

# Hopton Wafers Parish Council

Minutes of Annual Parish Meeting held at 7 pm on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
at Doddington Village Hall

Present: Cllr John Price, Cllr Derek Bytheway, Cllr Roger Hayward, Cllr Harold Deane, Cllr Barry Buffery, Cllr Linda Clayton, Mrs Marilyn Wood (Hopton Wafers Church), Mr Ted Wilkes and Miss Sheila Webb (Hopton Bank Methodist Chapel), Mrs Celia Gibb (Doddington Church) PCSO Raj Matthews (Safer Neighbourhood Team), Unitary Cllrs Madge Shingleton and Gwilym Butler and two parishioners.

Parish Clerk: Mrs D McBride.

The meeting commenced at 7 pm with Parish Council Chairman Cllr John Price in the chair.

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the parish councillors.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Sue Turner, Cllr John Thomson and Cllr Peter Cuthbert.

3. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on Wednesday 26th April 2017

Copies were available for those present and everyone was satisfied they were correct - signed by Chairman.

4. Police Report – Safer Neighbourhood Team

PCSO Raj Matthews informed the meeting that there will be a rural crime property marking event at Clee Hill soon. There is not much crime locally – mainly thefts of Landrovers and quad bikes, breaking into vehicles to steal contents, sheep worrying and poaching. If anyone sees anything suspicious please report it on 101.

5. Hopton Wafers Parish Council Report

Chairman, Cllr John Price thanked all Parish and Unitary Councillors and the Clerk for all their efforts over the past year. There has been a number of new planning applications for dwellings and extensions. Council does support affordable housing for local people. There was some confusion over the bungalow opposite the Crown which is not as originally requested. Work has started on the school conversion but there is little activity on the three houses permitted near the Water Works in Hopton Wafers. There was a lot of concern over planning at the Doddington Park Homes site. It has since been established that homes are permitted on the bottom site due to a previous Planning Inspector's decision. Council has given donations to local groups. The winter has left our roads in a terrible state but the new contractors should bring the roads up to a better standard eventually. We have received our Environmental Maintenance Grant again and thanks to Mr Bargman for his work tidying up the verges and dealing with local issues. Thanks to Mr Hodge for what he has done with the website. Councillors attend some external meetings and trainings but it is difficult as they are mostly in Shrewsbury. The new 'reduced' bus service is being ran by R&B with large and small buses. The Community Led Plan review is progressing slowly. Severn Trent is planning work for mains drainage at Hopton Bank but there is no firm details as yet. Everyone is welcome to attend our Parish Council meetings which are usually held on the second Monday each month.

6. Hopton Wafers Church Report

Mrs Marilyn Wood (Hopton Wafers PCC Treasurer and Church Warden) read her report (also attached to these Minutes). It has been a sad year for us in Hopton with losing George Poyner and Rev'd Bill Elliott. Weekly attendances remain at around 10 each week. There has been one Wedding, three Baptisms and seven Funerals all of which bring in additional income for the Church, for which we are grateful. We have held two quizzes, the Harvest Supper and Carol Service in 2017 which proved very successful with excellent support by our friends and neighbours in the community. It is always difficult to cover the ever-increasing running costs of the Church and we are very grateful to the Parish Council for their generous donation of £500 towards the Churchyard maintenance. It is appreciated and goes a long way to paying the grass cutting bill. Many thanks for your contribution.

7. Doddington Church Report

Mrs Celia Gibb (Churchwarden of St John’s, Doddington) reported that the church on the hill is the centre of the community and has a friendly congregation. They hold regular events every month including a Fashion Show in August. They are consulting with the community to ensure the church remains more useable and sustainable in the future. Comments have been very positive with requests for improved parking and access. They are also looking at having kitchen and toilet facilities and historic displays in the future. Thanks to the Parish Council for their grant towards churchyard. Thank to everyone who contributes towards the church repairs. More work is needed and a feasibility study is being undertaken in order to attract grant funding.

8. Hopton Bank Methodist Chapel Report

Mr Ted Wilkes explained that whilst the Chapel is small it is a centre for worship and attendance has gone up recently. As with all old buildings time means the fabric of the building needs work which can be a financial burden. This is an on-going problem in rural areas with smaller congregations facing more expensive maintenance jobs – latest item is the ceiling which was replaced due to woodworm. The grounds are kept tidy and thanks to the Parish Council for their donation towards this.

9. Unitary Councillors’ Reports

Unitary Councillors Madge Shineton and Gwilym Butler had both sent written reports – (copies attached with these Minutes).

CLlr Shineton spoke about Public Transport, Health Matters and Housing. Cllr Butler spoke about Finance, the Economy and Highways. Questions were asked about Community Infrastructure Levy and the Fair Funding Review which Cllr Butler explained.

10. Parish Matters and Questions

Mr S Evans explained his family were still in discussion with Shropshire Rural Housing Association regarding housing proposals for land next to Doddington Village Hall. They are making very slow progress. The plan was to build some affordable housing for local people and some market houses. It is an opportunity to work together to make a joint project and a considerable amount of money would be available to the Parish Council. It could take 3-4 years with a maximum of 14 houses being built (6-8 affordable houses, 4 open market houses for family plus two others). Concerns were raised that people could be moved in from out-of-area. It was also pointed out that each housing association has different criteria for local connections. Mr Evans stated he was happy to keep us informed and wants to work together.

Mrs Gibb asked if there would be support for reducing the speed limit through Doddington to 30mph. Cllr Buffery confirmed that the Parish Council is considering this but there is not much enthusiasm from Shropshire Council.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

It was agreed at the Annual Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 2019/03) that these minutes are a true record of the meeting, subject to the following corrections:-

**R Hayward**

Signed.....Chairman

**20/05/19**

Date.....