

HOPTON CUM KNETTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

THE VILLAGE HALL, HOPTON

MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024 AT 7 PM

(Draft until approved and signed)

PRESENT:

Councillor Loreen Macklin Horsfall (Chair) (LMH)

Councillor Andrea Hanks (Vice Chair) (AH)

Councillor Robert Capon (RC)

Councillor Su Delve (SD)

Councillor David Faiers (DF)

Councillor Jo Hassan (JH)

Councillor Ben Shotbolt (BS)

Councillor Julian Thompson (JT)

IN ATTENDANCE:

District Councillor Carol Bull (CB)

1. Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor Joanna Spicer (JS) and Nicholas Spring (Parish Clerk) (NS)
2. Members' declarations of interests & requests for dispensations  
None
3. Public participation session
  - Organisers of the village cinema were thanked for their efforts in putting on a lovely evening.
  - A request was made to have the village hall chairs cleaned as they are very stained and off putting. DF is talking to the management committee. JH offered a steam cleaner and LM suggested a commercial cleaner be hired in. This is to be a volunteer work party before the tea dance in June.
  - Dog bins working well. Bin in Mill Lane is very effective. Investigate the bulk purchase of bags so they can be kept in a good condition. Request made for a dog bin near the bench at the entrance of Holme Close by the sand bin. LM to contact Havebury/investigate street furniture licence. Remaining poo bin. LM talking to Mr Pheonix about siting along Angles Way
  - Sand bin near Holme Close frequently flying open and full of rubbish. Carol Bull to ask West Suffolk about fitting a new closing mechanism.

4. To consider any matters relating to highways, pavements, footpaths and trees  
None

5. Reports from the County and/or District Councillor

CB reported as follows:

- Jaynic at Stanton have had their planning permission refused. The grounds of the refusal relate to increased traffic on Highways. Jaynic will be appealing.
- The government have issued new guidelines for waste collection. Food waste and glass are to be collected at the roadside. This would impact village hall income. WSDC are discussing their response to this. The government will fund the change but are not putting money into long term implementation.
- Commercial premises must recycle food waste from June 2025 and private households from June 2026.
- WSDC have introduced reverse vending machines in Newmarket and BSE. Empty cans are posted in and vouchers issued. This is an attempt to reduce street litter.
- Suffolk Local Plan still out for consultation. When approved it will give a picture of development across the County.

6. To approve as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
The minutes were approved and signed.

7. To review any action points in the minutes and not already on the agenda  
None

8. Planning

To consider the Parish Council's responses to any planning application consultations.  
None

9. Finances

- a. Council received the monthly Budget Report
- b. Council approved the Payments Schedule

10. Correspondence

- The letter from Circus Ferrel was read out. Generally, everyone thought this was a lovely idea. There have been circuses on the field in past years. Village Hall Committee have not yet discussed this.
- The content of the letter from Caloo Sports and Play Equipment was shared.

## 11. Information updates from Councillors

LM still has Coronation mugs that will be given to anyone who requests them and/or supports an event like the tea dance.

SD – Crooked Corner has had a spring tidy up and is growing well. Two information sheets produced for the website, one on electric vehicle charging at home and one on tele-communication options for the village (the internet and alternatives). SD noted that road margins near the furthest cattle grid at Knettishall are collapsing. This needs to be reported.

JH trying to re-engage with equipment manufacturers about ways to push playground project forward and choose a system. She is going to reach her target audience through School friends/village Facebook and village website. Will write a piece for the Parish newsletter by mid-May. WSDC may be able to work on project as a joint venture and could help with funding if there is an element of sport and fitness. CB to liaise. JH needs to know how much the PC is willing to invest.

BS reported that the emergency plan was not any further forward. LM commented that the initial plan is now ten years old and there needs to be some progress as we have had a difficult winter/spring.

JT: Housing needs in the village identified: Two people have registered to self-build and seven on the housing register for social housing. Has spoken to County Farms re flooding. UK power networks is funding training on energy saving for community groups so they can give energy saving advice to people who are struggling.

AH: New tree warden in the village, Richard Parmee, arborist and Biodiversity Officer. AH to leave the role this year (Caroline Davis has left the role). History Group had a successful March meeting and is working to promote the next three months including the tea dance. Newsletter info to be in by the second week of May. Healing Wood: trees replaced where necessary. Mown again in March and paths will be mown this month. Poo bin well used.

## 12. Date of next meeting: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024