

HOPTON-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

Minute of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11 March 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, Kevin Lee, Pam Oakes, John Plaskett, John Tonks. Also present: County/Borough Cllr. Carl Annison. Julie McNair, Officer of the Council and eleven members of the public.

The Chairman pointed out housekeeping matters.

1. To receive apologies for absence.

There were none.

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) Several residents raised the ongoing problems relating to the road, kerbside, fly tipping and open field area on the new bungalow development, north part of Lowestoft Road. The properties have been occupied for over a year. The developer company has gone into liquidation, leaving outstanding works.

County Cllr. Annison advised that he has been working on the issues for many months, but is getting no-where with NCC Highways. A meeting that should have taken place between the NCC Highways Engineer for Hopton and Mr Newbury, the builder and ex director of Arda Contracts Limited, the developer, did not happen as Mr Newbury did not turn up. It was clarified that the developer is not obliged to install a gate to try and prevent fly tipping. NCC advise any gate would negate the turning point. GYBC has taken a temporary measure with “no fly tipping” posters, and cleaned out road gulleys. NCC Highways advise that the developer needs to complete the footway works. The road will not be adopted by NCC until all outstanding works have been finished to a satisfactory standard. Cllr. Annison advised that the legal situation is complicated. He has asked NCC what happens if Mr Newbury, the builder, fails to carry out the outstanding works. NCC are holding a bond from the developer, which would usually be returned to the company, once works have been completed. Can the bond money be used to carry out some of the outstanding works? Cllr. Annison is taking this forward. The Clerk will carry out a Companies House search on the builder, company and ascertain what other companies Mr Newbury is involved with. The information will be passed to the residents. The Parish Council will also write to Paul Sellick, NCC Highways Engineer, outlining the issues and asking what can be done to progress matters.

b) Could barrier boards be installed at Hopton roundabout (A47) to slow down traffic. These would be similar to the new boards at the Harfreys roundabout. County Cllr. Annison will make enquiries of National Highways.

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

It was proposed by Cllr. Tonks and seconded by Cllr. Oakes to confirm the Minute. This was unanimously agreed.

5. To receive County and Borough Councillors' Reports.

See item 3.a) above which formed County/Borough Cllr. Annison's report.

6. To consider the Clerk's reports.

a) Correspondence. As listed and circulated. So far 4 entries have been received for the Easter Colouring Competition – see March edition of Village News magazine.

b) Planning applications.

06/24/0001/PU Application for a Certificate of Lawful Proposed Development - Proposed erection of an industrial building for storage purposes. Storage Site Hall Road Hopton-on-sea NR31 9AX. No objection by the Planning Committee.

06/24/0040/MM Application to determine if prior approval is required for the installation of telecommunication equipment and cabinets: Proposed erection of a 25m tall lattice tower and 12no. antennae, 4no. dishes and associated receivers; Installation at ground level of 5no. operator cabinets, meter cabinet and 2.4m tall perimeter fencing and gates. Land on the west side of Lowestoft Road, Hopton NR31 9AH. No objection by the Planning Committee.

Permissions Granted/Refused by GYBC. None.

c) Finance. To agree March 2024 invoices for payment and bank Reconciliation statement as at 29 February 2024.

Seven payments and four direct debits from the business current account totalling £5,491.34 It was proposed by Cllr. Plaskett and seconded by Cllr. Y. Bradley to approve the list of payments and bank reconciliation statement. This was unanimously agreed.

d) Confirmation of Precept and Concurrent Functions Grant 2024/25.

As previously discussed and agreed, band D properties will increase by £4.76 per year. All other bands are proportionate. The Borough Council has permanently withdrawn the concurrent functions grant for parks and open spaces. The first instalment of the Precept should be received early April 2024, the second instalment in October 2024.

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

a) Work carried out by Abate Pest Management Services Ltd.

Some discussion took place regarding the new netting that is in place and whether this should be placed higher up the tower. The quote from Abate was to deter birds, not to eradicate the problem. The situation will be monitored.

b) Possibility of LED lighting around the Millennium Garden.

Cllr. Lee has a meeting with a surveyor from UK power networks on 2 April 2024 for a “no obligation” survey. A ballpark cost would be £3,700., or approximately £2,600 if the Parish Council digs the trench. A concrete plinth would then need to be laid, obtain a box, wire it up and get a meter from a supplier. There is no financial commitment at this stage. Norwich Architectural Lighting would do all the planning work at a cost of approx. £500, if the decision was made to go ahead after exploring all avenues.

A brief mention was made as to whether there are any bats in the surrounding area. Written consent will be required from the Church of England Commissioners to any proposed work. There are also other considerations, however, this is just a scoping exercise at present.

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

a) Talking Elm Tree Services re Oak Tree east side work.

Application is being made by Talking Elm Tree Services to GYBC for consent to carry out work to the Oak Tree that is protected by a Tree Preservation Order.

b) Meeting with Hopton Harriers FC re fire risk checklist.

A meeting has taken place and the necessary action plan is being prepared.

9. To consider matters relating to the Policies & Finance Advisory Committee meeting held 20 February 2024.

a) To confirm the Minute of 20 February 2024.

It was proposed by Cllr. Lee and seconded by Cllr. Y. Bradley to confirm the Minute as read. This was agreed by majority vote.

b) To receive and confirm recommendations as outlined in the Minute.

Policy documents. It was proposed by Cllr. Lee and seconded by Cllr. K. Bradley that the policy documents as listed in the Minute be updated and amended as outlined. This was unanimously agreed.

Village News magazine. It was proposed by Cllr. Lee and seconded by Cllr. Oakes to implement the recommendations as outlined in the Minute. This was agreed by majority vote.

.Gov domain name. It was proposed by Cllr. Ames and seconded by Cllr. Hacon to investigate the cost to migrate to gov.uk addresses when mandatory, or earlier. This was unanimously agreed.

10. To receive and consider updates from previous Minutes.

a) Defib monthly maintenance and update.

February maintenance has been carried out by Cllr. Windsor-Luck. Since then, the defib has been used by the emergency services. Two sets of new pads are on order, however there is a delay of around 2 weeks.

b) Progress of plans for the 80th anniversary of D. Day 6 June 2024.

A D. Day lantern has been purchased. Cllr. Lee is liaising further with the school regarding attendance at Ritson Lodge and their assembly to mark the occasion.

c) Warren Road pathway, strimming completed.

The final section of strimming has been carried out by the contract gardener.

11. To receive information regarding the new full draft Local Plan, Parish Council consultation meetings at the Town Hall.

The meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday 10 April 2024, 7pm in the Supper Room at the Town Hall. Cllrs. Windsor-Luck, Hacon and Plaskett to attend. Maximum three permitted. Details of the draft Local Plan affecting Hopton will be published in a future edition of Village News magazine.

12. To consider organising a Village Litter Pick as part of the Great British Spring Clean.

A date of Saturday 27 April was agreed. Litter picks and sacks are stored in the Pavilion Building. The usual advertising to take place. GY Services will be informed of the date so they can collect the full sacks from Monday 29 April 2024.

13. To consider and receive a report from the trustee representatives of Village Hall Management Trust.

The report was accepted as read.

14. To consider the format of the Annual Parish Meeting to be held 13 May 2024, following closure of the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. Ames and seconded by Cllr. Lee to invite representatives from village organisations to the Annual Parish Meeting to make a brief presentation. This was unanimously agreed.

15. To confirm the date and time of the next meeting of Hopton-on-Sea Parish Council.

Confirmed Monday 8 April 2024, 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at approx. 8.25pm.

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