

HOPTON CUM KNETTISHALL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

THE VILLAGE HALL, HOPTON

MONDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7 PM

(Draft until approved and signed)

PRESENT:

Councillor Andrea Hanks (Vice Chair) (AH)

Councillor Su Delve (SD)

Councillor David Faiers (DF)

Councillor Jo Hassan (JH)

Councillor Ben Shotbolt (BS)

Councillor Julian Thompson (JT)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Nicholas Spring, Clerk (NS)

County Councillor Joanna Spicer (JS)

District Councillor Carol Bull (CB)

ABSENT:

Councillor Loreen Macklin Horsfall (Chair) (LMH)

Councillor Robert Capon (RC)

The meeting closed at 8.35pm

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

JS reported on the following matters:

- The appointment of interim heads at the Primary School
- That starting on 16th September, some works would be undertaken on the boardwalk with replacement planned in due course
- That the Bury Road/Market Weston signpost was to be replaced
- That the A1088 south of Ixworth would be closed until the end of November
- That a Task Force of parishes affected by the new Simmonds bus timetable had been set up to explore options
- That she was speaking to the relevant Highways Officer for VAS clarification

CB reported on the following matters:

- The dumping of tyres in Fen Street just into Coney Weston
- The requirement from central government that District Councils must standardise refuse collections, including doorstep collection of food waste and glass. West Suffolk were currently exploring options, with a weekly collection of food waste and a three-weekly cycle of other waste likely.

There was further discussion of the Save Our Buses meeting which had been held. It was important to establish the needs of the village and to spread the 'Use It or Lose It' message.

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

The spilling of straw into roadside drains from lorries travelling through the village was mentioned. It was suggested that one contributory factor was overhanging trees and if they were trimmed ahead of next summer that the problem might be alleviated.

5. Public participation session

-

6. The minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2024 were approved

7. Planning

- a. To consider the Parish Council's responses to any planning application consultations - none
- b. Sarsons Meadow development update – a meeting on 16th September had been arranged with Burgess Homes to discuss village gateways, the VAS and other matters

8. Finances

- a. Council received the monthly Budget Report and the bank reconciliation
- b. Council approved the renewal of the Council's insurance with Zurich Municipal
- c. Council agreed a £250 fee to engage 4Grants to seek grants for VH playground equipment. (Fee refundable if no grants obtained.)
- d. Council approved the Payments Schedule
- e. Council was informed that the Nationwide Building Society was still not accepting new business customers
- f. Council approved the appointment of Heelis & Lodge as auditors for 2024/2025

9. Information updates from Councillors

JT reported that some funding was available for home energy advice

BS reported on the Emergency Plan. NS had circulated a simple template to use, and AH suggested Barningham's Plan be looked at. There was a request in the latest newsletter for those with skills which might be useful in an emergency to offer to join a register.

JH reported that the Kompan proposals were the most popular with those who had responded to the survey. The next step would be to enquire about phasing.

SD reported that the Suffolk Wildlife Trust had been invited to provide an update on Knettishall Heath to the Council, but she had not heard back yet.

SD also reported that she had done some research on village war memorials and established that a village could draw up its own criteria for inclusion. She would now make enquires about adding to the memorial the two names identified in Hopton Cemetery by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and also about its cleaning.

AH reported on the Quarterly Newsletter and also that the History Group was planning an Artisan Village Fair to mark the 80th Anniversary of VE Day in May 2025. The History Group would be looking for volunteers to help.

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

11. Date of next meeting: Monday 14th October 2024