

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 12th March 2018 at Doddington Village Hall commencing at 7pm.

Chairman: Cllr John Price

Clerk: Mrs D McBride.

Present: Cllr John Price, Cllr Derek Bytheway, Cllr Sue Turner, Cllr Roger Hayward, Cllr Harold Deane, Cllr Linda Clayton, Cllr John Thomson and Unitary Councillor Gwilym Butler (in-part).

99/01 To receive apologies and reasons for Absence from Members

Cllr Barry Buffery – personal commitment.

Cllr Peter Cuthbert – personal commitment.

Mr Chris Bargman – Clee Hill Wildlife meeting.

Unitary Cllr Madge Shineton – Kinlet Council meeting.

Unitary Cllr Gwilym Butler – late due to Shirehall meeting.

99/02 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

99/03 Public Participation Session

There were no members of public present.

99/04 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12th February 2018

It was RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12th February 2018, be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.

99/05 Matters Arising/Clerk and Councillors' Reports since the last meeting

Youth Organisations - numbers from parish attending the various youth activities have been received. Lacon Childe have 28 parish children in attendance; St Mary's Youth Project work with 10 young people, three on a daily basis. Council felt it important to support youth work and help enable the opportunities to remain available for our young people to participate in. Council RESOLVED to donate £100 to the Cleobury Youth Partnership.

Highways – snow has not yet been cleared fully from Earls Ditton Lane but will be done this week. There were some concerns that an ambulance had got stuck in the snow and a local farmer had to clear part of the lane to assist as Shropshire Council couldn't send anyone. A grit bin has also been requested for the lane near Sheancker. Reported various pot holes on the road from Hopton Bank Garage to the Cleeton Turn with urgent attention needed near Ginny's Lane and the White House. Surface water running down Hopton Bank will be raised with Highways as it affects steering and is a safety issue.

LJC – next meeting is this Saturday 17th March, 10am-12noon at the Market Hall, Cleobury Mortimer.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) figures have now been received. Council will receive £2,111.53 in April with the Precept. There is also £10,135.34 in the CIL Local Fund for infrastructure projects.

Proposed development at Doddington – Shropshire Rural Housing have just received pre-application advice from Shropshire Council and will share proposals with us before making submission to Planning.

Annual Parish Meeting – Clerk has emailed Ian Kilby requesting an officer attend and speak about planning.

Severn Trent Water water main renewal from Whatsill to Old Miners Arms – Fisher German have sent a 50-page consultation document to Hopton Wafers Village Hall for parishioners to view until 2nd April. Fisher German have contacted the landowner, Commoners Association and residents regarding the project which is expected to start in late summer. The Clerk has voiced the Council's concerns re-instatement due to issues a number of years ago and will re-iterate these in writing to Fisher German.

Exception-site self-build affordable housing – a query was raised over the local connections criteria. Clerk will ask Shropshire Council for current criteria.

Lengthsman Report – Mr Bargman had sent a report of the work undertaken over the past 12 months. There are on-going issues with drainage and potholes. Rubbish is a regular nuisance and green waste on Catherton Common is a problem. A new strimmer head is required and some replacement safety equipment. Council are very satisfied with Mr Bargman's work and approve the purchase of required equipment. Cllr Bytheway reported fly tipping of builders waste and paper at the end of the lane next to the new building at Laurel Cottage. The Clerk will report to Streetscene at Shropshire Council to move this and litter pick the A4117 verges as the Lengthsman not permitted to work on main road.

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

99/06 Approve Payments

Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:

- i) Clerk's Salary - £318.96 (Standing Order)
- ii) Lengthsman – no payment due
- iii) SALC – Planning Training - £65.00 (Cheque)
Cllr Bytheway declared an interest in the following item.
- iv) St Michael & All Angels Church, Hopton Wafers – churchyard maintenance grant - £500.00
- v) Cleobury Youth Partnership – donation towards youth work - £100.00

99/07 Planning Matters

(a) Planning Applications:

- i) Reference: 18/00523/FUL (validated: 31/01/2018)
Address: Glasshouse Cottage, Hopton Bank, Hopton Wafers, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 0QH
Proposal: Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for erection of a garage and workshop
Applicant: Mr S Evans
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to make no comment on this retrospective application and leave the matter to the discretion of the Planning Officer.

