

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 12th December 2022
Time: 7pm
Venue: Hopton Village Hall

Present: Cllrs L. Macklin (Chair), A. Hanks, R.Capon, S.Delve, D. Faiers, J.Hassan, B. Shadbolt, J. Thompson

Two members of the public were also present.

1. Apologies for absence

Received from Cllr Spicer (SCC) and Cllr Bull (WSDC)

2. Members' declaration of interests & dispensations

None

3. Public participation session

No comments

4. Reports from the County and/or District Councillor

None

5. To approve as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 22

The minutes were approved and signed

6. To review any action points highlighted in the minutes

The Clerk reported that the Open Gardens donation of £770 had been received. Other matters arising would be considered later in the meeting.

7. Email policy

The draft policy was considered, and it was agreed that councillors would set up gmail accounts with a common format to be used for council business and to be deleted on leaving the council.

8. Reports

Chair: Nothing to report

Cllr Hanks

i) At the last meeting, it had been agreed that the Council would purchase 10 oaks which would be planted in memory of the Queen. However, an application to the Woodland Trust had been successful and they would provide up to 50 trees and 50 metres of hedging, along with mulch mats, and these would now be used for the panting and in the Healing Wood.

ii) The inaugural meeting of the History Group would take place on Thursday 12th January in the Village Hall.

Cllr Hassan

The provision of new children's play equipment was being discussed with the Village Hall.

Cllr Delve

i) The Knettishall cattle grids had now been replaced and the road reopened.

ii) The footbridge opposite Hall Farm Riddlesworth had been closed for repairs since 2019. The County Council have now indicated that it will be repaired within the next year.

iii) Issues with connecting broadband to some properties in Knettishall were being looked into by Cllr Spicer

iv) A further tidy-up of Crooked Corner was planned for before Christmas.

v) A village picnic on the Jubilee Field to mark the Coronation was being considered for either Sunday 6th May or Monday 7th May, with both the Village Hall and Bowls Club open.

Cllr Shotbolt hoped to present on updating the Emergency Plan at the next meeting.

Cllr Thompson reported on his discussion with the Principal Planner (Conservation & Design) West Suffolk District Council about the idea of a Neighbourhood Plan. He had pointed out that producing a Plan could be an expensive and lengthy process, at the end of which a referendum would need to take place to decide whether the village wished to adopt it or not. Funding was available. There would be a need to consider the objectives of drawing up a Neighbourhood Plan, bearing in mind that no land in the village had been allocated for development by the District Council. It might however sit alongside a climate emergency plan.

Cllr Capon noted that the water level in the Fen Street area was high. The Chair would speak to the Environment Agency and Anglia Water.

Cllr Faiers reported that the light in the telephone kiosk was not working again and he would replace it with an LED one.

9. Planning

The various revisions to the Hopton South development application were considered and the Council agreed to support them, having discussed them at the previous meeting.

10. Finances

The monthly Financial Report was received and the Payments Schedule approved.

The Council consider the draft budget which had been prepared on the basis that operational costs should be covered by the precept and that discretionary spending should be covered by the reserves, the majority of which had been earmarked for projects. The budget would be presented to the Council for approval at the January meeting along with the Precept application.

11. Date of next meeting: Monday 16th January 2023