

HOPTON-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

Minute of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 8 July 2024 commencing at 7.30pm at Hopton Village Hall, Station Road, Hopton-on-Sea NR31 9BE.

Present: Parish Cllrs: Jan Windsor-Luck (Chairman), Sue Hacon (Vice-Chairman), Steve Ames, Yvonne Bradley, Keith Bradley, Pam Oakes, John Plaskett, John Tonks. Also present: County/Borough Cllr. Carl Annison. Julie McNair, Officer of the Council and two members of the public.

The Chairman pointed out housekeeping matters.

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Cllr. Kevin Lee.

2. To receive declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda and consider any requests for dispensation.

There were none.

3. Public Forum and response to questions raised at the last meeting.

In summary only. Answers to questions raised at the last meeting:

- a) What is happening to the piece of land at the top end of the Lowestoft Road (north) past the last bungalow?

C/B Cllr. Carl Annison has advised that the land at the top on the left will hopefully be the responsibility of the residents who live in the new bungalows, once the new management company has been set up by the residents, which is in hand.

The whole road should be surfaced dressed Summer 2025. Reference Parish Council Minute dated 13 May 2024, item 10.c).

- b) Cyclepath A47 needs cutting back.

The Parish Council contacted GYBC 13.6.2024. Acknowledgement received. GYBC report they have strimmed, but it does not appear that way. The Parish Council sent a reminder 27.6.24 to ask for strimming of both cycle paths onto the A47.

- c) Lowestoft Road (north), gets flooded in heavy rain, cycle path becomes unusable.

C/B Cllr. Carl Annison has advised that flooding in this area has been reported again.

- d) Between pavement and road verge behind Noel Close. Who is responsible for strimming?

Reference Parish Council Minute dated 13 May 2024, item 10.b). NCC carried out the first trim. NCC will pay GYBC to maintain the right hand side heading north and include in their regular cutting regime. Grass cutting regime is every three weeks, depending on the weather. Last cut and trim was 26.6.24.

C/B Cllr. Carl Annison advised that the verges are still at the discussion stage with GY Services to cut, but NCC are strimming the area currently which is not ideal.

- e) Weeds in gutters. Suggest volunteers attend to this?

The Parish Council asked NCC when weed spraying is to be carried out as the village looks unkept. Request sent 11.6.2024 and acknowledged. NCC advise they carry out weed spraying to verges once a year in late spring or early summer, depending on the weather. No fixed date can be given. Looks as though weeds have now been sprayed.

- f) Slope of Lowestoft Road, soakaways are grills that need lifting and cleaning out.

Matter referred to C/B. Cllr. Carl Annison.

- g) Does Parish Council own the bus shelter on Lowestoft Road and if so, who maintains it?

The Parish Council owns the bus shelter and arranges cleaning three times a year at a cost of £50 (for two shelters). Shelters washed 15.6.2024. Previous maintenance work has been carried out by Parish Cllrs.

- h) Footway by bus stop overgrown with vegetation. Weeds in the gutter. Nearby hedges overgrowing pathway.
Refer to e) above. Nearby hedges and trees are privately owned. Letters were hand delivered on 17.6.24 to relevant homeowners asking them to trim back hedges/brambles and trees. Hedge next to the bus stop was subsequently trimmed back by the owners 26.6.2024.
- i) Old School House, Lowestoft Road has been a building site for at least 5 years. Debris and rubbish left at the front which sometimes encroaches the footpath.
A Parish Cllr. has visited the homeowner for a chat (17.6.24) and to ensure that nothing encroaches on the footpath. The development is being carried out in accordance with planning permission.
- j) Land fronting Teulon Close, used by Anglian Water left in a poor condition. When works completed, it should have been dug out, new soil laid and seeded.
There is only a small amount of shingle left in the ground. Last year, C/B Cllr. Annison arranged for the area to be cleared, top soil added and seeded. It is unfortunate that the area is used as an overflow car park by the football teams and on event days at the Recreation Ground. The Parish Council could discuss the possibility of bollards surrounding the green area to prevent encroachment by vehicles, however, that would push the parking problem further up the Lowestoft Road.
- k) Rec Ground frontage. This is the Parish Council's responsibility, but due to lack of maintenance it has been overgrown. Why were Laurel bushes planted? Hawthorn would have been better. What species are the Laurels? We do not want the Laurels screening the field for security reasons. My dog was ill after being near the Laurels.
The Parish Council arranges for the front of the Recreation Ground to be strimmed two or three times a year by the contract gardener at a cost of £150 per time. This cost includes clearing of rubbish, strimming and removal of garden waste. Reference Parish Council Minute dated 13 May 2024, item 17.b).
In relation to the planting of Laurels, see Parish Council Minutes of 12.4.2021, item 10, 13.12.21 item 7.e) and many other references since. The reasons for planting Laurels are that they provide good hedging, the leaves are mostly year round, they provide a good spread and will suppress weed growth once the hedge is established. The reason the Parish Council did not plant Hawthorn is that they have no leaves in the winter, just bare spikes.
The exact species of Laurel planted are Prunus Lauro Cerasus. Common Laurel, English Laurel, Cherry Laurel.
The contract gardener has confirmed that the Laurels have not been affected by any toxic substance.
The Parish Council at no time suggested the Laurels should be left to grow as a high screen. The tops will be trimmed to ensure this does not happen.

