising the Jubilee Tea Dance.

Grass growing in the gutters, particularly in Holme Close, Shickle Place and Thelnetham Road, was raised and the issue was noted by the County Councillor and the District Councillor.

The planning application for 47 dwellings in Thelnetham Road was raised. Cllr Bull reported that there was no decision yet from the Planning Inspectorate.

2. Reports from the County and/or District Councillor

The loose drain cover in the Bury Road was raised with Cllr Spicer. She advised that it would be best if the Clerk reported it and she would monitor the response.

Cllr Bull reported that in future if a refuse or recycling bin needed to be replaced, there would be a charge of £30. She was hoping that there would be room soon in the parish magazine for recycling information. She also reported that as far as the government's council tax rebate for bands A-D, 84% had already been paid out by West Suffolk, including all direct debit payers. For those who paid in other ways, the majority had received the rebate. For those from whom there was no response to letters, their accounts would be credited in the following year.

Finally Cllr Bull reported that Evolution, the original architects for the Hopton South development, had been recruited by Burgess Homes and were reviewing the plans in the run-up to the start of construction which should be in September.

3. Presentation: Community Climate Action (Julian Thompson)

Julian Thompson of the iFarm Community Benefit Society and the White Horse Community Pub made a presentation to the Council. The aim of the Community Action Plan would be to mobilise civil society. The National Lottery Fund had awarded £10,000 for the drawing up the plan and as well as showing how the local community could act, the plan should be one which could be rolled out to other communities. The plan would be written in the context of the County Council's aim to be carbon neutral by 2030. The initial steps would be community engagement, vision workshops and market research in the village, and also in Thelnetham and Blo Norton.

The Council expressed its support for the development of Climate Action Plan and wished to be part of it.

4. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Capon and Cllr Hassan.

5. Members' declarations of interests

None

6. To approve as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th May

The minutes were approved and signed

7. To review any action points highlighted in the minutes

The Clerk reported that the five-year contract from Vertas was still awaited.

He also reported that the first parish councillor email address had been set up and the others would be rolled out over the coming weeks.

8. To consider co-option for the Knettishall ward

The Council voted to co-opt Su Delve to serve on the Council for the Knettishall ward. Cllr Delve then resigned as a councillor for the Hopton ward and signed the declaration of office for the Knettishall ward. It was agreed that liaison with the Knettishall Heath Nature Reserve be added to Cllr Delve's roles.

9. Queen's Jubilee

The Chair reported on the Jubilee Tea Dance on the Village Hall which had been very successful with over 50 attendees enjoying the medley of music played by the band and the cakes which had been baked for the occasion. A picnic on the green on the Saturday had also been enjoyed by members of the village.

The exhibition of memorabilia from 1952 onwards had also been very well received and all those who had contributed material were thanked. As a result, the Council proposes to launch a 'Hopton Memories' Living History project in the autumn

The Parish Council had also bought Jubilee mugs for children in the parish (primary school and below) and these were being distributed.

The Open Gardens event had attracted many visitors from the local area and much further afield, and the organisers were thanked in their absence.

Cllr Delve reported back on the programme of events which had been arranged by the volunteer committee. All five events hosted at the Bowls Club had been very well subscribed and greatly enjoyed. The organisers were thanked for their tireless events on behalf of the village and for putting on so many memorable events.

During a discussion on how to build on the Jubilee legacy, Cllr Bull mentioned the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. It was agreed that the Parish Council would consider some small village projects and would apply for funding for these in the first round.

10. End of Year 2021/2022

- To review the Internal Audit Report received from Heelis & Lodge
- To review the Council's Internal Controls
- To approve the Annual Governance Statement
- To approve the Accounting Statements & Bank Reconciliation
- To approve the Explanation of Variances and the Statement on the Reserves
- To approve the Certificate of Exemption

The Internal Audit Report was received. There were three recommendations: to update standing order regarding tenders, to add GDPR to the risk assessment and to publish items of expenditure over £100 in 2020/2021 on the website as required by the Transparency Code. These were all accepted.

The Council's Internal Controls were reviewed, approved and signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

The Council approved: a) The Annual Governance Statement b) the Accounting Statements & Bank Reconciliation c) the Explanation of Variances and the Statement on the Reserves d) the Certificate of Exemption

The Chair & Clerk signed the Annual Governance Statement and the Chair signed the Accounting Statements.

The Responsible Finance Officer set the commencement date for the exercise of public rights as Monday 20th June, finishing on Friday 29th July.

The Certificate of Exemption was signed by the RFO and the Chair.

11. Reports from

a. The Chair

Members of the public had raised concerns about issues with the dispensary in Stanton. Information would be sought.

b. Councillors

Cllr Faiers had repaired the seat outside the school and would clean the village sign and telephone box.

Cllr Delve had the VAS and Cllr Shotbolt would now oversee this.

Cllr Delve also reported that the work on Crooked Corner had been completed and had come in well under budget. Further planting would take place in the autumn as it was currently too dry to do any more. She & Luke Delve were thanked for all their time and efforts on the project.

Lastly Cllr Delve raised the deterioration of the boardwalk. The Clerk would contact the County Council.

12. Planning

a. To consider the Parish Council's responses to any planning application consultations

DC/22/0886/TCA Woodlands - Application for work on yew trees. In principle the Council had no objection to the trimming but would seek some clarification as to the exact trees in question.

b. Hopton South development update (if any)

None

13. Finances

- a. Council to receive the monthly Financial Report
- b. Council to approve the Payments Schedule

The Financial Report was received and the Payments Schedule approved.

14. Date of next meeting: Monday 11th July