

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

Minutes of Meeting of the Parish Council held on Monday 12th August 2019 at Doddington Village Hall commencing at 7pm.

Chairman: Cllr Roger Hayward

Clerk: Mrs D McBride.

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

- 115/01 To receive Declaration of Acceptance of office from Cllr T Evans
Mr Evans was not present at the meeting.
- 115/02 To receive and accept apologies and reasons for Absence from Members
Unitary Gwilym Butler – another meeting.
- 115/03 Declarations of Interest
Cllr Buffery declared an interest in Agenda Item 115/08 (a)– Payments (travel expenses).
- 115/04 Public Participation Session
There were six members of public present. Mrs Gibb, representing St John's Doddington spoke about the new way of managing the front of the churchyard. Under guidance from 'Caring for God's Acre' the grass was cut once and then left for wildflowers to grow through. A survey found more than 80 species of wildflowers and grasses. The project encourages them to come through as the land is in effect a traditional hay meadow and not been used for anything other than grass so that older, traditional species will come through with this method. Mrs Gibb admitted the grass had been cut too early and that the grass had grown more than expected which had caused some comments that the churchyard looked untidy. Mrs Gibb assured everyone that all graves can be tended to and access can be provided within the project area. The back of the churchyard is not affected. The plans for a toilet and small kitchen at the church are progressing as well as looking at better access from the road for pedestrians. It is proposed to put a path up through the churchyard at the correct gradient without it being unsightly from the road. There would be some localized disruption when the work is carried out but planning permission and grants will need to be sought first.
- 115/05 To confirm the Minutes of Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 15th July 2019
It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 15th July 2019, be signed and ADOPTED as a true record.
- 115/06 Matters Arising/Clerk and Councillors' Reports since the last meeting
- i) Lengthsman report – Mr Bargman has strimmed and cleared footpaths by Doddington bus stop, strimmed around ditches, cleared drains and removed litter.
Accounts 2018-19 - The Clerk reported that an elector of the parish has written to the external auditor objecting to the Parish Council's accounts for 2018-19 due to the question of the legality of making grants to Hopton Wafers PCC for churchyard maintenance under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972. The external auditor PKF Littlejohn have been requested to make a public interest report on this matter and if necessary, take this to the High Court. The Clerk confirmed that Council is aware of the conflicting laws and that it is common practice for parish councils to give money for churchyard maintenance under S.137. Council were happy to continue this practice until they are legally advised otherwise. Cllr Buffery agreed that there is a difference of opinion between the 1972 and 1894 Acts and that there is no definitive answer but questioned why this matter had been raised this year when it has been common practice by parish councils for many years.
 - ii) Community Speed Watch Report - Cllr Buffery reported that six sessions of Speed Watch have taken place in Doddington. The busiest times are between 8 and 9 am and between 4 and 6pm. Over 400 vehicles have been checked speeding with 11 travelling at 46mph or faster. The monitoring sessions are quite successful, probably due to the signage being out when we are recording. Therefore, it is not a true reflection of the real situation. Matter to be discussed further under Agenda item 115/10.
 - iii) Chairmanship Skills Training - Cllr Buffery, in his role of Vice-Chair attended this training to increase his knowledge and understanding of the role of Chairman. He has provided a report to be distributed to all fellow members and invited them to ask any questions or comments.

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

115/07 Financial Matters

- i) Council considered and RESOLVED to the approve quarterly budget review and bank reconciliation. Council noted that it has received £10,327 in Neighbourhood Fund for parish projects.