A question was raised regarding the land on Hall Road, near the church/former post office corner.

This land is privately owned.

4. To confirm the Minute of the Parish Council Meeting held 10 June 2024.

It was proposed by Cllr. Ames and seconded by Cllr. K. Bradley to approve the Minute. Agreed by majority vote (due to Cllr. absence at last meeting).

5. To receive County and Borough Councillors' Reports.

C/B Cllr. Annison advised the situation regarding the Lowestoft Road (north) has changed in the last few days. GYBC no longer want to include the area in their cutting regime. The Highways Engineer for this area has moved on, and a new Engineer has yet to be appointed. As soon as the new Engineer is appointed, Cllr. Annison will make contact to progress matters as the situation is currently unsatisfactory. Meanwhile, he will ask GYBC's "hit squad" if they are able to tackle the problem as a one off.

The new flashing signs outside Hopton CE Primary Academy have now been installed. This has been paid for using County Cllr. Annison's highways fund.

Cllr. Annison will write to National Highways regarding speeding vehicles approaching Hopton roundabout from both directions, to see whether yellow stripes across the road could be installed.

The road sweeper will be visiting Hopton soon, no fixed date has been set.

6. To consider the Clerk's reports.

a) Correspondence. Listing as previously circulated.

b) Planning applications.

06/24/0269/TRE Proposed works to trees protected by Tree Preservation Order (ref TPO No. 2 1979) - Groups G3 and G4 - Proposal to fell multiple trees.

Potters Leisure Resort Coast Road Hopton NR31 9BX. No objection by the Planning Committee.

06/24/0281/HH White Mays Cliff Lane Hopton NR31 6JY

Erection of single storey side extension to provide new garage; Erection of two storey rear/side south-facing extension with balcony; Erection of front porch; Removal of hedge to Cliff Lane and replacement with low brick wall and planting. No objection by the Planning Committee.

06/24/0462/VCO Amendment to reserved matter No. 2 relating to 200 homes east side of Lowestoft Road – planning 06/17/0339/0 refers. No objection by the Planning Committee.

Permissions Granted by GYBC: None

Planning Permissions Refused by GYBC: None

c) Finance. To agree July 2024 invoices for payment and bank reconciliation statement as at 30 June 2024.

Seven payments and two direct debits totalling £5,193.50 from the business current account. It was proposed by Cllr. Hacon and seconded by Cllr. Plaskett to approve the bank reconciliation statement and list of payments. This was unanimously agreed.

7. To receive information and consider matters relating to the Millennium Garden/Ruin.

a) Outcome of talks with Diocese.

This is an on-going process.

b) Remedial Works to the wall.

Works as previously outlined have been carried out.

c) Pigeons in the Tower.

Four dead pigeons were reported on the netting in the tower. Abate have been out to assess the situation. They were unable to remove the dead pigeons at the time, but will return (at no cost) to remove them with the correct equipment. The legal grade netting for pigeons (50mm sq.) was used, but the pigeons may not be seeing it as they fly up into the tower. If this is the case, Abate will see if a smaller grade of netting can be used.

8. To receive information and consider matters relating to the Recreation Ground/Pavilion.

a) Defib monthly maintenance update.

Monthly maintenance carried out by Cllr. K. Bradley.

b) Working Party progress.

Members of the Working Party have met. A meeting with Hopton Harriers FC has been organised. The matter will come back on the Agenda for full Parish Council approval at a future date.

c) Feedback from stall at Party in the Park 15 June 2024.

Unfortunately, the weather was very poor in the afternoon. A profit of £46.70 was made.

9. To consider a “handy person” for odd jobs around the village.

Following a brief discussion regarding an approved list of organisations/people for particular jobs, it was proposed by Cllr. Windsor-Luck and seconded by Cllr. Ames not to employ a handy person. This was unanimously agreed. Cllr. Oakes offered to supply a grease gun to Cllr. Tonks for use on the Recreation Ground barrier.

10. To receive and consider updates from previous Minutes.

a) Expenditure of Developer’s Contribution. Section 106 money bid to upgrade the play area at St. Clair Court.

Work is due to commence week 9 September 2024 to upgrade the play area.

Some discussion took place regarding additional seating in the area. Quotations will be obtained for a recycled plastic bench.

11. To re-consider on-line training “how to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan” provided by Norfolk Parish Training & Support, date yet to be provided. Cost £48.00.

Cllr. Plaskett has been unable to attend the July training. NPT&S will be providing a further on-line course later in the year. It was proposed by Cllr. Hacon and seconded by Cllr. Plaskett that when the course date is known, and if Cllr. Plaskett is available, to book the training at a cost of £48.00. This was unanimously agreed.

12.To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of Hopton-on-Sea Parish Council. Monday 12 August 2024, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Confirmed.

The meeting closed at approximately 8.05pm.

Signed

Dated

These Minutes are in draft format until approved at the next meeting. The Clerk to the Parish Council can be contacted in the following ways:- e-mail hoptonparishclerk@hotmail.com Tel: 01502 730768 (message service in operation). Address: Office at the Village Hall Station Road Hopton-on-Sea NR31 9BE. Office open Mon, Tues, Thurs, Friday 9.30am to 1.00pm (flexible). Website: www.hopton-on-seapc.info