

**MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH MEETING OF HOPTON CUM  
KNETTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup> JUNE AT 7PM,  
HIGH STREET CHAPEL, HOPTON**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: L. Macklin (Chair), A. Hanks. R.Capon, J. Taylor, M. Filler, Cllr C. Bull and Cllr J. Spicer  
Invited guest – Su Delve  
2 members of the public

		ACTION
1.	<b>Apologies:</b> Cllr Shotbolt	
2.	<b>Declaration of Interests</b> - None	
3.	<b>The draft minutes of the last meeting</b> (17 <sup>th</sup> May) had been previously circulated and were approved.	
4.	<b>Previous Action points</b> were reviewed: SALC have been consulted about the search for a clerk. The post is to be advertised locally and applicants interviewed by two councillors. Duties in the meantime are being covered by: Cllr Macklin – emails and finance Cllr Filler – cemetery and Hopton South Development Luke Delve - website	LM
5	<b>Update from Hopton Primary School</b> – No formal update had been requested this month due to the absence of a clerk. Cllr Macklin reported that the school were extremely busy and she would request an update at the next meeting, prior to the summer break. Cllr Macklin reported that many people read reports from the school with interest as it helped them stay connected.  <b>Update from Su Delve</b> – Su is still walking the village and engaging with people. Our community engagement officer has now retired.	LM
6.	<b>Hopton South Development</b> Cllr Filler reported that the purchase of the development site by Burgess Homes was still progressing and it was hoped it be would be completed within the next few weeks. The options and easement agreements to allow Burgess Homes to construct the footpath between the development and the village hall had been presented by the solicitors and these were approved and duly signed. No other services from the development would be routed across the Village Hall recreation field. Once Burgess Homes have completed the purchase then it was anticipated that work would begin on site some time in the first quarter of next year.	MF

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	<p><b>DC/21/1059/OUT</b></p> <p>This is the third time the Common Road site has applied for planning permission. This time, outline permission. The latest application has tried to address points raised by the planning inspector. The position of the houses in the latest application is now fixed but still behind existing properties and with a single entrance on to the main road. Councillors were not able to adjudge the legalities of the rights of way which are disputed and would need resolution by the appropriate authorities. Councillors were concerned at the current appearance of the site and the impact on the surrounding area. It was felt that 2 sensitively and appropriately sited dwellings could limit any significant impact on the neighbouring properties. It was felt that the occurrence of a serious accident on the road beyond the entrance way towards Garboldisham last year should be reviewed by Highways. Councillors noted the alternative proposal to establish a secure storage facility on site, which if approved might see usage by commercial vehicles and would be less preferable than private cars associated with any dwellings. On balance councillors voted to support this application for outline planning and further scrutiny against the detailed planning policies of West Suffolk Council.</p>	
7.	<p><b>County Councillor Joanna Spicer</b> gave the following update -</p> <p>Boardwalk repairs will begin this week. These will be carried out in small sections so the footpath can remain open. Non slip mesh over the boards may not be replaced immediately as there is a problem with the supply chain.</p> <p>Healing Wood consultation – SCC has received 11 expressions of interest across the County. 3 of these are from groups/individuals who own the site. All applications are to go to a panel who will make a decision in July.</p> <p>Hopton is considered to be in a strong position for funding and may be a showcase for the project as it is also part of a community clear up. The project may need to ensure there is provision for disabled access.</p> <p>Cllr Spicer advised on a possible dangerous dog issue along a footpath. SCC will close the path if the matter escalates.</p> <p>Cllr Spicer is to look into the issue of the ditches along Shortgrove Lane. These were cut but not de silted or cleared of the cut material so they are blocked and weedy again.</p> <p>The Bowls club ditch has also not yet been cleared.</p> <p><b>Update from West Suffolk District Council- Councillor Carol Bull.</b></p> <p>There is to be no huge Christmas Fair in Bury St</p>	