(b) Planning Decisions - FOR INFORMATION ONLY:

- i) Reference: 17/04413/FUL (validated: 12/10/2017)
Address: Catherton Farm House, Catherton, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 0LJ
Proposal: Erection of two storey side and rear extensions and alterations to main house; elevational alterations to existing annex.
Applicant: Mrs C Blumberg
Decision: Grant Permission
- ii) Reference: 17/04893/LBC (validated: 12/10/2017)
Address: Catherton Farm House, Catherton, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 0LJ
Proposal: Erection of two storey side and rear extensions and alterations to main house; elevational alterations to stable building (existing annex) affecting a Grade II Listed Building.
Applicant: Mrs C Blumberg
Decision: Grant Permission
- iii) Reference: 16/01608/FUL (validated: 14/04/2016)
Address: The Chalet, Crumps Brook, Hopton Wafers, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 0HT
Proposal: Erection of replacement dwelling and installation of septic tank
Applicant: Mr & Mrs R Ireland
Decision: Grant Permission
- iv) Reference: 17/04803/FUL (validated: 10/10/2017)
Address: Hopton Wafers CE Primary School, Hopton Wafers, Kidderminster, Shropshire, DY14 0NA
Proposal: Conversion of the former school building into two residential dwellings including alterations & extension to the existing building with associated access, parking and garden areas
Applicant: Mr T Goldthorp
Decision: Grant Permission

(c) To receive updates on outstanding planning matters.

- i) Council noted that an appeal against a refusal to grant planning permission for four houses opposite the village hall in Hopton Wafers was dismissed as the proposal was harmful to the character and appearance of the area. An appeal for costs by the appellant against Shropshire Council was also dismissed as the Inspector felt that Shropshire Council had not acted unreasonably. The applicant can submit a new application for this site but not appeal again on the previous applications.

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

99/08 Unitary Councillors' Reports

Unitary Councillor Gwilym Butler confirmed he had read and responded to Council's email and hoped that we can all work together more closely. He asked for Council to phone or email him with any concerns and not let anything fester as he wants to know what our issues are. He will give a full annual report at our Annual Parish Meeting next month. Shropshire Council's budget has been approved whereas other counties are really struggling to balance their budgets. Cllr Butler will raise our suggestion to levy a £1,000 fee on planning appeals with the planning team although Shropshire Council's process for dealing with appeals is set by Government. Cllr Butler suggested we write to Philip Dunne to lobby the minister for local Government to make changes to the appeal process to enable a statutory fee to be charged. Shropshire must maintain its 5 year housing land supply to keep pressure off and prevent unwanted planning whilst appreciating that we need more employment opportunities as well. Shropshire Council is looking at long-term projects for extra-care housing to be built in serviced areas. This would allow people to stay in their communities and also save around £1,000 per person per week on care home fees. There is a proposed development for 600 homes in Ludlow up for approval at tomorrow's planning committee. The Environmental Maintenance Grant is not available this year but it is hoped to re-instate this in some form for 2019/20. The Rural Network focus is to improve the funding formula to rural areas as they have to pay higher Council Tax than urban areas to pay for services. Shropshire is currently in the bottom 10% for funding from Government. Pot holes are terrible and Ringway are overspent. Kier taking over on 1st April and will be busy repairing roads. It is hoped that the CIL Task and Finish Group will have reached a recommendation in April. Council could consider using CIL local money for current infrastructure which is affected by the new development from which the levy is generated. The next LJC meeting will be this Saturday 17th March 10 – 12noon in the Market Hall, Cleobury Mortimer. It will be an informal meeting with displays on the new pedestrian crossing in Cleobury and the Neighbourhood Plan. It is hoped that the new Men in Sheds group will be able to recycle furniture.

Following last month's meeting it was noted that Cllr Butler had given a full response which Cllr Shineton has echoed. Council were satisfied with Cllr Butler's report and look forward to more interaction going forward.

99/09 Parish Matters/Highways

- i) Council are concerned that there has been no positive response regarding our concerns over the road from Hopton Wafers up past Riverbreeze following a recent incident. Council will ask Cllr Shineton to follow this up at Shirehall on our behalf.
- ii) There are serious concerns over the condition of the roads currently, not just the minor roads and lanes but the main road has pot holes which haven't been attended to in several weeks. The sides of the roads are breaking up and washing out, some need structural repairs and resurfacing. Clerk will chase highways for an update.

99/10 Future Agenda Items

Cllr Buffery has resigned as Chair of the Community Led Plan committee. Council agreed that the project needs to be completed soon. Cllr Clayton will notify the remaining committee members of Council's support to complete the project and will report back at the next Council meeting. Due to the poor condition and accessibility of some footpaths it was suggested that Council asks the parishioners' opinions on using CIL on footpath improvements at the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday 30th April at Hopton Wafers Village Hall. On-going concerns over the numbers of static and touring caravans at Doddington Heights were raised.

99/11 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 14th May 2018 at 7pm at Cleeton St Mary Village Hall. The meeting closed at 9pm.

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 100/06) that these minutes are a true record of the meeting, subject to the following corrections:-

J Price

Signed.....Chairman

14/05/18

Date.....