

**KNETTISHALL and HOPTON  
ANNUAL PARISH MEETINGS  
MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2019  
at 7.00 pm HOPTON VILLAGE HALL**

**Present:**

Parish Councillors: R. Capon, M. Cleveland, D. Faiers, M. Filler (Chair), Mrs. L. Macklin, Mrs. J. Mills, Dr. J. Taylor.

Clerk: Mrs. C. Dowson.

County Councillor: Mrs. J. Spicer

Two members of the public. M. Coulter, High Street Chapel. Ms. C. McMurray, Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

**Apologies:**

Mrs. J. Plackett, Parish Council Chair. Mrs. C. Bull, Borough Councillor. Mrs. S. Bose, Hopton Parochial Church Council. P.C. Paul Fox, Community Policeman, Suffolk Police. Mrs. M. Wiseman, Hopton Combined Charities. Mrs. Claire Wright, Hopton School Head Teacher

**KNETTISHALL**

1. Apologies – see above.
2. **Minutes of last year's meeting** (9<sup>th</sup> April 2018) were confirmed and signed by the Chair.
3. **Report from Knettishall Country Park.** Charlie McMurray is covering Samantha Norris's maternity leave and she gave a very interesting update about all the work that has gone on over the past year. The clerk will post her report on the website. Lots of volunteers have cleaned the heath and the river work carried out by contractors has been very successful. Bagot goats are now on the meadow. Charlie answered various questions from the floor regarding bare ground scrapers that are used to encourage the heather growth cycle, the new coffee man, car park security and visitor numbers. The Chair thanked Charlie for her report.

**HOPTON**

1. Apologies – see above.
2. **Minutes of last year's meeting** (9<sup>th</sup> April 2018) were confirmed and signed by the Chair.
3. **Chair's Report – Mrs. J. Plackett.** Mrs. Plackett had submitted a written report which was read out by the Chair. Mrs. Plackett noted that the year had been quite uneventful with little progress on the Sarson's Field Development. The illegally parked caravan at Shortgrove Lane was successfully removed with the help from the County and Borough Councillors. It is good to see the telephone box with books being used. Pam Maltby retired from running the Post Office. The Post Office has now been replaced by a mobile service two half days per week. The village marked the centenary of the end of WW1. Mrs. Plackett thanked both the county councillor, Mrs. Spicer and the borough councillor, Mrs. Bull. Mr. Filler added the parish council's thanks to Graham Keen for his work on the website. Mrs. Plackett will not be standing for re-election and wishes the new parish council well.
4. **County Councillor – Mrs. J. Spicer's Report.** Cllr. Spicer thanked members of the parish council for welcoming her at meetings and explained the role she plays within the county council and that there is a review of county council boundaries. She noted that the county council is still trying to make savings which has been tough. Regarding Hopton, Cllr. Spicer noted the arrival of the illegal caravan on the bridle way, the resurfacing on Shortgrove Lane and B1111 repairs. She has also been involved in the provision of school transport and the pre-school provision in Hopton and issues concerning parking outside the school.

5. **Borough Councillor – Mrs. C. Bull's Report.** Mrs. Bull submitted a written report which was read out by the Chair. Mrs. Bull explained that St. Edmundsbury Borough Council and Forest Heath District Council amalgamated on 1<sup>st</sup> April which has involved a lot of work. Mrs. Bull enjoys attending parish council meetings and continues to support Home from Home which is a wonderful facility for the village. Support has been given to the Battles Over Remembrance event and the Methodist Chapel and Ixworth Surgery's Patient transport service. Mrs. Bull noted the complicated issue with the caravan and occupant and also hopes that the Pigeon Development (Sarson's Field) is now on the home straight planning wise.
6. **Police Report** – no report received.
7. **Village Hall Management Committee** – no report received, but Cllr. Faiers reported that they have been busy with general maintenance and have been considering options for the extension.
8. **Hopton Charities Financial Statement.** Mrs. Wiseman submitted a written report detailing payments to local charities totally £2,279.95 (Hopton PCC, East Anglian Air Ambulance, St. Nicholas Hospice, East Anglian Children's Hospices, financial assistance to Hopton Residents, Hopton Day Care Centre).
9. **Report from All Saints Church.** Mrs. Bose submitted a written report which was read out by the chair. The new kitchen is up and running and proving to be a great asset. The new rector the Rev. Cathy Bladen has settled in well. Services continue as usual and there are three joint services planned for this year with High Street Chapel, Methodist Church and All Saints Church. There are various popular village events organised.
10. **High Street Chapel.** Mr. Coulter noted that the services and coffee shop are all running well and that the youth club on Saturday nights has re-started. The partnership with the other churches is going well. They continue to facilitate Home from Home.
11. Report from village organisations:
  - a. **Hopton Primary School.** Mrs. Wright submitted a written report which was read by the chair. The school had been Ofsted Inspected at the end of the Autumn Term and they were very pleased with the result. She thanked parents and the PTA for their continued support. There are lots of enriching experiences planned across the year. The children have been involved in a project about Kenya and raised £1200. Mrs. Wright is keen to work with the parish council to discuss the development of the swimming pool area on the school site later this year. The school will soon be regularly featured in the parish magazine.
  - b. **Troupe** – no report received.
12. **Any Other Business** – none.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.