

HOPTON CUM KNETTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
THE VILLAGE HALL, HOPTON
MONDAY 9th JUNE 2025 AT 7 PM
(Draft until approved and signed)

PRESENT:

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

NOT PRESENT:

Councillor Su Delve (Vice Chair) (SD)
Councillor Jo Hassan (JH)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Nicholas Spring, Clerk (NS)
County Councillor Joanna Spicer (JS)
District Councillor Carol Bull (CB)

Three members of the public were present.

1. Apologies for absence - JH
2. Members' declarations of interests & requests for dispensations if any - none
3. Reports from the County and/or District Councillor

JS expressed her thanks to Loreen MH for her work as PC Chair on her standing down from the Parish Council. She updated the Council on the 73A school bus service which was now leaving earlier and also on the Primary School. Issues relating to Shortgrove Lane were discussed along with motorbikes on footpaths/bridleways with options considered including half barriers and signs. An item would be put in the next newsletter.

CB reported that the Thelnetham chicken sheds application would probably now be determined in July and that The Vine hot food takeaway application was on hold for environmental health reports. She also commented on the weeds in the gutters and drains in Nethergate Street.

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

5. Public participation session

There was a question about the possibility of 30mph roundels on the road. JS would find out how much these would cost.

There was a further question about a litter bin for Holme Close. The Clerk reported that s street furniture licence had been obtained, and it was agreed that the remaining dog bin should be installed.

6. The Council approved as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2025

7. End of Year 2024/2025

The Council reviewed and approved:

the Internal Audit Report received from Heelis & Lodge
the Council's Internal Controls & Risk Assessment
the Annual Governance Statement
the Accounting Statements & Bank Reconciliation
the Explanation of Variances and the Statement on the Reserves
the Certificate of Exemption

The Chair & Clerk signed the Annual Governance Statement and the Chair signed the Accounting Statements

The Responsible Finance Officer set the commencement date for the exercise of public rights as 19th June, to run to 21st July 2025

The Certificate of Exemption was signed by the RFO and the Chair.

8. The Council reviewed and adopted the Co-Option Policy

9. Planning

- a. To consider the Parish Council's responses to any planning consultations received since the last meeting - none
- b. Sarsons Meadow development update, if any - none

10. Finances

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

11. Information updates from Councillors

BS offered to courier the speed sign to Dereham for inspection.

JT reported on: working on village playground grant bids; the Suffolk Green Cluster – potential community benefit to parishes of c.£35,000 in due course from renewable energies Community Interest Company if successful; affordable community housing – a housing needs survey would be the next step.

RC reported on the Charities Annual Walk around the Fen and that marsh harriers had been seen nesting for the first time.

DF reported that the Holme Close bench had been repaired.

AH thanks those who had helped with the delivery of the newsletter.

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

13. Date of the next meeting: Monday 14th July 2025