

HOPTON CUM KNETTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

THE VILLAGE HALL, HOPTON

MONDAY 20th JANUARY 2025 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)

ABSENT:

Councillor Ben Shotbolt (BS)

Councillor Julian Thompson (JT)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Nicholas Spring, Clerk (NS)

District Councillor Carol Bull (CB)

Six members of the public were present.

The meeting closed at 8 PM

1. Apologies for absence were received from BS and JT and also County Councillor Joanna Spicer (JS)
2. Members' declarations of interests & requests for dispensations – none
- 7b) Item 7b) was taken next and Simon Burgess of Burgess Homes updated the Council on the Sarsons Meadow development as follows:
 - Build progress: a third of the roofs were now on
 - Two of the eight dwellings in the first phase had been sold
 - The first phase (of five) should be completed by the summer, along with the landscaping at the front
 - The footpath at the front has been kept open and is now tarmacked. The rest has a base but will not be tarmacked until the services below have been completed
 - The footpath from the development to the Village Hall will be done this year when the weather permits

- The affordable housing is on the righthand side of the development and is due for handover in the last quarter of 2025
- There are two shared equity homes which will be discounted on the open market. They are intended for those with a connection to the area/first time buyers
- Traffic calming conditions are under discussion.

3. Reports from the County and/or District Councillor

CB reported that the unitary authorities are being promoted by the government with regional mayors. Suffolk County Council have voted to apply to join the priority list. If accepted, the 2025 elections would be postponed

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

The following were raised:

- A request for a dog bin by the bench in Home Close
- The Shotgrove Lane street sign

It was also noted that the pavement along Common Road had been cleared.

AH had endeavoured to put up “Clean up after your dog” signs for the path to Angles Way but discovered a lot of missing footpath posts. She would look to see if these could be reported online to Suffolk Highways.

5. Public participation session

None in addition to the above

6. Council approved as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2024

7. Planning

- a. To consider the Parish Council’s responses to any planning application consultations – none

It was noted that the Cross Green Farm application in Thelnetham was being reconsulted.

- b. Sarsons Meadow development update if any

This item was considered earlier

8. Finances

- a. Council received the monthly Budget Report
- b. Council approved the Payments Schedule
- c. Council considered the Council's banking arrangements. It was agreed that the Clerk would draw up a shortlist of building societies for the Council's reserves with comparative data.
- d. Council approved the Budget and a Precept of £9027 for 2025/2026. This would amount to an increase of 21p a year for a Council Tax Band D property.
- e. The Chair and Clerk signed the Precept Application

9. Information updates from Councillors

AH asked for any items for the next newsletter.

JH proposed setting up a Working Party to explore ideas to enhance village amenities.

RC was endeavouring to get a quote for the pruning of tress in the cemetery, which would probably be best done in the autumn.

10. To review any action points raised at previous meetings and not already considered.

SD would seek a quote for the cleaning of the war memorial and adding of two names so this could be considered for a community grant from the District Council.

11. Date of next meeting: Monday 10th March 2025