

HOPTON-CUM-KNETTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of held on Monday 9th November 2021 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 12th December 2021. 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, R. Capon, S. Delve, D. Faiers, Cllr J Spicer (SCC) & Cllr C. Bull (WSDC)

Seven members of the public were also present.

1.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Dr Taylor and Cllr Shotbolt

2.

Members' declarations of interests were made as follows: Cllr Faiers regarding the possible purchase of a printer and Cllr Capon regarding planning application DC/21/1551/FUL

3.

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11th October 2021 were approved

4.

Action points highlighted in the minutes of Monday 11th October 2021:

- Hopton South Development – Cllr Macklin had been in touch with Burgess Homes to establish a clear line of communication between them & the PC
- Asbestos in the Village Hall roof – Cllr Macklin to take photos & send to surveyors
- Grass in kerbs – this is the responsibility of the District Council with a quarterly schedule, but Cllr Bull reported that for a variety of reasons this was off-schedule
- Weeds on pavement – this is the responsibility of Highways once a year but Cllr Spicer reported that other work was often prioritised. A member of the public commented that this was a particular issue in Holme Close & Shickle Place. The Clerk would report this on the Highways website but it was pointed out that members of the public can do so themselves directly.
- Dog-fouling: Cllr Hanks had further investigated options including suitable posters, extra bins, a bag dispenser & no fouling signs. These would be actioned in the coming months.
- Healing Wood: the final funding agreement had been received from SCC and signed by the Chair
- A cemetery application form had been drawn up by the Clerk and approved by Cllr Hanks & Faiers and would be posted on the PC's website

5.

Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda and other matters that may be of mutual interest or local concern

The following were raised

- The pothole on the pavement at the entrance to the Village Hall was – this would be reported by the Clerk on the Highways website on this occasion
- A suggestion that there should be priority signs in Thelnetham Road – it was agreed that traffic calming/management could be a matter to discuss at the next meeting
- A tree down at Olive's Throat – this would be reported by the Clerk on the Highways website on this occasion

6.

a) Report from County and/or District Councillor

Cllr Spicer (Suffolk CC) reported on the following:

- The local Member of Parliament would visit the project during the second half of November
- The blocked ditches mentioned at the previous meeting had been cleared subsequently
- The temporary traffic lights at Stowlangtoft could be in place for a long time as the bridge is in a very fragile state, with consequences for local traffic

Cllr Spicer also encouraged the Parish Council to respond to the County Council's consultation on lorry routes.

Cllr Bull (West Suffolk DC) reported on the following

- The launch by West Suffolk Hospital Trust of a series of engagement events to publicise their plans for the new hospital.
- That the District Council would shortly be producing the tax base for 2022/2023

b) Report from Hopton School

- There was no report due to half-term.

7.

Council to review & readopt the Council's Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

Both the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations were readopted.

8.

Reports from

a) The Chair reported

- The PC's solicitors had been contacted regarding registering any land owned by the Parish Council with the Land Registry
- A member of the public had approached the Chair to see if, in the light of Cop26, the PC would support small environmental projects. It was felt this was worth exploring.
- The bench commissioned by Cllr Taylor for the Healing Wood was almost ready

b) Councillors

- Cllr Hanks reported that as far as the Queen's Green Canopy is concerned, the idea is to plant trees between November & January 2021/22 and between November & January 2022/23. A member of the public has asked whether it would be possible to plant some standard trees from the back of the High Street across to Hopton Fen as part of a wildlife corridor. The landowner would be approached to see if he would agree to this.
- Cllr Delve reported that a) a new poppy wreath had been purchased b) there would be a police visibility walk later in November c) the intention was to lift the turf and lay gravel at Crookes Corner in March and to draw up a plant list to encourage donations and d) the Hopton Facebook page now had 120 people following and varied interaction with different posts.

9.

Planning Applications – to consider & decide whether to comment to West Suffolk District Council on the following:

Outbuilding Robsons Farm Nethergate Street Hopton Suffolk

Ref. No: DC/21/1551/FUL

- conversion of outbuilding to one dwelling (following demolition of existing lean-to)

The Parish Council has no objection to this application.

10.

Finances

- a) The Council approved the payments schedule
- b) The Council approved increasing the Fidelity Insurance Limit of Indemnity from £50,000 to £70,000
- c) The Council agreed to add Cllr Hanks as a bank signatory

11.

The Clerk asked Councillors to notify him of any items to be added to the next agenda.

12.

The date of the next meeting is to be Monday 13th December 2021 at 7pm

The Chair then asked members of the public to withdraw so that the Council could discuss some confidential business.

The meeting closed at 8.40 pm

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