

HOPTON CUM KNETTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

THE VILLAGE HALL, HOPTON

11th NOVEMBER 2024 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 David Faiers (DF)

Councillor Ben Shotbolt (BS)

Councillor Julian Thompson (JT)

NOT PRESENT:

Councillor Su Delve (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.

The meeting closed at 8.35PM

1. Apologies for absence were received from SD and JH
2. Members' declarations of interests & requests for dispensations
None
3. Reports from the County and/or District Councillor

JS commented on the following:

- The Save the Buses work: Letter from the Parish Council to support the funding bid to be sent. Main message is 'Use it or lose it'.
- Olive's Throat: A MoP reported that it was overgrown with brambles. JS would enquire as to when it was last cut/cleared.
- The Boardwalk: AH observed that the new bridge was very nice, but preservative was needed on the cut ends. JS to follow-up.
- Gateways & new VAS: AH felt that Burgess Homes had this in hand. BS to collect data from existing VAS so that the PC could look at trends.

- 1088 Stowlangtoft Bridge: work has restarted after issues with the concrete but would not now be opening until mid-February at the earliest.

CB commented on

- The District Council's Local Plan meeting
- The Communities Capital Grant Fund

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

None

5. Public participation session

DF has volunteered to be i/c posting hard copies of the agenda and (draft) minutes on the noticeboard.

6. The Council approved as accurate the minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2024

7. Planning

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

NS reported back on his conversation with the planning officer regarding the application from The Vine for a new storage unit and its service access. The planning officer felt that this would not impact traffic in the high street. NS also reported that the Council's objection to the Cross Green Farm Theltenham DC/24/1210/FUL application had been posted.

- b. Sarsons Meadow development update

The Council discussed the Deed of Easement for the footpath (which will be marked out for agreement) from the development to the Village Hall car park. It was noted that in law once an Option Agreement for a Deed of Easement has been signed, the Grantor must proceed when the Grantee exercises the Option which Burgess Homes has now done. The Clerk advised that in the Deed of Easement the Parish Council was named as the Grantor on the grounds of owning the freehold property, whereas he believed that the owner was actually the Village Hall Charity (the Managing Trustees) with the Parish Council as the Custodian of the Deeds (the Custodian Trustee required to act on the instructions of the Managing Trustees). As such it might be questionable whether the Parish Council could itself grant the covenants. Neither the Parish Council's solicitors nor Burgess Homes' solicitors had yet responded to this query. It was agreed by the Council that nonetheless LM as Chair would sign the Deed of Easement on behalf of the Parish Council and that DF would countersign and witness as a member of the Parish Council and as a Managing Trustee of the Village Hall. It was agreed by the Council that a covering letter would be sent by the Clerk to Burgess Homes' solicitors

regarding the Parish Council's understanding of its status. It was also agreed by the Council that further independent legal advice would not be taken at this stage.

8. The Council adopted new Financial Regulations based on the NALC Model Regulations published in April 2024

9. Finances

- a. The Council received the monthly Budget Report
- b. The Council approved the Payments Schedule
- c. The Council received an update on the Council's banking arrangements. As the Nationwide is not currently accepting new business clients, the Clerk agreed to research other Building Society accounts which might be suitable for the Council's reserves.

10. Information updates from Councillors

AH asked for any material for the next newsletter and reported on ideas for a VE event next year and on the next meeting of the History Group.

BS would send the Clerk the draft CEP for circulation.

JT reported on progress on Affordable Housing and free energy advice to residents.

RC reported that work on the yew trees was in hand.

DF reported that he had repaired the planter as best as he could with the wood available. He also reported that the Village Hall Land Deeds were required for an easement for the EV charging points. The Clerk to contact Gudgeons Prentice as it was thought that the Deeds would have been stored with them.

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

A letter regarding parking in Holme Close was discussed as was the siting of the two remaining dog bins.

12. Date of next meeting: Monday 9th December 2024