

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: 10th October 2022
Time: 7pm
Venue: Hopton Village Hall

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

6 members of the public were also present.

1. Apologies for absence

Cllr Delve and Cllr Spicer (SCC)

2. Members' declarations of interests & dispensations

None

3. Public participation session

The update from the Village Hall Committee was mentioned.

4. Reports from the County and/or District Councillor

Cllr Bull reported on

- West Suffolk District Council's Cost of Living consultation re the discount system
- Work being done on supporting the creation of Warm Spaces. It was mentioned that The White Horse, Thelnetham was planning to offer a Warm Space on Tuesdays.
- The upcoming Parish and Town Forum on 16th November

It was then agreed to proceed to Item 10 b Hopton South Development update, to hear from the developer.

10. b Hopton South update

The developer reported that there were 34 planning conditions to be satisfied including pre-commencement conditions with a 24th October deadline.

Some amendments to the scheme had been approved e.g. garages, visitor parking and bin collection points, and the aesthetics of the properties. The site lay-out, square footage and public spaces remain the same.

Addressing surface water issues was part of the planning permission. Furthermore, a Management Committee will be set up once the development has been completed, and one of their duties will be to ensure ditches are kept clean. Discussions were being held with planning officers concerning the idea of re-directing the footpath into the site to maintain its width and avoid the need to fill the ditch in.

Of the 37 properties, 11 will be rentals/starter homes.

West Suffolk Council had granted a one-month extension to the start date.

5. Report from Sam Norris, Knettishall Heath Warden

The Warden reported that

- A catering van had been on site 5 days a week this summer and this combined with the introduction of car park charges last year had led to a drop in anti-social behaviour
- There had been very few incidents of fire on the Heath this summer and no callouts
- In July the middle car park was closed completely, and this had been very successful in supporting wildlife e.g. wood larks, and also in countering anti-social behaviour
- A portacabin had been installed in the main car park to provide office space
- The Suffolk Wildlife Trust made a decision earlier this year that with nesting seasons coming earlier and earlier, dogs should be on leads throughout the year in all its reserves. At Knettishall there was still a designated off-lead area available.
- There was currently a road closure whilst repairs to the cattle grids were undertaken. It looked as though a new base could be needed in the future.

6. To approve as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2022 and the minutes of the meeting held on 12th September 2022

The minutes of both meetings were approved and signed by the Chair.

7. To review any action points highlighted in the minutes

The Clerk reported that insurance with Zurich Municipal was now in place following their satisfactory response to queries about the policy schedule. The Clerk also reported that temporary repairs had been made to the boardwalk, but more major works were awaited.

8. To consider any applications for the vacancy on the Council

One application had been received and the Council duly voted to co-opt Julian Thompson who then signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

9. Reports from

- a. The Chair

Nothing to report

- b. Councillors

Cllr Hanks: The newly planted trees in the Healing Wood had been watered twice a week over the summer and 90% had survived. Unfortunately, it looked as though three of the larger oaks on the southern edge had not. A further 50 trees were due from the Tree Trust. Progress was being made on the noticeboard. 50% of the proceeds of the June Open Gardens event had been offered for some more oaks.

Cllr Hassan: The other 50% of the proceeds from the Open Gardens event had been offered to be put towards an older children's project which was under consideration.

Cllr Shadbolt: It was hoped that digitalising the photos from the Memories of Hopton exhibition would be completed soon.

It was agreed that the Council would endeavour to convene a meeting before the end of November of anyone interested in developing a Hopton Living History project.

Cllr Thompson said that he would be happy to lead on eco projects in the village.

Cllr Faiers had discussed the possibility of reinstating a flagpole with the Church and had also repaired the Council noticeboard.

Cllr Delve: The Clerk read out the report received from Cllr Delve who, after being co-opted to represent Knettishall, had introduced herself to everyone in the parish back in August, by either letter or email and in some cases by speaking to the residents directly. She had also liaised with Suffolk Wildlife Trust and is now the Parish Council point of contact. Lastly there was to be a Crooked Corner Garden work party day on Saturday 15th October to finish the planting. Despite the drought and heat, the majority of plants put in in May have survived, showing the benefits of choosing low maintenance gravel garden plants.

10. Planning

- a. To consider the Parish Council's responses to any planning application consultations

The Council considered the letter from West Suffolk Council regarding the appeal to the Planning Inspectorate by the developer who had submitted the application for 47 dwellings in Thelnetham Road. It was agreed that the Clerk should write enclosing the Parish Council's original objections, with a covering letter to highlight that the main grounds on which the Council objected were that the development would be outside the village settlement and that with 37 houses already going up, 47 more would be overdevelopment.

- b. Hopton South development update (if any)

The item was considered earlier in the meeting.

11. Following the Internal Auditor's recommendations, Council to agree to reference

- a. the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 in the Standing Orders
- b. GDPR in the Council's Risk Assessment

The Council agreed to both recommendations.

12. Finances

- a. Council to receive the monthly Financial Report
- b. Council to approve the Payments Schedule

The Financial Report was received, and the Payments Schedule was approved.

13. Date of next meeting: Monday 14th November 2022

The meeting closed at 8.28 pm