

Minutes of the meeting of
HOPTON CUM KNETTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL
held on Monday 11th October 2021 at 7pm at Hopton Village Hall

*These minutes will be submitted for approval & signing by the Chair
at the next meeting on Monday 8th November 2021*

Present: Cllrs L. Macklin (Chair), A. Hanks, R. Capon, D. Faiers, Cllr C. Bull (WSDC)

Five members of the public were also present.

1. Apologies: Cllrs S. Delve, J. Taylor & Cllr J. Spicer (SCC) Also absent: Cllr B. Shotbolt.

2. The minutes of the last meeting on 13th September 2021 had been previously circulated and were approved.

3. Review of action points:

a) Proposed Theltenham Road Development: No decision has been notified by the District Council but Cllr Bull noted that the proposed development was outside the settlement boundary, on land not allocated & had poor access.

b) Hopton South Development: Cllr Macklin reported that she was meeting with Simon Burgess of Burgess Homes on 12th October to establish clear lines of communication between the developer & the Parish Council prior to the commencement of works. She would ask for an up-to-date site plan. **Action LM**

c) Tree Wardens: Cllr Hanks & Caroline Davies had volunteered to act as tree wardens for the parish and were duly thanked.

d) The Green Canopy for the Queen's Jubilee: Several ideas were put forward as to how the parish might take part including: planting in the Healing Wood; a significant tree in a central position in the village; planting in the Hopton South Development; and oak trees planted between Hill House & Knettishall House along the line where oak trees were felled by the USAF during World War 2 because of the flight path to the airfield.

e) The Village Hall roof: Cllr Macklin had been in touch with a firm of specialist surveyors regarding the issue of asbestos in the roof and in the first instance would be sending photographs to them as requested **Action LM**

4. Casual Vacancies: As & when a vacancy arises, the Clerk will inform Democratic Services at West Suffolk District Council who will advise of the procedures to be followed. Continuing efforts will be made to encourage members of the public to consider putting themselves forward to join the Council.

5. Declarations of Interest: Cllr Faiers declared an interest regarding the Council's proposed purchase of a printer from a family member. The printer in question is an unused large capacity business printer, offered at 50% of its retail price, and which will be much more economical as far as ink cartridges are concerned than the current domestic printer. So long as it is compatible with the council laptop, the purchase was agreed, and the current printer will be sold to offset the cost.

6. Public Forum:

- a) A request was made that the Council communicate a digest of news via the parish magazine as well as on the parish website & Facebook. The Clerk will action this.
- b) Risk of flooding: concern was expressed about the 200 metres of untouched hedgerow at Olive's Throat and the ditch from the Bowls Club to Bury Road. It was noted that it was a planning condition for Hopton South that the developer attend to the latter.
- c) It was pointed out that a pothole was forming on the pavement by the entrance to the village hall car park. As this was not the Village Hall's responsibility, it should be reported online to Suffolk County Council. Members of the public are encouraged to do this themselves & will be able to see if the pothole has already been reported and its status as far as remedial work is concerned.
- d) Concern was expressed about grass & weeds growing in pavements etc. It was noted that it was not always clear whether the County, District or Parish Council was responsible. Furthermore, the issue had been made more complex by changes to the formulation of weedkillers and also by the current prioritisation of drivers to refuse collections. Cllr Bull would make some inquiries. **Action CB**

District Councillor report:

Cllr Bull reported that there would again not be a Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fayre this year. However, a series of events would be held, with details to be found at <https://www.visit-burystedmunds.co.uk/christmas-in-bury-st-edmunds-and-beyond> Amongst the events is IlluminAbbey, a spectacular of lighting, music and live entertainment in The Abbey Gardens.

Cllr Bull also drew attention to the anti-idling car campaign & posters will be put up in the village to highlight this. **Action LM & NS**

As far as flooding is concerned, Cllr Bull encouraged any incident of flooding to be reported to Suffolk County Council so a history can be built up. Additionally, she would seek to produce information as to who to contact depending on the location & nature of any flooding. **Action CB**

7. Hopton School report: The School had enjoyed being able to attend the Parish Church for the Harvest Festival.

8. Planning Matters: no planning applications has been validated or determined since the last meeting.

9. Reports:

a) Chair

Cllr Macklin informed the Council that £200 had been very generously donated to the Healing Wood project in memory of Barbara Boyer.

She had also obtained information regarding street-naming which would be of relevance when the Hopton South Development was underway.

b) Councillors

Cllr Hanks referred to correspondence received by the Council regarding dog-fouling, particularly between the shop & the bottle banks, close to the school. She referred the Council to the West Suffolk Dog Fouling Report and it was agreed that suggestions made in the report such as posters, pavement stencils and providing free bags for a period of time should be undertaken. It was also noted that dog waste can be put in any bin not just a dog waste bin. **Action AH**

Cllr Hanks reported that the final funding contract for the Healing Wood was awaited from the County Council. This would be followed up with Cllr Spicer. There was an issue with clearing some asbestos from the site which had been dumped there. Furthermore, a volunteer party would be creating a second entrance to the site. **Action NS**

Cllr Faiers reported that the fence around the Village Hall play area was going to be replaced to create a larger area and that astro-turf would be put down on the other side of the Hall for the school.

c) Clerk

Two applications for memorials in the cemetery had been received. The Clerk would meet with Cllrs Macklin & Hanks to clarify the process for dealing with applications.
Action LM/AH/MS

10. Finances: The Clerk would provide an update for the Council at the next meeting after reviewing the bank accounts.

11. The date of the next meeting will be Monday 8th November 2021.

The Chair thanked the public for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.40 pm.

Nicholas Spring
Clerk to the Parish Council
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These minutes will be submitted for approval & signing by the Chair at the next meeting of the Parish Council on Monday 8th November 2021. If any changes are made to the minutes at that meeting, a correction will be notified on the website.