

MINUTES
Hopton cum Knettishall Parish Council
8th October 2018 - 7pm – Hopton Village Hall
Draft until approved at the November 2018 meeting

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

1. **Apologies** and approval for absence – none.
2. **Declarations of Interest** and requests for dispensations – none.
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2018** were agreed and signed by the Chair.
4. **Matters Arising from the Minutes** of 10th September 2018:
 - a. **Hopton Development.** Cllr. Filler noted that hopefully there will be a meeting in the next few days.
 - b. **Overgrown footpath at the junction of Olive’s Throat and Shortgrove Lane** has been reported by both the clerk and Cllr. Capon.
 - c. **Post Office closure.** Cllr. Filler reported that the shop owner is hoping to reinstate the Post Office as soon as possible, but the process for doing this could take a while. Cllr. Macklin noted that prescriptions will continue to be delivered to the shop in the meantime.
 - d. **Grit bins.** The clerk has requested details about how many grit bins are registered in Hopton and confirmation that grit will be replenished in time for the winter. No response has been received and the clerk will give details of this enquiry to Cllr. Spicer.
 - e. **Parking – Nethergate Street.** Unfortunately, car parking is not within the remit for the community police officer. It was again emphasized that any concerns about parking on pavements should be reported by phoning “101”.
 - f. **Cemetery – grass cutting.** The clerk noted that there are still problems with the frequency and standard of grass cutting by the contractor Vertas Group Limited. Information about the number of cuts made has been requested and the clerk has asked for a reduction for this summer’s invoicing. No payments have been made since May.
5. **Update on Hopton Development** – see 4.a. above.
6. **County and District Councillors’ reports followed by Public Forum**
 - a. County Councillor – Cllr. J. Spicer.
 - i. The unauthorised encampment of a homeless person is continuing to be very complicated with lots of agencies now being involved - it is proving very complex.
 - ii. Cllr. Spicer explained that the school is proposing to open a nursery for three year olds from January. This has serious implications for the viability of the privately run “Little Tots” nursery that hires the village hall. The village hall committee have significant concerns about the potential loss of income. There is concern that there has not been any consultation within the village. It is hoped that a transitional solution can be found. Cllr. Spicer would be happy to facilitate a meeting with the School, Little Tots, Village Hall Committee, Parish Council and Early Years’ County Council experts after half term.
 - iii. Cllr. Spicer noted that it is unlikely that footpaths will get cut at the moment.
 - b. Borough Councillor - Cllr. C. Bull.
 - i. The condition of the property “Longridge” (opposite the village hall) has been reinstated as an enforcement case.
 - ii. Planning Application – 4 houses – Common Road. Cllr. Bull reported that this application is not supported by Policy and is likely to be recommended for refusal (Cllr. Plackett noted her concern that a resident had criticised that the applicant had been allowed to speak at the September meeting, it was agreed that members of the public are welcome to speak at meetings).

- c. Members of the Public
 - i. Concern about dogs not being on a lead. Cllr. Mills will write about this in the parish magazine.
 - ii. It is requested that posters for the shop notice board be smaller in size.
 - iii. Flyers about the retiring post mistress and the 11th November end of WWI commemoration are being delivered to every household.

7. **Correspondence.** The joint West Suffolk Parish and Town Conference will be taking place on Monday, 15th October.

8. **Clerk's report.** Bank balances: current a/c £11,337.86, savings a/c £45,416.63, petty cash £8.80.

9. **Chairman's report**

- a. Cllr. Plackett attended a meeting organised by Cllr. Joanna Spicer with other local parish council chairs; Matthew Hicks, leader of Suffolk County Council and Mary Evans his deputy. It was clear that parish councils would be happy to facilitate some work themselves, eg. footpath cutting and lots of suggestions regarding Highways were also fed back.
- b. Cllr. Plackett asked the clerk to send a photograph to the Conservation Officer of the untidy verge in front of the fence (opposite the shop) that had to be moved to comply with conservation area regulations.

10. **Reports from Parish Councillors** – none

11. **Cemetery Report.** One request received for a memorial for Maureen Turner.

12. **Planning matters.** Application no. DC/18/1980/TCA, trees in conservation area – 1 no. monkey puzzle – fell. Andonia, High Street, IP22 2QX. It was agreed to support this application.

13. **Insurance Policy and Asset Register.** Renewal of the policy with Community Action Suffolk was agreed (£321.53). The Asset Register was also agreed, noting that there are two planters and not one (total value for planters should be £850) – clerk will notify the insurers regarding this.

Action: clerk

14. **Donation requests from charities.** It was agreed to make the following donations to local charities (S.137 payments): Royal British Legion - £75.00 (paid in September), Church Lighting - £50, St. Edmundsbury Newstalk Association - £62.50 and Home from Home - £62.50. (£250 allocated in the budget 2018/2019).

15. **Payments.** The following cheques were agreed and signed:

- Community Action Suffolk - website hosting - £60
- Community Action Suffolk – Insurance - £321.53
- Village Hall Donation (17/18 and 18/19) – 850.00
- Mr. R. Waugh salary Oct. - £118.76
- Mrs. C. Dowson salary Oct. - £195.43

16. **Date of next meeting** – Monday, 12th November 2018. (Meeting closed at 8.30pm)