115/08 Payments

- (a) Council RESOLVED to approve the following payments:
 - i) Clerk's Salary (August) - £341.09 (Cheque)
 - ii) HMRC – PAYE (August) - £8.20 (Cheque)
 - iii) Mrs D McBride – Clerk's admin expenses - £144.36 (Cheque)
 - iv) SALC – Chairmanship training – £70.00 (Cheque)
 - v) C Bargman – Lengthsman work - £60.00 (Cheque)
 - vi) B Buffery – travel expenses - £22.05 (Cheque)
- (b) Council considered the following S.137 Grant Application:
 - i) Hopton Wafers Village Hall – maintenance of play equipment and hedge - £500.00
Cllr Buffery felt this was a very commendable and beneficial facility in the parish if it is open to all users and non-users of the Hall but could be an issue if the car park is unavailable to those who need to drive there. Mr Hodge confirmed the car park is open when the Hall facilities are being used. Questions were raised about charging for the car park. Mr Hodge confirmed that it was agreed seven years ago that a £20 fee would be charged for the car park when the Hall was not used. Walker groups and the school builders have paid to use the car park when not using the Hall. Cllr Hayward asked if giving money to one hall sets a precedent for all Halls to request money. The Clerk confirmed that this money is available for all local community groups to apply for and we have previously given money to Toddlers, Youth, Mens Shed and First Responders as well as churches and the village hall. There is a finite budget for such grants and Council can only consider each request for a grant on a case-by-case basis within the budget. When that money is used up, Council would need to consider whether to move money from reserves to this budget or refuse all further applications for the remainder of the financial year and consider how to manage grant applications in the next financial year ie increase the budget or restrict the amounts issued. Cllr Shingleton confirmed it is common practice to give money under S.137 but Council could pay for a specific project invoice and claim the VAT back. Mr Watkins confirmed the money was needed primarily to replace the safety fencing to enable the play area to remain open. There followed some discussion on whether to award the full amount. Council RESOLVED by majority decision to approve the £500 grant.

115/09 Planning Matters

- (a) To consider new planning applications:
 - i) Reference: 19/02904/FUL (validated: 28/06/2019)
Address: Hawksmoor, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire, DY14 0NA
Proposal: Erection of 1 dwelling (modification to previously approved 13/05064/FUL- Plot 2 (Hawksmoor) only)
Applicant: Mr Metzger (77 Lawn Avenue, Peterborough, PE1 3RA).
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals.
 - ii) Reference: 19/01502/FUL (validated: 29/07/2019)
Address: Doddington Village Hall, Doddington, Shropshire, DY14 8NL
Proposal: Application under Section 73A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the improvement of existing car park
Applicant: Doddington Village Hall (Doddington, Hopton Wafers).
Outcome: Council acknowledged that this is a retrospective application and noted the comments from the Access Team about the line of FP22. Council RESOLVED to support this application subject to the diversion of FP22 around the car park for safety reasons.

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

115/09 Planning Matters (cont'd)

- iii) Reference: 19/03178/FUL (validated: 17/07/2019)
Address: Hopton View, Hopton Bank, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire, DY14 0HE
Proposal: Erection of two storey part open fronted 3-bay garage block to include external staircase with attached storage outbuilding
Applicant: Mr And Mrs K Yardley.
Outcome: Council RESOLVED to have no objection to the proposals subject to their being a condition that the building is not used or converted to a domestic dwelling. Council noted the proximity of our bus shelter at Foxwood which has suffered flooding in previous years from the application site and state it is very important that suitable drainage is installed to ensure the bus shelter and pavement is not flooded for pedestrian safety.

(b) Planning Decisions – for information only:

- i) Reference: 18/04598/FUL (validated: 10/10/2018)
Address: Proposed Glamping Site To The North Of, Hopton Wafers, Shropshire
Proposal: Change of use of land from forestry to leisure and tourism together with the formation of a 12 pitch glamping site with associated site roads and parking; installation of temporary toilet/washing facilities and installation of septic tank
Decision: Refuse.
Council noted that this site has been marketed and if this matter goes to appeal would wish to undertake a site visit to be better informed about the proposals.
- ii) Reference: 19/01374/OUT (validated: 01/04/2019)
Address: Proposed Dwelling Adj. 12 Doddington, Shropshire, DY14 0NL
Proposal: Outline application (all matters reserved) for the erection of a dwelling with detached double garage
Decision: Grant Permission

(c) To receive updates on outstanding planning matters:

