

HOPTON CUM KNETTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
THE VILLAGE HALL, HOPTON
MONDAY 10th MARCH 2025 AT 7 PM
(Draft until approved and signed)

PRESENT:

Councillor Loreen Macklin Horsfall (Chair) (LMH)
Councillor Robert Capon (RC)
Councillor Su Delve (SD)
Councillor David Faiers (DF)
Councillor Jo Hassan (JH)
Councillor Ben Shotbolt (BS)
Councillor Julian Thompson (JT)

ABSENT:

Councillor Andrea Hanks (Vice Chair) (AH)

IN ATTENDANCE:

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

7 members of the public were present.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm

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

JS commented on the email which the Parish Council had received about the passageway from Shickle Place to the High Street. DF offered to investigate and clear up. JS also reported that she had given a small grant to the Bowls Club, that she would be willing to contribute to a new VAS and updated the Parish Council on the County Council's views on local government reorganisation.

CB reported that a street trading licence for Greg's Grill was under discussion.

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

A request was made by a member of the public for a litter bin for Holme Close.

A question was asked about the new track off Knettishall Road. CB reported that this was for a forestry project and that planning permissions was not needed because of agricultural permitted rights.

5. Public participation session

It was reported that the Village Hall Management Committee was going to be holding an open meeting at the Village Hall on Saturday 15th March to display initial outline ideas for the Village Hall refurbishment. These would also be posted on the Parish Council's website.

6. The Council approved as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2025

7. Planning

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

DC/25/0347/HH The Limes High Street Hopton Suffolk IP22 2Q:

The Parish Council has no objection so long as the annexe cannot be occupied independently from the main property (e.g. rental or holiday let) or sold separately from the main house.

- b. Sarsons Meadow development

To include consideration of DC/25/0175/VAR – application to vary the traffic calming conditions (removal of the VAS measures)

The Parish Council does not object to the variation to condition 16 of planning permission DC/22/1257/VAR (traffic calming) and is supportive of the developer's efforts to discharge the pre-occupancy conditions to enable first occupancy to proceed. At the same time, the Parish Council does feel that a new Vehicle Activated Speed Sign/Speed Indicator Device is needed and will seek funding for this from the County and District Councillors and will also approach the developer at a later stage to see if they might be willing to make a contribution. It envisages the purchase of a portable camera that can be moved between Bury Road by the development and Thelnetham Road approaching the Village Hall, the two sites referred to in condition 16.

8. Finances
 - a. The Council received the monthly Budget Report
 - b. The Council approved the Payments Schedule
 - c. The Council authorised the Clerk to take steps to open an account with Redwood Bank to hold the Council's reserves.

9. Information updates from Councillors

SD reported that Crooked Corner had had its spring spruce up though unfortunately quite a lot of rubbish had to be cleared.

JH reported that the Playground Working Party had met with Kompan.

JT updated the Council on home visits for advice on energy efficiency and signposting to Suffolk County Council for retrofit assessments etc. He also reported that seven housing needs in the parish had been provisionally identified. The next step would be a formal survey.

BS reported that a new cable was needed in order to download speeding data from the VAS. He would identify a suitable one and inform the Clerk.

BC commented on the new style Suffolk CC footpath signs which were no longer finger posts.

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

None

11. The Council approved the schedule of meetings for 2025/2026 including the date of the next meeting: Monday 14th April 2025