

HOPTON-CUM-KNETTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
THE VILLAGE HALL, HOPTON
MONDAY 14TH JULY 2025 AT 7PM
(Draft until approved and signed)

PRESENT:

Councillor Andrea Hanks (Chair) (AH)
Councillor Su Delve (Vice Chair) (SD)
Councillor David Faiers (DF)
Councillor Ben Shotbolt (BS)
Councillor Julian Thompson (JT)

ABSENT:

Councillor Jo Hassan (JH)

NOT PRESENT:

Councillor Robert Capon (RC)

IN ATTENDANCE:

District Councillor Carol Bull (CB)

Four members of the public were present.

1. Apologies for absence: County Councillor Joanna Spicer (JS); Councillor Jo Hassan (JH) and Nicholas Spring, Clerk (NS)

2. Members' declarations of interests and requests for dispensations if any - none

3. Reports from the County and/or District Councillor

CB reported that the decision on the chicken sheds application at Thelnetham has been delayed until August due to a large number of last-minute objections. The meeting will now be on 4th August, but JT is not able to attend on that date. As no-one else was available then, and JT had done all the background work, CB suggested that JT register to speak and present a pre-recorded piece, which he agreed to do.

The decision on the large housing development at Stanton, opposite the petrol station, has also been deferred due to access issues.

CB felt that the local plan going to the District Council's Local Plan should be adopted, and she also reported that the application by The Vine for hot food facilities had been withdrawn, whilst the 'scrapyard' application at Stanton has been re-presented.

4. To consider any matters relating to highways, pavements, footpaths and trees not already considered under item 3

There has been a complaint about the path from Shickle Place to the High Street, but on inspection it had only recently been cleared. There are trees overhanging and DF will keep an eye on these.

The Speed Indicator Device has gone to Dereham for repair and servicing. Much discussion was had around what the village needs and what is available and the decision was made in principle that: two permanent devices with fixed solar panels be purchased and installed on the main road at either end of the village, plus the purchase of one rechargeable battery-powered mobile one and extra posts so that it can be moved around key spots in the village.

5. Public participation session

Concern was expressed about the use of dirt bikes near the Garboldisham end of the village. SD will inform the rural policing team of the concerns. Were there to be any further concerns, then it was suggested that locations, times, numbers involved etc. were recorded and reported if appropriate to the police.

6. The Council approved as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9th June 2025

7. Planning

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

The Council considered an application to fell a horse chestnut tree at The Limes. The parish tree officer had looked at the tree and confirmed it was dying. The Council supported the application.

An application for a conservatory behind The Barn was also supported.

b. Sarsons Meadow development update, if any – none, but a visit was suggested. AH to follow that up.

8. Finances

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

9. Information updates from Councillors

JT has shared an independent traffic report with Thelnetham in light of the chicken farm application. He will deliver a 3-minute pre-recorded piece at the WSDC planning meeting.

DF reported that the recovering all the village hall chairs had been completed.

AH informed the Council that RC would like to get a quote for crown-lifting of trees around the cemetery as some were causing issues accessing graves. She also queried the situation with the bins in the cemetery and suggested replacing the subscription green bin (which has not been collected for at least four weeks) with a standard black bin.

The dog bin for Shickle Place is ready to be installed between the bench and sand bin. AH asked for a volunteer.

AH also reminded everyone present that copy for the next village newsletter would need to be with her by 13th August with a delivery date in mind of the beginning of September.

JH reported that she has been successful in getting the village school involved in the playground discussions

NS has suggested that the Parish Council should consider putting together a Mission Statement

AH introduced a member of the public who has applied to fill the councillor vacancy.

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

11. Date of the next meeting: Monday 8th September 2025 ` at 7pm.