

HOPTON-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

Minute of the Parish Council Meeting held 8th December 2025 commencing at 7.30pm at Hopton Village Hall, Station Road, Hopton-on-Sea NR31 9BE

Present: Parish Cllrs: Jan Windsor-Luck (Chairman), Steve Ames, Keith Bradley, Yvonne Bradley, Sue Hacon, James Hubbard, John Plaskett, John Tonks. Also present 4 members of the public. The Chairman pointed out housekeeping matters and advised that she would also be acting as Officer of the Council.

1) To receive apologies for absence.

Cllr. Kevin Lee, Cllr Pamela Oakes, Anita Edelinski, Officer of the Council.

2) To receive declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda and consider any requests for dispensation. None

3) Public Forum.

The overgrown hedges outside the boundary of Five Acres were again mentioned 2 people cannot walk side by side and a lady with a double buggy had to walk in the road as the path was too narrow . A letter will be sent to John Potter.

The flooding between the speed humps along Warren Road was raised again and this will be taken up with NCC Highways.

Cllr John Tonks mentioned incorrect signage on road works for Longfullans Lane. This will be reported to Highways.

4) To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 13th October 2025, the corrections were made

Proposed by Cllr Steve Ames, seconded by Cllr Keith Bradley, All in favour.

5) To confirm the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting 10th November 2025.

Proposed by Cllr Yvonne Bradley, seconded by Cllr John Plaskett with the provison that payment sheets and bank reconciliation are excluded until JP and Anita have discussed the layout of such sheets in order that they meet the auditors' requirements and balance correctly. Unanimously agreed.

6) To receive County and Borough Councillor Reports.

Email from Carl Annison read out in which he apologised for absence and wished all councillors and the public a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

7) To consider the Clerk's reports

a) Correspondence

The letter from Great Yarmouth Borough Council concerning Links Road development was discussed. Our objections are recorded on the GYBC Planning website. To date there are 28 objections and 1 in favour.

b) Planning Applications

Cllr Steve Ames asked whether we could write to GYBC to ascertain the reason for widening Longfullans Lane.

It was noted that we had heard anything back from GYBC about planning applications not being sent to us and they need to be chased and asked whether the permissions are voidable as they breach Statutory Duty.

c) Finance

Cllr John Plaskett will meet with the Parish Clerk to discuss the format for recording the invoices for payment and bank reconciliation payments

d) as above

8) Essex and Suffolk Water Development update

The major project was discussed and the booklet produced by Essex and Suffolk Water. It was agreed that a major upgrade was required. There had been concerns that the outflow into the sea at Hopton could cause issues, but Essex & Suffolk Water had advised that it would be over 2 miles out at sea. Cllr John Tonks advised that he has written to Essex & Suffolk Water requesting that they make a presentation at one of our Council meetings.

9) To receive information and consider matters relating to the Millenium Garden/ ruins

a) Obtaining electricity for the ruins update – to discuss the quote from Batchelor Electrical.

Cllrs Kevin Lee and James Hubbard have been discussing the proposed project and obtaining quotations. It was agreed that UK Power networks would be contacted for an up-to-date quotation for supplying the electricity feed. An alternative quotation in line with Batchelor Electrical will also be sought. Cllr James Hubbard gave an update on the types of lighting that would be used and the CCTV cameras. He was of the opinion, that as we were looking at running the supply from Watsons Close it would possibly be cheaper, especially if we undertook the trench work ourselves. Cllr Steve Ames advised that we should probably get approval from the Diocese for the planned work, as even though the ground is no longer consecrated, we still might need their approval. We need to find another (ideally 2) electrical contractors to supply a quote. It was also agreed that we needed to ensure that we are being compliant with Data Protection laws. Cllr Steve Ames mentioned that some lighting could be rented in memory of a loved one (for a small fee).

It was noted that Colin, the gardener had planted a rose bush in memory of a parishioner who was instrumental in the creation of the rose gardener.

10) To receive information and consider matters relating to the Recreation Ground/ Pavillion

a) Defib monthly maintenance update.

Cllr Yvonne Bradley confirmed that it had been undertaken and passed to Cllr Keith Bradley

b) The possible location of a paddle court on the recreation ground. Cllr James Hubbard and Cllr John Plaskett gave more information as to the possible location of the court and advised that if there was an electricity supply to it there could be an electronic entry and payment system installed. Cllr John Plaskett advised that where this has been adopted the court has paid for itself in about 14 months. It was originally thought to site it on the St Margarets Road side of the playing field but electricity would be required from the Pavillion and planning permission would have to be sought. It was agreed that Cllr James Hubbard and Cllr Jan Windsor-Luck would look at possible sights. Cllr James Hubbard suggested that some of the play equipment would need to be moved. Cllr Steve Ames suggested that we might need to make the toilets accessible. Cllr James Hubbard suggested that we might need to extend the carpark. It was felt that it would be better near the carpark to stop mud being taken onto the court.

Cllr John Tonks mentioned that the bollards in the recreation ground need replacing and that metal ones would be prohibitively expensive

11) To receive and consider updates from previous Minutes

a) Working Party- safety speeding in the Village updates

Cllr Kevin Lee was not in attendance to give updates, but a member of the public who is on the working party advised that it was all progressing well. Emails sent out.

12) To discuss the quotations for moving to a .gov.uk domain for the email address and website.

It was noted that the Parish Clerk has spoken to other clerks and felt that Aubergine was the preferred option. Cllr Steve Ames said that most people would recommend the system they use as they have no experience of any other system. He suggested that a spread sheet should be prepared listing what each company would offer and straight facts, look at the functionality of each company and make an informed choice. Cllr Steve Ames had no objection to Aubergine being appointed and noted that all other councillors were in favour of it. Cllr Steve Ames proposed that we accept Aubergine proposal, this was seconded by Cllr John Plaskett and all in favour.

13) To confirm the date and the of the next meeting of Hopton-on-sea Parish Council

Monday 12th January 2026 at 7.30pm in the Village Hall

Before closing Cllr Sue Hacon wished it to be Minuted that Cllr Jan Windsor-Luck had purchased chocolates for our Village News deliverers and other helpers, wrapped them so that they could be available with the latest edition of the Village News. It was suggested that a thank you to them was put in the Village News as well as on the notice board.

Cllr Sue Hacon then produced her famous sausage rolls for us all to enjoy.

The meeting concluded at 20.32hrs