	<p>Edmunds this year. A local Fair with local stalls is being planned instead.</p> <p>Bury St Edmunds have undertaken a car park review. New tariffs will operate from 5<sup>th</sup> July</p> <p>Parking enforcement have visited Hopton. As there are no yellow lines no arrests were made. They also visited Barningham school at home time and saw the vehicle problem. They are going to advise on issues with traffic outside schools.</p> <p>There is a Parish Council Forum online on 15<sup>th</sup> July.</p> <p>Orchid Meadow is being visited to find out the intent of the owner who has not completed a planning application.</p> <p>West Suffolk have not yet become involved with the apparent pollarding of trees in the conservation area at the 'Woodland' bungalow site. They may well suggest replanting if these trees do not recover.</p> <p>Cllr Bull is on the board of the Hospital Governors Trust. She says anyone can become involved with the trust. They will be consulted on developments and have a say in who sits on the board.</p> <p>Councillor Bull was thanked for her help and support in clearing rubbish from the woodland site</p> <p>A member of the public question the route of the waste water from the Hopton South development.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Facebook</b> - the page has run for almost 2 years. Su Delve puts one or two posts up a week and it is actively followed by 100 people with 900 being a peak of visits to one post.</p> <p><b>The website</b>- currently there is no means of accessing this. The issue is being dealt with.</p> <p><b>Crooke's Corner</b> – a volunteer group is now mowing this. Slabs for the seat should be down this week ready for installation of the bench. Planting will be in the autumn.</p> <p><b>Healing Wood</b> – With the help of WSDC and John and Carol Bull a lot of rubbish has been moved. Asbestos will be taken by SCC when it is all cleared. A footpath is being kept open through the site and work parties will start again in September.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Chair's Report:</b></p> <p>Cllr Macklin has spent time talking to the local police, Suffolk County Council, Anglian Water and members of the public about a number of issues:</p> <p>a) Suspected human defaecation in an alley from the High Street to Common Farm footpath (the Twitten). This has apparently happened twice recently. An individual, suspected of being in the culprit, may no longer be in the</p>	

	<p>village.</p> <p>b) a SCC contractor mowed all the village's verges during 'no mow May' including some never touched before and some recently seeded for wild flowers. Suffolk have said that they only do one verge mow a year and that it is for visual safety. They have asked us to tell them which verges we wish to have left next year so that these could be mown later in the season.</p> <p>c) The owner of dogs harassing people on a footpath has been contacted. The dogs have been seen by the police who do not consider them a threat. A number of dogs have been attacked over the years along this stretch of path and local people are aware and wary. Visitors less so. The owners have been asked to be vigilant.</p> <p>d) 5 crimes have been reported from the village in recent weeks. 4 of these are for anti social behaviour in Holme Close. Police have been called to the scene.</p> <p>e)AWA have talked to Cllr Maklin about the ability of the Nethergate Street pumping station to cope with waste water from the new development. They wish to have all the houses in the development built and occupied before they can make a decision about updating the pumping equipment (installed in 1972). The current pumps are only on for 8 hours a day. To help move waste water AWA are taking over the private pump at the corner of Walnut Close. £20,000 will be paid by the developer to connect to the water and sewer system but an update to the pumping station may cost more than £100,000.</p> <p>f) A parishioner has contacted the Council about the internment of ashes in an existing grave. This will occur one cemetery fee.</p> <p>g) One person has expressed interest in the Clerk post. This must be advertised and will be in the July parish magazine.</p> <p>h)It is important that new Councillors are recruited as there will be changes to the current make up in the near future due to retirement and leaving the village.</p> <p>g) Queen's Jubilee 2022. Help and support has been offered via the Bowls Club. Suggestions were made including resurrection of the village fete and the planting of a village hedge and trees.</p>	
10.	<p><b>Update from other Councillors</b></p> <p>Cllr Taylor reported that £2,500 from SCC is being used to quieten the cattle grids at Knettishall and there are now ANPR cameras at the Heath entrance, with notices. No charging system is in place yet.</p> <p>Cllr Faiers said that the Village Hall Committee is looking at replacing and extending the fencing of the play equipment as the current fence is deemed dangerous. It is to be extended around the picnic tables.</p> <p>Discussion then followed about plans for developing the village hall with money from the Hopton South</p>	

	Development. Possibly available from the end of 2023. Cllr Filler had shared initial ideas with the site purchaser who had some good ideas. As a result of lock down use of the hall has been limited to only the pre school group. It is hoped that in the autumn meetings can resume in the hall and that developing the building will allow it to become multi purpose.	
11.	Meeting ended at 20:48  <b>Date of next meeting:</b> July 12 <sup>th</sup> at 7pm. High Street Chapel.  There will be no meeting in August.	



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