

HOPTON-CUM-KNETTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14th February 2022 at 7pm at Hopton Village Hall.

These minutes will be submitted for approval & signing by the Chair at the next meeting of the Parish Council on Monday 14th March 2022. If any changes are made to the minutes at that meeting, a correction will be notified on the website.

Present: Cllrs L. Macklin (Chair), A. Hanks, D. Faiers, B. Shadbolt & Cllr C. Bull (WSDC)

Invited: Sam Norris (Suffolk Wildlife Trust) and Guy Ransom (Queen's Jubilee Champion)

Two members of the public were also present.

1. Public participation

-

2. a) Reports from the County and/or District Councillor

Cllr Bull (WSDC) informed the Council that there was some district councillor locality budget available for applications made in the next few weeks. Her new budget would begin in April.

There is still no decision to report on the Thelnetham Road planning application.

b) Report from Hopton School

There are a lot of covid cases so no report was available.

c) Report from Knettishall Reserve

Sam Norris Suffolk Wildlife Trust Warden, Knettishall Heath gave the Council an update on the Reserve.

There have been infrastructure changes made at the Heath in response to large visitor numbers following covid lockdown and increased anti-social behaviour such as: fly tipped rubbish; large amounts of litter; raves; car racing; barbecues; fires; harassment and verbal & physical abuse.

Solutions put in place included:

- A barbecue ban. This was successful and is now permanent
- Security employed on site during summer 2020 which was a short term success
- Trail cameras and new bins to deal with rubbish issues
- Paid parking in the main car park instead of donations. This employs automatic number plate recognition and has allowed night-time visitors to be tracked as well as generating revenue for more staff and a toilet upgrade

- Closure of the middle car park which was the hub for night-time racing. This is to be made permanent as it has resulted in an increase in ground nesting birds. Overflow parking for the main car park at peak times with parking from 5am to 10am **free and** season tickets for the car park available at £45

Issue still to be resolved are:

- The huge amount of roadside parking which would involve earth bunds along the road edges with passing spaces every 200m
- The free parking areas at the Peddars Way and Coney Weston need improving

Other news:

The Suffolk Wildlife Trust now employs an Assistant Warden. There will be a catering van seven days a week from Easter. Cattle grids on Heath Road have been repaired and the Coney Weston grids will be sorted this year. There is to be an advisory speed limit of 40mph through the site. Dogs are now to be kept on a lead as the bird nesting season approaches.

3. Apologies for absence

Cllrs R. Capon & S. Delve and Cllr J. Spicer (SCC)

4. Members' declarations of interests

None

5. To approve as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on **Monday 17th January 2022**

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

6. To review any action points highlighted in the minutes of **Monday 17th January 2022**

A letter of resignation from the Parish Council has been received from John Taylor for the Clerk to act upon

Two dates have been put forward for a meeting the Village Hall Committee, with 28th March agreed upon.

Cllr Delve has met with the member of the public who has been servicing the fixed speeding equipment

The issue with alterations to a memorial in the cemetery would be carried forward.

7. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Guy Ransom (Queen's Jubilee Champion for Hopton), Cllr Su Delve and Jo Hassan have formed a steering group committee to which more people will be invited in the coming weeks.

A draft Programme of Events is now in place, with most to be held at Hopton Bowls and Social Club

Thursday 2nd June

Casino Night with cheese and wine
Beacon to be lit at edge of village at 9.15 pm

Friday 3rd June

Village-wide Rounders Tournament (groups and clubs to put forward teams)
Barbecue and beer tent
Evening: Ceilidh with Bounty Hounds band

Saturday 4th June

Village Fete with the school, plus stalls and stands from local people and interest groups
Barbecue and beer tent
Evening: Quiz with pre-registered teams. Pre-booked fish and chips.

Sunday 5th June

Jubilee 'Bring a Picnic' Lunch with local group demonstrations
Evening: Mick the Baker and his band

Monies raised will be shared between the School and Hopton Bowls & Social Club.

Other points mentioned:

- St John's or another First Aid charity will be on site a appropriate
- The Village Hall has been booked for 4 days. Possibly to house a memories exhibition and to have a quiet cup of tea or as a wet weather venue.
- The Open Gardens Weekend is the same weekend

There will be a public launch meeting on 18th March.

Hopefully a piece requesting memorabilia of the village 1952 – 2022 will be in this month's parish magazine. Envelopes will be in the Village Shop for named photographs. These will be collected and digitised before returning.

It is proposed that every household receives a booklet of village photos 1952-2022 and every child resident a jubilee mug.

8. Reports

Chair:

There has been on report of fly tipping along Knettishall roadside. This is a matter for the District Council

Councillors:

Cllr Faiers: The replacement fence around the play area has been erected

Cllr Hanks: The Healing Wood is now gated and the fence will be completed in the next few weeks. The bench donated by John Taylor will be installed in the near future.

Cllr Hanks proposed investing in an avenue of trees along the track from Nethergate Street towards Common Farm. These would be in addition to the trees offered by a parishioner and be planted in the autumn. The Parish Council supported the idea but the legal ramifications of publicly-owned trees on privately-owned verges would need to be clarified for the purpose of future care and maintenance.

9. Planning

i. Application DC/21/1059/OUT – Appeal to the Secretary of State
The Parish Council has already commented on this application.

ii. Chair to ask for a monthly update on Hopton South.

10. Finances

The Council approved the payments schedule

11. Items from Councillors to be added to next meeting

-

12. Date of next meeting

Monday 14th March 2022 at 7pm

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

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