

MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY PARISH MEETING OF HOPTON CUM KNETTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 13th SEPTEMBER AT 7PM, HOPTON VILLAGE HALL

PRESENT: Councillors: L. Macklin (Chair), A. Hanks, D. Faiers, B. Shotbolt, S. Delve, J. Taylor, Cllr C. Bull and Cllr J. Spicer

3 members of the public

1.	Apologies: Cllr R. Capon	
2.	Declaration of Interests - None	
3.	The draft minutes of the last meeting (5 th August) had been previously circulated and were approved.	
4.	<p>Previous Action points to be covered within other agenda points during the meeting.</p> <p>L. Macklin introduced Nick Spring, recently appointed as the new Parish Council Clerk. He was attending as a member of the public</p>	
5	<p>Update from Hopton Primary School The school has just started a new term and sent the following news items to the Parish Council. The school is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking forward to being able to return to the Church, starting with the Harvest Festival • Enjoying ‘normality’ and no more bubbling • A willow tree sculpture has been erected at the front of the school • After school and breakfast clubs are back on • Every child is being offered 1x free after school club for one half term to help mental health and well being • All new children and staff are settling in nicely 	
6.	<p>Planning matters</p> <p>6a Proposed Thelnetham Road Development West Suffolk had received an outstanding response from the village and other people to this proposal. The officer in charge will be making a decision by the end of the month (28th September). The applicant will be notified first. The adjacent land owner has suggested that his site should be developed first if the proposal is agreed. He is encouraged to offer this land when there is a call for more sites in West Suffolk made.</p> <p>6b Hopton South Development</p>	

	<p>Work is expected to start in the first quarter of next year. Former Councillor M. Filler was thanked for the outstanding work he has done on behalf of the Parish. L.Macklin is going to contact the developer and solicitor to ensure that she is contacted directly, alongside Mr Filler, over any further issues that may arise. The council was advised that any verbal communications the builders should be followed up with a letter as the initial development agreement happened over 5 years ago and monies coming to the village hall are considerable.</p> <p>6c Changes to Hunters, Thelnetham Road There are no issues with this</p> <p>6d Barn conversion, Robson's Farm it was agreed that this would be a good conversion for a listed agricultural building.</p>	
7.	<p>County Councillor Joanna Spicer gave the following update -</p> <p>Cllr Spicer had visited the Healing Wood site with Richard Rout (Deputy chair of SCC, Head of Finance and Environment committees). Accompanied by Carol Bull and A. Hanks he had met volunteers and been impressed by the potential of the site. In his press release earlier this month on the Healing Wood initiative he had mentioned the Hopton project specifically. The project has been given a grant by Suffolk County Council.</p> <p>Olives Throat ditches. These have been cleared, including the drain from the Bowls Club. County Farms are now meeting with Peter Dixon, a land owner on Shortgrove Lane, about improving their ditches to relieve flooding of adjacent fields.</p> <p>Correspondence has been received about speeding along the High Street. The VAS speed check machines need to be looked at and possibly recalibrated as they do not appear to be holding data. It is suggested that a Speed watch team becomes active in the village again. It was pointed out that the biggest problem is between midnight and 3am when the village is used by one or more fast cars.</p> <p>Update from West Suffolk District Council- Councillor Carol Bull shared the following:</p> <p>There is an initiative to recruit a tree warden in each parish. This would be a volunteer who would monitor and</p>	

	<p>advise on the parishes trees. For more information visit: www.suffolktreewardens.org.uk</p> <p>For the Queen's jubilee there is a Queen's green canopy project which is encouraging each parish to plant trees. For more information visit: queensgreencanopy.org.</p>	
8.	<p>Crooke's Corner – the slabs and bench were installed at the end of August by a small volunteer team. The bench has received one coat of teak oil and will be coated again. Removing the turf will require a machine. S. Delve will be talking to local businesses again about possible sponsorship of plants and gravel. She is able to supply 50% of the plants planned for the garden and would like to ask for donations from other people in the village for the rest.</p> <p>Healing Wood – A grant of £3550 has been offered by Suffolk County Council. This is for fencing, benches, some larger trees, machinery hire and materials. A draft contract had been shared with the Councillors and they gave their agreement to it. This runs from October 1st. Monies for purchases can be claimed monthly in arrears by the Parish Council, from the end of October to end of March. Match funding by the Parish will be made through volunteer hours. The site has now been roughly mown. The Woodland Trust are making a grant of 100+ trees and hedging. The school has been approached about involving a class of children.</p>	
9.	<p>Chair's Report:</p> <p>a) The new clerk has been appointed and will be in post as soon as SALC have dealt with the paperwork. Su is going to walk him around the village by way of orientation.</p> <p>b) Correspondence has been received about a neighbour dispute. This is to be passed on the Community police and Havebury Housing.</p> <p>c) Councillor recruitment. Cllr Macklin is placing a piece in the parish magazine to recruit new councillors.</p> <p>d) Festival of Suffolk. The Lord Lieutenant of Suffolk is looking for a Festival of Suffolk Champion in each village to support County's work on the Queen's 70th anniversary celebrations. Cllr Spicer is to be asked to clarify this role further as it appears to be a lot of work. The role could</p>	

	<p>then be advertised at the shop. Hopton is considering a celebration weekend. This could include a beer festival, village fete, model exhibition. Other villages are doing similar things and coordinating them with national festivities.</p> <p>e) There are two new memorials being erected in the cemetery. These have been paid for. Permission has also been given for ashes to be scattered over the grave of a relative.</p> <p>f) Monies have been received for the annual grazing agreement of the Fen Street field.</p> <p>g) Healing Wood expenses so far of £72 to cover signs, first aid and safety equipment have been agreed.</p> <p>h) The council have agreed to employ a surveyor to assess the current status of the village hall roof and say whether it must be replaced.</p>	
10.	<p>Update from other Councillors:</p> <p>Cllr Shotbolt – Wishes to look into re-instating the Neighbourhood Watch scheme for each road in the parish.</p> <p>Cllr Taylor- Will be tendering his resignation at the end of November. He plans to move in December.</p> <p>Cllr Delve- Is looking into Remembrance Wreaths</p> <p>Cllr Hanks- Reported that a memorial service for a former parishioner is to take place this month with donations being made towards the Healing Wood.</p>	
11.	<p>Meeting ended at 20:25</p> <p>Date of next meeting: October 11th at 7pm. Hopton Village Hall</p>	