

HOPTON CUM KNETTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

THE VILLAGE HALL, HOPTON

Monday 13th April 2026 at 7pm

(Draft until approved and signed)

PRESENT:

Councillor Andrea Hanks (Chair) (AH)

Councillor Robert Capon (RC)

Councillor Peter Cox (PC)

Councillor Jo Hassan (JH)

Councillor Julian Thompson (JT)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Councillor Su Delve (Vice Chair) (SD)

Councillor David Faiers (DF)

District Councillor Carol Bull (CB)

NOT PRESENT:

Councillor Ben Shotbolt (BS)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Nicholas Spring, Clerk (NS)

County Councillor Joanna Spicer (JS)

Four members of the public were present.

1. Apologies for absence: SD, DF and CB
2. Members' declarations of interests & requests for dispensations - none
3. Reports from the County and/or District Councillor

JS reported on:

- The Knettishall Bridge – a diversion route was under discussion with Norfolk CC
- The government's decision to accept the proposal for three unitary authorities in Suffolk
- Traffic calming at the north end of the village (dragons' teeth and roundels)
- A £2000 grant towards a speed indicator device
- The boardwalk – since its removal the route was passable but its replacement with recycled material was still being looked at.

4. Council to consider any matters relating to highways, pavements, footpaths and trees not already considered

The potential location of new speed devices was discussed. Agreement from nearby neighbours would be needed and councillors agreed to deliver and collect letters. The repaired SID needed to be put back up with a combination lock.

5. Public participation session – no further matters.

6. Village Hall Working Party

The terms of reference had been shared and agreed. Maintenance of the playground was mentioned with the possibility of the Parish Council funding a handyman role or a sub-contractor.

7. Council approved as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2026

8. Planning

- a. Council to consider its responses to any planning application consultations - none
- b. Sarsons Meadow development update if any - none

9. Finances

- a. Council received the monthly Budget Report
- b. Council formally approved the purchase of a speed indicator device for the sum of £3175 +VAT, to be part funded by a grant of £2000 from Cllr Spicer (SCC). Cllr Bull (WSDC) also subsequently agreed a grant of £500.
- c. Council approved the Payments Schedule

10. Information updates from Councillors and the Clerk

JT reported on funding for solar panels. PC agreed to review the quotations and costings for new noticeboards. AH reported on waste/fly-tipping in Fen Street which had been reported. The subject of volunteer drivers was raised and would be put in the next newsletter.

11. Council to review any action points raised at previous meetings and not already considered.

The 30mph signs in the village needed to be refreshed (12 large & 12 small).

12. Council approved the dates for meetings 2026-2027, including the date of next meeting: Monday 11th May 2026