- i) 18/03718/FUL – erection of two dwellings adj to The Dingle. There is nothing new noted since last September and is still pending consideration.
- ii) 18/05739/FUL – Earls Ditton Lane – erection of two dwellings. This application has been considered by the Planning Committee and is recommended for approval subject to further information about the proposed bridges.
- iii) 19/01533/FUL – affordable dwelling SE of Oaktree Cottage. Latest update covers drainage information being submitted.
- iv) 19/01628/FUL – the Birches – extensions and alteration. Ecological and environmental reports have now been submitted.
- v) 19/01329/FUL – land south of Doddington for two detached dwellings – land ownership changed and new block plan has been submitted with access queries.
- vi) 19/01742/FUL – new dwelling at Crumpsbrook – no new information since amendments in July.
- vii) 19/02260/FUL – 3 Barton's Field – extension to garage. Two objections are noted.

115/10 Safer Roads Partnership

Cllr Buffery went through the report he had provided on the Safer Roads Partnership meeting on 18th July.

- i) Cllr Buffery proposed the Parish Council request the Unitary Council to implement a radar check over two weeks to determine average speeds so SRP can decide on speed enforcement. The process will be investigated further.
- ii) Cllr Buffery proposed the Parish Council apply for funding for roadside gates and vehicle activated signs from West Mercia Police. The Clerk will look into this funding further.

115/11 Unitary Councillors' Reports

Cllr Madge Shineton stated it cost £50,000 to implement 30mph areas through Button Oak due to road markings in additional signage being required. She also endorsed the value of training and urged council members to attend due to the ever-changing issues within councils. Cllr Shineton re-iterated her view on S.137 grants and felt that applicants could apply for a specific project and the Council pay on production of an invoice.

Hopton Wafers Parish Council

115/11 Unitary Councillors' Reports (cont'd)

Cllr Shingleton raised our concerns regarding the junction of Earls Ditton Lane and the A4117, with the planning committee on a recent site visit as this was clearly illustrated to them when the Committee members used the junction. A sign for Doddington Heights blocks visibility and she felt we may have to get traffic lights there on a similar basis as those at the Catherton Road junction in Cleobury Mortimer. A new feature on Shropshire council's website 'My Shropshire' is available for everyone to report any issues whether pot holes, street lights etc. This helps direct where work is needed. There has been a big re-organisation with Highways, Kier and WSP due to enormous dissatisfaction with the length of time to undertake repairs and lack of feedback/communication with those who report issues in the first place. Cllr Shingleton gave her assurance that she is lobbying and representing our issues in her role on various Scrutiny Committees/Task and Finish Groups. Improvements to IT systems will mean wider access within various health services to patient records across Shropshire. The Shropshire Hospitals are in special measures as are some in neighbouring counties. 150 new middle-grade doctors will be starting. Ophthalmology is being upgraded. Stock-piling of unrequired medicines by patients needs addressing as it is wasting valuable NHS funding. Funding for next year from central government is unclear but Shropshire have to assume it will be the same as this year. The Chairman thanked Cllr Shingleton for coming and asked her if there was anything she wished to say, or anything she was not happy with to please speak up as he wants her to be happy to come to our meetings. Cllr Shingleton thanked the Chairman and suggested that council attended site meetings for planning application as it helps the unitary councillors and planning officers when looking at planning matters as they don't always pick up every issue with each proposal.

115/12 Parish Matters/Highways

- i) The bus shelters need cleaning – Cllr Deane will ask Mr Bargman to attend to this.
- ii) Cllr Buffery will ask Dave Gradwell at Highways for information on implementing the new bus shelter proposed at Doddington.

115/13 Future Agenda Items

Review of Place Plan priorities and projects for Neighbourhood Fund.

115/14 Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday 9th September 2019 at 7pm Hopton Wafers Village Hall.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9.10pm.

It was agreed at the Parish Council Meeting (Minute Ref 116/05) that these minutes are a true record of the meeting, subject to the following corrections:-

B Buffery	9th September 2019
Signed.....Chairman	Date.....