

HOPTON-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

Minute of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9 September 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, Kevin Lee, John Plaskett, John Tonks. Also present: Julie McNair, Officer of the Council and four members of the public.

The Chairman pointed out housekeeping matters.

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Cllrs. Yvonne Bradley, Keith Bradley and Pam Oakes. County/Borough Cllr. Carl Annison.

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.

In summary:

- a) New residents have received their first copy of Village News and commented that they enjoyed reading it, and finding out what is going on in the village.
- b) The grates at the entrance to the play areas on the Recreation Ground are full of mud and grass. This will be reported by the Parish Council.

4. To confirm the Minute of the Parish Council Meeting held 12 August 2024.

It was proposed by Cllr. Tonks and seconded by Cllr. Ames to approve the Minute. Agreed by majority vote.

5. To receive County and Borough Councillors' Reports.

A written report has been received from County/Borough Cllr. Annison which was read out.

In summary:

Currently there is still an interim Highways Officer for our area. His name is Tom Cox, and there is also a new Regional Manager called Damian Jeffries. Cllr. Annison had a long teams meeting with them both to discuss various matters relating to Hopton.

- a) Lowestoft Road (north). The verges to the right hand side of the highway as you drive up the hill will be dug, levelled and re-seeded within the next four weeks. These verges will then be included in the GYS cutting programme.
 - b) Various hedging along that cycleway should be cut back, including the section through to the A47.
 - c) Cllr. Annison has again stated that he has offered to use his Highways Members Fund to pay for a suitable gate to go across the end of Lowestoft Road (north) just past the sub-station. He is awaiting a response on this from NCC.
 - d) Cllr. Annison has asked for all areas around Hopton, that are the responsibility of NCC, to be cut back, including the sides at Longfulans Lane.
- He has also stressed to the officers that these issues have taken far too long to be rectified for the residents.

6. To consider the Clerk's reports.

a) Correspondence. Listing as previously circulated.

Matters reported to NCC or GYBC this month: Drain overflowing on Beach Road. Repairs needed to drain cover on Lowestoft Road (near the White Hart). Reported that rats have been seen on Coast Road and the beach. Litter bin overflowing on Coast Road (small grassed area). Cycle/pathway Links Road to A47. Faulty street light on Teulon Close reported for repair.

b) Planning applications: None

Permissions Granted by GYBC: None

Planning Permissions Refused by GYBC: None

c) Finance. To agree September 2024 invoices for payment and bank reconciliation statement as at 31 August 2024.

Seven payments and three direct debits totalling £6,153.56 from the business current account. It was proposed by Cllr. Plaskett and seconded by Cllr. Tonks to approve the list of payments and bank reconciliation statement. Unanimously agreed.

d) Notice of Conclusion of Audit year ended 31 March 2024.

A clear certificate has been received from PKF Littlejohn, external auditors, and Notice of Conclusion of Audit has been published.

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

a) Response from Abate.

The job is being re-done by Abate at no cost to the Parish Council. The scaffold will go up again right to the roof line where they suspect a fixing has popped out due to the age of the mortar, allowing birds to freely ingress. They will change over the base canopy net to a smaller grade netting to prevent any possibility of pigeons flying hard into the net and getting stuck. The work is due to start 18 – 20 September 2024.

b) Water tap/box.

The new box will be made and installed shortly.

c) Replacement new Costessey seedling dessert apple tree.

This tree has died in the apple orchard. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. Windsor-Luck and seconded by Cllr. Ames not to replace the tree. Unanimously agreed.

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

a) Defib monthly maintenance update.

Monthly maintenance carried out by Cllr. Windsor-Luck.

b) Working Party progress.

A further meeting of the Working Party has recently taken place. The matter will come back on the Agenda for full Parish Council approval at a future date.

c) Strimming front of Recreation Ground and topping off Laurel bushes.

Quote of £150 from the contract gardener. Topping and tidying the Laurel bushes is free of charge. It was proposed by Cllr. Tonks and seconded by Cllr. Lee to accept the quote of £150 to strim and tidy the Laurel bushes. Unanimously agreed. A request to the gardener to ensure the grass between the posts is cut to enable easier access through the bollards.

d) Car park barrier.

The high barrier still requires greasing. An approach will be made to the football club to see if they can assist.

9. Meeting of the Policies & Finance Advisory Committee re: Village News magazine.

It was proposed by Cllr. Windsor-Luck to add Cllr. Hacon to the Policies & Finance Advisory Committee. Cllr. Ames gave an alternative view and suggested that there was no need as this is only an Advisory Committee and no formal decisions are made. It would also be unusual to alter membership of Committees half way through the year. Cllr. Windsor-Luck withdrew her proposal. The meeting of the Policies & Finance Committee will take place as scheduled this evening. Recommendations are likely to be made to the full Council at the 14 October 2024 meeting.

10. To receive and consider paperwork from NCC Parish Partnership Scheme 2025/26.

Paperwork has previously been circulated. The scheme is 50/50 funding. The criteria is limited with the deadline for applications is 6 December 2024. No response has been received from NCC Highways regarding the initial enquiry about speed humps. This will be chased. An enquiry will also be made regarding signage under the white entrance gates and updated SAM2 cameras that show smiley/sad faces. Matter carried forward to the October meeting.

11. To receive and consider updates from previous Minutes.

a) Overgrown cycle paths Lowestoft Road to A47.

One cyclepath has been strimmed. See County Cllr. Annison’s report at item 6 above.

b) Overgrown tree branches near the bus stop Lowestoft Road.

Matter on-going. The tree roots appear to be on the highway. Matter referred to Cllr. Annison to progress.

c) Installation of new play equipment St. Clair Court.

Installation by Creative Play commenced today. The area is closed until the work has been completed. The installation company will be using water from the tap in the Millennium Garden.

d) Location of new bench at St. Clair Court play area.

A budget for the bench and installation agreed at the September 2024 meeting.

The existing bench to remain in situ. The opinion of Creative Play to be sought regarding a suitable location for the new bench.

e) Watsons Close play area.

Repairs have been carried out by GYBC and the play area has been re-opened.

12. To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of Hopton-on-Sea Parish Council. Monday 14 October 2024, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

Confirmed.

The meeting closed at approximately 8pm.

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