

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 8th October 2018 at Doddington Village Hall commencing at 7pm.

Chairman: Cllr John Price

Clerk: Mrs D McBride.

Present: Cllr John Price, Cllr Derek Bytheway, Cllr Roger Hayward, Cllr Barry Buffery, Cllr Harold Deane, Cllr Linda Clayton, Cllr Sue Turner, Cllr Peter Cuthbert and Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler.

105/01 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members
Unitary Cllr Madge Shineton – another meeting.

105/02 Declarations of Interest
Cllr Deane declared an interest in Agenda item 105/07 (a) iii – payment for expenses.

105/03 Public Participation Session
There were no members of public present.

105/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10th September 2018
It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 10th September 2018, be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.

105/05 Matters Arising/Clerk and Councillors' Reports since the last meeting

i) Clerk's Report

Highways - Chased pothole repairs in Woodhouse Lane – (Hillocks to Sproseley particularly bad now) and Catherton Lane (chased twice as resident sent letter of complaint too). Apparently Kier awaiting their 'patching machine'. Chased up poor quality work along road to Cleeton turn from Hopton Bank and re-requested ditch inspection.

Road closure of Common Lane near Withypool from 8th – 10th October. No issues or concerns have been reported.

Vacancy - Clerk has written to thank John Thomson for his service and notified Shropshire Council of the vacancy.

Website - Cllrs Buffery, Hayward, Cuthbert and Clayton were interested in attending training on Monday 15th October.

SpeedWatch - Adnan Ali asked if we want to include anything regarding Community Speed Watch ie parish events in a newsletter. Clee Hill co-ordinator John Cartledge thought Adnan was arranging our joint venture but was happy for us to suggest dates to work together. He suggested alternate weeks but we would need more volunteers for this. Council felt very strongly that we should have our own equipment back and be independent as well as taking matter further about having Speed Watch in Hopton Wafers. Residents are happy for us to do this from their property and due to increasing traffic are very keen to get involved. Volunteers from Hopton Wafers would also be required to be trained to use the radar equipment.

Neighbourhood Watch – following George Cummings talk at the September meeting Cllr Clayton and Cllr Deane expressed interest in taking this forward. It was felt that this could also be promoted better through the new website and Facebook.

Defibrillator training - Clerk asked if Council members would like a refresher of Defibrillator training with local Community First responder. This was agreed to be done prior to a future Council meeting ie 6.30pm on either Monday 12th November or 10th December.

SALC - AGM Friday 9th November at Bucks Head Stadium, Telford. Cllr Buffery attending.

Councillor training available on Wednesday 25th October at Guildhall, Much Wenlock.

ii) Lengthsman Report - Mr Bargman has chased up the poor condition of Woodhouse Lane and Catherton Road as major works are now required. Cllr Bytheway raised the point again that the Parish Council should not be cutting people's hedges as it is their responsibility. This was only done as a safety measure due to the lack of action by the relevant residents. Council members can politely ask residents to keep their roadside hedges well maintained for safety reasons. The hedge near the old school in Hopton Wafers needs urgent attention also.

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105/05 Matters Arising/Clerk and Councillors' Reports since the last meeting (cont'd)

- iii) Cllr Buffery went through his report from the 'Negotiate a Better Outcome in Planning' training meeting he and Cllr Deane attended on 12th September (copy attached with Minutes). The presentation notes will also be sent out to council members. Central Government intends to significantly increase housing development and Shropshire Council has set high targets for housing. Parish councils are, therefore, advised to have a strategy to deal with planning matters in their parishes, through a Planning Sub-committee who are empowered to communicate with developers and negotiate benefits to the community such as speed management infrastructure on A4117. Cllr Deane confirmed that sustainable development is important and everyone should read the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It is important to consider the impact of development on a community but be proactive, get involved and make a case with evidence when speaking to developers.
- iv) Cllr Hayward reported on the recent Hopton Wafers Village Hall meeting. The committee is struggling financially and are having an Open Evening on 24th September to encourage all residents to see the facilities and encourage them to use the Hall. It may be possible to use some CIL money for some projects at the Village Hall or increase our S.137 grants but only if the Hall is certain of increasing revenue and becoming sustainable for the future. The use of CIL is aimed at 'critical infrastructure ie education, health, utilities and safety such as a flashing speed sign in the village but some Neighbourhood Fund money could be utilized for a suitable Village Hall project.

