

MINUTES
Hopton cum Knettishall Parish Council
Monday, 10th December 2018 - 7pm – Hopton Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors: R. Capon D. Faiers, M. Filler, Mrs. L. Macklin, Mrs. J. Mills, Mrs. J. Plackett (Chair), Dr. J. Taylor. Mrs. C. Dowson (Clerk). 4 members of the public.

1. **Apologies** and approval for absence were noted for Cllr. M. Cleveland. Apologies also received from Borough Councillor Mrs. C. Bull.
2. **Declarations of Interest** and requests for dispensations – none.
3. **The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th November 2018** were approved and signed.
4. **Matters Arising** from the Minutes of 12th November 2018:
 - a. Cllr. Filler has met with the post office and hopefully the mobile van will start visiting the village (parking by the shop) sometime in January.
 - b. Parking problem on Thelnetham Road. Cllr. Filler is waiting to hear from Cllr. Spicer regarding a date to visit the site.
 - c. Cemetery Maintenance. Vertas have forwarded a £550 credit as compensation for the poor service received this summer.
 - d. Thelnetham Road Sign. Thanks to Cllr. Faiers who has reinstated the sign.
5. **Hopton Development.** Cllr. Filler reported that there is no further news yet, but the finalising of details is progressing.
6. **Public Forum followed by County and District Councillors' reports.** Nothing to report.
7. **Correspondence**
 - a. West Suffolk council has requested a "Call for Sites". It is noted that no response is needed from the Parish Council regarding this.
 - b. A thank you letter has been received from Home to Home to thank the Parish Council for their donation.
8. **Clerk's report.** Current account: £9112.66, savings account: £45,416.63, petty cash: £8.80.
9. **Budget/precept application for 2019/2020.** It was unanimously agreed to approve a budget of £7900. The precept figure was also unanimously agreed for £7500 - £400 will be used from the reserves. It was noted that, at the request of the Borough Council, Hopton and Knettishall are now amalgamated for budget/precept purposes.
10. **Financial Regulations.** It was agreed to re-adopt the existing Financial Regulations which are based on the National Association of Local Councils recommendations.
11. **Chairman's report.** Cllr. Plackett wished everyone a Happy Christmas and Peaceful New Year.
12. **Reports from Parish Councillors:**

- a. Cllr. Macklin raised the continued concern about the unauthorised encampment of a homeless person and the fact that no-one knows who owns this land. The clerk will write to Cllr. Bull to check that historical records are being reviewed for this plot. (It is only a landowner that apply for an eviction notice).
Action: Clerk
- b. Cllr. Macklin noted that the "County Lines" briefing will now be at the end of January.
- c. Cllr. Taylor attended a workshop on Modern Slavery - he noted that this is an issue within Suffolk.
- d. Cllr. Filler highlighted that within a recent Police Newsletter there was acclaim for fixing parking problems in Bury St. Edmunds. Bearing in mind the lack of response for parking problems in Nethergate Street, the clerk was asked to raise this with the police contact noted on the Newsletter.
Action: Clerk
- e. Cllr. Capon requested that trees in the cemetery be an agenda item for January.

13. **Cemetery Report** – no items to report.

14. **Planning** – no items received.

15. **Payments** were authorised and cheques signed: Mrs. C. Dowson £195.43; Mr. R. Waugh £115.16; Vertas £549.01; Mrs. K. Saywell £250.00.

16. **Date of next meeting** – Monday, 14th January 2019. Meeting closed at 7.30pm.