

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 14th November 2022
Time: 7pm
Venue: Hopton Village Hall

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

7 members of the public were also present.

1. Apologies for absence

Received from Cllr Hassan

2. Members' declarations of interests & dispensations

None

3. Public participation session

A question was raised about the potential impact of the Hopton South development on water levels close to Fen Street. Cllr Bull (WSDC) noted that issues relating to surface water were a high priority with housing development applications such as Hopton South though this was not necessarily the case with applications for a single dwelling. She also noted that the higher water levels adjacent to Fen Street were attributable to a dam which had put in place by the Environmental Agency subsequent to the flooding of some years ago.

It was confirmed that the provision of a warm space at The White Horse Thelnetham would be on Mondays 10 am to 5pm. The White Horse would shortly be issuing community shares.

4. Reports from the County and/or District Councillor

Cllr Spicer reported that remedial repairs had been made to the boardwalk, but ten sections and the bridge needed major works though a date for these had not yet been notified.

Cllr Spicer also noted that in the final proposals of the Boundaries Commission Hopton would be in a new Bury St Edmunds parliamentary constituency.

Cllr Bull drew attention to West Suffolk's Cost of Living Support programme and also the newsletter which the Clerk would forward to councillors.

5. To approve as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 10th October 2022

The minutes were approved and signed.

It was noted that the funds to be given to the Parish Council from the Open Gardens event would be split between a children's project and planting projects at both the Healing Wood and the Crooked Garden.

6. To review any action points highlighted in the minutes

None to review

7. To approve the Risk Assessments for the Healing Wood and the Cemetery

Both risk assessments were agreed with a section on Crooked Corner to be added to the Healing Wood assessment.

8. Councillor email addresses

It was agreed that Councillors should have designated email addresses and the Clerk would put forward a draft policy for consideration at the next meeting.

9. Reports

Chair:

- A project for older children was being discussed with the Village Hall
- A wreath had been laid at the Remembrance Service at the Church
- The Emergency Plan for the village needed reviewing. Cllr Shadbolt agreed to lead on this.
- The idea of a Neighbourhood Plan had been raised. Cllr Thompson offered to prepare an initial briefing for the next meeting.

Councillors:

Cllr Hanks

- It was the intention to plant a 400-metre hedgerow from the corner of Nethergate Street to the Hopton fen. It was agreed by the Council to purchase 10 oak trees at a cost of £230 to plant within the hedgerow in memory of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.
- It was hoped to convene an initial meeting of A Living History group on the 1st Thursday or Friday of December.

Cllr Delve

- Further planting had taken place in the Crooked Garden.
- It was hoped to have a police walk through the village before Christmas
- The Knettishall road closure because of the dangerous condition of the cattle grids was ongoing as the contractor had withdrawn from the job but it was too dangerous to reopen the road until the work was undertaken.

Cllr Shadbolt would be looking into the possibility of a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Cllr Faiers reported that he had checked all the gravestones in the cemetery.

10. Planning

The Council had no objection to the replacement of the doors and windows at the Primary School

11. Finances

The monthly financial Report was received, and the Payments Schedule was approved.

The Clerk reported that he would be bringing a draft budget for 2023/2024 to the December meeting. He noted that in the event of a contested Parish Council election, the likely cost would be £1500- £2000 which could be met from reserves. There was also an initial discussion of what might be arranged to mark the Coronation in May. Any expenditure could be met from reserves. Cllr Delve agreed to lead on this.

12. Date of next meeting: Monday 12th December 2022