

## **HOPTON CUM KNETTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL**

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING  
THE VILLAGE HALL, HOPTON  
MONDAY 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2025 AT 7 PM  
(Draft until approved and signed)

### PRESENT:

Councillor Andrea Hanks (Vice Chair) (AH)  
Councillor Robert Capon (RC)  
Councillor David Faiers (DF)  
Councillor Jo Hassan (JH)  
Councillor Ben Shotbolt (BS)  
Councillor Julian Thompson (JT)

### NOT PRESENT:

Councillor Loreen Macklin Horsfall (Chair) (LMH)  
Councillor Su Delve (SD)

### IN ATTENDANCE:

Nicholas Spring, Clerk (NS)  
County Councillor Joanna Spicer (JS)

Six members of the public were present.

1. Apologies for absence: LM, SD and District Councillor Carol Bull (CB)
2. Members' declarations of interests & requests for dispensations if any - none
3. Reports from the County and/or District Councillor

The Council noted an emailed report from CB.

JS updated on local government reorganisation. The County Council favours one unitary authority while the District Councils favour three. Parish Councils will be asked to comment in October.

4. To consider any matters relating to highways, pavements, footpaths and trees not already considered, including the purchase of a litter bin for Holme Close

It was agreed that a (dual purpose) litter bin would be a good idea next to the bench at the entrance to Holme Close. Highways permission to be sought. The

possibility of another green bin was discussed, and SD had reported that the cemetery brown bin had not been emptied for a while. DF would investigate this.

JS reported that the A143 at Stanton would be closed at night for Highways works for a short period.

BS raised the subject of speeding through the village, particularly of lorries. He reported that it had not been possible to extract data from the SID at the northern end of the village and that it needed servicing and possibly replacing. BS also agreed to take the lead on setting up a community speed watch team so that data could be collected and passed on to the police. It was noted that many of the 30 mph repeater signs had faded. JS informed the meeting that these could be remedied with stickers.

DF was thanked for clearing the path from Shickle Place to the High Street and he said he would keep an eye on it in the autumn.

Encroachment of grass onto the Nethergate Street pavement was raised.

5. Public participation session

No further matters were raised.

6. The Council approved as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025

7. Planning

- a. To consider the Parish Council's responses to any planning consultations received since the last meeting

The Council supported the application from the Vine to use the approved building for fast food with the proviso that there was provision for parking and rubbish. The Council also supported the Millars Cottage application and the 10 Nethergate Street application.

- b. Sarsons Meadow development update, if any - none

8. Finances

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

9. Information updates from Councillors

JT raised the Save Our Buses campaign. The aim was to both report on usage and to encourage increased usage otherwise the current funding might not be renewed. He also reported that he had visited the Lavenham Community Land Trust for social housing fact-finding.

BS would produce information on ways to report speeding.

AH reported on the plan for a Tea Party in the Village Hall on VE Day 80 (May 8<sup>th</sup>) and also that the Hopton History group would be meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

10. To review any action points raised at previous meetings and not already considered – none.

11. Confirmed date of the next meeting: Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025