

MINUTES
Hopton cum Knettishall Parish Council
Monday, 14th January 2019 - 7pm – Hopton Village Hall

Present: Parish Councillors: R. Capon, M. Cleveland, D. Faiers, M. Filler (Chair), Mrs. L. Macklin, Mrs. J. Mills, Dr. J. Taylor. County Councillor: Mrs. J. Spicer. Borough Councillor: Mrs. C. Bull. Mrs. C. Dowson (Clerk). 1 member of the public.

1. **Apologies** and approval for absence were noted for Parish Councillor Mrs. J. Plackett.
2. Declarations of Interest and requests for dispensations – none.
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 10th December 2018.** These were agreed to be a true record and signed by the Chair.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes** of 10th December 2018. It was noted that the clerk did write to the Police regarding their Newsletter (point 12, d), but no response has been received.
5. **Update on Hopton Development** – Cllr. Filler noted that there is nothing new to report. Things should be moving forward as planned.
6. **Public forum followed by County and District Councillors' reports:** No points from the member of public present.
 - a. Cllrs. Spicer and Bull reported that the derelict caravan has now been removed and the area has been tidied up. This had been a very complicated case involving both the County and Borough councils. Thanks to local residents for passing on information regarding this. It appears that the caravan was sited on “unregistered land” which has no owner. County Cllr. Spicer will enquire if the county council will be looking after this area in future.

Action: JS
 - b. Cllr. Bull recently attending a briefing session by Suffolk County Council about a new corporate parenting initiative to recruit “grand mentors” (like grandparents to young people) – this seems a very worthwhile thing to do. Cllr. Bull will forward information on to the clerk which can be posted on the website.
 - c. Cllr. Filler asked if there was any news about Longridge (the bungalow opposite the Village Hall which is in a very poor state). It is thought that this property is in the process of being sold.
 - d. County Cllr. Spicer enquired about whether any nursery aged children had started at the local school yet. Cllr. Macklin thought that one child has started (on the condition that they attend full time).
 - e. Cllr. Capon asked if the County Council were planning to clear the ditch at Olive’s Throat (this has been reported to SCC). County Cllr. Spicer and Cllr. Filler will visit the site - it was noted that it flooded last year.

Action: JS/M. Filler
7. **Correspondence.** The new mobile Post Office will be visiting the village on Mondays and Tuesdays from 28th January – posters are displayed on the notice board.
8. **Clerk’s report:** Current account: £8,655.15, Savings account: £45,439.28, Petty cash: £8.80. The clerk will be attending a briefing session about the Elections in February.

9. **Chairman's report** – none (Cllr. Plackett not present).

10. **Reports from Parish Councillors:**

- a. Cllr. Mills noted that an email had been received regarding dog fouling in the village. The clerk confirmed that a note had been posted on the website asking residents to clear up after their dogs. Cllr. Mills will prepare something for the Parish News.
- b. Cllr. Taylor noted that a rare breed of goats will be coming to Knettishall Heath in April. Borough Cllr. Bull asked if it might be a good idea to include a contact phone number on signage should there be any incidents on the heath (bearing in mind that these will be free-range and that they don't like dogs). Cllr. Taylor will follow-up on this.

Action: JT

11. **Cemetery Report**

- a. Burial of Anthony Odell on 11th January 2019.
- b. Cemetery fees for 2019/2020. It was unanimously agreed that these should not be increased this year.
- c. Trees in the cemetery. Cllr. Capon noted that some tree "topping" is necessary to get some of them back to 6ft. It was agreed that this was too big a task for a small working group. Cllr. Capon will arrange for at least two quotes from local people to be forwarded to the clerk. As there is no meeting in February, the clerk will forward these via email to the parish councillors for approval as it was agreed to carry out the work before March if possible.

Action: RC/clerk

12. **Planning**

DC/18/2466/FUL and DC/18/2467/LB. 1 and 2 Post Box Cottages, Knettishall. Rear extension and internal alterations. Applicant: Mr. James Bucher. It was unanimously agreed to support these application provided it meets with Listed Building Regulations.

13. **Payments.** The following cheques were signed: C. Dowson (clerk January) £195.43; R. Waugh (litter picker January) £115.36. C. Dowson (clerk February) £195.43; R. Waugh (litter picker February) £115.36.

14. **Date of next meeting** – Monday, 11th March 2019 (note: no meeting in February).
Meeting ended at 7.45pm.