105/06 Financial Matters

- i) Council RESOLVED to approve the second quarterly budget review and bank reconciliation for the year ending 31st March 2019. Council noted the low general reserve and also increase in community donations and will bear this in mind when considering next year's budget and precept.
- ii) The Clerk informed council that the external auditor (PKF Littlejohn) had queried (in error) the value of the fixed assets of the Council. They have since confirmed that the totals in the Annual Return are correct but subsequently issued only an interim notice and interim invoice, not a 'Completion' notice. The Clerk has queried this and matter being reviewed. Council expressed concern over this poor service and agreed to look into exempting ourselves from external audits and use self-certification process under the audit regulations going forward.

105/07 Approve Payments

- (a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:
 - i) Clerk's Salary - £318.96 (Standing Order)
 - ii) Lengthsman Salary – no payment due
 - iii) H Deane – travel expenses - £32.40 (Cheque)
 - iv) Mrs D McBride – Clerk's admin expenses £113.70 (Cheque)
- (b) Council RESOLVED to approve the following S.137 grant application:
 - i) Cleobury Mortimer Men's Shed – for project support - £250.00 (Cheque)

105/08 Planning Matters

- (a) Council discussed the request from Ms K Stokes and Mr N Broome for confirmation of their local connections with regard to Shropshire Council's 'Build Your Own' Affordable Housing Scheme. Council confirmed Mr Broome does meet the criteria for local connections.
- (b) Update on Outstanding Planning Matters:
 - i) 18/01800/FUL - east of Woodlands Farm for re-positioning a house previously approved is still awaiting a decision by Shropshire Council.
 - ii) 18/03718/FUL - Land Adjacent to the Dingle, Hopton Wafers Erection of 2no detached dwellings – request for committee to consider due to all issues raised.
 - iii) 18/03855/FUL - Proposed Shepherds Hut, Land Adj to the White House, Hopton Bank – consultation extended due to site notice delay.
 - iv) 18/03934/OUT - Proposed Dwelling, Land Off Earls Ditton Lane, Doddington – consultation extended due to site notice delay.

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105/09 Unitary Councillors' Reports

Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler re-iterated comments in Cllr Buffery's report regarding the Parish Council setting up a Planning Sub-Committee and meet with developer and Planning team. Since Government issued a White Paper on Hard Brexit the Task & Finish Group have restarted discussions on how this could affect Shropshire. There is also an informal Task & Finish Group for Planning compliance and enforcement. There will be training on the new process this autumn at local venues. CIL is being looked at again by Shropshire Council. What has already been permitted is safe but there may be changes on CIL allocations on future planning applications. A consultation paper will come out when proposals are ready. Adult safeguarding posters have been issued to all parishes – please share around parish. Cleobury Town Council are supporting the library and Cllr Butler asked if the Parish Council would consider putting some money from precept for this and also for leisure services.

105/10 Road safety and speed management

Cllr Butler informed the meeting that a Task & Finish Group is being set up in November to look at road safety. A lot of market towns are looking to implement 20's plenty from their own funds. Cllr Butler has sent more information to the Clerk for distribution. Previously funding for such schemes came from public health and the CCGs. Cllr Buffery stated that Rod King who organises 20's plenty says there is no requirement for street lights in any speed limit zone whether 20,30 or 40mph. Cllr Butler confirmed that Shropshire Council prefers street lighting as it encourages people to drive at the reduced speed but also that the road should be engineered to suit a lower speed ie through road markings, chevrons etc. This will be discussed as part of a Scrutiny role in the Spring. A developer could be asked to fund a reduced speed limit through Doddington. Council felt it important to look at getting 30mph before considering 20's plenty. Council agreed to conduct an informal poll of what people think of the principle of reducing the speed limit along the whole length of the A4117 from Doddington (cattle grid) to Hopton Wafers (Rochehead) by 10mph.

105/11 Parish Matters/Highways

- i) Cllr Deane stated that Phil James has not been to see him yet about the issues along the road from Hopton Bank to the Cleeton turn.
- ii) Cllr Clayton is endeavouring to get quotes for the new bus shelter but will keep trying. Cllr Buffery kindly offered to measure the existing bus shelter and prepare the required technical drawings.

105/12 Future Agenda Items

No further items were raised.

105/13 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 12th November 2018 at 7pm at Hopton Wafers Village Hall. The meeting closed at 8.55pm.

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 106/04) that these minutes are a true record of the meeting, subject to the following corrections:-

J Price

Signed.....Chairman

12/11/18

Date.....